

Turning Remembrance Into Action



TUCSON - The original International Candlelight Memorial was held in 1983, when the cause of AIDS was unknown and no more than a few thousand AIDS deaths had been recorded. The organizers wished to honor the memory of those lost to AIDS and to demonstrate support for those living with HIV and AIDS. That remains the focus of the event each year.

The Memorial was held in Tucson last Sunday, May 5 at Presidio Park downtown. Pictured above is the 2005 patchwork quilt made by the Southern Arizona AIDS Quilting Committee. Each year a new quilt is made to honor and remember those who are no longer with us.

Since 1983, the pandemic has claimed more than 28 million lives, with about 42 million now living with HIV and AIDS. As AIDS continues to ravage communities around the world, the Candlelight has become a way for communities to take action by publicly mourning loved ones lost to AIDS, and by strengthening local and national commitments to fighting the pandemic.

See the complete story of the event on page four of this issue of Observer and photographs on page eight. In the words of the song "Patchwork Quilt": "And then they called your name, Oh and you will live forever. You know that I'll be loving you just like a patchwork quilt."

EDITORIAL

On Monday, May 17, legal paperwork and documentation was filed by a group, Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA), at the Arizona Secretary of State's office in Phoenix to circulate petitions to put a proposal to add an amendment to the state constitution on the November, 2006 general election ballot for the voter's consideration. A total of 183,917 valid signatures of registered Arizona voters, submitted before July 6, 2006, is required to get their proposal on the ballot.

The language of PMA's proposal on their petitions is as follows:

"To preserve and protect marriage in this state, only a union between one man and woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage by this state or its political subdivisions and no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions that is similar to that of marriage."

Currently, the Cities of Tucson, Phoenix, Tempe and Scottsdale, the Pima County government, Pima Community College, school districts in Pima County, such as the Tucson Unified School District and the Sunnyside School Districts offers domestic partner (for same-and-opposite sex) benefits (medical, dental and life insurance) to their employees. In addition, many Arizona businesses offer domestic partner benefits to their employees as well.

The City of Tucson offers a domestic partner registry allowing unmarried couples who register, hospital visitation rights as well as family discounts at Tucson's park and recreation facilities and programs. If this proposed amendment gets on the ballot and is approved, those few, hard-fought rights would be revoked.

That's the one of the realities of this proposal but the PMA, a front for the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), a Phoenix based, conservative and homophobic, political action committee, wants you to believe it, putting out a "smoke screen" stating this would only just bar same-sex marriages, since according to numerous news accounts and statements, "in the eyes of God, marriage consists of one man and one woman."

Arizona's law covering marriage (ARS 25-101-Void and prohibited marriages) reads as follows:

A. Marriage between parents and children, including grandparents and grandchildren of every degree, between brothers and sisters of the one-half as well as the whole blood, and between uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews and between first cousins, is prohibited and void.

B. Notwithstanding subsection A, first cousins may marry if both are sixty-five years of age or older or if one or both first cousins are under sixty-five years of age, upon approval of any superior court judge in the state if proof has been presented to the judge that one of the cousins is unable to reproduce.

C. Marriage between persons of the same sex is void and prohibited.

Section C, also known as the Arizona Defense of Marriage Act (AZDOMA), was approved by the Arizona Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Fife Symington (Rep.), on May 5, 1996.

In 2003, a Phoenix Gay couple filed a legal challenge to AZDOMA, for which the law was upheld in Arizona's courts (including the Arizona Supreme Court in 2004), so same-sex marriage is still illegal in Arizona and there is no effort to create such law.

Despite the court precedent, supporters of this measure cite the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision allowing Gays and Lesbians to get married in the Bay State, as a threat to "traditional families consisting of one man and one woman," thus the need to add their proposal to the Arizona Constitution.

This is another "smoke screen," since only Gay and Lesbian Massachusetts residents can marry since current Gov. Mitt Romney (Rep.), invoked an archaic 1913 law on the books, used to prohibit interracial marriages at the time, that prohibited out-of-state residents from getting married in the Bay State, if this marriage would be considered illegal under the law, in their state of residence. A court case challenging this law will be heard in the fall of 2005, so this threat isn't real either.

CAP understands this fact, and the overreaching language of their ballot proposition - reaching into the lives of unmarried but co-habiting straight people and retirees is no accident: they aim to make all Arizonans live according to their code.

This battle will not be about the sanctity of marriage but about people finding the courage to face down a sanctimonious radical fringe whose members care nothing for the damage they might do to tens of thousands of ordinary Arizonans. They seem to care only to get out the vote and reshape a free society into a fearful and punished society. People who find love and offer commitment in this world need feel no shame, but the Center for Arizona Policy should feel shame indeed.

If this measure passes, unmarried couples, Gay or straight, who rely on partner benefits will be one lawsuit away from losing those benefits—if a judge agrees that providing such benefits creates a status "similar to marriage" for unmarried people, as the proposed measure would outlaw.

Members of the Radical Right, presently conniving on another front to destroy Arizona's independent judicial appointment process, are working to make sure that the judge in that lawsuit agrees with their narrow world view.

The citizens of Arizona, who generally favor fairness and a government that promotes individual freedom and responsibility, should defeat this overreaching attempt to harm a large portion of Arizona's straight and Gay, young and old population by joining the Arizona Coalition for Fairness (ACF) - comprised of individuals and groups representing the LGBT, straight, human rights and faith-based communities joined together to defeat this measure.

For more information, in Phoenix and Northern Arizona, call ACF at (602) 650-0900, E-mail: info@ahrf.org. In Tucson and Southern Arizona, call ACF at (520) 624-1779, Ext. 22, E-mail: jknutson@wingspan.org, or go online to aztogether.org.

UPDATE

Reveille To Be First Gay Chorus In Brazil

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, Tucson's pre-eminent Gay chorus will be making history soon as the first Gay chorus to ever perform in Brazil.

Reveille, founded in 1995 is a chorus made up Gay and Gay supportive men whose mission is to change hearts and minds with music. The 30 man chorus will be leaving May 26th on a four city tour of Brazil. Along with artistic director and conductor Linus Lerner, musicians, partners and support staff, Reveille will kick off the Gay pride festivities in Sao Paulo with a concert on the 27th.

The Gay pride parade celebration there, which last year attracted over 1.1 million people according to the Associated Press and this year is expected to draw 1.8 people, is easily the largest Gay pride parade in the world.

This past year was an exciting and productive year for Reveille. They recorded and produced two CDs: "Let All Men Sing" and "A Christmas Collection", both demonstrating an eclectic repertoire. In addition, Reveille traveled to Montreal, Quebec, Canada in July to participate in GALA, a festival of Gay and Lesbian choruses. There, along with 5,600 singers representing 134 choruses and seven nations, Reveille performed to three standing ovations and received numerous invitations to travel and perform with the choruses of such cities as Chicago, Dallas, San Diego and even an invitation to travel to Australia!

Desert Coyotes Bowling May 25

TUCSON - The Tucson Desert Coyotes Bowling League will be starting its summer league session on May 25 - August 3, and everyone is welcome in this mixed, GLBT and friendly league.

The league will bowl at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights, with a first time meeting at 6 p.m. on May 25, at Santa Cruz Lanes located at 3665 S.16th Avenue, Easy access from I-10 East to I-19 South, take Ajo exit, turn left East and then left again on S. 16th up to Santa Cruz Lanes. Weekly cost is \$12.00, plus shoe rental if needed. There is also a yearly sanction fee of \$16.00 for men and \$12.75 for women, which goes to the national bowling organizations, unless you've already paid in the past year.

For more information, please contact Russ at (520) 991-8795, Paul, 319-0890, or Marge404-3591 or Santa Cruz Lanes at 622-2186. Hope to see you there!

An Evening With Author/Columnist Dan Savage

TUCSON - In celebration of Gay Pride Month, the GLBT Services Committee of the Tucson-Pima Public Library (TPPL) will host an evening with author and columnist Dan Savage on Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m., Joel Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone, Lower Level Meeting Room.

Savage is the author of *The Kid*: (what happened after my boyfriend and I decided to go get pregnant): an adoption story and *Skipping Towards Gomorrah*: the seven deadly sins and the pursuit of happiness in America and writes the syndicated column *Savage Love*.

The event is free, open to the public and was made possible by The Friends of the Tucson-Pima Public Library. For more information call Beth Petrucci, co-chair of the TPPL's GLBT Services Committee, at (520) 791-5745.

Wingspan Target Of Vandalism

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (ON) - Wingspan, Tucson and Southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community center, located at 300 East Sixth Street, was a target of vandalism.

Cathy Busha, Director of Programs for Wingspan made this announcement during her speech, delivered during the Tucson event for the Arizona Coalition for Fairness, a group formed to defeat a proposal to amend Arizona's constitution to ban same-sex marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships, as well as prohibiting governmental and school entities from extending benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex married couples.

