Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Pope John Paul II Dies At 84

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul II died Saturday, April 2, ending what is regarded as the most homophobic pontificate in history, 365Gay.com reported.

The Pope has been a constant voice of opposition to Gay civil rights, same-sex marriage, and the use of condoms to prevent AIDS.

His most recent attack on Gays and Lesbians came in his final book, "Memory and Identity," published last month.

The pope writes that Gay marriage is "insidious" and "attempts to pit human rights against the family and against man."

He also writes that lawmakers must resist the "pressures" put on them to legalize same-sex unions.

In January, in a meeting with diplomats accredited to the Vatican the Pope said that families "must necessarily be that of a union between a man and a woman founded on marriage."

A month earlier, in a pre-Christmas message the Pope accused Gays of an "aggressive attempt to legally undermine the family."

"Attacks on marriage and the family, from an ideological and legal aspect, are becoming stronger and more radical every day," he said in a statement to be read in churches worldwide.

"Who destroys this fundamental fabric causes a profound injury to society and provokes often irreparable damage."

Last June, shortly after Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero announced he would bring in a bill to legalize Gay marriage, he was summoned to the Vatican for a severe tongue lashing from John Paul.

In a private audience the pope told Zapatero that his government must conserve ethical and moral values rooted in its Christian culture.

Following the 15 minute meeting the two emerged and the pope read a public address to Zapatero in which he made clear his concern about Gay marriage, telling him that the Spanish government must "give due attention to ethical values that are so rooted in the religious and cultural tradition of the population."

Zapatero later said he appreciated the Pope's view but had no intention of dropping the legislation.

Last summer, in advance of the US election, President Bush met with the Pope at the Vatican. Bush implored the Pope to increase Catholic condemnation of Gay marriage in the weeks leading up to the election, and that the request also was made by the president to senior Vatican officials.

Shortly after the meeting US bishops stepped up their assaults on same-sex marriage, becoming actively involved in campaigns in 11 states where constitutional bans on Gay marriage were on the ballot. Voters in all 11 states approved the amendments.

The Pope and other Vatican officials have called for the repeal of Gay rights legislation passed by the European Union.

Two years ago, the Vatican released a 12 page directive to priests around the world calling for a proactive stand to stop governments from legalizing same-sex marriage and for a repeal of those those already on the books that give rights, including adoption, to Gay couples.

"Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior ... but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity," the document said.

On the subject of HIV/AIDS, the Pope in January attacked the use of condoms, after a leading Spanish prelate said that bishops support the use of contraceptives to fight AIDS. The prelate quickly backtracked after the Vatican intervened.

Education, chastity and sexual fidelity are the responsible methods to combat AIDS, the Pope said.

John Paul's pontificate was also marked by the priest abuse scandal in the US. The Vatican turned a blind eye as abusive priests were moved from parish to parish.

When the scandal broke the Church was slow in cooperating with law enforcement and fought lawsuits brought by abuse victims.

But, John Paul is also credited with helping bring about the end of Communism, speaking out against the war in Iraq, and mending fences with the Jewish community. Early in pontificate there was an assignation attempt on him. Years later he met the man convicted of the attempt and said he forgave him.

California Court Upholds Domestic Partner Law

SACRAMENTO - In a 16-page ruling, a California appellate court ruled on Monday, April 4, that the domestic partner statute that came into effect last January did not violate the ban on same-sex marriage recognition passed by voters in 2000, the PlanetOut Network reported.

In two separate lawsuits, anti-Gay activists argued that the wide-ranging domestic partner law, passed as AB 205, was for all intents and purposes a form of marriage, and as such, stood out as an unconstitutional amendment to the ban on same-sex marriage. Normally, a law that conflicts with a voter-passed initiative must itself be subjected to a statewide election. But as Gay community supporters argued successfully, there is a world of difference between the status of domestic partner and that of legal spouse.

Domestic partnerships lack the more than 1,000 federal benefits of marriage, wrote the unanimous three-judge panel. The status is not necessarily valid outside state borders, and it is both entered into and dissolved differently from civil marriage. Further, the court noted, even the proponents of the 2000 marriage ban told the voters five years ago that "Prop 22," as it was called, was a simple ban on recognizing Gay marriage and had no effect on other legal ties.

The Sacramento-based Third District Court of Appeal cited recent ballot measures from other states as examples of the kind of language that could indeed be used to attack domestic partner rights. Among those quoted were constitutional amendments in Nebraska, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana and Ohio, all of which explicitly outlaw same-sex marriage and go on to undermine vaguely defined "similar" legal ties.

In another passage, the court wrote that the 2000 marriage ban "ensures that California will not legitimize or recognize same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions … and that California will not permit same-sex partners to validly marry within the state."

This interpretation by a state appellate court is significant, because Gay rights groups have long insisted that the voter-approved initiative simply prevents California from recognizing a same-sex marriage from out of state, but has no theoretical effect on the state's internal policy. In other words, Gay activists believe that legalizing same-sex marriage within the state would not violate the initiative, even though it would create the anomalous situation in which Californian Gays could marry but non-resident marriages would not be recognized.

For a state appellate court to say otherwise could be ominous for those in the state legislature who are working to pass a bill legalizing same-sex marriage. According to the LGBT lobbying group Equality California, the court's comment was simply "dicta," remarks in an opinion that do not concern the legal issue at hand and are therefore not legally binding.

Rare STD Spreads To U.K. Men

LONDON - Cases of the sexually transmitted infection lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) have been recorded in London's Gay community, despite efforts to raise awareness of the threat facing Gay men, the PlanetOut Network reported.

More than 34 cases of the virus have been recorded in the capital since January. Previously there were virtually no reports of the virus in the United Kingdom, although last year saw a sudden increase in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

This quickly spread across the Gay communities in France, Germany and Belgium, before crossing the Atlantic to the United States.

The batch of new cases comes despite awareness campaigns launched by the Health Protection Agency, which hoped to warn Gay men of the virus.

Writing in the Sexually Transmitted Infections journal, the HPA says other cases may be going undetected.

LGV is thought to be a strain of the chlamydia infection, and can lead to genital ulcers, rectal inflammation and abdominal pain. It can be treated by antibiotics.

The HPA says it will now look to extend its surveillance system in a bid to warn more Gay men about the infection, and also crack down on the rising number of cases.

"The first steps in understanding and controlling this outbreak are to increase community and clinician awareness of LGV, to further develop our surveillance system and to monitor clinical manifestations," researchers said in the journal.

Play Safe!

UPDATE

Desert Voices Concert & Auction April 16

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and supportive chorus is truly one of a kind! Performing music that reflects and shows off the GLBT community in all its colorful diversity, the chorus will present "Our True Colors" on Saturday, April 15, at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue in Tucson. The show includes a silent auction featuring some amazing one of a kind items, and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for shopping with the show starting at 7:30 p.m.

Local "Rock Star" and DV accompanist, Namoli Brennet, also wrote two new songs for this concert, including the powerful new "One Channel Nation." Backed by the chorus, Namoli will also sing her moving anthem "We Belong." The chorus will present a wide variety of songs with color and rainbow themes, including a gorgeous new jazz arrangement of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," sure to become a DV standard! The chorus will also honor our Gay ancestors at Stonewall, and take on the Homosexual Agenda with a great deal of humor.

In the silent auction, there are a number of one of a kind pieces that will be offered for bid to the audience, including a male mannequin that has been covered in mirror, ala disco ball. Other items include unique jewelry and artwork from local artists, get-away weekends to Scottsdale Old Town and Phoenix, theatre and dinner packages and much more. (A complete list of items donated to date appears on the website at www.desertvoices.org.)

Audience members will enjoy complimentary beverages (beer, wine, and soft drinks) courtesy of DV Season Sponsor, Woody's. Other season sponsors include Pronto Printing, Whitespace Design and Coyote Moon Resort and Spa.

Tickets, available at Antigone Books (411 N 4th Ave), Desert Pride (611 N 4th Ave), or by calling the Desert Voices office at (520) 791-9662, are $18 in advance. All ticket outlets accept credit cards. Seating for the show is limited, so get your tickets early! Tickets at the door will be $20 (if available).
For more information about the chorus, their upcoming show, or anything else you'd like to know about Desert Voices and their mission, check out their website at www.desertvoices.org, or call the office at (520)791-9662. Thank you to Tucson Observer Readers for your terrific support!

'Laughing Out Proud' April 8

TUCSON - Bas Bleu Production's spring show is bound to be another side splitting experience. The show will be Friday, April 8, 7:00 p.m., at Pima Community College West Campus Proscenium Theater.

Seattle's Lisa Koch is an irreverent comedian/singer who blends comedy, theater and music with dysfunctional characters and demented songs (original and parody).

Lisa's show features such memorable characters as Sister Mary Agnes (a repressed nun who enjoys discipline) who will be joining Lisa for the evening. Lisa has performed all over the globe and is a regular on Olivia Cruises at the Michigan Women's Festival and the Vancouver Comedy Festival. Lisa also finds work as an actor and last year appeared with the Tucson/Phx Theater Company as Mae West in 'Dirty Blond'. She recently toured a one-woman version of the Vagina Monologues. Lisa's shows are always "outrageous and memorable."

Michele Balan is a brash, New York stand-up comedian who for the past 12 years has appeared all over the country. She has been described as a high-energy, quick-witted comic princess. Her performances include; Dinah Shore Weekend, Olivia Cruises, Michigan Women's Festival, pretty much every Comedy Club in New York, televisions Comedy Central and Lifetime Network, the Improv in La, and many pride events and fund raisers to name just a few. A few of the people she has shared the stage with include Kathy Najimy, Harvey Fierstein and Nell Carter. She has several CD's to her credit including "Neurotic by Nature." You won't want to miss this very funny lady coming to us all the way from NYC.

Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door and can be purchased at Antigone Bookstore, at the Theater Box Office or by mail until April 1, at Bas Bleu Productions POB 7766, Phoenix, Arizona 85011. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer at the show, please call Kendall at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779 or E-mail Kristen at: kristen_felan@hotmail.com.

SAAF Seeking Personal Trainers

TUCSON - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) is looking for experienced Certified Personal Trainers to work with our clients through the Complementary Therapies program.

All referrals will come through a physician. Services need to focus on demonstrating exercise for general fitness and improved cardio health on beginner level training.

Trainers will need to be able to work with clients in settings other than a gym environment in most cases. Limited reimbursement for services is available.

Interested trainers should contact David Gunton at SAAF, (520) 628-7223 Ext. 262.

Elton John's 'Lestat' Musical To Open In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO - Elton John and Bernie Taupin's stage musical Lestat, based on the adventures of Anne Rice's pansexual vampire, will open in San Francisco this winter on its way to Broadway, reports Playbill.com on Advocate.com.

"Lestat, one of Anne Rice's most celebrated literary characters, is being brought to the stage in the first-ever collaboration of the legendary team of Elton John (music) and Bernie Taupin (lyrics) on a Broadway production," according to a statement from the Curran Theater, the venue for the San Francisco run.

"Based on characters and incidents from Ms. Rice's best-selling novels, Interview With the Vampire and The Vampire Lestat, the book is by Linda Woolverton, and Robert Jess Roth directs." Lestat is set for a spring 2006 Broadway debut, while another Elton John musical, Billy Elliot, is set to start previews on London's West End on May 31.

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OBSERVER
P.O. BOX 50733,
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(520) 622-7176 (Voice)
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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.M-F

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Observer on the World Wide Web :
www.tucsonobserver.com
E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
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Why A National Celebration Will Make History

By Malcolm Lazin

The National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement will be held on Sunday, May 1 at Independence Hall, the site of the first annual and organized Gay and Lesbian civil rights demonstrations in 1965. These Annual Reminders in New York, D.C. and Philadelphia led to the 1969 Stonewall riot and the first New York Pride Parade.

The 16-hour National Celebration on Independence Mall includes a Tribute to Gay Pioneers & 40 Heroes; SundayOUT, a major street festival; a National Celebration Concert with Cyndi Lauper and other stars; a Gay Icons Pavilion at Independence Visitor Center; an Interfaith Service at historic Christ Church Philadelphia; Conversations with Gay Leaders at the National Constitution Center; celebrity guests; and three parties, including one at the Real World Philadelphia House.

The Forty Heroes to be honored were nominated by over 80 national and international GLBT organizations and leaders. Over the last 40 years, these Heroes have helped define the progress we've made since that first demonstration in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell on July 4, 1965.

This will be the 5th national GLBT demonstration. The first was held in 1979 on the National Mall. There were similar and larger demonstrations in 1987, 1993 and 2000. These national demonstrations energized the movement and provided benchmarks for the progress of GLBT liberation.

What makes the 2005 National Celebration different? We take our model from the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Despite a Civil War, African-Americans continued to be treated as second-class citizens. In the early 1960s, white Americans began seeing images of brave Black leaders like Rosa Parks and Dr. King in Selma and Birmingham, and recognizing the evils of racial oppression.

