



Supreme Court Rules Against Medical Pot

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In a ruling that could have a broad impact on people with HIV/AIDS the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, June 6, that federal authorities may prosecute sick people whose doctors prescribe marijuana to ease pain, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

In its ruling the Court said that state laws don't protect users from a federal ban on the drug.

The decision is a stinging defeat for marijuana advocates who had successfully pushed 10 states to allow the drug's use to treat various illnesses.

Justice John Paul Stevens, writing the 6-3 decision, said that Congress could change the law to allow medical use of marijuana.

The closely watched case was an appeal by the Bush administration in a case involving two seriously ill California women who use marijuana. At issue was whether the prosecution of pot users under the federal Controlled Substances Act was constitutional.

California's medical marijuana law, passed by voters in 1996, allows people to grow, smoke or obtain

marijuana for medical needs with a doctor's recommendation. Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington state have laws similar to California.

In those states, doctors generally can give written or oral recommendations on marijuana to patients with cancer, HIV and other serious illnesses.

In a dissent, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that states should be allowed to set their own rules.

"We are very concerned and disappointed by today's Supreme Court ruling," said Noel Alicea, a spokesperson for New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis.

"The Court is allowing prosecution of individuals who are ill and need to rely on medically-supervised marijuana to treat painful side effects of long-term illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and cancer."

Medical use of marijuana is legal in Canada. Patients are required to apply for an Authorization to possess marijuana for medical purposes. Holders of this authorization may possess a maximum 30-day treatment supply of marijuana at any given time.

Reveille In Rio

By Joel Meister, special to The Observer

RIO DE JANEIRO - [Editor's Note: In the last edition of The Observer, Joel Meister of Reveille wrote about the chorus' concert tour in Brazil, which wrapped up in Rio De Janeiro. Meister finishes his write-up of Reveille's performances. Enjoy!]

Reveille Gay Men's Chorus ended its benefit tour of Brazil, June 6, with a joyous performance in a working class neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro. The concert's beneficiary was ATOBA, a grassroots organization supporting sex education, GLBT rights and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. "Sexual Rights are Human Rights" declared one of the many posters displayed at the group's headquarters, a small house in the Rialengo district of Rio.

ATOBA is 20 years old and meets bi-weekly in the same small house that was used as Reveille's concert venue. Reveille performed on the patio, once again to a standing room only audience, this time including primarily community residents and local GLBT leaders. Many teenagers, young children and their parents also attended.

Reveille performed its full hour and a half program, beginning with 'Let All Men Sing', a chorus standard, proceeding through Brazilian popular classics, campy versions of the Sixties favorites 'Sincerely' and 'I get Around',

an over-the-top 'All That Jazz' with special guest star Ajia Simone, and concluding with 'De Cores', complete with mariachi trumpets.

A shorter, crazier concert to open Rio's Gay Pride month was presented the night before - at midnight, actually - at Cine Ideal, Rio's biggest, baddest Gay disco club. Imagine this cavernous, baroque former movie palace of the '50's, all done up in rainbow-colored balloons, laser beams and the world's biggest glitter ball, filled to bursting with beautiful young and not-so-young Cariocas (residents of Rio are known as Cariocas), and Reveille's Hawaiian-shirted singers up on the mezzanine, belting out a performance through the club's make-you-deaf-right-now sound system.

But after the glitz and glamour of Rio, Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte, the concert for ATOBA in Rialengo, and the warm and happy encounters afterwards with our neighbors in spirit and purpose, was the best of the best of Reveille's Brazil Tour 2005.



Boycott Against Ford Motors Over G/L Support Put On Hold

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An anti-Gay organization announced Monday, June 6, it was putting on hold a boycott against Ford Motors, reported the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The conservative Christian group America Family Association launched a nationwide boycott of Ford last week over the automaker's support for LGBT issues.

The AFA announced that following a meeting with a group of Ford dealers, AFA has suspended the boycott until December 1, 2005 after the dealers asked for time to see if the AFA complaints "could be addressed by them in cooperation with officials from Ford Motor Company."

In its statement the AFA said that it "felt that the dealers were making a good faith effort."

"On or about December 1 we will notify our supporters as to status of the boycott," the AFA said.

But, the AFA has come under fire over the boycott. LGBT activist fought back with a website to encourage people to support the Detroit-based automaker.

Ford's line of vehicles includes Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Volvo, Jaguar, Mazda and Land Rover.

The AFA began the boycott two weeks after it began a similar action against Kraft Foods - stopping just short of calling for a full boycott -for sponsoring the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

"If one looks for the company which has done the most to affirm and promote the homosexual lifestyle, he would be hard-pressed to find a company which has done more than Ford Motor Company," AFA Chair Donald E. Wildmon when the boycott was begun.

"While this is hardly known to the general population, it is well known by numerous homosexual organizations. In fact, the Human Rights Campaign (a national homosexual organization whose goal is homosexual marriage) gave Ford a 100% corporate rating."

AFA also denounced the company for supporting GLAAD, saying "Ford believes the effort to legalize homosexual marriage by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is so important that the company is giving GLAAD up to \$1,000 for every Jaguar or Land Rover (both Ford products) purchased this year."

It also noted that "Volvo has donated \$500 to the Human Rights Campaign when a vehicle is purchased or leased."

The conservative group also complained that Ford recognizes domestic partners in its company policy, gave \$5,000 last year to Detroit's Pride celebration, and regularly advertises in the

Gay media.