One of Wingspan's front windows had two holes in it, mostly likely caused by a BB gun, Busha told the astonished crowd. This was discovered after Busha and a couple of other Wingspan staff and volunteers returned from the Tucson press conference for Protect Marriage Arizona to Wingspan on Tuesday, May 17, around 8:30 a.m.

Busha said that incidents like this are not uncommon in the wake of proposals to discriminate against GLBT citizens.

IN MEMORIAM



RUSTI (BLANCHE) LISTON
August 19, 1952 - May 8, 2005

Born in Cape May, New Jersey, Rusti passed away on Sunday, May 8th after a lengthy illness. She spent many happy years living in Tucson and the San Francisco bay area. She most recently moved back to Tucson in 2003 shortly before becoming ill.

Rusti is survived by her father, Milton Heston, and brother, Mark Heston, both of Cape May, New Jersey. She is also survived by her children, Nicholas Tatro of Bay Point, Ca. and Kristen Branchfield of Huntington Beach, Ca. She was preceded in death by her mother, Dolly Heston.

Rusti worked as a nurse at the VA hospital in Tucson in the late 1980s where her special care and love of life helped many people to heal. At that time she was also a member of the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance, where she helped plan numerous events to raise money for her community.

Rusti loved the desert, reading and walking her dog, BJ. She will be truly missed by her friends and family in the Bay Area, her friends in Allentown Pa, Albuquerque NM, and Tucson. There are no services planned at this time. Those wishing to send memorial donations in her name may send them to the American Cancer Society or, because of Rusti's great love of animals, to the local Animal Shelter.

Desert Voices To Perform At Bisbee Pride Festival

TUCSON - Desert Voices, Tucson's GLBTs (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) & straight supportive Chorus will present portions of their Spring Show "Our True Colors" at the Bisbee Gay Pride Festival in Bisbee's City Park on Saturday, June 18, 3:30 p.m.

Garland Smith of Bisbee is sponsoring the concert and admission is free. Bisbee Gay Pride is open to all. Anyone who wishes to attend is heartily encouraged to do so!

For more information, go online to bisbeepride.com.

- ♥ Want to do something positive with your leisure time?
- ♥ Interested in helping people while learning about HIV/AIDS?



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

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

Sign up today!

Contact Wendy Ascione at 628-7223 or wascione@SAAf.org



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COMMENTARY . . .

by Frank Rich

Just How Gay Is The Right?

The screen's first official Gay bar," as it was labeled by the film historian Vito Russo, appeared in the 1962 political potboiler "Advise and Consent." Its most prominent visitor was a conservative United States senator.

As sheer coincidence would have it, Otto Preminger's adaptation of Allen Drury's best seller about a brutal confirmation fight was released on a sparkling new DVD last week just as the John Bolton nomination was coming to its committee vote. Like Hollywood's other riveting political movie of 1962, "The Manchurian Candidate," "Advise and Consent" is fallout from the McCarthy era: the controversial nominee for secretary of state (Henry Fonda, who else?) is a stand-in for Alger Hiss. But it may be in even less need of a remake: the intervening four decades have cast this film in a highly contemporary light.

By all rights "Advise and Consent" should be terribly dated. The cold war is now so over that the American and Russian presidents are bonding in Red Square. The film's Kennedy-era ambience - both a J.F.K. brother-in-law (Peter Lawford) and former lover (Gene Tierney) are in the cast - seems as retro as the Hula-Hoop. But when the pivotal Gay plot twist kicks in, "Advise and Consent" taps into unfinished business that roils the capital as much, if not more, today than it did then. In 2005, homosexuality is no longer the love that dare not speak its name (the word is never mentioned in the movie), but as Washington fights its nuclear war over the judiciary, it is the ticking time bomb within the conservative movement that no one can defuse.

In "Advise and Consent," the handsome young senator with a Gay secret (Don Murray) is from Utah - a striking antecedent of the closeted conservative Mormon lawyer in Tony Kushner's "Angels in America." For a

public official to be identified as Gay in the Washington of the 50's and 60's meant not only career suicide but also potentially actual suicide. Yet Drury, a staunchly anti-Communist conservative of his time, regarded the character as sympathetic, not a villain. The senator's Gay affair, he wrote, was "purely personal and harmed no one else." As the historian David K. Johnson observes in "The Lavender Scare," his 2004 account of Washington's anti-Gay witch hunts during the cold war era, it's the Gay-baiters in Drury's novel who "are the unprincipled menace to the country, using every available tool for partisan advantage." Preminger's movie takes the same stand (though the preposterously stereotyped Gay bar scene is the film's own invention).

That message remains on target now. But in the years since, even as it has ceased to be a crime or necessarily a political career-breaker to be Gay, unprincipled Gay-baiting has mushroomed into a full-fledged political movement. It's a virulent animosity toward Gay people that really unites the leaders of the anti-"activist" judiciary crusade, not any intellectually coherent legal theory (they're for judicial activism when it might benefit them in Florida). Their campaign menaces the country on a grander scale than Drury and Preminger ever could have imagined: it uses Gay people as cannon fodder on the way to its greater goal of taking down a branch of government that is crucial to the constitutional checks and balances that "Advise and Consent" so powerfully extols.

Today's judge-bashing firebrands often say that it isn't homosexuality per se that riles them, only the potential legalization of same-sex marriage by the courts. That's a sham. These people have been attacking Gay people since well before Massachusetts judges took up the issue of marriage, Vermont legalized civil

unions or Gavin Newsom was in grade school. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, characterizes the religious right's anti-Gay campaign as a 30-year war, dating back to the late 1970's, when the Miss America runner-up Anita Bryant championed the overturning of an anti-discrimination law protecting Gay men and Lesbians in Dade County, Fla., and the Rev. Jerry Falwell's newly formed Moral Majority issued a "Declaration of War" against homosexuality. A quarter-century later these views remained so unreconstructed that Mr. Falwell and the Rev. Pat Robertson would go so far as to pin the 9/11 attacks in part on Gay men and Lesbians - a charge they later withdrew but that Mr. Robertson repositioned just two weeks ago. In response to a question from George Stephanopoulos, he said he now believes that activist judges are a more serious threat than Al Qaeda.

Their cronies are no different. As The Washington Post reported, Rick Scarborough, the Texas preacher and Tom DeLay acolyte whose "Patriot Pastor" network is a leading player in the judiciary battle, first became active in politics in 1992, when he helped oust a local high-school principal for the crime of presiding over an AIDS-awareness assembly. The American Family Association, whose leader, the Rev. Donald Wildmon, is a Scarborough ally, had been whipping up homophobia long before anyone suspected SpongeBob SquarePants of being a stalking horse (or at least a stalking sea sponge) for same-sex marriage. So-called research available on the Wildmon Web site for years - and still there as of last week - asserts that 17 percent of Gay men "report eating and/or rubbing themselves with the feces of their partners" and 15 percent "report sex with animals."

Which judges do these people admire? Their patron saint is the former Alabama chief justice Roy S. Moore, best

known for his activism in displaying the Ten Commandments; in a ruling against a Lesbian mother in a custody case, Mr. Moore deemed homosexuality "abhorrent, immoral, detestable, a crime against nature" and suggested that the state had the power to prohibit homosexual "conduct" with penalties including "confinement and even execution." Another hero is William H. Pryor Jr., the former Alabama attorney general whose nomination to the federal bench was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. A Pryor brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Texas anti-sodomy law argued that decriminalized Gay sex would lead to legalized necrophilia, bestiality and child pornography. It was Justice Anthony Kennedy's eloquent dismissal of such vitriol in his 2003 majority opinion striking down the Texas statute that has since made him the right's No. 1 judicial piñata.

What adds a peculiar dynamic to this anti-Gay juggernaut is the continued emergence of Gay people within its ranks. Allen Drury would have been incredulous if Gay-baiters hounding his Utah senator had turned out to be Gay themselves, but this has been a consistent pattern throughout the 30-year war. Terry Dolan, a closeted Gay man, ran the National Conservative Political Action Committee, which as far back as 1980 was putting out fund-raising letters that said, "Our nation's moral fiber is being weakened by the growing homosexual movement and the fanatical E.R.A. pushers (many of whom publicly brag they are Lesbians)." (Dolan recanted and endorsed Gay rights before he died of AIDS in 1986.) The latest boldface name to marry his same-sex partner in Massachusetts is Arthur Finkelstein, the political operative behind the electoral success of Jesse Helms, a senator so homophobic he voted in the minority of the 97-to-3 reauthorization of the Ryan White act for AIDS funding and treatment in 1995.

Continued on Page Fifteen



THURSDAY MAY 19

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UPDATE

The Perils Of Bar Management

TUCSON - Tom Tanner, assistant manager of the Venture-N, is recovering at the hospital, following a 20-foot fall from a ladder inside the bar last Saturday.

Fire Department Paramedics responded within minutes, stabilized Tanner and then transported him to University Medical Center Emergency, where he underwent surgery to repair several severe fractures.