On August 28, 1963, Bayard Rustin organized the historic Civil Rights Demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. Rustin was a Gay, African-American colleague of Dr. King, and he is one of the 40 Heroes of the 2005 National Celebration. He knew that this was the right place and the right time – a time when America was finally listening. What many white Americans had previously seen as a series of Negro disturbances was understood as a Civil Rights Movement.

The 40th Anniversary Celebration gives us the same opportunity. In 1965, when the Gay Pioneers first publicly and openly demonstrated for homosexual rights, America was stone deaf to their plight. After 40 years of perseverance, America is finally ready to listen.

The National Celebration is at Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the iconic site chosen in 1965 by the Gay Pioneers to launch the movement. This is our opportunity to remind America of the lynching of Matthew Shepard and other toxic effects of homophobia. The National Celebration will help define the GLBT Civil Rights Movement for all Americans.

The National Celebration at Independence Hall is our demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial. The reactionary right is trying to push us back into the closet. At the National Celebration, people from coast to coast, from blue and red states and from large cities and rural communities will gather to reaffirm our commitment.

Together, at the National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement, we will make history and advance our equality.

[Malcolm Lazin is the executive director of the Equality Forum.]

G/L Catholics And Others Call For More Liberal Pope

NEW YORK CITY - Whether they want recognition of Gays, women priests, more say for the laity or a return to the Latin mass, Roman Catholic interest groups are sending their varied messages to Rome - attempting to exert some small influence on the selection of the next pope or at least get more attention for their causes.

"You can't exactly penetrate the conclave from the outside," Sister Maureen Fiedler of Catholics Speak Out in Hyattsville, Md., an organization that supports women's ordination among other changes. Fiedler also is a leading voice in the international We Are Church group.

"All we can do is put the message out there and hope these folks get it and respond," she said.

A similar lobbying phenomenon occurred prior to the two conclaves of 1978, and there's no discernible evidence that it had any impact on the outcome.

Still, the global focus on Catholicism and its most pressing issues provides a rare chance for often-ignored groups to get a moment in the spotlight.

We Are Church, a loosely knit federation of 147 liberal organizations, has been looking toward this moment since 1999, when it issued a manifesto titled A Pope for the Time to Come that demands radical changes under the next pontiff.

It has reaffirmed the statement with John Paul's death, and plans to get a copy in the hands of every voting cardinal. The group is also planning media briefings on Catholic issues in Rome next week.

Meanwhile, the Illinois-based Call to Action, another liberal group, and Massachusetts-based Voice of the Faithful, which wants a greater say for lay people in how the church is governed, will each be issuing statements about the type of pope the church needs.

And the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, a sharp critic of the church hierarchy during the clergy sex abuse crisis, intends to send appeal letters to each American cardinal in Rome.

Inevitably, most activists descending on Rome will be promoting liberal reforms but some will be arguing that John Paul's reign was too liberal.

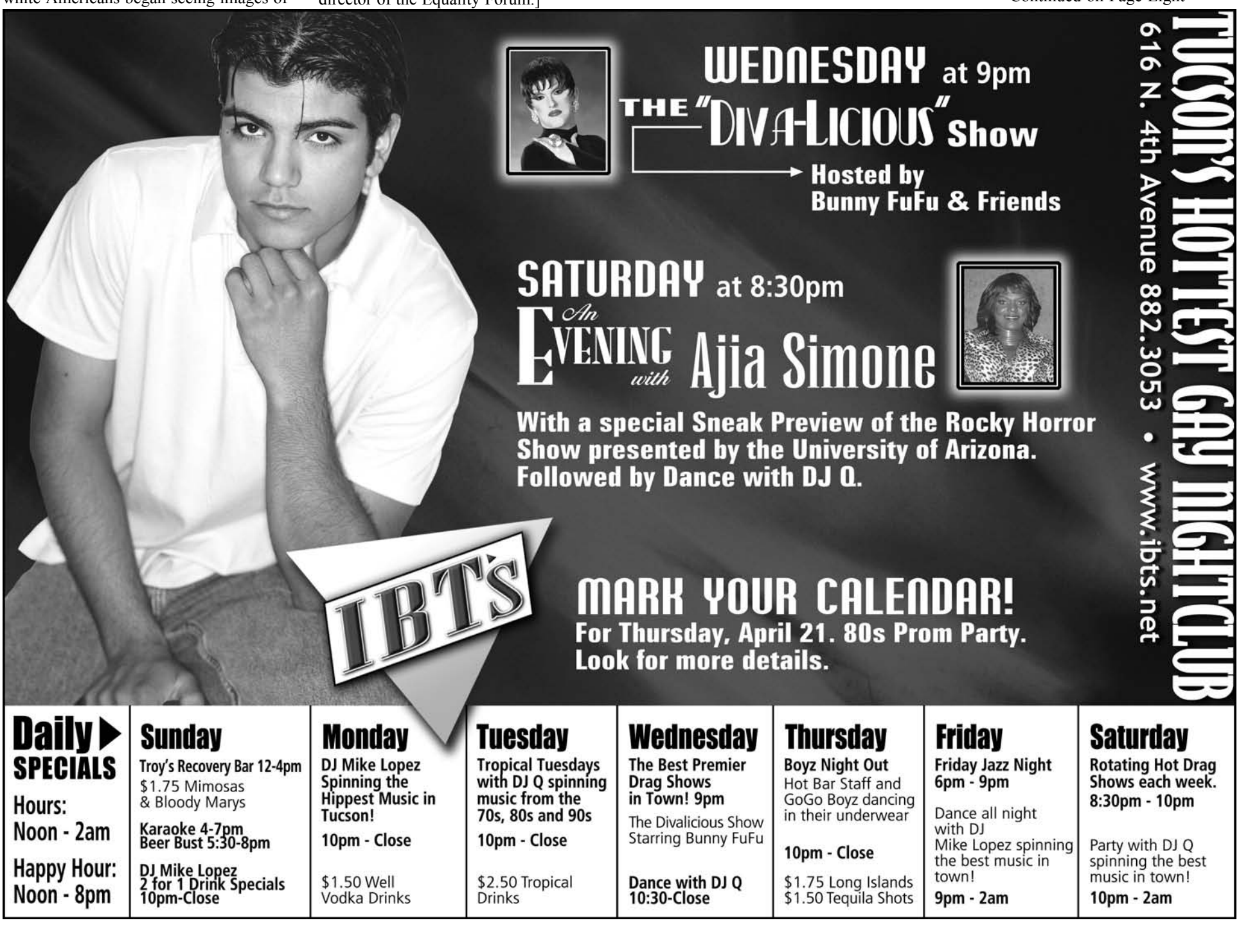
Michael Matt, editor of the Remnant newspaper in Wyoming, Minn., said he or others might hold Rome briefings to contend that the next pope should "undo many of the changes" from the Second Vatican Council on liturgy and church teachings.

Fiedler said We Are Church wants the next pope to continue John Paul's policies on matters like friendly relations with Jews, opposition to wars and executions, and concern for the world's poor.

But the group's manifesto also calls for married priests, and proposes other items that range from highly unlikely to impossible: women priests, more openness to Gay clergy (the statement doesn't indicate whether they should remain celibate) and the summoning of a Universal Christian Council representing Catholic and non-Catholic churches.

Also on the dream list is a call for prominent lay participation "in the election of all church leaders," including the pope. The group believes popes should retire at a set age rather than serving for life.

Continued on Page Eight



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U.S. Groups Assail Federal Parenting Site

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Nearly 150 advocacy groups called on the federal government to unplug its new Web site designed for parents to talk to their children about sex, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Critics say the Web site, 4parents.gov, stresses the promotion of abstinence while branding LGBT youth as pursuing "alternative lifestyles."

In a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, 145 advocacy groups charged "4parents.gov presents biased and inaccurate information as fact and does not address the needs of many youth, including sexually active youth, youth who have been or are being sexually abused, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth."

The letter also criticized the way LGBT youth were described. "For example, in the section of the Web site where sexual orientation is mentioned, it repeatedly uses the terms 'alternative lifestyle' and 'homosexuality.' This language assumes that being Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB) is a choice and also reduces LGB people to the mere equivalent of their sexual activity."

The letter mentions that the Web site fails to include any information about Transgender youth. "Additionally, referrals for further information for LGBTQ youth and their parents are conspicuously absent," the letter notes.

The groups pointed out other problems, including inaccurate information about condoms, abortion issues and a lack of information on sexual abuse.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), wrote an additional letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, taking issue with several points, including the issue of contraception.

"We are disappointed that your Web site's discussion focuses mainly on condom failure rates and their ability to be misused," Solmonese wrote. "While there is plenty of information about condom failure rates due to misuse, there is absolutely no clear information on how to use condoms properly."

"This is like discussing how seatbelts can kill when used improperly, without also discussing how to properly use seatbelts. This manner of framing the discussion is not based on sound public health policy," Solmonese added.

The site advises parents: "If you believe your adolescent may be Gay, or is experiencing difficulties with gender identity or sexual orientation issues, consider seeing a family therapist who shares your values to clarify and work through these issues."

"That's really a loaded statement," said Beth Beck, director of health programs for National Youth Advocacy Coalition. "There's no discussion for parents to express love if their children come out to them. LGBT youth are being stigmatized. I think the Web site is presenting a very ideological way for parents to talk to their kids about sex and sexual health."

Beck added that the only organization credited with helping the Health and Human Services design 4parents.gov was the National Physicians Center for Family Resources. "It is really right-wing and it has ties with Focus on the Family," she said.

Focus on the Family is a conservative organization that hosts "Love Won Out" seminars that encourage homosexuals to change their orientation.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt defended the site to USA Today, saying it was designed to help parents who are "embarrassed."

"Parents have a tremendous amount of influence on their children, and we want them to talk with their teens about abstinence so that they can stay safe and healthy," Leavitt said.

British Labor Targets Gays With Beer

LONDON - Britain is gearing up for a general election and Labor has found a novel way to get its message out to Gays. The party has distributed stacks of coasters - the little mats bartenders put under drinks - to Gay bars across the country, 365Gay.com reported.

The coasters say: "Go to bed with Charlie... wake up with Howard" a warning to Gays that if they support the Liberal Democrats they could actually be ensuring a Conservative Party victory.

Charlie Kennedy is the leader of the Liberal Democrats and Howard is Michael Howard leader of the Tories.

The LD has been gaining inroads in the LGBT community with Gays who believe Labor has not gone far enough in supporting their issues.

The Labor government of Tony Blair has brought in a civil union registry that begins later this year but many Gays accuse the government of cowardice by not legalizing Gay marriage. A new labor law to protect Gays in the workplace has exempted faith based groups also angering Gay activists.

Labor is quick to point out that the small Liberal Democratic Party has no chance of winning an election but could siphon off enough votes from Labor to sweep the Tories into power.

The coasters, unveiled in a London Gay pub, were produced by the Labor Campaign for Gay and Lesbian Rights.

Schools minister Stephen Twigg said many in Michael Howard's "right-wing" had supported Section 28, which outlawed the" promotion of homosexuality" by local authorities, and other anti-Gay measures in the past.

"If they [Conservatives] get back into power, I have no doubt that they would revert to type and chip away at the rights of the Gay community," he said.

Navratilova Gay Credit Card Battle Heats Up

NEW YORK - A Gay credit card company being sued by Lesbian tennis great Martina Navratilova has filed a counter-claim accusing her of making false accusations in an attempt to "destroy" the company, 365Gay.com reported.

Navratilova is seeking at least $75,000 in damages from Do Tell, Inc., which offers the Rainbow Card.

The card helps fund the non-profit Rainbow Coalition, which promotes the health and social well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

Do Tell had used Navratilova to market the card since 1995 with the tennis star's permission. But in late 2004, Navratilova came at odds with the card's marketing according to her suit.

According to court papers she objected to the Rainbow Card being associated with "The L Word" and "Queer as Folk" on the Showtime channel. The documents filed by her lawyer say that the shows are "depraved" and that "The L Word" falsely represents Lesbians.

In its legal reply, the Pennsylvania-based Do Tell Inc. disputes may of Navratilova's allegations and and accuses her of breaching her fiduciary duty as an officer of the company.

Navratilova founded Do Tell Inc. in January 1995 along with Pamela Derderian and Nancy Becker.

According to Navratilova she is "not an officer" of the company and has no management role. Do Tell says that Navratilova is president of the company and also serves as a director.

The company also alleges that Navratilova has no right to deny Do Tell Inc. the right to use her name and image.

"It is denied that Navratilova retained the right to terminate at any time her general consent and approval to the use of her name, likeness and photographs by Do Tell. To the contrary, Navratilova was obligated to consent to and approve all uses or her name, likeness and photographs during the entire term of Do Tell's contract with the bank that issues the Rainbow Card," the company says in its legal documents.