The Mississippi-based AFA claims more than 2.2 million members.

How successful the dealers who met with the AFA will be in getting Ford to alter its diversity programs remains to be seen.

The company issued a carefully worded statement Monday, June 6.

"Ford Motor Company is pleased that the American Family Association (AFA) has suspended its boycott of Ford products. We look forward to having an open dialogue with the AFA that leads to greater mutual understanding. Ford values all people - regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and cultural or physical differences."

When the AFA boycott began Ford was adamant that it would not bow

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Lesbian Activist Jean O'Leary Dies At 57

PALM SPRINGS - Jean O'Leary, a nun-turned-Lesbian activist who organized the first White House meeting of Gay rights leaders and helped create National Coming Out Day, died Saturday of complications from lung cancer. She was 57. O'Leary was diagnosed with the cancer in September 2003 and died at the home of her partner of 12 years, longtime friend Sean Strub said Sunday, June 5, reported Advocate.com.

For three decades O'Leary was active in feminist, Lesbian, and Democratic circles, working for laws prohibiting discrimination against Gays and Lesbians and those with AIDS.

Born in Kingston, N.Y., to a devout Roman Catholic family, she attended Catholic schools while growing up in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1966 she entered the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Humility of Mary but left after five years to pursue a doctorate in organizational development at Yeshiva University in New York. There she became involved in the emerging Gay rights movement.

"Jean was really the one out there plowing new territory," said Strub, who had known O'Leary for 20 years. "At a time when a lot of the Gay activist community couldn't be ambitious enough to think about having a meeting at the White House, Jean was out there pulling the strings to make it happen."

O'Leary joined the Gay Activists Alliance but felt that women were deprived of a voice in the male-dominated group and left with others to found another group called Lesbian Feminist Liberation. Strub said the split came over who would make the coffee at meetings. Later she reunited with the alliance's former leader, Bruce Voeller,

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UPDATE

ALERT! Impersonation Scam Resurfacing

TUCSON - Tucson has recently experienced a scam that has occurred from time to time in different parts of the country and in Canada.

In this scam the caller identifies himself as a prominent person in the LGBT community or as the friend of this person. The person is told that there was a terrible car accident, or that he has been robbed and is stranded without money, or some other variation of emergency need. The appeal is for money to help him with his urgent crisis. Recently someone called a Tucson business owner saying he was Kent Burbank (Executive Director of Wingspan) and needed money. It was not Kent Burbank.

If you should receive a call like this, please send no money unless you have verified the events. Typically the caller knows enough about the person he is impersonating to sound believable on a surface level. Ask questions. Get details. Do not give out any personal information about yourself. You can always call the agency the caller claims to be associated with to check on the so-called emergency.

If you feel you have been on the end of a scam appeal, call the police. If someone posing as Kent Burbank has called you recently asking for money, please call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, (520) 624-0348.

Remembering Philip Walsted June 18

TUCSON - The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will hold a memorial event to remember Philip Walsted on Saturday June 18, 10:30 am to noon, Catalina Park, at 1st Street and 4th Avenue.

Walsted, a 24-year old Gay man, was murdered in the 4th Avenue area on June 12, 2002.

In January, 2005, David Higdon was found guilty of first degree aggravated and premeditated murder and armed robbery. Higdon was sentenced to natural life in prison on March 28.

Family members, Wingspan staff, and others will speak at the event. A tree will be planted in Philip's memory and a stone and bench will be dedicated.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779, ext. 20.

Anti-G/L Marriage Amendment Meeting June 17

TUCSON - A community forum, June 17, 7 - 9 p.m., about the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) amendment will take place at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street.

The PMA was written by the Center for Arizona Policy, a right-wing, anti-GLBT group, and if approved by voters, it would ban recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships, as well rights measures approved by local governmental entities. This measure will affect every Arizonan.

This forum will be discussing the Amendment and what it will mean for the LGBT and Allied communities, and will also be an orientation for the Arizona Coalition for Fairness and you can learn how to become involved.

For more information please contact Jess Knutson Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator at (520) 624-1779 ext. 21 or jknutson@wingspan.org.

New Meeting Date For Puertas Abiertas

TUCSON - Puertas Abiertas, Wingspan's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT), Latino/a social group announced that starting in June, the group will be having new meeting days - the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month.

Starting June 13, the group will continue to meet at 842 South 6th Avenue (between 18th & 19th streets), and near the St. Vincent DePaul thrift store. Meetings are held from 6 to 8 pm.

Puertas Abiertas' goal is to provide a safe space for LGBT Latinos/as to talk about concerns or issues about and in our communities, but also to provide and opportunity to network and socialize with each other. Friends, family members and significant others are welcome to join us. Don't miss out. The group has planned some fun events for this summer!

For more information about those fun events, or to learn how to get involve with Puertas Abiertas, please contact Carlos Torres at (520) 624-1779 ext. 24, or E-mail: cctorres@wingspan.org.

Dan Savage In Tucson June 15

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.

Savage is the author of "The Kid: what happened after my boyfriend and I decided to go get pregnant, an adoption story," "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 and open to the public and will be held at the Joel D Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone, in the lower level meeting room. Free parking is available in the parking garage below the library, accessible from Alameda Street and is 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, (520) 791-5745.