Witnesses said Tom was making repairs to a neon sign which was mounted near the ceiling, some twenty feet in the air. The ladder failed, causing him to fall full force to the concrete floor.

We wish Tom the best of luck and a speedy recovery.



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Tucson Takes Part In International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

TUCSON - More than 20 years after Tucson's first International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, those affected by the disease say more needs to be done to end the pandemic, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

The fight against AIDS begins with education and prevention, Mathewson said. When smart choices are made, the disease is "infinitely preventable," she said.

Activists have made strides to reduce the stigma attached to the disease, lifespans for those diagnosed have grown from a few months to many years, and researchers are working toward a cure. Still, more needs to be done, said some of the approximately 100 people at the 22nd annual ceremony at Downtown's Presidio Park Sunday evening.

Lighting candles was meant to spark renewed commitment to battle the disease, Gunton said. AIDS can be cured if it is made a priority, he said. "It needs to be at the forefront of our consciousness."

Instead, the disease is spreading in all cultures, Perez said, including among Hispanics.

That is why it is so important for all people to recognize the problem and work toward a cure, Perez said. "AIDS has challenged our community . . . to find new reservoirs of compassion," Perez said.

"We're still here," said David Gunton, who has the disease. "That's the problem."

The resources and technology exist to find a cure for AIDS, caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, but HIV and AIDS have slipped from public consciousness, Gunton said.

"The perception is that AIDS is over. AIDS is not over," he said.

The ceremony featured an interfaith memorial service culminating with the lighting of candles to remember those who have died of the disease. Similar ceremonies took place across the globe. As candles were lighted, gatherers spoke the names of victims. The crowd responded "Presente" after each one, indicating the person is still alive in memory.

The myths and stereotypes that surrounded the disease 22 years ago remain today, said Pamela Mathewson, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation volunteer resources manager.

There is a perception that AIDS is a disease affecting gays and drug users, Mathewson said. But AIDS runs across all social groups and is a worldwide problem. "It's a human disease," she said.

When the memorial services began in 1983, there was hope that by now there would have been a cure, Gunton said.

That hope remains today, said Ernie Perez, who has the disease. "I believe that one day we will all not have to be here," he said.

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UPDATE

Wingspan Anti-Violence Project Releases Poster Campaign

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is proud to announce the release of a 7-part poster series about violence against individuals who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT).

"This effort is to make people more aware of our services and to realize that this abuse does happen and needs to be taken seriously," commented Lori B. Girshick, Coordinator of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project. "Each poster touches on a different type of violence against LGBT individuals and two of the seven posters are in Spanish," continues Girshick.

The theme of the series, "In a blink your world is changed," addresses issues of sexual violence, domestic violence, harassment, discrimination, and hate crimes. The two posters in Spanish address domestic violence and the range of abuses the AVP addresses. Each poster also carries the lines "Don't kid yourself, anyone can be affected and it won't just go

away. Do something about it. Call us." Girshick and AVP staff provide safety planning, advocacy, information and referral, emergency shelter, and staff a 24-hour crisis line. "We want to raise the level of awareness that LGBT individuals are affected by domestic and sexual violence and do face harassment and discrimination," said Girshick.

The posters will be distributed to agencies, businesses and on bulletin boards. Each poster has a tear off pad with the 24-hour crisis line phone numbers.

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project is a social service and social change organization that documents and advocates for victims of anti-LGBT violence and harassment and collaborates with other community organizations in addressing violence against all marginalized groups. The Wingspan AVP offers a 24 hour crisis line, advocacy, and support services. If you have experienced violence please call the Wingspan AVP 24-hour crisis line at (520) 624-0348 or (800) 553-9387.

Navajo Leader Assailed For Vetoing G/L Marriage Ban

WINDOW ROCK, AZ - A Navajo lawmaker has accused the tribal president of failing to see the importance of a measure that would have outlawed same-sex marriages on the Indian reservation, the Associated reported on 365Gay.com.

Council Delegate Larry Anderson said in a statement that many Navajos are saddened that President Joe Shirley Jr. has vetoed the Dine Marriage Act. Dine is the Navajos' name for themselves.

"The president merely acted on his undefined discretionary veto authority to reject this legislation," Anderson said. "The president's abuse of the veto power necessitates the re-evaluation of the president's veto power."

Anderson is sponsoring legislation aimed at overturning Shirley's decision. The Tribal Council voted unanimously last month in favor of the Dine Marriage Act of 2005.

The act would have restricted a recognized union to a relationship between a man and a woman and prohibited plural marriages as well as any marriage between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other close relatives.

Supporters have said the goal was to promote family values and preserve marriage as a sacred union between a man and a woman.

In vetoing the measure, Shirley said same-sex marriage is a non-issue on the reservation.

If tribal members wished to define marriage or take a position for or against same-sex unions, Shirley said he would support their decision to do that through an initiative rather than a Tribal Council vote.

Shirley has said he supports family stability and the need for Navajo husbands and wives to love and support each other and their children.

But he said the act had nothing about domestic violence, sexual assault and gangs on the Navajo Nation - problems he said were rampant.

The law focused on a problem that doesn't exist and would only generate disharmony and disunity, he said.

Anderson's argument: "As the Navajo Nation promotes stable family units and preserves and strengthens family values, we are a step closer to addressing crime, child abuse, drug abuse and other social, environmental and health care issues."



Bud Select Sampling Party
Friday May 20th 10PM-11PM

Go-Go Boy Car Wash/BBQ/Beer Bust Fundraiser
For Reveille Gay Men's Chorus
Saturday May 21st Noon - 5pm

Party With Us Sunday's
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Drag Bingo 7PM
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SPOKANE - The FBI has begun an inquiry into the conduct of Spokane, Wash., mayor James E. West, the second probe into whether he offered city jobs to young men he met in a Gay chat room in exchange for sex, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

The FBI's "public corruption" probe began late last week (ending May 14), assistant U.S. attorney Thomas O. Rice told The Spokesman-Review on Tuesday as West, 54, a former state senate majority leader, began what he said would be a temporary leave of absence to fight accusations of wrongdoing. "The FBI has opened what's called a 'preliminary inquiry' to determine whether a full-blown investigation should occur," Rice said. "We can assure the public it's being looked at for possible violations of federal law."

FBI agents are likely to interview Ryan Oelrich and another man, both 24, who said they were independently offered City Hall jobs after online chats with a man who turned out to be West, the newspaper reported. City attorney Michael F. Connelly previously announced an investigation into claims that West offered internships in exchange for sex and into the use of West's City Hall computer.

In another development, former Spokane mayors John Talbott and Sheri Barnard joined the list of those urging West to resign, after the newspaper published reports accusing West of molesting two boys decades ago, when he was a Boy Scout leader and sheriff's deputy, and more recently of offering City Hall internships on the Web site Gay.com. "If Jim West truly loves this city, as he has stated many times, he will resign immediately and seek help," said Barnard, mayor in 1989-1993. "His credibility and trust are gone and can never be regained. Every day he remains in office hurts our

FBI Investigates Spokane's Recently Outed Mayor

city and hurts him."

"He has been dishonest with the whole community," said Talbott, who served from 1998 through 2000, when the city switched to a strong-mayor system. "Leadership, to be effective, can't have dark secrets."

Earlier calls for West to resign came from city council members Mary Verner and Cherie Rodgers; Democratic state senator Darlene Fairley, who frequently clashed with West in the legislature; and Shaun Cross, a longtime Republican activist and partner in the city's biggest law firm. West is also a Republican.

Also seeking his resignation are The Spokesman-Review, which endorsed him in the 2003 election; The Seattle Times; and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a Gay advocacy group in Washington, D.C. "If all or any of the allegations of sexual misconduct are true, then the mayor should resign immediately," said Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, a Gay political group.

Shannon Sullivan has filed paperwork to remove West from office. If a superior court judge finds she has submitted legally sufficient grounds for a recall vote, she would have 180 days to gather at least 12,567 signatures to place it on the municipal ballot. Sullivan pleaded guilty last year to intimidation with a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to a day in jail and a year on probation for a drive-by shooting following a dispute with a friend over some

automobile tires. She asserted that should have no effect on the recall petition, which she said has "overwhelming" support.

West, a consistent opponent of Gay rights who took office in January 2004, last week denied molestation claims by two convicted felons with long histories of drug problems but acknowledged he had visited Gay.com and had sexual relations with adult men. The statute of limitations has expired on the molestation claims, some contained in depositions for a lawsuit against Spokane County, and no criminal investigations are being conducted in connection with them, law enforcement agencies said.

On Tuesday, May 10, nearly 140 people involved with the city's Task Force on Race Relations received an e-mail from West, cochairman of the panel, in which he branded The Spokesman-Review's coverage as a "brutal outing." Noting that the task force was formed to prevent and combat any "harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and violence," West posed several questions, including, "Does that include people who have an internal struggle with who they are sexually and are searching for a way to come out and are torn by a desire to be out and a fear of what happens if they are?"