Traveler's Bank issued the Rainbow credit cards and assisted in marketing, promoting and advertising the card. Citibank later acquired the Rainbow Card through merger, and MBNA America Bank later purchased the Rainbow Card portfolio from Citibank.

Do Tell also claims that since the founding of the company Navratilova has received shareholder payouts of nearly $500,000

The company claims, though, that Navratilova is now on a campaign to destroy the card. Do Tell says in the court documents that the bank "has informed Do Tell that it considers the loss of Navratilova's endorsement of and participation in the Rainbow Card program to constitute a material breach of [its] contract, and has threatened to terminate the contract if the supposed breach is not cured."

AIDS Activists Say Condom Distribution In Gay Venues Has Nearly Disappeared

NEW YORK - Most Gay bars in New York City have stopped stocking free condoms, a dramatic turnaround from the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic when condoms were plentiful at most Gay venues, The New York Times reports on Advocate.com.

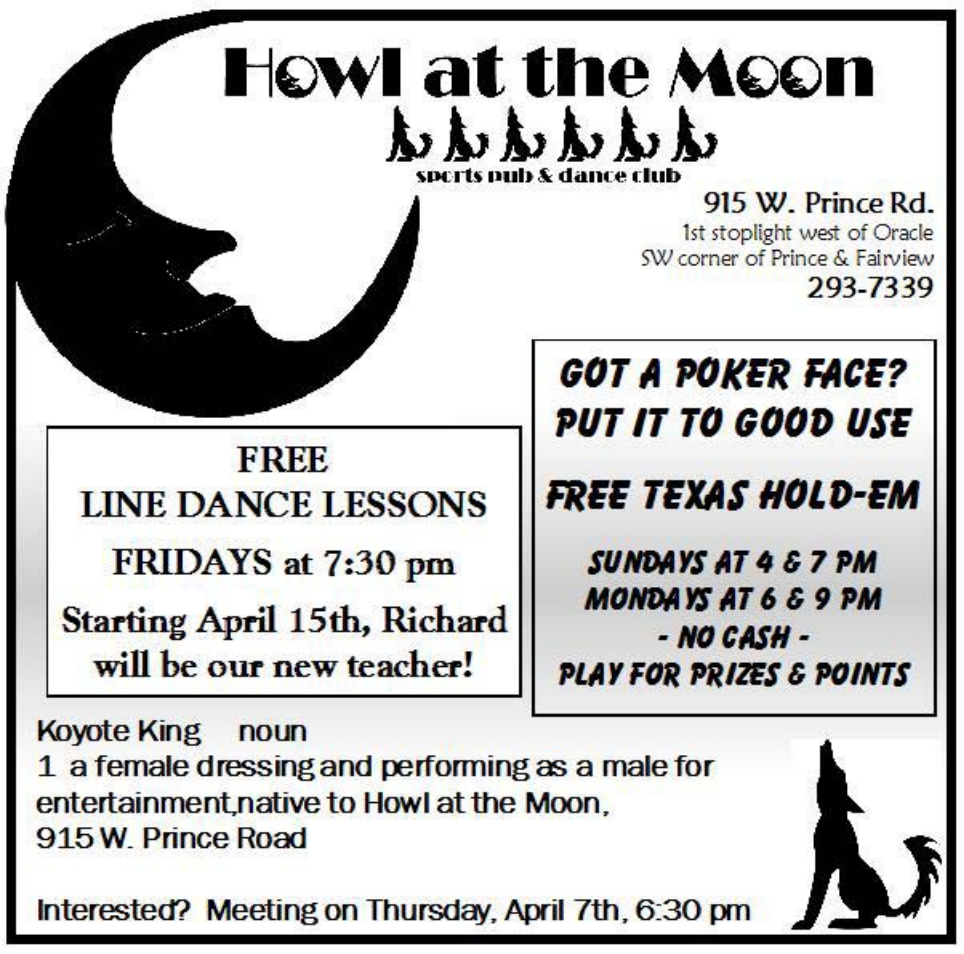
HIV prevention literature, which also was at one time available at nearly every Gay bar and club in the city, is now also increasingly difficult to find.

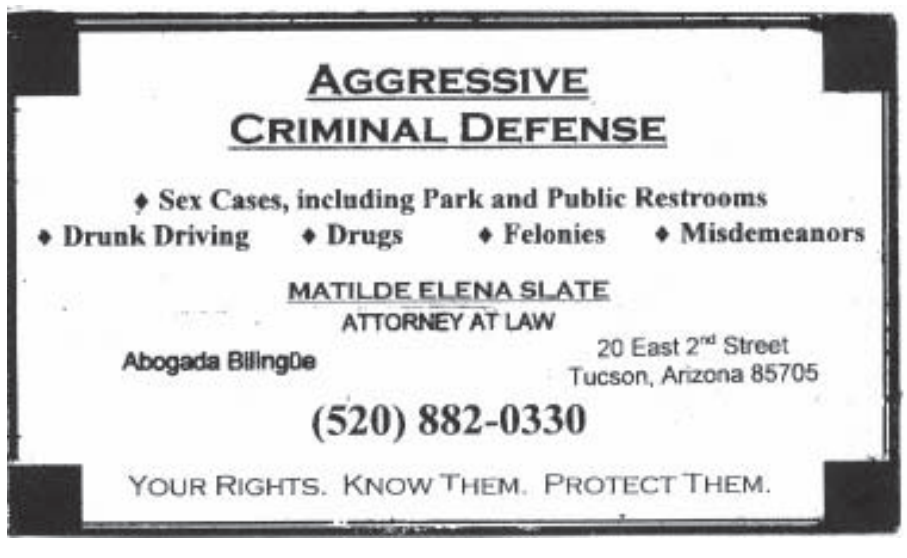
Some AIDS activists say the disappearance of condoms from Gay bars is an alarming indicator of the Gay community's dwindling commitment to fighting the spread of HIV. They say that a growing sense that anti-retroviral drugs have reduced the threat of HIV disease coupled with safer-sex burnout is fueling a rise in unprotected sex among Gay men and a growing disinterest among Gay community groups and businesses in staying active in HIV prevention efforts.

But many AIDS experts say the challenge to keep Gay men practicing safer sex extends well beyond street-level outreach in bars and clubs where condoms and informational brochures are handed out. "Just because folks are well-informed doesn't mean they'll necessarily make the wisest choices in terms of their health," Ronald O. Valdiserri, who oversees HIV prevention programs at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told the Times. "This is true of all humanity, not just Gay men."

Instead, many AIDS advocates are calling for more comprehensive HIV prevention efforts that attempt to get at the roots of why Gay men engage in risky sex, including looking at psychological issues associated with homosexuality. They say that the real driving forces behind risky sex are loneliness, self-hatred, and alienation.

At the opposite end of the spectrum are AIDS advocates who say the key to boosting safer sex among Gay men is to stress personal responsibility, remind people that living with HIV is difficult and potentially even life-threatening, and stigmatize unprotected sex. They also say drug companies should stop running advertisements for anti-HIV drugs that suggest that all HIV-positive people lead carefree and perfectly healthy lives.





CARD ADS IN THE RESOURCE SECTION OF THE OBSERVER GET RESULTS

Beauty Pageant Called Homophobic

PORTLAND - Mayor Tom Potter is under fire after rejecting a request for a letter of support for the Mrs Oregon pageant calling it anti-Gay, 365Gay.com reported.

The beauty contest is the local part of the Mrs America Pageant which requires that contestants be married to men only. It also requires contestants to be "natural born" females.

Pageant organizers asked Potter for a letter to put in the pageant's program "acknowledging your support of the Mrs. Oregon America Program."

Potter refused, and issued a statement saying that Portland city policy requires it not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The pageant's rule "fails to recognize the other loving relationships in our community," his statement said.

Libby Crawford, the Mrs Oregon executive director, said no Lesbian has entered the contest but admitted that she rewrote the rules last year in the wake of Multnomah County's decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Some 2,000 same-sex couples married before a court ended the practice. Portland is the county's largest city.

Oregon voters in November approved a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

"I didn't want to deal with my pageant becoming a stage," Crawford told the Oregonian newspaper.

"I've seen it happen in some pageants where someone's political agenda came out at a pageant. It can ruin your system."

The group that won the constitutional ban on Gay marriage quickly entered the controversy on the side of the beauty pageant.

"In order to be a Mrs., you must be married to a Mr.," said Tim Nashif, spokesperson for the Defense of Marriage Coalition.

But Potter's stand won praise from the state's largest LGBT rights group.

"It's always refreshing when community leaders are willing to take a principled position on an issue of justice and fairness for everyone," spokesperson Rebekah Kassell told the Oregonian.

Potter, who has a Lesbian daughter, has been a longtime supporter of LGBT issues.

Before becoming mayor, Potter was Portland's police chief. In 1990 he marched in uniform in a Pride parade along side his daughter Katie, also a Portland officer.

In 1994 he was considered to head the Clinton administration's new federal community policing program. He later withdrew after Justice Department officials expressed concern about his support for Gay issues.

Top Scout Pleads Guilty In Kid Porn Case

FORT WORTH - A former official of the Boy Scouts of America is facing up to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty Wednesday, March 30, to charges of possession and distribution of child pornography, 365Gay.com reported.

Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr., 61, was accused of receiving images over the Internet of children engaging in sex acts.

Smith who lives in Colleyville, near Fort Worth, remains free until sentencing July 12. In addition to prison time he could be fined up to $250,000.

Smith was a national program director and had been with the Boy Scouts for 39 years. One of his duties was leading a task force protecting youth from sexual abuse.

Boy Scouts officials said that Smith did not work directly with children. He was put on leave immediately after the organization learned of the allegations, and he then chose to retire.

Smith has been an ardent supporter of the BSA's ban on Gays serving as scout leaders.

The 2000 Supreme Court ruling held that the Boys Scouts and its affiliates could prohibit Gays. The high court said the constitution gave scouts the right to choose its members. The Scouts also prohibits atheists.

Last fall Smith wrote a letter to a legal magazine criticizing opponents of the Gay ban.

"Some intolerant elements in our society want to force scouting to abandon its values and to become fundamentally different," he wrote.

"What's sad is that the boy scouts continues to exclude very moral adults who want to be involved in the program, people who were kicked out after years solely because they're Gay and not because they did anything wrong," said Lambda Legal spokesperson James Davidson. Lambda had fought the ban before the Supreme Court.

Smith was honored by the BSA last year with a Distinguished Service Award. His nomination read in part, "His visionary support to the National OA Committee has allowed our Order to move to new levels."

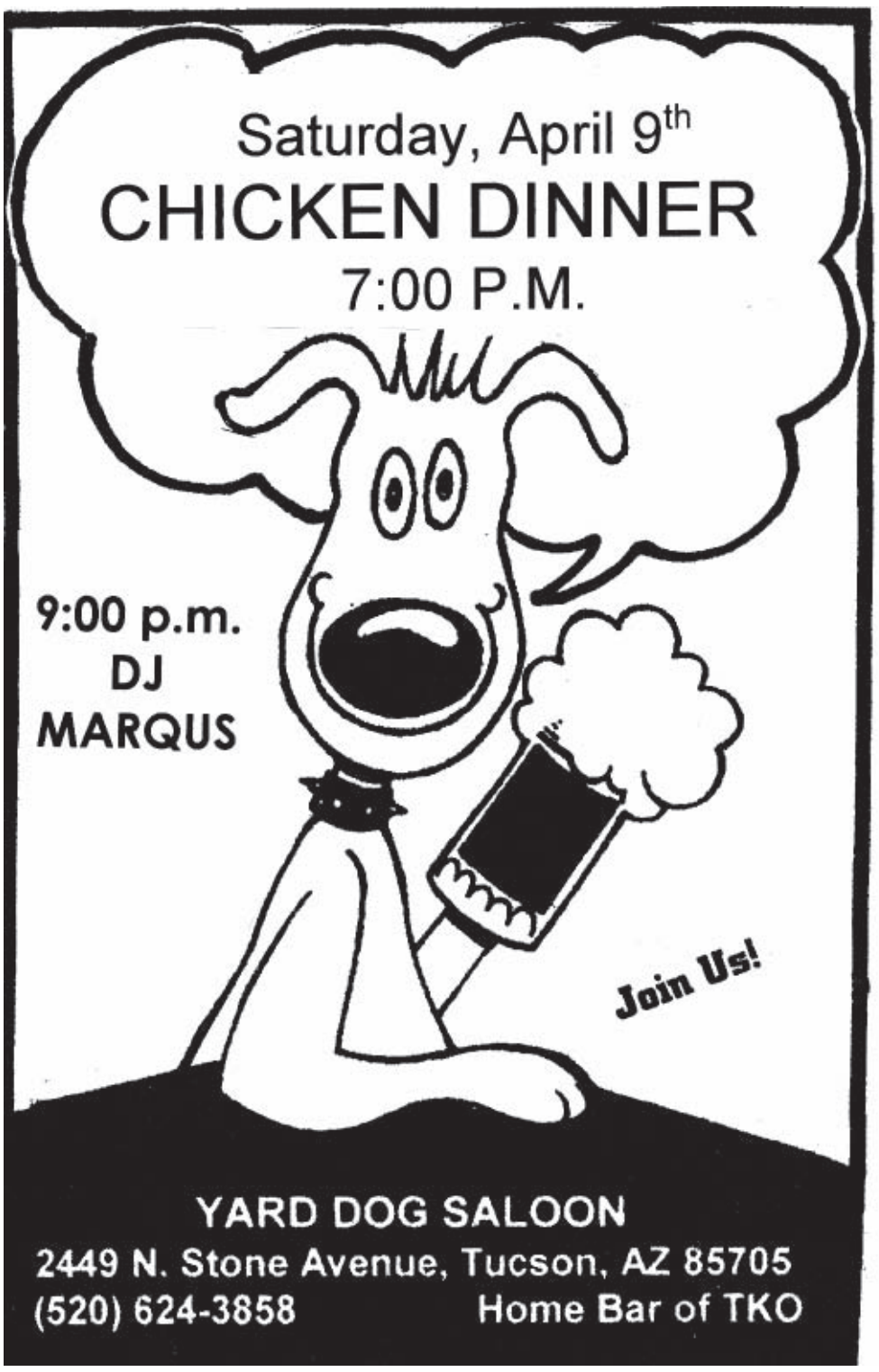
The Boy Scouts of America is also under investigation by the FBI. (story) Scout leaders in several states are accused of pumping up the number of scouts in their troops in order to obtain more funding from charitable organizations.