Gay-Themed Musical 'A New Brain' June 9 - 26

TUCSON - Arizona Onstage Productions, the company that brought "Falsettoland," last year's "Assassins" (winner of the MAC Award - Best Musical of 2004) and this years side splitting musical comedy "Ruthless!" brings "A New Brain," a musical tale, to Pima Community College Center for the Arts Black Box Theatre for 11 performances June 9-26.

This story revolves around Gordon Schwinn - an openly Gay musical composer tired of writing for children's television shows. He discovers a brain disorder, and is faced with having dangerous surgery. He and his life partner Roger make decisions before this surgery takes place. Along the way, the audience meets singing frogs, M.R.I. machines that turn into sailboats, and mothers smart enough to wear black to "hide the fat".

"A New Brain" is the semi-autobiographical story of William Finn, the Tony-Award winner composer/lyricist (Falsettos, and the new Broadway hit, the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee).

Carol Calkins directs this cast of ten that includes Walter Belcher, John Brownlee, Betty Craig, Ben Crawford, Tony Diaz, Jessica Dorman, Kenton Jones, Diane Thomas, Joey Topmiller and Shayna Vercillo. With music direction by Chris Wingert, choreography by Stacy Johnson, and lighting design by Erik Michael, "A New Brain" will be a great summer diversion from the heat - The central air conditioned Black Box has also just received new comfortable chairs.

Tickets to Arizona Onstage Productions go fast. January's "Ruthless!" was sold-out every performance. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students/seniors. Call (520) 206-6989 to get your tickets. Visit arizonaonstage.org for more information.

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Study: Corporate America LGBT Friendly

WASHINGTON, D.C. - At a time when the religious right has stepped up its efforts to roll back Gay rights, a new study by the Human Rights Campaign shows that the nation's largest companies are more supportive of LGBT workers than ever before — and unlikely to turn back the clock, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The study showed that more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner benefits, a tenfold increase in the past decade.

Eighty-three percent of the Fortune 500 include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies, and 10 percent of those policies contain strong statements prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In addition, 10 percent of the 500 have nondiscrimination policies that include gender identity and expression, double the number from just two years ago.

One notable exception, Mobil, rescinded a nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation and abandoned a domestic partner benefits program when it merged with Exxon in 1999. ExxonMobil remains the only large U.S. company to erase rights for Gay and Lesbian employees.

The reason for the slow but steady evolution toward corporate acceptance of diversity, according to HRC President Joe Solmonese, is companies' increasing understanding that fair treatment is both good for employees and good for the bottom line.

"Nondiscrimination policies and equal employee benefits help recruit and retain the best talent while improving productivity by ensuring that all of their

employees can provide for their families," Solmonese said in a prepared statement.

The study's results offer encouragement to many who worried that Microsoft's reversal on supporting a Washington state civil rights bill meant that corporate America was getting cold feet on its embrace of LGBT workers.

"I think this HRC study is proof positive there is no retreat [in LGBT support]," Justin Nelson, co-founder of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) told the PlanetOut Network.

"Corporations are understanding that diversity adds value to their operations, and brings them bottom line opportunities," he said.

Nelson added that LGBT gains in business go beyond the largest corporations. He pointed to the NGLCC's new focus on the Fortune 500 supply chain: smaller manufacturers and service providers that work with the 500.

"We believe that if a Fortune 500 company believes in equal rights for LGBT workers, then it should be using LGBT-certified suppliers as well," he said. In a pilot program started late last year, NGLCC has already certified more than 200 businesses that are at least 51 percent LGBT-owned and -operated.

"This is out of a pool of about a million LGBT businesses, so we're just getting started," Nelson said.

The HRC report is unlikely to deter religious right groups, who are increasingly emboldened in their efforts to reverse corporate support of LGBT rights. Lately, however, many of those

efforts have had little or no long-term effect, except possibly for fundraising efforts.

Because of a firestorm of community outrage, Microsoft recommitted itself to equality last month after it appeared that the software giant had capitulated to the demands of a local preacher. LGBT pressure also forced Microsoft to fire Ralph Reed when it was uncovered that the company had paid the former Christian Coalition leader for consulting services.

Gay Man's Murder Shocks Community

YUMA - Police say that the killing of a Gay Yuma man was likely motivated by his sexuality. The body of Amancio Corrales, 23, was found in the Colorado River on May 6, reported 365Gay.com.

Corrales was a well known drag performer in Yuma and in Mexico. He performed under the name Delilah. Corrales was born in Sinaloa, Mexico, and worked as a cosmetologist in Yuma.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office on Thursday, June 2, appealed for witnesses. Corrales was seen earlier the night of his slaying at several bars in Yuma in drag.

Sheriff's spokesperson Capt. Eben Bratcher said that investigators believe Corrales may have left one of the bars with people who believed him to be a woman.

Bratcher said that Corrales suffered from violent trauma, but that police were not releasing the exact cause of death because it might hinder their investigation.

The killing has sent shockwaves through Yuma's relatively small and

close knit Gay community. Furthermore, the anti-Gay American Family Association has met with limited success in forcing companies to drop their support of Gays. Their demand that Kraft Foods rescind its sponsorship of the 2006 Gay Games met with firm resistance by the giant food company. Its boycott of the Ford Motor Company for its support of Gay workers was abruptly postponed Monday to December 1, 2005, in an effort to "work with Ford dealers to resolve our differences."

The Arizona Leadership Institute, an organization the advocates for workers and their families said that it wants to ensure that a proper investigation into Corrales' murder.