Oelrich, who is openly Gay, said he accepted an appointment to the city's Human Rights Commission in April 2004 after meeting the mayor online at Gay.com. He told the newspaper he resigned in January after West "hounded me for months, telling me I was cute and asking me out on dates." Oelrich said he refused the mayor's advances and knows

of "five or six other young Gay men that Jim West has met online and offered City Hall jobs."

Oelrich told the Associated Press on Tuesday, May 10, he initially thought West appointed him because of his work as director of the nonprofit Gay Youth Association but soon felt the mayor was more interested in asking him out. He also heard from another young man who had been offered an internship. "I realized it was really the same thing: The mayor was interested in one thing. The only reason he got the position was, he had a pretty face," Oelrich said. "I worried about this happening with other guys."

Go-Go Boy Car Wash Finale

TUCSON -Reveille Gay Men's Chorus announces its third GO GO Boy Car Wash, an exciting event held at Woody's every other Saturday! Several hot boys from the U, some personal trainers, and local Go-Go boys are ganging up to raise moneys for Reveille's 10-day tour to Brazil this summer. Last call to support your local gay choir in history-making! The boys will provide a complete exterior car wash, tire shine, and "hand-job" with shammy's, spot-free.

Woody's is also sponsoring a Burger and Beer Bust during the car wash hours, so show up hungry in a dirty car and be prepared to tip fine young men doing what men do best to community autos. Fabulous...

Reveille leaves on the 26th of May for Sao Paulo, Brazil, so let's get out to Woody's this Saturday and support them while there's still time! Come on out, bring a friend and your friends car, buy a burger, drink a cold beer on a warm day, and check out hot boys in scantily clad bizness.

Don't Miss It!! Go-Go Boy Car Wash and Beer Bust: Suggested donation of \$10+ Wash from 12-5, Bust from 11-4 Saturday, May 21st at Woody's 3710 N. Oracle.

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ACLU Lauanches National Gay Marriage Campaign

NEW YORK - The American Civil Liberties Union announced plans on Monday, May 16, to launch a national Marriage Campaign to persuade Americans that it is unfair to deny legal protections to the families of same-sex couples, reported 365Gay.com.

The campaign will be led by Michael Mitchell, who comes to the ACLU after serving as the Executive Director of Equality Utah, that state's Lesbian and Gay advocacy organization.

"Our Constitution guarantees basic fairness to all people, yet Lesbian and Gay couples who make lasting commitments to each other just like married couples, are denied protections for their families," said Anthony D. Romero, Executive Director of the ACLU.

"With states racing to enact amendments that will forever ban same-sex couples from getting legal protections, it is critical to show why it's wrong to keep people from visiting their partners in the hospital or from making emergency medical decisions, and how it hurts children to be legal strangers to their parents."

The goal of the Marriage Campaign is to step up the dialogue with the American people and show through firsthand accounts how Lesbian and Gay couples and their children suffer when their families are not recognized by the law. Among other public education efforts, the campaign will offer assistance to local campaigns fighting constitutional amendments that seek to ban Gay people from

marriage and other family protections.

"One thing I learned during Utah's recent constitutional amendment challenge is that most people don't realize the toll these measures take on very real Americans with very real families," said Mitchell.

"When people are given the opportunity to see the chaos caused by our government's treatment of Gay families, their attitudes change. I'm eager to bring the lessons I learned here in Utah and from my colleagues around the country and focus them into an active, honest conversation with the American public."

Mitchell has served as the Executive Director of Equality Utah since 2001, when he helped to oversee the campaign to defeat Utah's anti-Gay relationship amendment. He is also on the board of the Equality Foundation, a network of statewide LGBT advocacy organizations. Prior to joining Equality Utah, he worked as a senior advisor on the congressional election campaign for Donald Dunn. He also served as the Executive Director of the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards.

"We're at a defining moment in the civil rights struggle for Gay people," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

"While we have recently made several important breakthroughs, our opponents are motivated like never before. It's time to fight back, and with Michael's enthusiasm and leadership we hope to show America that this is simply a matter of basic fairness for all families."

Federal Judge Rejects Nebraska Marriage Ban

LINCOLN - A federal judge Thursday, May 12, struck down Nebraska's ban on same-sex marriage, saying the measure interferes not only with the rights of Gay couples but also with those of foster parents, adopted children and people in a host of other living arrangements, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

The constitutional amendment, which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, was passed overwhelmingly by the voters in November 2000.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Bataillon said the ban "imposes significant burdens on both the expressive and intimate associational rights" of Gays "and creates a significant barrier to the plaintiffs' right to petition or to participate in the political process."

Bataillon said the ban "goes far beyond merely defining marriage as between a man and a woman."

The judge said the "broad proscriptions could also interfere with or prevent arrangements between potential adoptive or foster parents and children, related persons living together, and people sharing custody of children as well as Gay individuals."

Forty states have laws barring same-sex marriages, but Nebraska's ban is the only one that prevented homosexuals who work for the state or its university system from sharing health insurance and other benefits with their partners.

Nebraska has no state law against Gay marriage, but state Attorney General Jon Bruning said same-sex marriages were not allowed before the ban and would not be permitted now.

Bruning said he will appeal the ruling.

"Seventy percent of Nebraskans voted for the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and I believe that the citizens of this state have a right to structure their constitution as they see fit," Bruning said.

The challenge was filed by the Gay rights organization Lambda Legal and the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Project.

Lamba Legal attorney David Buckel has called the ban "the most extreme anti-Gay family law in the entire nation."

Carla Petersen, a member of Metropolitan Community Church in Omaha, which advocates for Gay rights, hailed the ruling.

"Every step is a good step," Petersen said. "It really will get the ball rolling again."

The ruling did not surprise the executive director of the Nebraska Family Council, which led the petition drive to get the ban on the ballot. Al Riskowski said the decision will renew the call to pass a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman.



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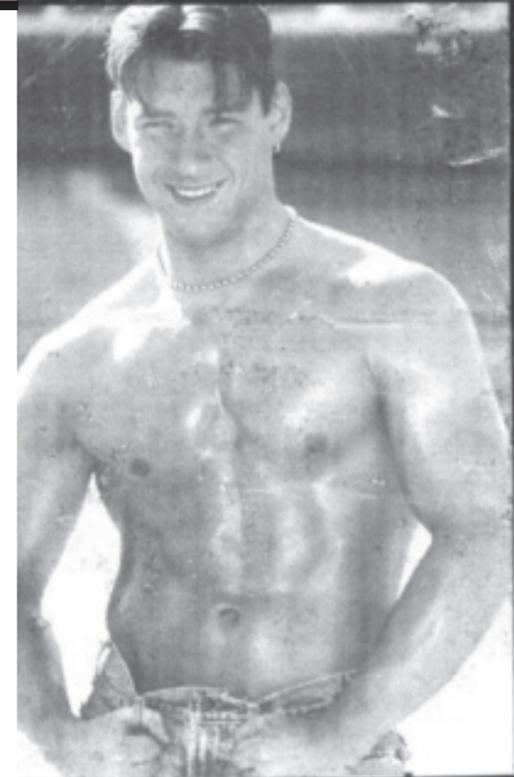
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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

To The Poor, Oppressed, Married Majority

For those poor "married" oppressed "Christians," who traveled on the "Marriage Mobile & Bigot Bus" with the Center for Arizona Policy, Protect Marriage Arizona, Traditional Values Coalition, America Family Association, LAW (Ladies Against Women), or whatever acronym concocted to hide behind, circulating their petitions as well as the purportedly threatened, "married" majority, some questions.

As a "married" couple, have you been denied a bank loan to purchase a house, condominium, apartment, mobile home, R.V., trailer, etc., because of your relationship?

Is it problematic or impossible to get health, life, dental insurance for your spouse because of your "marriage?"

Can you not live under the same roof because of local, county, state and federal laws or due to the prejudice of a landlord, if you have to rent a place to call home?

Every year, on April 15, the nation's taxpayers file their respective 1040's, or requests for extensions. When that time comes, do you have to pay a higher tax rate because of your relationship and the subsequent deductions allowed to be taken under federal and state law given to your "marriage?"

When that time comes, American citizens will retire and collect a pension, one part of which will be the Social Security benefits they've contributed to during their working career. Under the federal laws that the Social Security Administration, have you been denied benefits, such as for the surviving "spouse," because you are "married?"

A Power of Attorney is defined as a legal instrument that is used to delegate legal authority to another for which the person who signs (executes) a

Power of Attorney is called the Principal. This document gives legal authority to another person (called an Agent or Attorney-in-Fact) to make property, financial and other legal decisions for the Principal. Is it almost impossible, to have a Power of Attorney drawn up and recognized because of your "married" situation?

Laws dealing with domestic violence, child support or visitation of children, citing three that are on the respective books, not apply to you or your "married" spouse?

Have you ever been denied discounted rates for governmental facilities, such as parks and recreation, or programs offered because of your relationship as "man and wife?"