Membership in the BSA has declined since the Supreme Court ruling.

A number of cities banned the scouts from using public facilities, and charitable groups like some United Way chapters cut off the scouts.

But, in cities where agencies like the United Way continues to fund the BSA it is alleged that troops are being encouraged to list fake names as members to boost enrolment making the group eligible for more money.

Federal agents are probing local councils in at least three states - Alabama, Georgia, and Texas.



Where Was Mary? - VP's Daughter To Write Book

WASHINGTON, D.C. - "Where's Mary?" It was the question that resounded from LGBT activists during last fall's election campaign as the GOP flailed away at same-sex marriage, and now, it appears we may find out, reported 365Gay.com.

Mary Cheney, the Lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, is writing her memoir. It will be published by a new subdivision of Simon & Schuster devoted to conservative books and edited by Mary Matalin, a longtime Republican advisor.

Mary Cheney has been out for a number of years. After Coors Beer was boycotted in 1978 for sponsoring an aggressive campaign against LGBT civil rights the company hired her to polish up the company's image with Gays.

In 2000 she was a top aide on her father's vice presidential campaign and highly visible with him on the campaign trail. Cheney worked on his 2004 campaign but mainly behind the scenes and remained silent as President Bush and other GOP candidates used Gay marriage as a wedge issue.

Last August, during a campaign stop in Davenport, Iowa, Dick Cheney was asked about the President's support for a proposed amendment to the US Constitution. Cheney said he thought the issue should be left to the states, prefacing the remark with "Lynne and I have a Gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with."

During the GOP National Convention when Republican Senate hopeful Alan Keyes accused Mary Cheney of being a "sinner" and a "selfish hedonist" Dick and Lynne Cheney were silent.

Following Dick Cheney's acceptance speech at the convention the Vice President's family appeared on the stage - all but Mary Cheney who had been in the hall for the speech. Her absence led LGBT commentators to openly question whether she was being hidden away.

During the vice presidential debate when the issue of same-sex marriage came up Vice President Cheney said that "people ought to be free to choose any arrangement they want."

Democratic VP candidate John Edwards replied saying it was obvious that the Cheneys loved their daughter and that "you can't have anything but respect" for them. "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman and so does John Kerry," Edwards said.

That night Cheney thanked Edwards for the "kind words he said about my family and our daughter. I appreciate that very much."

But, when John Kerry brought up Mary Cheney's name during the last presidential debate with Bush the Cheney family went on the offensive. Within an hour of Kerry's remark Lynne Cheney accused Kerry of pulling a "cheap and tawdry political trick." The following morning the vice president called himself a "pretty angry father".

Mary Cheney is not the first member of the family to write a book. Her mother, Lynne, penned a 1981 novel called "Sisters" that features a torrid Lesbian love story.

The book has since gone out of print, but during the election campaign Penguin Books announced plans to republish it. The plan was dropped following pressure by the GOP.

"All the Cheneys are great writers, and she's no exception," Matalin told The Associated Press. "What I have seen on paper so far is great."

Simon & Schuster Inc. has not said how much it paid for Mary's memoir or if it will answer any of the continuing questions on her silence on same-sex marriage. The book is set to be published in May 2006.

After Long Battle, Lesbian Can See Her Child

PHILADELPHIA - Capping a nine-year legal battle between two Lesbian mothers, a Pennsylvania court of appeals on Monday, April 4, granted one of the mothers the right to visit the child the two had been raising together, the PlanetOut Network reported.

"This ruling is very respectful of Lesbian and Gay families," said Patricia Logue, senior counsel at Lambda Legal, who represented the mother who was granted visitation. "It says, 'the same rules apply to you that apply to married spouses.'"

The two women, identified in court documents only by their initials, T.B. and L.R.M, have been fighting over custody of the daughter they had raised together until their breakup in 1996, when the child was 3 years old. At that point the biological mother, L.R.M., refused to allow T.B. to visit their daughter, despite T.B.'s daily parenting of the child since birth. A legal struggle ensued, and in 2001 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that T.B. should be recognized as the child's parent and granted visitation or custody rights.

The Supreme Court sent the case to a lower court to work out the details of visitation. But the lower court judge, F. Joseph Leahey, ruled that because L.R.M. had so alienated the child from T.B., it would not be in the child's best interest to visit T.B.

"The court had every reason to believe that L.R.M. had coached the child" to speak ill of T.B. to court officials, said Logue, who said coaching of this sort is not unusual in contentious divorce cases.

"Cases like this are dispiriting for our community, because it's a Lesbian fighting against a Lesbian," she told the PlanetOut Network.

Lambda Legal appealed the lower court ruling in February, arguing that one parent's successful alienation of another parent from a child should not be grounds to deny visitation or custody. In a strongly worded opinion, the court agreed.

"It is inconceivable that an embittered spouse who successfully estranges the children from the other spouse, to the point where the other spouse is unknown to the children, should be rewarded by a determination that it shall be in the best interest of the children not to have any relationship at all with the alienated spouse because of the custodial spouse's feelings," wrote Judge Michael T. Joyce.

Logue said the next step in the case is for the court to arrange visits between T.B and her now-11-year-old daughter.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Politics And Profit Over People And Principles

On January 13, 2005, a broad new alliance of the nation's leading Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) and straight supportive organizations announced an unprecedented partnership aimed at advancing the fight for civil rights in 2005 and beyond, according to a press release.

Organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Stonewall Democrats and the Log Cabin Republicans joined a coalition of 22 other groups representing GLBT people, African Americans, Hispanics, straight supportive, Republicans and Democrats and urged people to get involved in the movement.

In the January 13, 2005 press release, Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, called the new coalition "unprecedented."

"We speak in one voice, share broader vision," Guerrero continues in the press release. "And we're looking forward to a day in America when all are treated equally."

According to the Log Cabin Republican Web site, the group says that they "courageously stand on the front lines of today's most important battleground for Gay and Lesbian civil rights . . . "

" ... Log Cabin continues building new alliances in the Gay and Lesbian community . . . " the Log Cabin Republican Web site says.

Admirable indeed but in a March 30 letter in support of Dubya's Social Insecurity Plan, the Log Cabin Republicans have joined ultra conservative, homophobic groups, such as USA Next, the organization which mounted a national campaign against the American Association of Retired Persons by claiming the AARP was out of touch with Americans because the group was too pro Gay.

As reported in this publication, USA Next has been named the defendant in a $25 million dollar lawsuit by an Oregon Gay couple for unauthorized use of their wedding photograph.

In one version of the USA Next ad disseminated on the Internet in February, and aired repeatedly by television news programs and newspapers nationwide, the couple's image, superimposed with a green checkmark, is side-by-side a picture of a US soldier with a red "X" across it. Below the photos is the phrase "The REAL AARP Agenda."

"Our privacy and personal integrity were violated when our wedding photo was stolen and used to portray us as treasonous, unpatriotic, and a threat to American troops," Rick Raymen, one of the two Gay men said in a statement. "We have been harassed and humiliated by this hateful ad campaign and by the bigotry and anger it has generated against us nationwide."

"Our lawsuit is intended to make USA Next and Mark Montini pay for the harm they have caused and to send a message to them that they cannot recklessly play with peoples' reputations and make them targets of hate, as they have done with us," Raymen continued in the statement.

According to news accounts, their attorney, Christopher Wolf wrote USA Next chairman and CEO Charles Jarvis on February 28, demanding that USA Next immediately stop using photos of the couple and that it publicly apologize for the ongoing harm it is causing.

While refusing to respond to the letter, USA Next repeatedly told the media that it had lawfully purchased the photo and that Raymen and Hansen were being "silly." In fact, USA Next and its surrogates were trying to buy the photo at the same time, for which they never got permission to use or purchase from the newspaper, The Oregonian of Portland, Oregon, while they were assuring the media that it had already been purchased. Raymen and Hansen have yet to receive an apology from USA Next.

Guerriero and the Log Cabin Republicans have a legitimate right to state their opinion on issues of concern to not only affecting GLBT citizens but straight citizens as well but it's their signature on a letter with homophobic groups, such as USA Next, (for which the signatures, Guerriero's and Charlie Jarvis' and the organizations logos are side by side on the same line), makes one wonder whether they are putting politics and profit, to curry favor with a extremely homophobic scraps from the political table over people, such as the Gay couple from Oregon, as well as the rest of the GLBT community across the country, going against principles they state they believe and state they are striving to achieve with their signature and legitimization of such homophobic groups as USA Next.

More Liberal Pope

Continued from Page Three

The manifesto also says the next pope should "restore a church that values dialogue" in its ranks, encourages academic freedom for theologians and gives local churches more freedom.

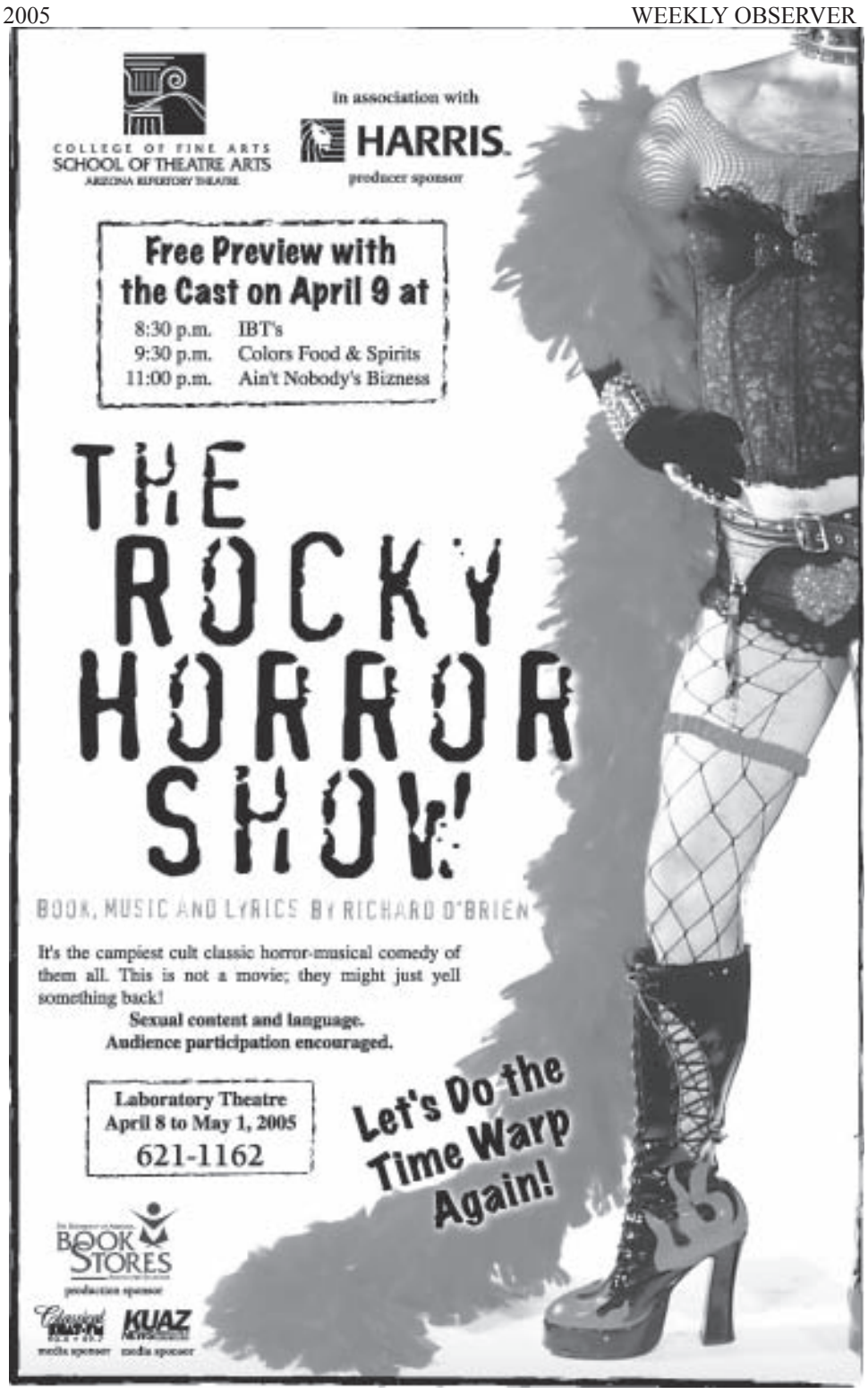
An AP-Ipsos poll released Monday, April 4 found that the majority of Americans agree with at least some of the reformists' agenda: About two-thirds of those polled said priests should be allowed to marry and almost that many said they want women in the priesthood.