Spokesperson Sam Holdren said that the ALI wants assurances that if the killing was a hate crime it is investigated and prosecuted as such.

A vigil for Corrales is being planned for later this month.



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UPDATE

Desert Voices At Bisbee Pride Festival

BISBEE - With the temperature now in triple digits, it's time to start thinking about a summer get-away weekend. Bisbee, that progressive little town to the southeast of Tucson, is holding a Gay Pride Festival on June 17 - 18, with lots of activities planned for fun and relaxation.

The Bisbee Pride Festival (bisbeepride.com) kicks off on Friday, June 17, with cocktail hour at the Copper Queen, followed by a Leather and Lace Ball at the same location. Saturday features a BBQ lunch served at the Copper Queen Hotel Pool with a swimsuit competition following immediately and open to all genders and orientations.

Tucson's own Desert Voices GLBT & S Chorus will present portions of their Spring Show "Our True Colors" in Bisbee's City Park on Saturday, June 18, 3:30 pm. Garland Smith of Bisbee is sponsoring the concert and admission is free. "Our True Colors" played to a sold out crowd in Tucson in mid-April and blended a wide variety of songs with rainbow and color themes designed to celebrate the marvelous diversity of our GLBT & S community. Highlights in Bisbee will include a beautiful a cappella arrangement of De Colores, a Namoli

Brennet composition titled Shades of the Rainbow, a wicked parody of 'Red Roses for a Blue Lady' from Alegria, the women's barbershop quartet, a beautiful jazz arrangement of 'Over the Rainbow' and much more

On Saturday evening, the Copper Queen hosts a Turn of the Century ball, while Hot Licks BBQ Bar and Restaurant will feature Drag Karaoke and clothing will be provided for Kings and Queens.

The Copper Queen Hotel will host most events and visitors who will be attending Gay Pride and stay at the Copper Queen Hotel will have their admission to all events included in the price of their room as a package deal. Participants are not required to stay at the Copper Queen to be a part of the festivities, as tickets to events will be available a la carte. Please see the website (www.BisbeePride.com) for further information about events, hotels and restaurants.

Desert Voices encourages Tucsonans to plan a getaway weekend to Bisbee, and come out for their concert in the park.

AHRF Dinner Tickets Still Available Governor To Address Crowd

PHOENIX - The Arizona Human Rights Foundation (AHRF) announces that seats are going fast for the 14th Awards Dinner and Silent Auction on June 18 at the Arizona Biltmore.

The annual dinner is the organization's premier fundraiser for the year and proceeds are used for programs to secure, protect and defend the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) individuals living in Arizona.

Gov. Janet Napolitano is a confirmed speaker along with Keith Boykin, former special assistant to President Bill Clinton. The evening's theme is "Strength from Adversity" and several awards will be given to individuals and companies who have gone the extra mile to advance the cause of equality for the LGBT community.

"We welcome all fair-minded individuals and organizations to join us at the dinner as we gear up for 2006, where we will face a huge battle for human rights," said Greg Polzin, AHRF's Executive Director. "We are calling on

heterosexual couples in domestic partnerships to join with us to defeat the petition drive by 'Protect Marriage Arizona' to remove domestic partnership benefits in the state of Arizona," he said. "This will be a costly fight."

The dinner and silent auction will raise funds, which will in part be used to defeat the proposed measure and educate the public about LGBT issues. "This night will be the starting point of our charge to turn the tide for equality in Arizona," Polzin said.

Tickets: \$185 each or \$1,850 for a table of ten. For more information and ticket sales at www.ahrf.org or by calling (602) 650-0900 x2.

The Arizona Human Rights Foundation (AHRF), a 501C3 organization, is the largest educational and political advocacy organization dedicated to the eradication of discrimination against LGBT individuals living in the state of Arizona.

Position Open At TIHAN

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network (TIHAN) is seeking a Director of Education.

The position coordinates HIV/AIDS awareness and education programs, and requires experience in volunteer recruitment/volunteer coordination, program administration, education/curriculum planning, and a substantial knowledge of HIV and accompanying issues.

To get a job description, E-mail: friends@tihan.org. To apply, submit a resume and list of three professional references to TIHAN, 492 North Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ, 85711 or E-mail: scott@tihan.org. AA/EOE



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49ers' PR Director Apologizes for Video

SAN FRANCISCO - Kirk Reynolds made just the kind of offensive gaffe he'd preached to the 49ers players about avoiding, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

San Francisco's well-liked public relations director is on his way out of the organization after producing a controversial in-house video meant to prepare players for dealing with the media. The video showed players exactly what not to do, all right.

The 15-minute film, leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle, features racist jokes, Lesbian soft-core porn, and topless blond women—and even a scene of Reynolds impersonating San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom in the mayor's office. Reynolds called it a "terrible mistake," adding that while the video did not prompt his recent resignation to explore other interests, the incident would likely speed up the process of leaving.

"I'm more sorry than anybody," he said in a phone interview with the Associated Press. "My intention was to deliver a message important to our team. Certainly the execution and my decision-making were way out of line. I deeply regret it."

Reynolds said he made the video to coach players on handling media questions in diverse San Francisco and never meant it for public consumption. The video was shown to players last August during training camp in Santa Clara, where it was part of a diversity workshop. "I certainly offended people, and I never intended to offend anybody," Reynolds said. "Anybody who knows me, that's not a reflection of who I am. I did something for a certain audience that got out of hand.... It was contradictory to my values and beliefs and contradictory to the team's values. I completely apologize to anybody who was offended."