According to a 2004 Governmental Accountability Office, a nonpartisan governmental body, report, there is 1,138 rights and benefits given under the respective laws (federal, state or otherwise). Are you denied these rights and benefits, too numerous to list all in this column, because of your "marriage?"

Does your offspring not receive the full-entitlements stated under the laws because of your "marriage?"

On the topics of adoption or becoming a foster parent, due to your "married" relationship, is it almost impossible or can you not adopt a child or open your home to children residing in a state children's programs?

Health inevitably plays a major part in one's life. Have you not been told about the medical condition of your "married" spouse, not played a part in the medical decision making process or been denied hospital visitation rights to your "married" spouse for the reason of being a "husband and wife?"

Death will eventually come into

play to "bring down the curtain," on one's life. An important, legal document every individual must have drawn up, is a "last will in testament," dealing with finances and possessions. With that, can you not get a "last will in testament" drawn up, or hasn't been held up in court, because of your "marriage" as well as having your "spouse's" family taken all the possessions obtained during the "wedlock," even with a will drawn up, denying you everything due to the relationship of being

"man and wife?"

If any of above written has been the case, please send me an E-mail at mrkerr@tucsonobserver.com, that lists your name, home (a snail mail address), a verifiable phone number (I will be calling to confirm), verifiable documentation showing that you are "married," and the case, incident or otherwise of the discrimination because you are "husband

In Their Own Words

"Brides gotta run, planes gotta stray, and cable news networks gotta find a way to fill a lot of programming hours as cheaply as possible...We say with all the genuine apolitical and non-partisan human concern that we can muster that the death and carnage in Iraq is truly staggering. And/but we are sort of resigned to the Notion that it simply isn't going to break through to American news organizations, or, for the most part, Americans...What is hands down the biggest story every day in the world will get almost no coverage." - ABC News, The Note, May 12, 2005.

"Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes you can do these things. Among them are...a few other Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or business man from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid." - President Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 8, 1954.

'Fried Green Tomatoes Heads For Broadway

LOS ANGELES - Variety reports that Fannie Flagg's novel Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Cafe, already the basis of a 1991 film, is being turned into a drama for the Broadway stage, reported Advocate.com.

Producer Jeffrey Finn, the man behind the current Tony-nominated revival of On Golden Pond starring James Earl Jones, says the play will be based on the original book rather than the movie, which took heat from queer viewers for its soft-pedaling of the book's Lesbian themes.

When asked if the stage version would be more explicit in its handling of

the female companions, Finn replied, "What an appropriate and premature question." He added that Flagg would be closely involved in the stage adaptation.



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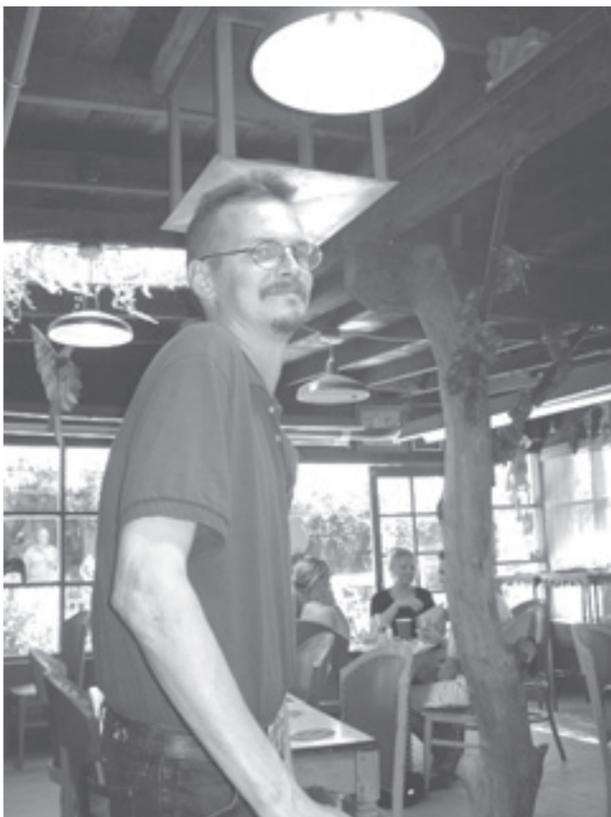
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Mercury in Taurus solidifies and strengthens our thought processes. It is time to delve into knuckle crunching, practical analysis. At the same time retro Jupiter and Neptune weave a distracting mystical magic. Don't waste time blowing air on lofty philosophies. A new broom, wielded briskly, will now sweep clean. Oh goody.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
 What is your net worth? Mercury is calculated to offer Gay Rams a new perspective on valuations - investments and expensive dodads. How will you control the flow when your dough is squandered on wanton pals and wasteful partners? You may blow your wad on frivolous ventures and be led astray. Thank your lucky stars ... and save something for a rainy day!

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
 Mercury is empowering if you act on your visions. Queer Bulls have opportunities to take advantage of fortuitous first meetings and new projects. Take a courageous leap and capitalize on the results. But do it for personal rather than professional reasons. There are a few landmines in your career that need to be cleared before you bulldoze through with your tank.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
 Pink Twins get a case of the self-analyzing jitters with Mercury in Taurus. While a little introspection is good for the soul, don't waste time contemplating your own navel. Put your creative juices to work volunteering in community service. There is fun to be had as well as a karmic payoff. So get Out there bubble; Who knows whose navel you'll soon be contemplating?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
 Friends and social groups are pivotal with Mercury in Taurus. Pink Crabs become extraordinarily adept social directors, planning get togethers and events that become the envious talk of the town. You are able to add a delightful dollop of magic to every encounter. And all the action centers in your own backyard. So how much action can you get? Loads if you are lucky.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
 Mercury in Taurus brings out the political strategist in you. If professional goals have proven to be elusive try a different approach now. Senior staff meetings can serve as fresh opportunities to stake your claim for the advancement that you so richly deserve. A word of advice: Keep your thoughts focused. Jupiter and Neptune can scatter (and weaken) your best ideas.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
 If you are itching to travel and reach Out, Mercury in Taurus makes it possible to plan a fabulous adventure. Higher education is also highlighted for queer Virgins itching to learn a thing or two. It is so easy to procrastinate and chain yourself to your desk. In fact you have the time and the money to make your dreams come true. Don't sit home and scratch your head over it.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
 Mercury in Taurus tempts Gay Libras to daydream their life away. Fight the temptation! This is the time to forge deeper, personal attachments and learn a few new things about what makes you tick. Jupiter and Neptune bring you luck and romance albeit one that is transitory and illusionary. Who cares? If sex is part of the equation, multiply it rather than divide it. You are a prime number.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
 Take some time to consider the current state of your relationships. Are you getting what you need? Things become earthy and sensual thanks to Mercury if you can overlook partners' fatal flaws and enjoy the moment and madness. For those Gay Scorps who are still on the prowl, this week offers a bit of serendipity and unexplainable coincidences. Don't ask why. Ask who, how and when.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
 Separate the wheat from the chaff in your job. Try not to hold on to any delusions about what you can and cannot accomplish in a day. This is the task that Mercury now assigns to all Gay Archers. As with the job, health issues can also be addressed now. Reduce stress by hanging around friends and letting off some steam. If that doesn't work, try a steam room with a bunch of strangers.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
 The good part about Mercury in Taurus is that you may experience a burst of creativity and seek wildly crazy extremes for your good times. The warning is that Jupiter and Neptune encourage you to spread your out-of-control behavior throughout the office. Pink Caps do not see limits or know when enough is enough. The jovial inner voice prods you on. Will it also hogtie and brand you?

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
 Aqueerians are tempted to cocoon, hang around the house and attend to all those loose end projects that never seem to get done. Good. Use this time to create a comfortable and romantic home environment in preparation for a feisty time. Jupiter and Neptune get into the act and fill your space with far flung friends and a few well flung strangers. Just don't fling it too far.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
 Guppies have trouble reining in their thoughts when Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune spark your imagination. It is not a bad thing to let your thoughts roam wilde. You never know where they can lead you! In fact, trying a more creative and offbeat approach to seemingly intractable issues may convince even ardent skeptics to your way of thinking. Oh do you have them fooled!



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CHICAGO - Kraft Foods came under attack this week by the American Family Association, a Mississippi-based anti-Gay group, which urges the food maker to drop its corporate sponsorship of the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Kraft is a business sponsor of the Gay Games and will also sponsor the swimming events.

In an e-mail sent Monday, May 9, AFA encouraged its 500,000 members to make a personal call to Kraft and "tell them to pull their financial support from the 2006 Gay Games." The group is not, however, calling for an official boycott of Kraft or other corporate sponsors, according to Kathryn Hooks, AFA's director of media.

"We believe many of Kraft's customers would be offended to know a portion of their finances from Kraft purchases is being used to support something they oppose, and we also believe Kraft corporation would want to hear from its customers," Hooks said.