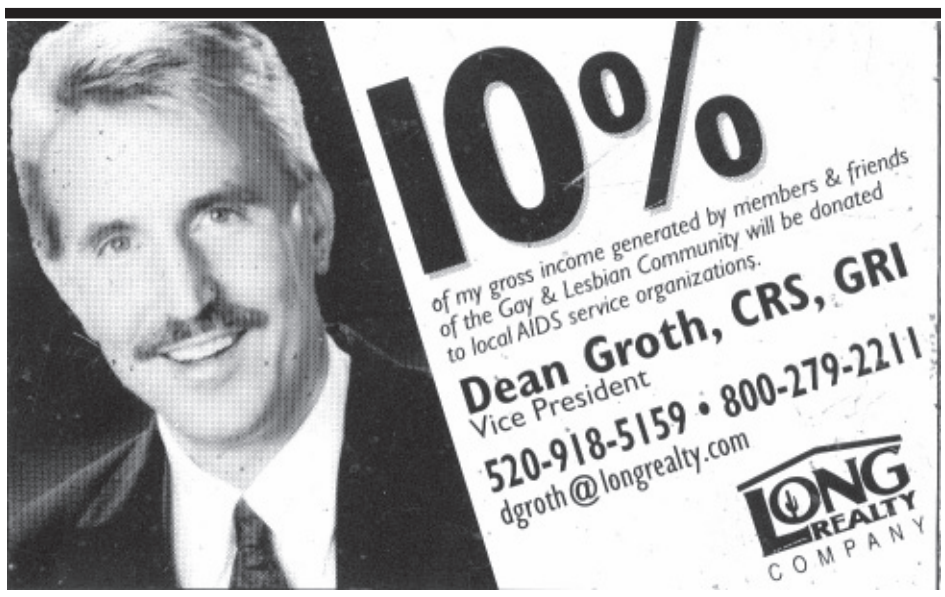
We Are Church originated with complaints against bishops in German-speaking Europe. Eventually more than 2.3 million Catholics in many countries signed a protest petition that was presented to the Vatican in 1997.

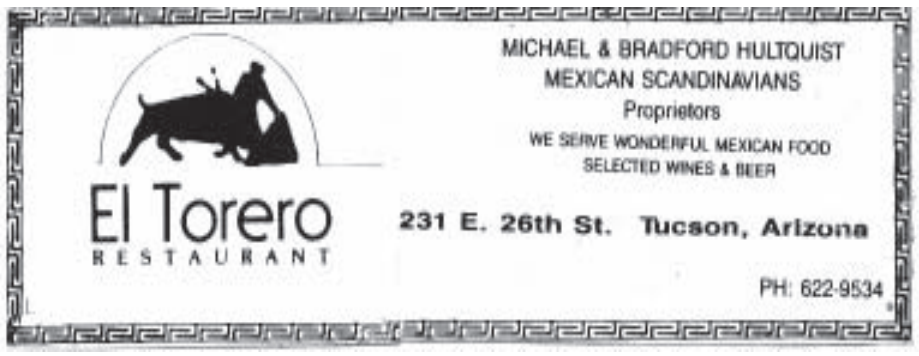
Other U.S. participants in We Are Church include FutureChurch of Cleveland; Catholics for a Free Choice (which supports liberal abortion laws); CORPUS (favours married priests); Dignity USA (Gay and Lesbian caucus); and Priests for Equality and Women's Ordination Conference (advocate women priests).

A conservative observer, Philip Lawler of www.catholicworldnews.com, thinks "these sorts of lobbying efforts are obviously aimed at the media, not the cardinals, if they're not deluding themselves."

"We don't know who the next pope will be but we know he'll be a Catholic," Lawler said, "which means upholding the traditions of the church."







Outing Is A Legitimate Form Of Journalism, Just Ask The Los Angeles Times

By Susan Ryan-Vollmar

Nearly 15 years after Michelangelo Signorile perfected the art of outing for OutWeek magazine, you'd think most of the questions surrounding the practice - such as when it's warranted and what constitutes "proof" of sexual orientation - would be answered. But as a heated exchange of news stories and editorial responses between RawStory.com and the Washington Blade illustrates, these questions aren't even close to being resolved.

Last week, RawStory.com reported that Washington Blade editor Chris Crain had "thwarted efforts" to out Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman. In an editorial published days later, Crain wrote that RawStory.com had the facts "backward."

Mehlman has long been suspected to be Gay. Indeed, the Blade played a big role in pushing the rumors last May when it ran a story on Gay staffers of President Bush's re-election campaign and pointedly noted that Mehlman, who is 38 and single, refuses to answer questions about his sexuality. In its story last week, RawStory.com reported that Crain knew that Mehlman was Gay but refused to give his sources to reporters.

In a March 25 editorial titled "To Out Or Not To Out," Crain denounced the story, saying it "would be silly" if it "did not have things so backward." Crain wrote: "The RawStory article isn't specific, but the suggestion is that either Ken told me he is Gay, or I knew someone he has told or had sex with. In fact, none of the above is true, but what if it were?"

He goes on to assert that "only if Ken himself or a credible source came forward and was willing to be named publicly would there be grounds for a story."

In an item for the BladeBlog published the day before his editorial, however, and titled "GOP Chief Admits To Being Closeted," Crain seems to say that we can all now assume Mehlman is Gay because he refused to answer a direct question about his sexual orientation last week when the Akron, Ohio-based Gay People's Chronicle put it to him directly. "[You] have asked a question people shouldn't have to answer," Mehlman told the paper. Crain notes, correctly, that by "refusing to answer the question, of course, Mehlman only adds fuel to the fire."

In both the editorial and blog item, Crain struggles to define when it's okay to out someone and what the standard of proof should be. He seems to come down on the side of sexual privacy, writing: "But it is not the role of the media, and should not be the role of the media - or activists, bloggers, or activists masquerading as journalists - to dig into the private sex lives of others, no matter how much the policies they advocate impact the sex lives of Gay people."

Crain is not alone. As he notes, most Gay political leaders would agree with him. He doesn't say it, but most journalists would agree with him, too. Outing remains a sensitive, complex topic.

But what about investigating the private family lives of public figures? Last weekend, the Los Angeles Times reported that Texas Congressman Tom DeLay - who has been a vocal opponent of Michael Schiavo's right to make medical decisions for his wife Terri Shiavo if those decisions involve terminating life support - had backed his family's decision to withdraw life support for his critically injured father.

Interestingly, there has been little to no controversy over whether or not it was appropriate to write about DeLay's family history. The story has stood for what it is: an excellent example of political hypocrisy.

But that is how stories outing closeted political figures should be seen. That most journalists and LGBT activists still can't move past the notion of a right to sexual privacy for public figures seeking to regulate the private sexual lives of Americans is testament to the homophobia that still defines our culture.

The most powerful political figure in the GOP, which has ridden to electoral victory on some of the most blatant, shameless homophobia we've seen in decades, is quite possibly Gay. Why isn't this a big story?

The reason that journalists, both Gay and straight alike, shy away from this story can't be because they are squeamish about reporting on the private sexual lives of public figures - as Monicagate proved. No, journalists shy away from this stuff only when it's the private sexual life of someone who might be Gay. But closeted Gays making public policy decisions for the rest of us do not have a right to privacy. No more so, anyway, than the politicians seeking to regulate our family medical decisions.

[Susan Ryan-Vollmar is the Editor in Chief of Bay Windows, http://www.baywindows.com.]

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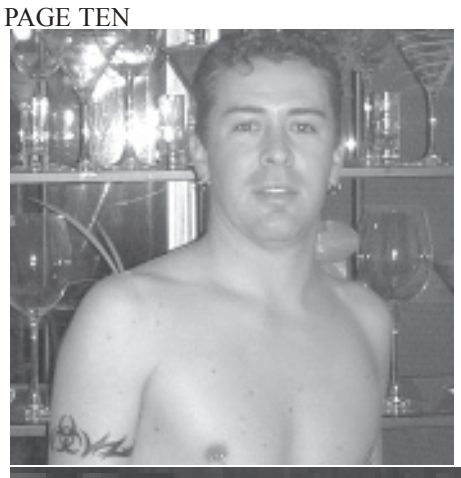

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Blog On

What do we learn about the media from the bloggers? Plenty!

When CBS went with the phony documents that purported to be from President Bush's military experience, the bloggers proved the documents were fakes within hours. CBS was still saying they couldn't "confirm the authenticity" of the documents a week after the fact.

It took real brass and/or stupidity for CBS to keep saying they couldn't "confirm the authenticity" of their bogus documents long after everyone in the world of blog was absolutely certain of their falsity. One can only conclude that CBS assumes, correctly or incorrectly, that their primary audience is not a part of blog world.

But a much more interesting inference is possible. CBS must also have assumed that the other networks would not blow the whistle on them.

Why wouldn't they? The networks compete against each other. Why shouldn't ABC and NBC and CNN say, "Although CBS is still saying there's some question about these documents, the bloggers have long since proven them to be totally fraudulent."

Bloggers recently presented a brief history of their role in the CBS debacle on, you guessed it, C-SPAN. I've yet to see a similar presentation on any network. The reason the bloggers could debunk CBS so quickly and so definitively is that they understand how computers work.

When a computer sets a line of type, it can adjust its spacing based on knowing what order the characters will be in. The typewriters that were supposed to have produced the Bush materials back in the '70s did not have this sophisticated spacing capability. The bottom line is that the machines which produced the memos in question didn't exist when the memos were supposed to have been produced.

Now the mainstream media are doing all kinds of stories about the implications of blogging. The stories consistently fail to mention one of the biggest implications of all – the bloggers have shown us that the mainstream competitors actually cover up for each other.

Let's summarize: CBS gets caught with phony papers. Everybody in the blog world knows for certain of the phoniness within hours. CBS decides to stonewall. Their competitors decline to expose the stonewalling. I don't think we can conclude that the networks are no longer in meaningful competition.

There does seem to be reason to believe that their competition is limited by a probably unspoken gentlemen's agreement that goes something like this: "We are not going to contribute to the ability of the bloggers or of C-SPAN to damage each other's credibility."

Network producers have a valuable product to protect. I'd guess that they think it's unfair that C-SPAN and the bloggers don't suffer from the same constraint. Lots of bloggers, maybe most of them, are not doing it primarily for money. Judging from those I've seen on C-SPAN, they're doing it for the sheer fun of raising hell with the media elite.

C-SPAN is supported by the cable networks. Like the bloggers, it undermines the mainstream media on a regular basis. I wrote a column on C-SPAN exposing an "independent Middle East expert" that the networks were frequently using. The expert turned out of be on the payroll of an infamous Middle East politician. The expert suddenly disappeared from the airwaves but nobody reported, "By the way, we have C-SPAN to thank for showing us that our independent expert wasn't so independent."

Where does public television fit into all this? To my mind, a program like The News Hour acts much more like establishment journalism than C-SPAN. After all, they've got to keep corporate sponsorship happy much as the commercial networks do.

C-SPAN and the bloggers are more like poets. Why do poets make everybody mad by telling the truth? It's because they realize you can't make a living being a poet so you might as well have some fun.

An interesting question for the future is this: "How long will the networks be able to get away with pretending that the bloggers and C-SPAN don't exist?" It seems inevitable that at some point the growing number of people who know about these alternative media will force the networks to come back to reality, or at least to come part of the way back.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754. E-mail: Doid3@aol.com.]

GLBT Students Told To Shut Up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An ultra-conservative lobby group says his month's annual Day of Silence should be extended to a decade because it is sick of hearing about Gays in schools, 365Gay.com reported.

The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment - in effect, the silencing - experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

This year's Day of Silence will be held on April 13.