The mayor and the city's Gay leaders are among those furious about the video, and Reynolds knows the anger probably stretches across the country. The team's owners are embarrassed. The Chronicle published an image showing Reynolds with the half-naked women under a screaming headline Wednesday.

General manager Terry Donahue showed a snippet of the video to team owner John York in January, just one day before he was fired, and sent a copy to York at York's request in March. Team lawyer Ed Goines got the tape about three weeks ago, the Chronicle reported. Team

owners Denise and John York on Wednesday called the video offensive, inexcusable, and "absolutely contradictory to the ideals and values of the San Francisco 49ers." "Ostensibly, the video was created to raise player awareness about how to deal with the media and to demonstrate by example how poor conduct can unintentionally make news," the Yorks' statement read. "Unfortunately, this video is an example in itself."

An NFL statement supported the Yorks' viewpoint. "We share their view that the video was inappropriate, offensive in every respect, and of no value whatsoever," the league said. "It does not reflect the 49ers' values and traditions or those of the league and its member clubs." Goines said in a statement that the team's executives never reviewed or approved of the video and that he has since issued "appropriate discipline to the person or persons responsible."

But several players defended Reynolds. Linebacker Julian Peterson, who appeared in the video as a panhandler, said the video wasn't meant to hurt anyone's feelings. "I know Kirk personally. I know he has not addressed anybody with racial slurs," Peterson said. Center Jeremy Newberry, who had surgery on his knee Tuesday, said Reynolds was misunderstood. "He was just trying to show people's biases and how stupid people can be," Newberry said.

Reynolds opens the film sitting behind the mayor's desk, then goes to Chinatown, where a 49ers team consultant uses racial slurs about Chinese people. Next comes a topless Lesbian wedding filmed at a strip club and officiated by Reynolds, again impersonating the mayor. "I know the courts say we can't do this," Reynolds says before the happy couple engages in heavy petting. "We make our own rules here in San Francisco."

Reynolds then goes to SBC Park, where acting as "mayor" he throws out the opening pitch, then takes a bribe from the catcher, who thanks him for supporting "hookers and booze." "You do something controversial, you say something controversial, it will have an impact on this team. So remember, be mindful of your actions," Reynolds says, wearing only a towel before joining three topless blonds for a group hug in a strip club's dressing room.

Newsom—shown the tape by the Chronicle—was not amused. "It wasn't right to do it to the Asian community, particularly the Chinese community. It was wrong to do it to the Gay and Lesbian community. It was wrong to exploit women as they were exploited in this video," the mayor told Fox affiliate KTVU. "The video is reprehensible."

Coach Mike Nolan, left to face the media Wednesday at the 49ers' practice facility, stressed that the video reflected decisions made by an old "regime" and that York has since put the team in the right direction. "I will say this: We do a lot of the sensitivity training, and we do it in the right manner. This is an example of how you do not do it," said Nolan, who was hired in January. "That's not what the 49ers will be about."



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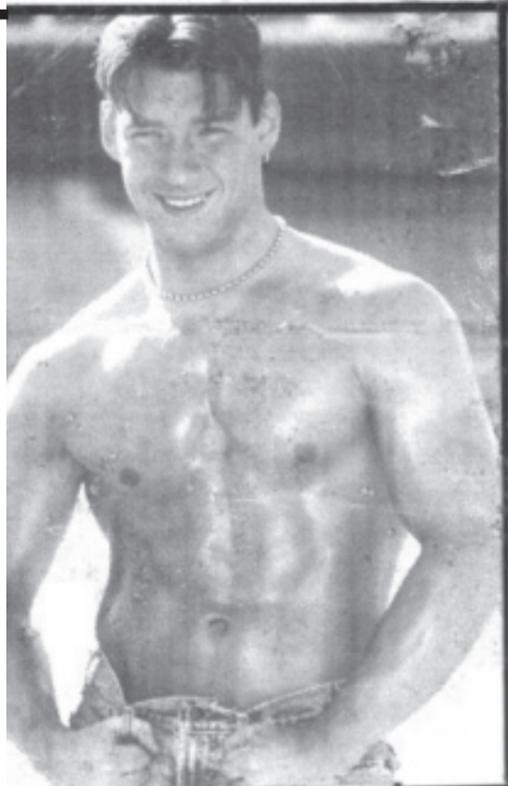
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THEATRE REVIEW: 'A New Brain'

by Larry Moore aka Lucinda Holliday

PTUCSON - Arizona Onstage Productions has done it again. This January they pulled of the funniest and Gayest musical in a long time with "Ruthless! The Musical." Now comes the musical "A New Brain," a fabulous, touching, and drop dead hilarious musical filled with strong, positive Gay characters that are realistic and not stereotyped.

First of all let me talk about the production itself. It is in the quaint little Black Box Theatre at the Pima West Campus. The seats (only 115 of them, so get your tickets quick!) are new and comfortable, and of course the state of the art lighting and sound were obvious as I sat in the cool air conditioned theatre and watched a final dress rehearsal of "A New Brain." The set is at first simple, but then things turn into objects that you don't expect. An M.R.I. machine (how did they build that?) turns into a sailboat, for example. Very clever and effective.