A staunch opponent of Gay rights, the AFA regularly does battle against what it calls the "radical homosexual agenda" and is best known for urging boycotts of Disney and Procter & Gamble. The group regularly protests

Kraft Foods Attacked For Sponsoring Gay Games

companies that advertise on shows such as "Will & Grace" and "Desperate Housewives."

The noise made by the large and well-funded — \$11 million in 2000 — group has so far had little impact on the Gay Games. Seventy-two companies, including PlanetOut Inc., have signed on to be sponsors, and it is unlikely that any might pull out because of conservative religious pressure, according to Kevin G. Boyer, a spokesman for Chicago's 2006 event.

"It's disappointing that a group would target something like an event that celebrates sports and healthy lifestyles," Boyer told the PlanetOut Network. "But AFA's efforts seem more about energizing their base and raising money than bringing about policy changes. Kraft is behind us 100 percent."

Boyer also noted that the Gay Games have broad public support in Chicago, including that of the mayor, Richard M. Daley, who is the honorary chair of Chicago 2006.

This support was reiterated in a

statement from Chicago City Hall. "Mayor Daley is committed to the success of the 2006 Gay Games because it is an expression of international goodwill and a celebration of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities, which are important to Chicago," said Bill Greaves, Chicago's liaison to the LGBT communities.

AFA's actions drew harsh words from the Federation of Gay Games, the governing board for Chicago 2006. "AFA's call for negative messaging against Kraft Foods is an insult, not just to the sponsors and LGBT athletes of the Gay Games, but to all of the straight and accepting athletes, coaches, supporters and families who enjoy the quadrennial celebration of excellence and acceptance," said Roger Brigham, a spokesman for the Federation.

On Wednesday, May 11, Kraft and other sponsors were attacked by another religious right group following AFA's lead. The Illinois Family Institute asked its members to target Kraft and five other Illinois companies that are sponsoring what it calls the "Homosexuality Games."

"By allowing their corporate logos to be used to promote the 'Gay Games,' Kraft, Harris Bank and other sponsoring companies are celebrating wrong and destructive behaviors, and showing their disdain for the majority of Americans who favor traditional morality and marriage," the group wrote on its Web site. Ironically, the site features a prominent bust of Abraham Lincoln, who has recently been regarded by some historians as Gay.

Boyer said that a coordinated LGBT response to such attacks is not necessary, but he encouraged people who want to show their appreciation for Kraft's support of diversity to do so on their Web site, at Kraft.com, or through a link at Gaygameschicago.org.

Gay Chat Profile Used To Snare Bank Robber

MISSOULA - Spokane, Washington Mayor James West is not the only one to have his profile on a popular Internet Gay chat site used against him in a criminal investigation, reported 365Gay.com.

Police in Montana captured a bank robber after he updated his profile saying what city he was in and what kind of vehicle he was driving.

It all started with a robbery at a bank in Missoula, Montana. The man claimed to have a bomb but police later determined it was a fake and the mechanism was made from a television remote control.

Believing the man was not a local police began checking local hotels looking for a TV with a broken remote. When they found it they questioned the desk clerk who gave them a description of the man.

The same employee said the man had called himself Gregory and had several guests while he was at the hotel.

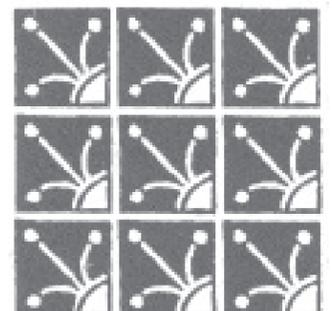
One of those guests told police he had met "Jeremiah" through a Gay Web chat site, where Gregory had posted a profile giving his location in Missoula.

On Wednesday, May 11, detectives checked the site and found Gregory had updated his profile to give his new location as Coeur d'Alene, Idaho/Spokane, Wash.

Washington and Idaho law enforcement agencies were notified to be on the lookout for a black Ford Contour with New Jersey plates that had been seen near both banks during the Missoula robbery and another one in Salt Lake City.

A Kootenai County sheriff's deputy was patrolling Coeur d'Alene with the license plate number written on his hand when he saw the car parked at a hotel.

Jay Vaughan Gregory Jr., 48, appeared Thursday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Leif Erickson on robbery charges. He was ordered to be held without bail pending further court proceedings.



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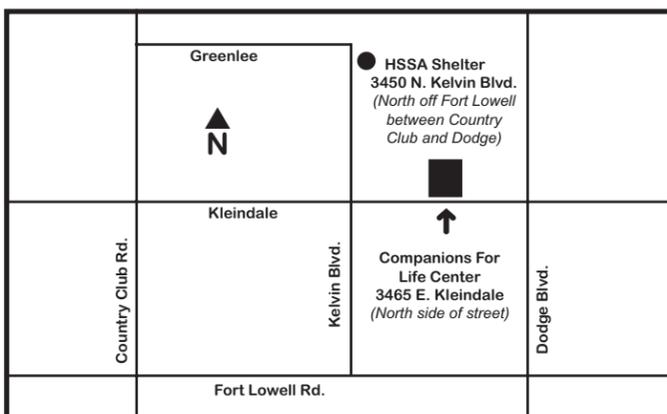
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Dear Dr. X,

I'm 23 years old, and have had sex with guys before, but I have never bottomed for anyone. My boyfriend and I have been together for almost a year. I think I am ready to take the plunge, and want to give myself to him for our anniversary. What do I need to know to make this a great experience for both of us? He knows I am a virgin, but I still want to be able to please him.

Signed, MK

Dear MK,

How very romantic! This has got to be one of the sweetest letters I have ever received. I hope I do it justice.

First things first: I am by no means trying to discourage you from your decision, but I would be remiss if I did not ask you to consider why you are making this decision at this time. Are you really ready to give yourself to your boyfriend out of love? Is this in response to him pressuring you to do it? Are you pressuring yourself to do it for some reason? I don't have answers to any of these questions for you, but you should be thinking about them before you make this decision. There should only be one reason that you come up with for taking the plunge (pun intended), and that's because it's what you really want to do. Don't rush in if you're not ready. If you are ready, here are some things you should know:

Though it may be a bit uncomfortable at first, anal sex should



never hurt. If you are in pain, stop! Pain is your body's response to something being wrong. Never try to "push past the pain" and finish. You may seriously injure yourself. Before allowing yourself to be penetrated by your partner, you should be very relaxed both physically and emotionally. Lots of romance and foreplay will help with the emotions. Make sure you talk with him about this, and remind him that you are trusting him to make this enjoyable and safe for both of you.

To relax physically, start with a long, hot bath. This will help to relax you, as well as get you all squeaky clean. You might also ask your boyfriend to start by giving you a head-to-toe body massage. This has the potential to take you far past relaxed and well into horny! Also talk with your partner about prepping your tender little butt with some finger play first. Relaxing your butt muscles is easy with the help of some strong, patient fingers. Make sure you use plenty of lube, even with fingers. And remember, if it begins to hurt, stop. You can always try to relax a bit more, and start again. And though Dr. X does not condone having to get drunk or high to have or enjoy sex, you may find that a cocktail or two may go a long way in relaxing you enough for this

experience. Don't overdo it though-you still want to be in control of yourself, make good decisions, and remember it the next day.

Now let's talk about cleanliness. Generally, all you need to do is be sure that you have gone to the bathroom beforehand. If you like, you can clean yourself out with a small douche filled with water. Do not use any prepared douche solutions-they are not healthy for your butt. No soap either. Use only water. One or two times, with about 1/2 hour after to pass any remaining water should be more than enough. Though it may seem embarrassing, remember that this is a butt after all, and a certain small amount of mess can be expected from time to time. It is natural and unavoidable. Prepare by having some paper towels and/or wet wipes handy. As a hint, most guys find it more comfortable, and cleaner, to be penetrated while they are on their bellies. It puts less stress on the abdomen, and so less pushing internally.

Lastly, I will remind you about condoms. Even if both of you have been tested for HIV and STD's and have come back negative, I would still recommend that you use them to start with. I don't know the dynamics of your relationship, but one year seems like a very short time to

me. My advice would be to go a bit longer before you both make the decision that you should go condomless. And don't forget to use latex gloves like a hand-condom with all that finger action. It will help with cleanup, and can be sorta sexy, in that "Let's play doctor" kinda way.

I hope I have answered most of the things you were curious about. If you have more questions, feel free to visit the GMHP office at SAAF. They have a full, free lending library of books and even videos about all aspects of health, including sexual health. Have fun, and be safe!

[Have a question? Need a straight answer? Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]



Commentary:

Continued from Page Three

treatment in 1995.

But surely the most arresting recent case is James E. West, the powerful Republican mayor of Spokane, Wash., whose double life has just been exposed by the local paper, The Spokesman-Review. Mr. West's long, successful political career has been distinguished by his attempts to ban Gay men and Lesbians from schools and day care centers, to fire Gay state employees, to deny City Hall benefits to domestic partners and to stifle AIDS-prevention education. The Spokesman-Review caught him trolling Gay Web sites for young men and trying to lure them with gifts and favors. (He has denied accusations of abusing boys when he was a Boy Scout leader some 25 years ago.) Not unlike the Roy Cohn of "Angels in America" - who describes himself as "a heterosexual man" who has sex "with guys" - Mr. West has said he had "relations with adult men" but doesn't "characterize" himself as Gay. This is more than hypocrisy - it's pathology.