Americans For Truth President Peter LaBarbera said today that the day "simply does not go far enough - and called for extending the idea to a "Decade of Silence" for pro-Gay advocates in our nation's places of learning."

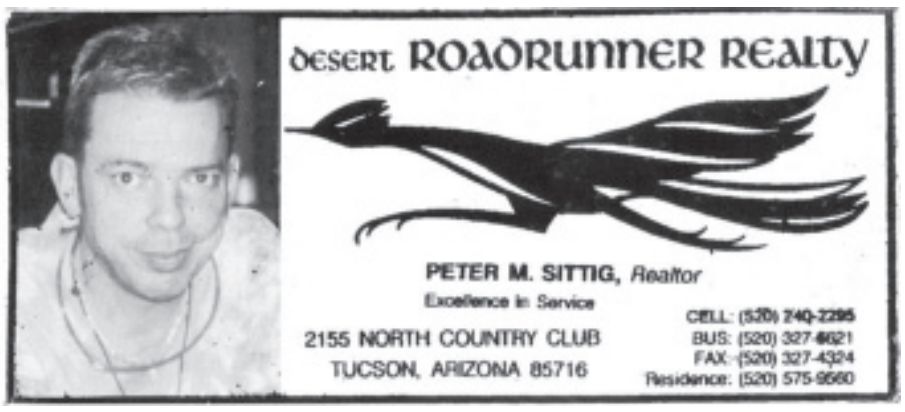
"Parents are sick and tired of pro-'Gay' liberals using the trusted school environment to promote homosexuality and gender confusion as normal to impressionable children," LaBarbera said.

LaBarbera also said that he believes the majority of American parents support him.

"Whether it's a Lesbian teacher 'coming out' to her first-grade students, or a homosexual instructor telling his class that it makes no difference if children have 'two daddies' or a mom and a dad, the answer is the same: we need more silence from the radical homosexual education lobby," LaBarbera said.

"Most parents simply have no clue as to how much pro-'Gay' propaganda has found its way into our schools—to the point where GLSEN is now targeting elementary school kids and promoting the bizarre notion of 'Transgender youth.'"

GLSEN called the remarks scurrilous.



HOROSCOPES

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Get a front seat for the fireworks this week when sparky Mars conjuncts foggy Neptune. How much trouble can you possibly get into? Where will your out-of-control imagination lead you? Let's try to imagine all the possibilities!

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Park yourself in the middle of any group and you will surely find someone who gets you into wilde mischief. Proud Rams are on a rampage where every action can have an equally dramatic reaction. Mars pushes Neptune over the cliff. But there can be a happy ending; By the end of this short but intense period, you will know the difference between conscript and co-conspirator.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Taking a professional risk may be too risky while agitated Mars bops Neptune. Queer Bulls are chomping at the bit for advancement, recognition and the big bucks that go with a corner office. Hold off for a couple of weeks, buddy. Not only are your eyes too big for your ambitions but you may rub a powerbroker the wrong way. Heat your oil and pour it on after the 17th.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Your reach has no boundaries while Mars conjuncts Neptune. This is the time to spread your influence and see how charged up you can get the troops. But filter your message through a good editor before you blast it Out to the masses. In the heat of the moment you may slip out an unintended remark that pops your world view. Are you ready for primetime or fringe?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
How short is your fuse this week when Mars pokes Neptune? Pink Crabs seek a love connection but their ardor is more spark than slow burn. You may tire easily or lose interest once the bait is taken. Or you may race off to rescue yet another lost cause. Rather than waste energy and effort, relax, sit back and let the adoring masses come to you. Still waiting... still waiting...

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Whether you are part of a pair or ache to be paired, this is a good time to take a break from any deeply intensive relationship issue. Proud Lions want results NOW! And they are prepared to jump into a quest for a solution with all fours. But things need time to settle and solidify. Wishing and pushing doesn't make it so, bubbele. Whining and pleading may however .

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
The urge is to tackle everything and everything with verve and dispatch while Mars pushes Neptune. Queer Virgins think that they are especially efficient but it is a mirage. Everything that you think you have completed will come back to bite you later in the month because of loose ends, cursory reviews and too little follow-up. Heck it is the best excuse to take a vacation now!

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Who will be responsible for letting Gay Libras loose on the party scene? You will not know when enough is enough as Mars pushes Neptune and fun is taken to the Outer limits. Mayhem ensues and you can become grist for the gossip mill. A gurgling romance dares you to take the plunge. So get Out and see who you can impress. Just don't stay at home and impress the sofa.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Electricity around the house may cause surprising problems while Mars sparks Neptune. Check for overloaded outlets and frayed wires. But all of this domestic investigation shouldn't dampen your exuberance for over the top home entertaining. In fact, right now you can be exceedingly entertaining. Ha cha cha! But save that lampshade hat routine for the dim bulbs.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Connection is the pivotal word this week. What is it about Gay Archers now that require a big discussion on every little thing now. Too much talk results in unanticipated reactions. Can you hold it in for a few days and refine your message? There is no dissuading you. Since you can't move a big boat on wind alone, might as well turn up the motor mouth and hold on tight.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Pink Caps feel pretty darn rosy about their financial prospects as Mars conjuncts Neptune. You gleefully count your winnings but manage to ignore your mounting losses. Tsk tsk. Be practical, weigh the risks, do your homework and carefully plot and plan for a sturdy future. Then you will feel ready to run with the bulls ... or is it the bears? Hey, whatever turns you on.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
You are never one to fade into the background but now not only do you outshine all competitors, you practically cast a floodlight. Leave it to Mars and Neptune to make an unusual Aqueerian a true one-of-a-kind. Revel in your uniqueness while you command attention but don't become a caricature. Self possessed moderation will have them eating out of your hand. Yuk.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
There are those who would love to see you trip and fall so they can walk all over you. Don't tempt them. Guppies are apt to act on their loosey goosy gut feelings. Wait and see how events unfold before you jump to conclusions. On the other hand, you could catch a few lucky breaks as their secrets are exposed and demons revealed. Do a little exposing and revealing yourself.

FDA Approves New Hepatitis B Drug

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B, the drug's manufacturer said Wednesday, March 30, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

The drug, entecavir, is taken orally and is designed to work by preventing the virus that causes the illness from reproducing. The chronic form of hepatitis B can permanently damage the liver and lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Entecavir is made by Bristol-Myers Squibb and will be sold under the trade name Baraclude. The company said it could be available in early April. Current treatment options for chronic hepatitis include interferon, given by injection, and two drugs administered orally, lamivudine and adefovir dipivoxil. In clinical trials the main side effects reported for the new drug were headache, tiredness, dizziness, and nausea.

The Hepatitis B Foundation estimates that 1.2 million Americans have hepatitis B and another 100,000 are infected annually. The hepatitis B virus can be transmitted through sexual activity, particularly through oral-anal contact. The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association urges all sexually active Gay and Bisexual men to be vaccinated against hepatitis A and B, but fewer than half of the nation's Gay men have received the vaccines.

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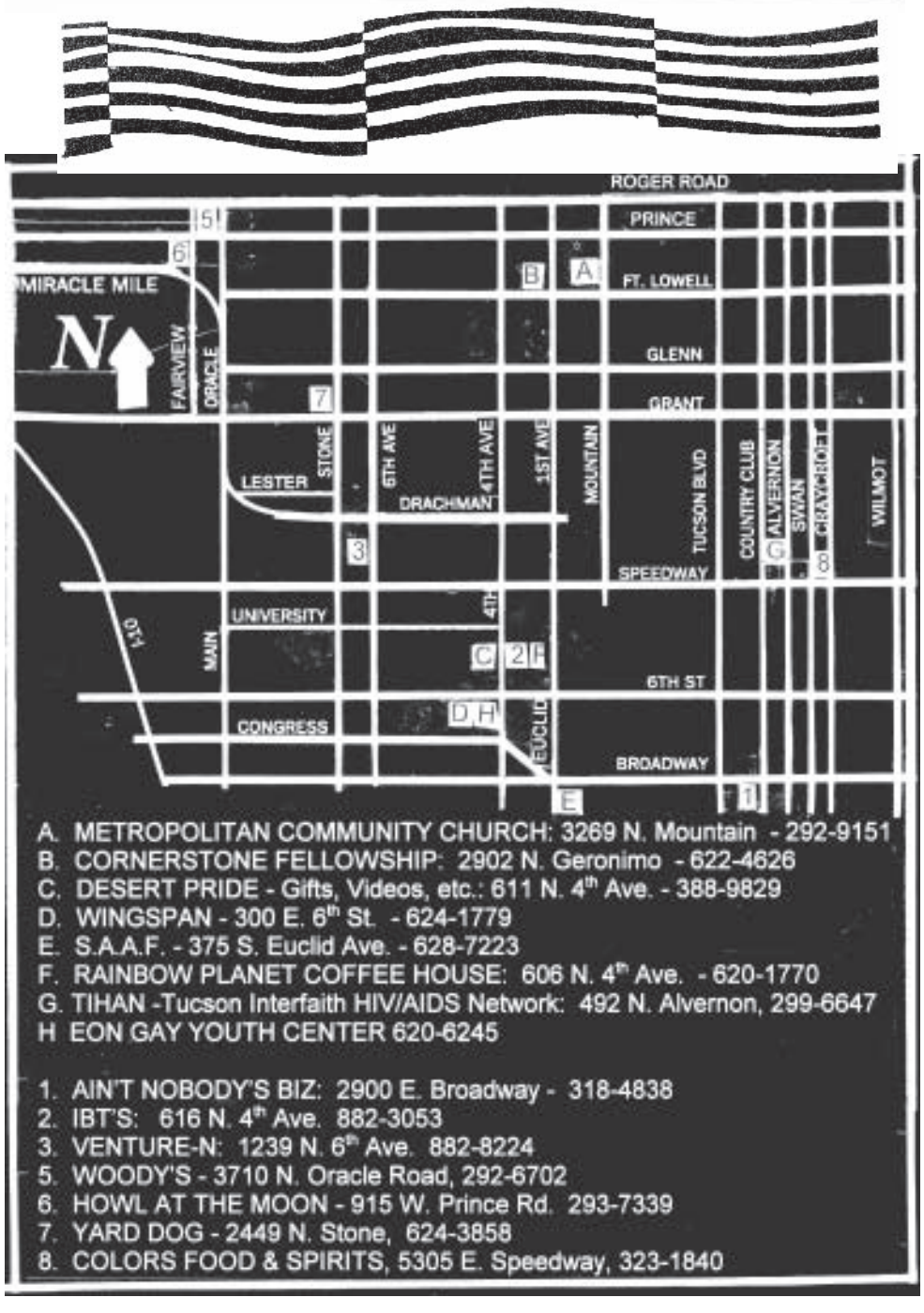

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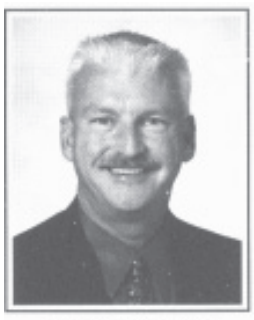
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AROUND THE GAY WORLD . . . . . .

Dutch Stats: G/L, Straight Divorces Even

AMSTERDAM - Gay and Lesbian couples who marry in the Netherlands, where same-sex marriage has been legal since 2001, divorce at the same rate as married heterosexual couples, according to statistics released by the Dutch government on Monday, April 4, the PlanetOut Network.

Of the 5,751 same-sex marriages performed between April 2001 and December 2003, approximately 1 percent, or 63 couples, ended in divorce. During the same period, 243,000 heterosexual couples were married, with 2,800 filing for divorce.

The data, collected from city registers, also showed that Lesbians were slightly more likely to divorce than Gay men, though government officials offered no explanation for that trend.

The data from same-sex couples were based on a small sample and can be interpreted in a number of ways, said Jan Laten, an expert on demographics from the Netherlands' Central Bureau for Statistics.

One one hand, since many Lesbians and Gay men had waited years to marry, same-sex couples with unusually high levels of commitment and stability may be overrepresented, Laten said.

"The [divorce] rate could just as well be 2 percent next year," he said.

On the other hand, the same-sex couples who married were more likely to have dual incomes and no children. Straight couples who fit that profile are generally at higher risk for divorce.

The low divorce rates challenge popular rhetoric from evangelical conservatives about the dangers of same-sex marriage in the United States, said Jason Cianciotto, research director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

"They talk about how the end of Western civilization is going to come when Gay and Lesbian people are allowed to marry," he told the PlanetOut Network. "Well, the sky didn't fall. These data make them look like the liars that they are."

In the United States, the state with the lowest divorce rate is Massachusetts, the only state so far to have legalized same-sex marriage. No statistics have been compiled about divorce among same-sex couples married there.

The Netherlands and Belgium are the only two countries that grant full marriage rights to same-sex couples, though Belgium still prohibits those couples from adopting children. The Netherlands is currently reviewing legislation to allow Gay and Lesbian couples to adopt children from other countries. Dutch couples who adopt tend to adopt foreign children, a right still limited to heterosexual couples.