The cast is on par with any tour that would come into town. Handsome Walter Belcher and Ben Crawford were perfect as the lovers Gordon and Roger. Belcher's "I'd Rather Be Sailing" sent chills down my spine it was so beautiful. Ben Crawford, The Arizona Daily Star winner of Best Musical Actor of 2004 proves why he deserves this title. His

voice is demanding, intense, and then surprisingly delicate and peaceful. On a side note, the eye candy ain't bad either - especially during a shower scene where they sing of how much they love each other.

Betty Craig, a veteran of musical theatre is stunning as Roger's mother Mimi. A high-class Jewish mom dealing with the fact that her son might die of complications from surgery, she never stoops to whining. She sings with passion and love that has to be from a real place. She is not acting this role. She is reflecting her own life experiences as well as choices made as an actress. I could go on and on about this cast of ten.

When I tell you that it is about a Gay man going through brain surgery you probably want to run the other way - don't. Don't let this opportunity to see the strongest piece of musical theatre (Gay or straight) this year pass you by. Heads up though, these shows sell out fast. Many people were not able to get in to see "Ruthless! The Musical" the closing weekend. Go now! And tell them that Lucinda sent you.

(Ticket prices: \$20/\$16. Box office: (520) 206-6986. Playing June 9-26, Pima Community Collage Center for the Arts Black Box Theatre.)

Pope: G/L Marriage 'Pseudo Matrimony'

VATICAN CITY - Pope Benedict XVI has made his first public statement on same-sex marriage since his election - a stinging condemnation of Gay and Lesbian families, reported 365Gay.com.

Repeatedly driving home his point that marriage can only be a union between man and woman, the Pope called same-sex unions "pseudo-matrimony."

He made the remarks in an address to a conference of the Diocese of Rome on the role of the family held at St. John Lateran basilica.

"The various forms of the dissolution of matrimony today, like free unions, trial marriages and going up to pseudo-matrimonies by people of the same sex, are rather expressions of an anarchic freedom that wrongly passes for true freedom of man," he said.

Although was his first public comment on same-sex marriage since becoming Pope, Benedict has long history of attacking same-sex unions.

As Cardinal Ratzinger he was the Vatican's most outspoken opponent of Gay marriage.

Ratzinger was the author of the a 2003 Vatican directive to priests around the world calling for a proactive stand to stop governments from legalizing same-sex marriage and for a repeal of those those already on the books that give rights, including adoption, to Gay couples.

The 12 page document called on Catholic bishops and lawmakers to oppose the legalization of same-sex unions.

Ratzinger opposes contraception and the use of condoms to combat HIV/AIDS. He advocates a diminished role for women in the Church and has called for mandatory celibacy for priests.

In 1999 he ordered two Americans, Sister Jeannine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent, to end their associated with New Ways Ministry which provides educational programs for Gay and Lesbian Catholics nationwide.

Parade Is Highlight of Festival Of Rights

SEOUL - The JoongAng Daily reported that hundreds of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals filled the streets of central Seoul in an annual parade (June 6) that is the highlight of a 15-day event to defend Gay rights.

The event, called the "Queer Culture Rainbow Festival 2005," is the sixth held since 2000. It began May 27 and includes photo exhibitions, parties and a "queer film" festival. It will end Friday, June 10.

Participants came out on the streets to hold a peaceful march. The walk began at Jongmyo Park, an ancestral shrine in Jongno, and continued to Insadong. About 400 homosexuals dressed in colorful wardrobes, along with some 10

foreign men dressed in traditional female Thai attire, walked on the side of the road.

After the march, the participants said they were going to a club in the vicinity of Hongik University. "Stereotypes against sexual minorities in Korea have almost disappeared," said Han Chae-yun, the organizer and a member of the Korean Sexual-Minority Culture & Rights Center.

"The event was to help sexual minorities become confident and to protest against social prejudice," she added.

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Spamalot And Doubt Take Top Prizes At The Tony Awards

NEW YORK - Spamalot didn't get a lot. Monty Python's Spamalot, an irreverent romp inspired by the British film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, led all plays and musicals at the Tony Awards with 14 nominations but took away only three prizes Sunday, June 5, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

It won the one that mattered, though—best musical. Doubt, John Patrick Shanley's drama about the innocence—or guilt—of a popular parish priest, was named best play, while The Light in the Piazza, a lushly romantic tale set in Italy, had the night's biggest haul with six awards.

Mike Nichols, who won for best musical director for Spamalot, said after the ceremony that he was nervous when the hit musical lost several early technical awards to Piazza before Sara Ramirez took the prize for featured actress. "I sat there thinking, We are in the toilet. This is backlash big-time," Nichols said. "But then it turned out OK." Doubt, the season's most honored play, already had picked up the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, and several other top play prizes. "Happy. Joy. Fleeting," Shanley began his acceptance speech, adding: "I want to thank the Sisters of Charity for teaching me how to read and write. I want to thank the Irish Christian Brothers for throwing me out of high school."

Doubt also collected two acting Tonys—for out star Cherry Jones and for featured performer Adriane Lenox—while Doug Hughes was named best director. Hughes later told reporters, "It's nice to see us thriving with a play populated by stage actors.... These are people who understand what this craft is really about."

Billy Crystal won the award for special theatrical event—an autobiographical one-man show titled 700 Sundays—and cracked: "I want to thank everybody in behalf of the entire cast."