Allen Drury might not have known what to make of Mr. West or of another odd tic in the 30-year war, the recurrent emergence of

Gay-baiting ideologues with openly Gay children (Phyllis Schlafly, Randall Terry, Alan Keyes). According to Mr. Johnson's fresh scholarship in "The Lavender Scare," a likely inspiration for the Gay plot line in Drury's "Advise and Consent" was the real-life story of a Wyoming Democrat, Lester Hunt, who shot himself in his Senate office in 1954 after the Republican Campaign Committee threatened to make an issue of his Gay son's arrest in Lafayette Park on "morals charges." Those were the dark ages, but it isn't entirely progress that we now have a wider war on Gay people, thinly disguised as a debate over the filibuster, cloaked in religion, and counting among its shock troops politicians as utterly bereft of moral bearings as James West. Check out the good old days in "Advise and Consent," not to mention Charles Laughton's valedictory performance as a Bible Belt senator who ultimately puts patriotism over partisanship, and weep.

[Frank Rich is an op-ed columnist for the New York Times, from which this item from the May 15 edition is reprinted.]

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
'FRIEDMAN' by Lee Thorn

Thomas L. Friedman is the current foreign policy guru of American journalism, just as Bob Woodward is the past and current executive branch guru.

The level of reverence expressed toward these gurus by their fellow journalists, by the likes of Charlie Rose for example, is such that I sometimes feel compelled to read their books. This despite Woodward's clunky prose style and Friedman's fatuous TV persona.

Reading these icons is my way of taking the temperature of "official reality," of seeing what's playing in the mainstream media.

In other words, I'm blaming Charlie Rose for getting me to buy Friedman's latest book, "The World Is Flat." Having read the first 102 pages of the 469-page opus, I've learned nothing that I didn't already know from watching CNN.

Friedman's very unremarkable thesis is that improvements in software are continuing to expand international outsourcing to reduce labor costs. If you don't already know this I hope that your cave is at least comfy.

The myth that U.S. politicians have been pushing for at least a decade is that only low-skill jobs will be outsourced and that outsourcing will create more high-skilled jobs at home.

Friedman joins the already large chorus giving the lie to this myth by pointing out that tax preparation and medical diagnoses are routinely outsourced. But then he does a 180 degree turn and approvingly quotes a beneficiary of outsourcing who argues that the more "creative complex" accounting will not be outsourced.

This is ridiculous on its face. An accountant in India can have the identical access to data as an accountant in Indiana. Through teleconferencing the Indian could have the same face-to-face meetings with American clients. Complexity, creativity, local data, face-to-face meetings — none of these pose the least obstacle to outsourcing.

But the bigger problem with the first 102 pages of "Flat" is that it doesn't seem to notice that two players you'd expect to be involved in the outsourcing drama are missing — national governments and organized labor. Where are these dogs and why aren't they barking?

Here in the US the corporations have bought enough politicians that our drug laws are written by the drug lobby, our insurance laws are written by the

insurance lobby, our energy policy is written by the energy lobby, etc. Has there been an analogous corruption on the international level that explains the regulatory vacuum which Friedman doesn't seem to notice? Will he explain in the remaining 367 pages why international corporations are so wondrously free of any legal constraints? And what of the absence of international labor, also unnoticed by our guru?

About 25 years ago I knew an influential American labor leader who, upon retiring from his union job, hired on as a labor consultant for management in the very same industry where he'd just finished his labor career. The man did not regard himself as a turncoat. He regarded himself as an expert in his field who had the good sense to sell his expertise to the highest bidder. I wonder if the international corporations have been doing this same thing, buying the labor leaders who would otherwise be their opposition, just as American corporations buy politicians.

This may sound like a conspiracy theory, but on the political side it's been done far too openly to be considered a conspiracy. Our legislators have given up the writing of laws so completely that they often no longer bother to read them either. This leaves them time to debate feeding tubes and gay marriage.

As far as the labor side, I've yet to see a serious discussion of why a movement that could organize the mining industry at a time when cops were openly thugs for the owners can't organize K-Mart. Maybe Mr. Friedman will explain all this in his remaining pages.

In the meantime, is there absolutely no limit, either practical or theoretical, to outsourcing or to corporate prerogatives in general? My hopeful little theory is that no power is absolute and that resistance can crop up from unexpected places. How about the small communities that resisted K-Mart because they didn't want their traditional economic balances to be obliterated?

Lest anyone worry, I'm not going to judge "Flat" by its first 102 pages. I will slog on through the detail-rich, idea-bereft work until I completely lose hope.

Fun Friedman fact: Netscape went public on August 9, 1995.

[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.]

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SATURDAY, MAY 21
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 #2 - Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, MAY 23
 Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
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SATURDAY, MAY 28
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MONDAY, MAY 30
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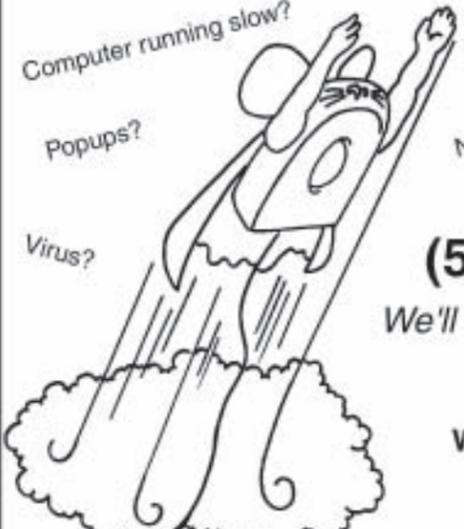
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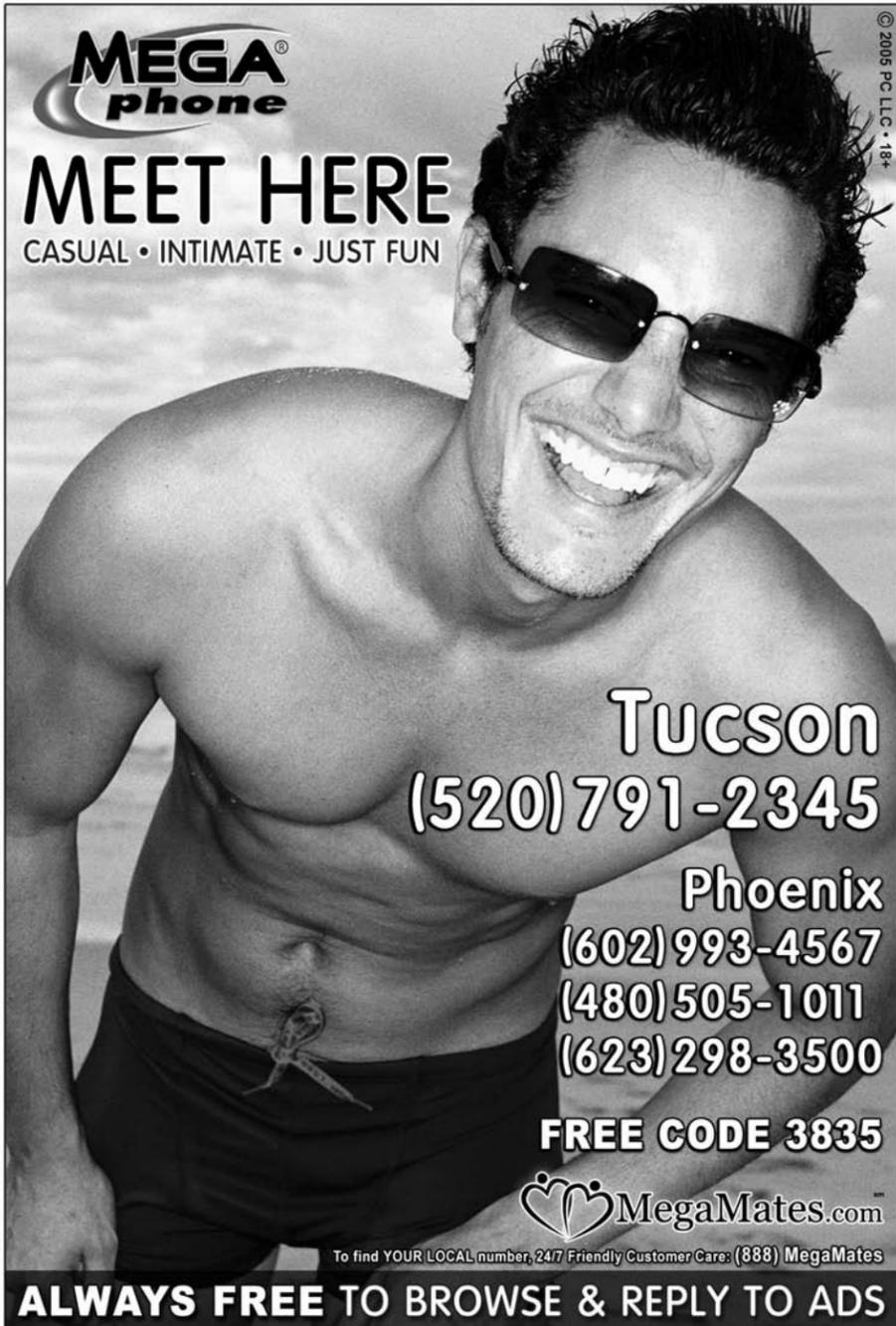
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sunday

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am - 1pm, \$4.00 - Scrambled eggs, hash brown, biscuit & sausage gravy and your choice of Bloody Mary, coffee, juice or milk. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney at 4 and 7pm. 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, or mimosas. til 4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-7:30 Beer Bust. 2-4-1 drink specials and DJ Mike Lopez 10pm to close. (Some restrictions apply).