Rare Religious Alliance Protest G/L Event

JERUSALEM - Israel's chief rabbis joined Christian and Muslim clerics in a rare alliance to protest plans to hold an international Gay festival in Jerusalem this summer, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

The 10-day WorldPride festival, last held in Rome in 2000, is to include street parties, workshops, and a Gay film festival. Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox Jewish mayor, Uri Lupolianski, says he is powerless to interfere, as public events are licensed by the police, not city hall. Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said Thursday that police had received a number of requests not to issue a permit for the festival but had not yet made a decision.

At a news conference, Yona Metzger, one of the chief rabbis, pleaded with the festival's organizers to take it elsewhere. "Please do not damage the holiness of Jerusalem," he said. "Preserve its character, preserve its peace...cancel your plans." Metzger was joined at the news conference by Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Latin patriarch Michel Sabbah, and other Christian and Muslim officials in demanding the event be canceled.

Opposition to the event has forged some unusual alliances. Earlier this month evangelical Christians and rabbis from the United States joined forces with ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jews to warn that holding the festival in Jerusalem could provoke divine retribution along the lines of the biblical story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Muslim cleric Abdel-Salem Menasra repeated that warning on Wednesday. "God destroyed those cities and everyone in them," he said. "I'm warning everybody, God will destroy Jerusalem together with the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims."

Some participants at the news conference described Gays as lower than animals, while others described their lifestyle as unnatural and unhealthy. Jerusalem Open House director Hagai El-Ad, one of the festival organizers, told the Associated Press that the offensive tone of the remarks made him more determined than ever to press ahead with plans for the August 18-28 event. "If anyone had any hesitation about how important this event is then after the unfortunate remarks made at Wednesday's press conference, I think no such questions remain," he said. "It's important that one of the first signs of interfaith dialogue we have encountered here in Jerusalem takes place around such a negative message."

A statement from the Jerusalem Open House said it was vital to hold the event in such a contentious locale. "The first WorldPride, Rome 2000, brought to the heart of Europe, and indeed to the pope's doorstep, the message that Gays and Lesbians are and always have been a vital part of humanity," according to the statement on the group's Web site. "It is time to demonstrate to our community, to our neighbors and peers, and indeed to the world not only that we belong but that our love and our pride can cross the harshest borders that divide people."

In the past, Israeli Gays have

Continued on Page Fifteen

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Reservations only $65 per person; all proceeds benefit the homeless animals of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

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For more information or to make reservations, contact Suzi Handel at 321-3704 ext. 188, or go to the HSSA website at www.humane-so-arizona.org

UPDATE

Chicago Eyes GLBT Tourists

CHICAGO - The Windy City wants to be known as the Gay City. Hoping to capitalize on the 2006 Gay Games to be held in Chicago Illinois is preparing a massive LGBT media blitz, 365Gay.com reported.

"We will have our first-ever media-familiarization trip focusing on the affluent Gay and Lesbian market," Jan Kostner, deputy director of the Illinois Bureau of Tourism, told a conference on tourism.

In August, the state and city will host members of the Gay press, showing them the charms of Chicago.

"We will promote the Gay Games, and Chicago and Illinois, as Gay-friendly destinations," Kostner told the Chicago Tribune. "We want to get the city on the radar screen."

Community Marketing, a company that advises cities on their LGBT ad campaigns estimates that Gays and Lesbians spent an estimated $54.1 billion on travel in 2003.

A good chunk of that cash has gone to Montreal, the first city in North America to aggressively court the Gay tourist.

Philadelphia, New Orleans and Minneapolis have recently launched their own Gay ad campaigns.

Chicago has a good base to work from. The city is already ranked 8th-most-visited U.S. destination in a survey conducted last year by Community Marketing.

The Gay Games is expected to bring about 12,000 participants to the city and to generate more than $25 million in spending.

School District May Cut All Non-Curricular Clubs To Thwart Start Of GSA Group

CLEVELAND - White County Georgia school administrators are recommending the cutting of all "noncurricular clubs" at White County High School, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The plan, which would go to White County Board of Education as part of other recommended policy changes, follows on the school system's agreement to allow a club for Gays students and supportive classmates to form.

Superintendent Paul Shaw said that the policy change was something that has been in the works since principal Bryan Dorsey's arrival in January.

"The principal has been considering a lot of things," Shaw said. "As soon as he got here, he was hit with several clubs wanting to form. He's hardly had time to catch his breath."

The club that has stirred the most attention is the Gay-Straight Alliance, which later became Peers Rising in Diversity Education. The group's appeal request to form a club at the school brought a crowd of about 250 people at a White County school board meeting on Feb. 24.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia had earlier said an agreement had been reached in which school officials will "drop their attempts to stop" the group.

This new proposal would affect a handful of clubs, including Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Interact Club and Key Club.

"Clubs have not lived up to what they are supposed to be doing, and the legislature is requiring that we do additional paperwork and things of that sort," Shaw said. "Plus, we want to focus on academics this coming school year."

He added the school system is revising its entire policy manual, including the one regarding clubs, and he hoped that the school board would approve that document by the end of the summer.

Lesbian Couple's Marriage Illegal But They Can't Dissolve It

HARTFORD - A Connecticut Lesbian couple is in a legal catch 22 in an attempt to have the marriage the women had in Massachusetts annulled, 365Gay.com reported.

Anita Ann Albanese and a woman identified in court papers only as "Lane" were married in Provincetown before Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney invoked a law making it illegal to issue a marriage license to people who could not legally marry in their own state.

The law nullified the marriage, although the couple's civil marriage remains on the books and could be legalized if a court challenge to the ban on out of state marriages is successful. That case is underway.

When the relationship between the two women soured Albanese and "Lane" wanted to be sure the marriage was legally over and went to court in Hartford to have it annulled.

But, Hartford Superior Court Judge Linda Pearce Prestley ruled she does not have the power to annul the marriage because same-sex marriage is not legal in Connecticut to begin with.

Prestley based her ruling on a 2002 case involving two men who

Continued on Page Twenty

Protest G/L Event

Continued from Page Fourteen

held small marches in Jerusalem that have passed relatively peacefully, with a few shouted insults from onlookers and minor acts of vandalism. The Rome event attracted tens of thousands of participants. Organizers of the festival, under the theme "Love Without Borders," say they want to promote coexistence. A majority of Jerusalem's more than 600,000 residents are either Orthodox Jews or Muslim or Christian Palestinians, traditional communities that oppose homosexuality. Clerics at Wednesday's conference said they would form a joint committee to lobby politicians and police to prevent the festival.

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Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
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NON-BAR CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Jack at 887-3736.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 10:00 am Please join Curt for a Day at the Reid Park Zoo. For information and directions, please call Curt at 877-9161.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): Time TBD Please join Merlin as he realizes a lifelong dream of dancing in a Modern Dance recital. Discount tickets are $8.00 each but must be purchased by April 8th. For reservations and additional information, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-5336.

SATURDAY, APRIL16
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; Newcomers welcomed) 8:30 a.m. join Jack & Mike and Ed & Marcus for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike/Jack at 881-5733 or Marcus/Ed at 407-733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve 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 Steve at 664-2076.

#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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Jim hosts Mah Jong. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Jim at 790-8735.

MONDAY, APRIL 18
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19
#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 Karol for an evening of Pizza and a movie; "Silence of the Lambs". For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Terry for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-2396.

THURSDAY APRIL 21
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv 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 Marv at 745-0304.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m.
Please join Robert for a trip to Corona de Tucson for an Italian Dinner. We are Carpooling at 6 PM, and there is room for 20. Please call Robert at 400-1376 by April 10th to reserve your spot and additional information.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 12:30 p.m Please join Lloyd for Brunch at the fabulous Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. Reservations and $ must be with Lloyd by April 18th. Please contact Lloyd at 792-8537 for additional information and directions.

MONDAY, APRIL 25
#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Cowboys & Angels" (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Bruce at 743-3890.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 26
#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. Jim hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Jim at 790-8735.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard & T. Jay for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call T. Jay and Richard at 881-7919.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve 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 Steve at 664-2076.

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

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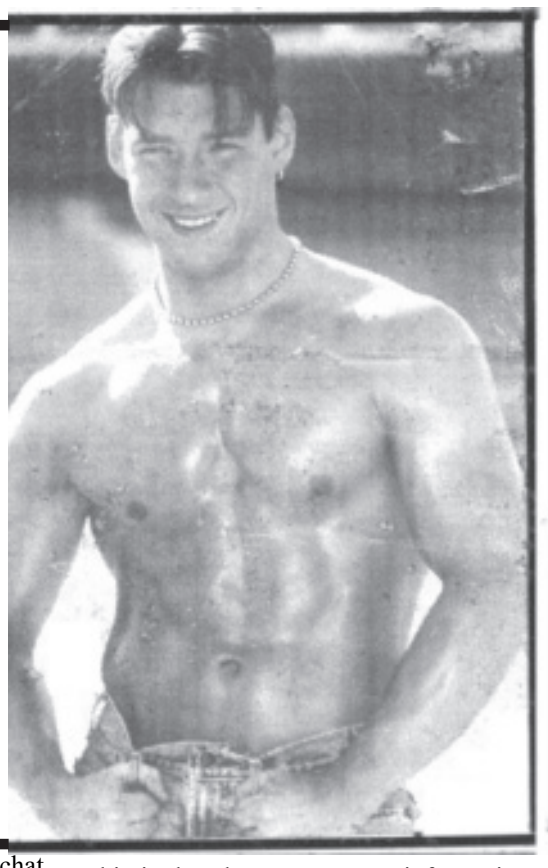

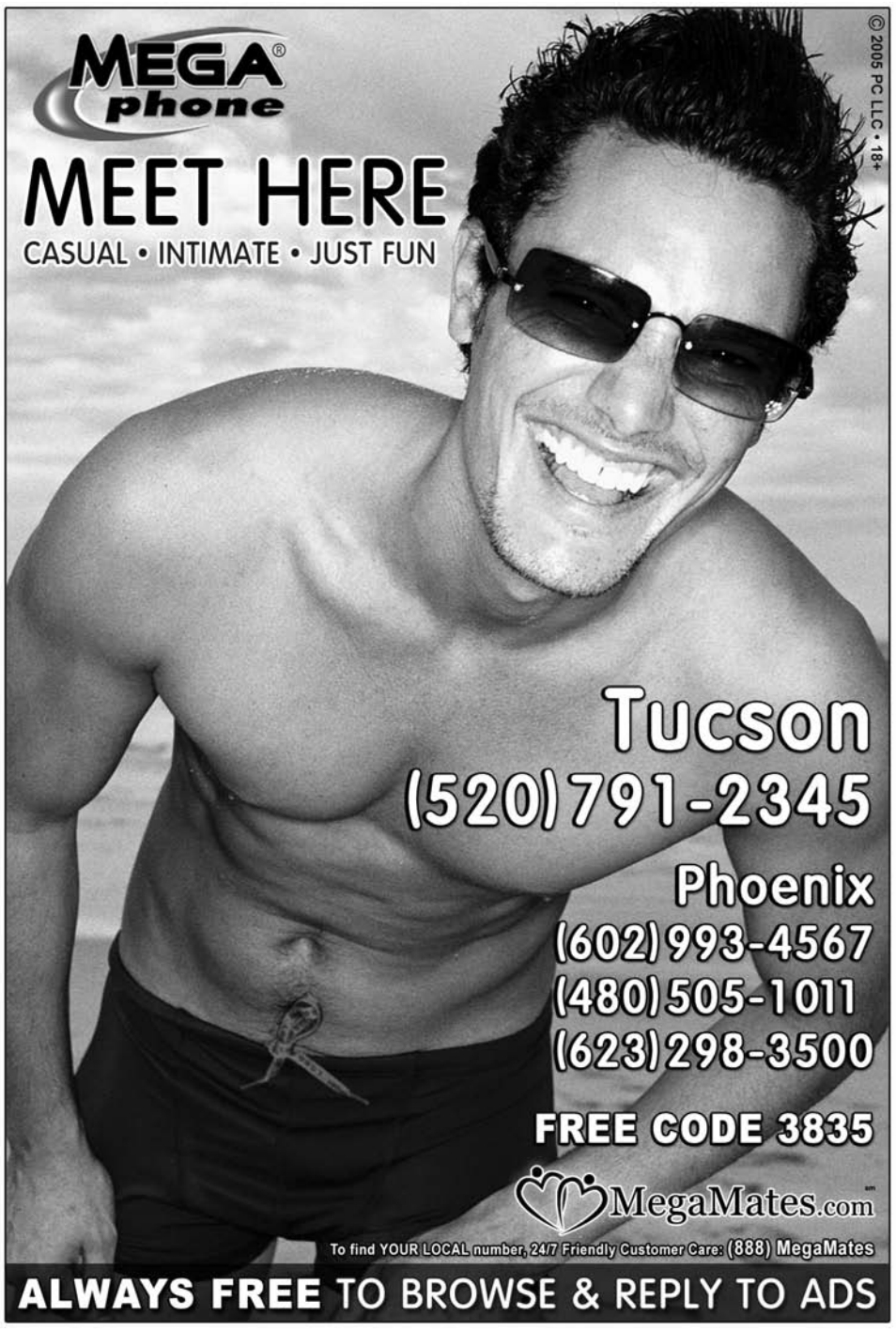

PERSONALS

EMPLOYMENT

DESIGN PASSION WANTED: If you have a passion for interior design, love working with people and want to be a part of a supportive team, we'd like to talk to you! Norwalk the Furniture Idea is seeking individuals with sales and/or design experience to join our growing team. Mail or fax your resume, with a cover letter, to Pat Wilson, c/o Norwalk, 23602 EA. Ft. Lowell, Tucson, AZ 85716. Fax 319-1344. 1081