Bill Irwin took the actor/play prize for his portrayal of the browbeaten husband in Edward Albee's Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? and Norbert Leo Butz captured the prize for actor/musical for his role as a French Riviera con man in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

Piazza won for its star, Victoria Clark, who plays a Southern matron shepherding her mentally challenged daughter on a European tour. Its other prizes were for score, sets, costumes, lighting, and orchestrations. One of the year's surprise musical hits, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, took two awards: best book of a musical and best featured actor for Dan Fogler, who plays a nasally challenged and full-figured speller in the show. The actor thanked his parents for their support—and "the DNA." He said later that he had difficulty finding a tuxedo in time for the ceremony, joking that he wants to start a "slightly chubby nominee fund" for actors who are built like him.

The choreography prize was taken by openly Gay Jerry Mitchell for the athletic dances he created for the revival of La Cage aux Folles, which also won the prize for musical revival. The play revival award went to a production of David Mamet's Glengarry Glen Ross. Producer Jeffrey Richards said after the ceremony that he shared his award with Mamet: "This is his first Tony too." Liev Schreiber took the featured actor/play prize for his portrayal of a sleazy real estate salesman in Glengarry Glen Ross.

A special lifetime achievement Tony was given to out playwright Albee, who, besides Woolf, has written such plays as A Delicate Balance and The Goat, which won the Tony for best play in 2002. He dedicated his honor to the memory of his partner of 35 years, sculptor Jonathan Thomas, who died in May after battling cancer. "He made me a happy playwright. And you have made me a happy playwright tonight."

Crystal walked out to open the show at Radio City Music Hall and launched into a monologue as if he were hosting instead of the real host, Hugh Jackman. "I too am head over heels in love with Katie Holmes," Crystal said, poking fun at Tom Cruise's recent appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show, in which he professed his love for his actress girlfriend. The fun didn't end there. Another surprise guest—former Demo-

cratic presidential candidate the Reverend Al Sharpton—stunned the crowd by appearing as a speller in a musical number from the cast of Spelling Bee. And Christina Applegate, star of Sweet Charity, took a pretend spill when she came out to present an award—a send-up of the actress's real fall during previews that left her with a broken foot and nearly derailed the show.

Navratilova Loses In French Open Final

PARIS - After a three-set struggle, tennis legend Martina Navratilova and Leander Paes were defeated Friday, June 3, in the mixed doubles championship match at the French Open, reported the PlanetOut Network.

The sixth-seeded pair was taken down by the unseeded team of Daniela Huntuchova of Slovakia and France's Fabrice Santoro, 3-6 6-3 6-2.

Navratilova is already the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam title, as she and Paes won the Australian Open and Wimbledon championships in 2003. She has 58 Grand Slam titles. Only Margaret Court holds more, with 62.

With a record 167 titles in singles and 174 in doubles, Navratilova was playing in Grand Slams before many of the current tennis stars were born. Despite retiring in 1995, she came back to the sport and broke more records as a doubles competitor.

One of the first elite athletes to come out publicly as Gay, Navratilova is widely respected for her achievements and her character.

"I admire that Martina has battled both on the court and off the court to be a champion athlete through her amazing work ethic and to be a champion individual by actively advocating for the rights of LGBT persons," Helen Carroll, coordinator of the Sports Project for the

National Center for Lesbian Rights, told the PlanetOut Network. "She keeps progressing as an athlete and as a person — a model for us all."

Earlier this year she inked an endorsement deal with Olivia, a Lesbian-owned travel company best known for its cruises for women.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

'So Whom Would The PMA Really Protect?'

It was nice to see that two of the state's daily newspapers, the Tucson Citizen (May 26), and the Arizona Republic (June 7), take a position on the proposed amendment, drafted by the ultra-right wing and very homophobic, Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), to the Arizona Constitution, known as Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMA).

Both editorials "scratch the surface" on the potential effect - citing domestic partner benefits and civil unions if the PMA manages to get the 183,917 valid signatures of registered voters and wins approval on the November, 2006 general election ballot, neither unfortunately go further in their writings.

"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," is the language of CAP's proposed PMA amendment, and this affects more than just marriage, benefits and unions, as the mainstream media would so have you to believe or has reported to this point.

There are many local and state laws, as well as portions of other important ordinances, currently in affect that would either be rescinded or is just one lawsuit or legal challenge from being history, if CAP's paranoia and phobias are allowed to be enshrined in the state constitution.

After the 1976 murder of

Richard Heakin, an openly Gay young man by three male high school students, and the subsequent slap on the wrist a judge gave the three for taking a life, the City of Tucson, in 1977, after community calls for action, adopted an anti-discrimination ordinance, making sure everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, familial status, perceived or otherwise, had equal access to employment, public accommodations and housing.

According to the City of Tucson Equal Opportunity Office (EOO) web site, the ordinance covers:

Places of public accommodation, facilities, services, commodities or use offered to or enjoyed by the general public, operated within the city limits of Tucson.

Housing providers operating within the Tucson city limits in the sale or rental of housing, including but not limited to individual lessees, real estate agents/brokers, and lending institutions.

Employers having 1-100 employees. This does not apply to protected classes that do not have remedies available under Federal law or Arizona law. In other words, individuals who have complaints based on gender identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, familial status (employment) or marital status may file a complaint with the OEOP from any size business within the Tucson city limits.

Under the ordinance, Chapter 17 in Tucson's code, "discrimination is

unwelcome, illegal and will not be tolerated," as the provision states, and for which has been enforced by the Tucson EOO office.