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-8pm, DJ Mike Lopez 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. 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. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

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. 1st Wednesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Wednesdays "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. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance with DJ Q,

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-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

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. 6:30-9:30pm Amber Norgarrd sings originals and cover tunes. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" Hosted by Lucinda Holliday in a 2 girl cabaret show with a different guest each week. Reservations suggested.

Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25.

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-8pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

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. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am-1:30pm, \$4.50. 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-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THRU JUNE 12

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Baby With The Bathwater" by Christopher Durang. 5317 E. Speedway. Thursdays thru Saturdays 7:30pm; Sundays 3pm. Tickets \$13 - \$15. Call 327-4242.

MAY 16 THRU JUNE 5

Invisible Theatre presents "Meshuggah-Nuns!", the Ecumenical Nonsense Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin. The 5th in a series of six "Nonsense" shows. This one finds the Little Sisters of Hoboken out to sea on a "faith of all Nations" Cruise. After a terrible storm, every cast member of the ship's production of Fiddler on the Roof succumbs to sea sickness

Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman. Tickets are available at the Box office by calling 520-882-9721 or by stopping by the theater, Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 4pm. Visa, Master Card and American Express are accepted. Play dates and times vary. Call the box office for more information.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, MAY 19

IBT's - Noon to 8 p.m. Cuervo Margaritas only \$2.50. Then at 10 p.m. get trashy at IBT's White Trash Party. Costume Contest, Drink Specials, Hot music and much more. Check it out!

FRIDAY, MAY 20

WOODY'S - Budweiser Select Sampling Party from 10 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

YARD DOG - Prime Rib Dinner here starting at 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

VENTURE-N - Tonight is steak Night and kicks off Memorial Day Weekend here. Bring your own steak or buy one here. V-N provides the side dishes.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for Woody's Memorial Day Weekend Party. Tonight it's the Red Party Watch for details.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for Woody's Memorial Day Weekend Party. Tonight it's the White Party Watch for details.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for Woody's Memorial Day Weekend Party. Tonight it's the Blue Party Watch for details.

MONDAY, MAY 30 - MEMORIAL DAY

IBT's - Wind up your Memorial Day activities with Monday (A.M.) Morning Madness hosted by Bunny FuFu.

WOODY'S - Memorial Day Bar-B-Que Picnic. Watch for details.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUED

MAY 20

Jerry Seinfeld at Tucson Music Hall. Two performances, 7pm and 9:30pm. Call for tickets 321-1000 or Ticketmaster outlets and TCC Ticket Office.

MAY 21 & 22

Ballet Tucson present "Sleeping Beauty" at Centennial Hall on the UofA Campus. For tickets call the box office 621-3341. Performances are 7:30 Saturday and 2pm Sunday.

AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL COMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 838-6700 - I-10 Exit Valencia West)

MAY 21 - Seal

JUNE 16 - Reba with Brad Paisley and Terri Clark

JUNE 27 - Tom Jones

JULY 13 - Julia Iglesias

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 393-2799 - I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 - 7 minutes south of Tucson)

MAY 21 - Rick Springfield

JUNE 4 - The Temptations

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDS WALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park, s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDS WALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run. Tucson's support of AIDS WALK over the years has made an important and lasting statement about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDS WALK 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. AIDS WALK Tucson has grown from 800 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

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

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 Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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.

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.

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

Spanish PM Tells Catholic Church To Keep Out Of G/L Marriage Debate

MADRID - The Roman Catholic Church has called on the Spanish king to refuse to sign legislation allowing same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The bill has passed Spain's lower house and is now before the Senate. It is expected to be passed this summer.

The Conferencia Episcopal, the Spanish Bishops' Organization, tells the El Mundo newspaper that they wrote to King Juan Carlos last Friday calling on him to issue a clear and incisive statement opposing the legislation.

But, it is unlikely the King will take any action on the letter. Spain is a constitutional monarchy and the king is not permitted to hold up legislation, and as in Britain, the monarchy does not enter public debate on political issues.

In his "state of the nation" address to Parliament on Wednesday, May 11, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero lashed out at the Church.

"I will never understand those who proclaim love as the foundation of life, while denying so radically protection, understanding and affection to our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, our colleagues," Zapatero told parliament.

"What kind of love is this that excludes those who experience their sexuality in a different way?" he said.

The Church has been involved in a lengthy dispute with Zapatero's Socialist government over the Gay marriage bill.

Last year, shortly after Zapatero announced he would bring in the legislation, he was summoned to Rome for a lecture by Pope John Paul. Nevertheless, Zapatero and his government refused to bow under the pressure.

The attacks have continued under Pope Benedict. The Pope, speaking through Cardinal Alfonso Lopes Trujill,

Chile Supreme Court Rejects G/L Parenting

SANTIAGO - Chile's Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling that ordered a Lesbian mother to give up custody of her three daughters, 365Gay.com reported.

Karen Atala is able to see the children only one weekend a month. The court ruled that because she is in a Lesbian relationship it could have a negative impact on the children's development and create confusion over sexual roles.

Atala appealed to the Supreme Court and filed a complaint with Washington-based Inter-American Commission on Human Rights accusing Chile of gross discrimination.

The commission greed to take up the case and asked Chile to justify the ruling.

The Chilean Supreme Court in upholding the lower court ruling offered no public comment on its reasons, saying instead that it would provide a written ruling to the government.

Chile has until the end of the month to reply to the Inter-American Commission.



head of the Pontifical Council on the Family, said Roman Catholics should be prepared to lose their jobs rather than cooperate with the law.

In an opinion poll on the issue carried out by the government-run Centre for Sociological Investigations last June, 66 per cent of Spaniards favoured legalizing Gay marriage, while 26 per cent were opposed.

Homosexuality was banned during Franco's 1939-1975 dictatorship. Spain's liberal 1978 constitution outlawed sexual discrimination and homosexuality was decriminalized shortly afterwards.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Holland and Belgium. Most other European Union countries have some provision for recognizing those in committed same-sex relationships. In December Britain will open its registry for Civil Unions.

In North America most of Canada has legalized same-sex marriage and a bill to expand that throughout the country is currently before Parliament. Massachusetts is the only US state to legalize same-sex marriage, although Civil Unions are legal in Vermont and Connecticut, and several other states including California have domestic partner registries.

Poll Shows Support Remains High For Allowing Gays To Serve In The Military

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new poll shows that nearly 80 percent of Americans believe Gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military, 365Gay.com reported.

The survey, by the Boston Globe, also shows that party affiliation, age, or church attendance had little effect on their opinion.

The Globe poll follows other polls showing growing support for allowing Gays to serve openly. Recent Gallup polls have reported between 65 percent and 79 percent support for lifting the military's Gay ban.

An Annenberg Survey reported in October that half of junior enlisted personnel and their families support allowing Gays to serve. And in 2003, FOX News reported 64 percent support for allowing Gays to serve.

"Across every political spectrum, and by ever-increasing majorities, Americans favor allowing Gays to serve our country," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

"National security is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. Americans do not support a policy that places discrimination above military

readiness. Our homeland is made more secure, in both the blue states and the red, when qualified, capable Americans are allowed to serve without regard to sexual orientation. Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle should heed the counsel of the American people and repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' once and for all."

The US military is suffering a severe troop shortage and in March the Army announced that it would miss its recruitment goals for the next two months. Nevertheless, the Pentagon refuses to support efforts to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" the law which prevents out Gays and Lesbians from serving.

A bill has been introduced in Congress to repeal the ban. The legislation was filed by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-MA) in the House of Representatives. The measure has more than 50 Congressional co-sponsors. Rep. Meehan is also a member of the House Armed Services Committee, as are 7 co-sponsors of the legislation.

A study done by the Government Accountability Office shows that more than 10,000 service members have been discharged over the last 10 years under the policy and that it has cost taxpayers more than \$200 million to recruit replacements for LGBT enlisted service members who were discharged.

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