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ROOM FOR RENT. MALE. Furnished, $250/mo. Kitchen privileges. Drug and smoke free. References checked. 888-7264 1085

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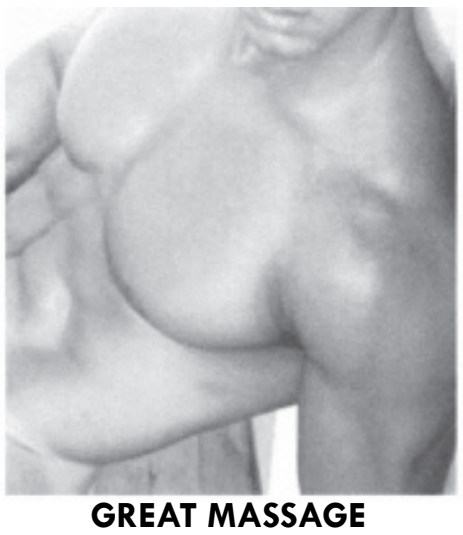

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am. Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Full menu served 11am-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON –Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am - 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. $2 Smirnoff Sunday. Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

IBT's -Open Noon. $1.75 Bloodys, Screws or mimosas. til 4pm 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-8 Benefit BBQ for community organizations. Dance with Mike Lopez. 2for1 drink specials 10 til closing. All drink specials not available during special events

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. 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

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

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 - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Audio Anomoly 9pm-2am with DJ Trinidad, 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm.1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner & Concert" shown on our 52" projection System.

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 Debbie from 8 - midnight

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tropical Tuesdays $2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Bartender Calls rink specials..

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance with DJ Q, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris 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

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Karaoke from 9pm with Johnny DJ & Dan..

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 Debbie from 8 to midnight.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tricked Out Thursday with your Bartenders in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request $1.75 Long Islands and $1.50 Cocksucker shots 10pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am.Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 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

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-11pm. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" Hosted by Lucinda Holliday in a 2 girl cabaret show with a different guest each week. Reservations suggested.

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 midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with David Z from 9pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - 10am.Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Martini Party - Well Martini's $2.00 3-4pm. Call Martinis $3 from 3-4pm. 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

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Reservations suggested. Karaoke 10pm-close with Johnny DJ & Dan.

HOWL AT THE MOON –Open at 11:00 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. $3.00 Burger & Fries all day. DJ playing your favorite country songs 8:30 - midnight, then "anything goes" requests until close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Starr, Circuit Saturday's with DJ Q spinning Hot Club Music. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings $5, Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza 6-9pm.

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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 1 - APRIL 23 - Live heatre Workshop late night Series presents "Durang Does Williams including For Whom The Bell Tolls and Desire, Desire, Desire" by Christopher Durang. These two one act plays will provide an evening-long deconstruction of the works of Tennessee Williams. Running in conjnction with Live Theatre Workshop's mainstage production of "The Glass Managerie", these enlightening Durang works wil blow out your candles -- Stella. The show runs Friday and Saturday evenings April 1-23. Clal327-4242 for reservaations.s $10 General admissiosn. $8 students, seniors and military. 5317 E. Speedway.

APRIL 16 - Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) hosts their 8th annual benefit "Treasures for TIHAN" at the Doubletree Hotel - Reid Park beginning at 6:30 p.m. This live and sislent auction is ssthe major fundraising event that supports the programs and sservices of TIHAN. Not only is it TIHAN's largest event of the year and the biggest revenue-producer for programs, "Tresures for TIHAN" is an event that attrcts several hundred gnerous donors from throughout the Tucson comunity.s Donation $50 ($28 tax deductible).

Treasures for TIHAN will be a fun-filled evening with great auction items, wonderfufl food and festive entertainment. Questions? 520-323-1128.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
WOODY'S - 8:00 p.m.til closing, Thursty Thursday Cheap-Party Nite. Pabst 12oz long necks $1.00 plus free pool all day.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
COLORS - Lucinda Holliday welcomes Phoenix Illusionist Phaedra to her Cabarret show this evening Showtime is 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2
YARD DOG - Breakfast will be served beginning at 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3
YARD DOG - One of their famous steak dinners will be served this evening beginning at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
WOODYS - Sarong/Underwear Party is coming here tonight. Get your act together!

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
WOODY'S - Having an April Birthday? Celebrate your birthday here at 9:00 p.m. Cake, Balloons, Champagne Toast, Music. (Sign up with one of their bartenders).

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

APRIL 16 - Desert Voices Concert and Auction aat the Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. This year's concert "Our True Colors" will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $18 in advance and are available at Antigone Books, and Desert Pride or by calling Desert Voices at (520-791-9662

APRIL 3 - MAY 5 - Live Theatre Workshop Theatre presents "The Emperor's New Clothes", an original adaptation by Caarolyn Marbry with original music by Jay Everett.

Playing Sundays only at 1:00 p.m. at 5317 E. Speedway, tickets are $7.00 for adults and $5 for 18 and under.

The treasury has run low in the vast empire of Emperor Beauegard (Cliff Madison), and he hasn;t a stitch to wer to the upcoming Grand Ball. Fortunately, his two Evil Advisors (Sean Marbry & Sara Robison) know a fantastic tailor that can make him a new set of imperial robes out of ... well, nothing. The Emperor's Valet (Bruce Bieski) and Cook (Kristi Lorera) try to stop the two wicked advisors from embarrassing their dimwitted boss because they know it is all a plot to help Duke Wayne (also Cliff Madison) steal the throne.

Find out how this clever musical adaptation of a classic comedy unfolds as sstshese hilarious characters sing and dance around their dujnderhearded emperor. The whole thester will be laughing out loud and singing along with this all star cast.

For reservations call 327-4242.

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDSWALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park,s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDSWALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run.

Tucson's supposrt of AIDSWALK over the years has made an important and lastsing statemnt about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDSWSALK attracts approximately 4,000 walkers annually and continues to enjoy strong corporate underwriting alliances.

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18. AIDSWALK Tucson hs grown from 8s0 participants in 1989 to more than 4,000 individuals and 79 businesses raising over $239,000 in 2004 for local HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support programs.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. Involving discussion, support and activities. Designed to support each other. Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Alternate Saturdays the group meets for social activities. For info call Dorian Easty. 882-7723 Facilitator.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more info.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-2269, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww,org

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION
AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm Mon. - Fri.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave msg. TucsonSources@aol.com

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

TNTucsonMEN, a nudist Gay men's club. We are a social and recreational group. By the way the TN means Totally Naked! Drop us an e-mail at TNTucsonMEN@nethere,com

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotliine (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-5541

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay square dance club meets every Tuesday from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (near 1st Ave. and Laguna). Open to All. Call Liz at 325-9466 or Ray at 749-5247.

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT. In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 739 N. 4th Ave. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For info call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 3rd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/ LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

TUCSON CATHOLIC GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY MINISTRY. Currently meeting the 4th Monday of every month at SS Peter & Paul Church, Madonna Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fr. Fiedler in attendance every meeting and willing to speak one on one. Reaching out to Parents and Families. For more info call Doc or Barbara 293-6624.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current info.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED — Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Tuesdays 7-10pm at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain. Have any history/ experience singing? Join us!! Call 617-3100 for more info.

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"
Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

LIKE TO READ?
The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Magpie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and sex education. Marc 881-4582

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/ SURVIVORS OF
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP. Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R. 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at www.secularhumanism.org/sos/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 118 or older). 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required
.
GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks, pretensions? TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

DESERT PRIDE - Your store for Gay Pride and more!

611 N. Fourth Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (Across from IBT's, Next to Magpies. Come See Us!) **(520)388-9829**

Ohio To Plug Loophole In G/L Marriage Ban But Only For Straights

CANTON - A state lawmaker from northeast Ohio says he'll introduce a bill this week to close a perceived loophole in the domestic-violence law created by the constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage. Democratic state Representative William Healy of Canton says his bill would define domestic violence as an act committed when individuals reside together, regardless of marital status, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

State judges have issued differing rulings recently on whether the amendment bars prosecutors from charging unmarried people with domestic violence. Two Ohio judges have issued differing rulings on that issue.

A Franklin County judge on Friday, April 1, decided against dismissing a domestic violence case, disagreeing with arguments that the law doesn't apply to unmarried couples. Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Stuart Friedman said Wednesday that domestic violence charges cannot be filed against unmarried people because of the state's recently enacted definition of marriage.

Friedman reduced a felony domestic violence charge to a misdemeanor assault charge. Friedman said the ruling applies specifically to the case, but advocates said they believe its impact will be felt statewide because appeals likely will reach the Ohio Supreme Court.

Seventeen states have constitutional language defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Ohio's is regarded as the broadest marriage amendment of those passed by 11 states on Nov. 2 because it bans civil unions and legal status to all unmarried couples and Gay marriages.

Experts say a ruling by a higher court or legislation is needed to clarify how Ohio's Gay marriage ban affects the state's 25-year-old domestic violence law, which has not been limited to married people. "In this court's view, the Ohio constitutional provision called the Marriage Amendment has a limited scope," Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Richard A. Frye ruled Friday, April 1.

Frye said previous court decisions about marriage do not discount that people living together can be considered family household members. Frye's ruling came in the case of Terry Rodgers, 39, of Columbus, who is accused of beating his girlfriend in January. He is scheduled to go to trial in May.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien said his office has received similar motions challenging domestic violence charges for about a month. But officials said no Franklin County judge has dismissed a domestic violence case because the couple was not married.

Supporters of Ohio's constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage said the state's domestic violence law should be revised to make it clear that it applies to unmarried couples. "These (domestic-violence) crimes should have the same penalty whether you're married or not," said Phil Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values and chairman of the Ohio Campaign to Protect Marriage, a group that was key in pushing for the amendment's passage.

However, the change in the law will only affect heterosexuals in non married relationships. The domestic abuse law will not apply to same-sex couples because of the constitutional amendment.

Lesbian Couple's Marriage Illegal

Continued from Page Fifteen

attempted to annul their Vermont civil union. The trial court concluded it lacked jurisdiction because the topic of same-sex civil unions was not listed in the statute that defines family court jurisdiction and that the federal Defense of Marriage Act says no state is compelled to legally recognize any other jurisdiction's same-sex marriage.

The ruling and the ongoing case in Massachusetts leaves the couple in legal limbo.

Meanwhile, legislation to create civil unions in Connecticut is working its way through the legislature. It would give same-sex couples many of the same state rights as married heterosexuals, but would not allow them to get a marriage license.

Drug May Boost Prostate Cancer Survival

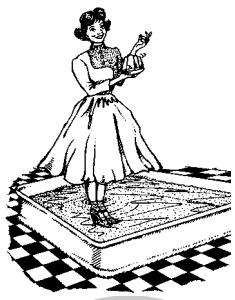
NEW YORK - Prostate cancer patients treated with the hormonal drug Zoladex immediately after radiation therapy live longer than men who wait to take the drug, researchers said Friday, March 31, Advocate.com reported.

Zoladex, sold by AstraZeneca, reduces levels of sex hormones—testosterone in men and estrogen in women—and is also used to treat hormone-dependent breast cancer in premenopausal women. Side effects of the drug include potential bone loss and loss of libido, said Howard Sandler, chairman of the American College of Radiology's genitourinary cancer committee.

A 10-year study, involving 977 patients with locally advanced prostate cancer, was carried out by the clinical research arm of the radiology group. The study showed that 49% of men treated with Zoladex immediately after radiation therapy were alive 10 years later, compared with the 39% of men who waited until their tumors got worse before taking the drug. In addition to the improvement in survival, only 22% of the men who took Zoladex immediately after radiation saw their tumors increase in size, compared with 38% of the men who delayed taking the drug. The study was published in the April issue of the International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics.

"Men diagnosed with prostate cancer can now expect to live longer and live a life free from a recurrence of their disease," Colleen Lawton of the Medical College of Wisconsin, a coauthor of the study, said in a statement.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men in the United States with over 230,000 new cases expected this year. It is the second leading cause of death due to cancer, after lung cancer.



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