If the PMA is approved, the 28-year-old ordinance, one of the first enacted in the nation, is one law and ordinance affected since the only "couple" to have legal status, would be one consisting of a "man and wife" - with a "marriage" license from their respective

Mayor Denies Allegations And Won't Resign

SPOKANE - Mayor James E. West on Friday, June 3, denied allegations that he had used his office to entice teenage males into sex. Once again he rejected calls that he resign, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Taking questions from local reporters for the first time since the scandal broke on May 5, West also said he is willing to take a polygraph if the FBI or city investigators insist.

"When all the investigations are completed, I will be exonerated," the 55-year-old West predicted. "What do I have to resign for?"

West said he believed he could be an effective mayor even though city business and political leaders have loudly demanded that he resign, and a recall effort is under way.

City Councilwoman Cherie Rodgers said the recall, which must be approved by a judge, is now apparently the only hope of removing West from office with 2 1/2 years left in his term.

"He is in complete denial about how serious this is," Rodgers said. "He thinks this can be business as usual."

West, a Republican and a

county Clerk of the Court's office since "... 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 ..." according to the proposed PMA amendment.

One ordinance is just part of the big picture since there are many more laws that will be affected if CAP gets their way.

longtime state legislator, said his political fate has been in the hands of voters since 1978. "If the voters say Jim West should go, Jim West will gracefully go."

West rose to be state Senate majority leader before he was elected mayor of this city of 200,000 in 2003. He dodged a question about whether he thought sex with 18-year-olds was appropriate. West has admitted offering sports memorabilia and a possible City Hall internship to what he thought was an 18-year-old man on a Gay Web site. The man was actually a private computer expert hired by The Spokesman-Review newspaper as part of a journalism sting operation.

In a series of articles, The Spokesman-Review reported allegations by two men that West molested them when they were children and he was a sheriff's deputy. West has vehemently denied those allegations.

"I never engaged in anything with anyone underage," West declared.



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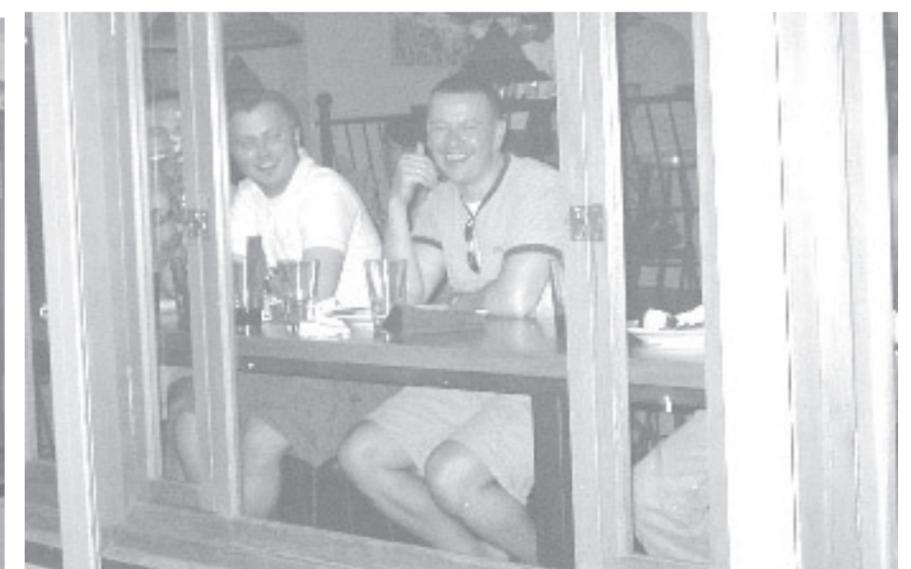
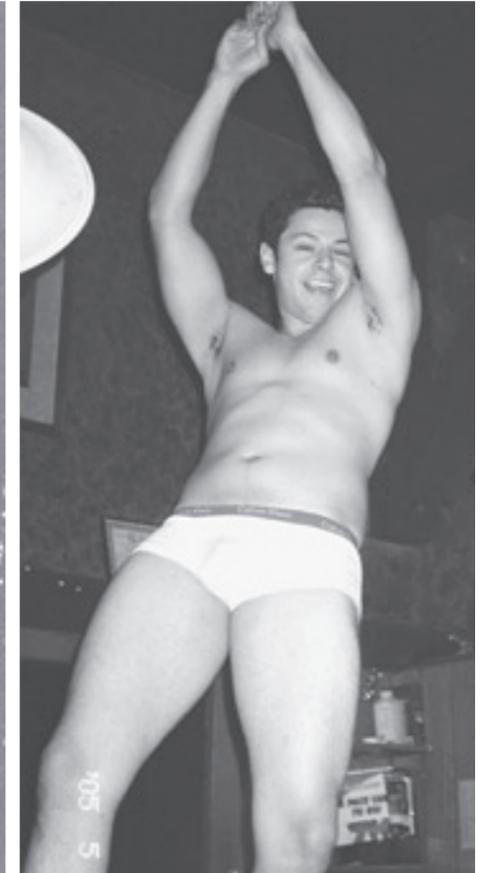
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COMMENTARY . . . The Arizona Republic

Playing Gay Card: Push For Constitutional Ban On Same-Sex Unions Is Political, Redundant

Marriage is:

1. A ball and chain.
2. The foundation of civilization.
3. A political football.

If you chose No. 3, give yourself credit for paying attention.

One could argue that marriage faces a number of challenges to its sanctity these days. Exhibit A: Desperate Housewives.

The desire of same-sex couples to share the benefits the legal contract confers on married men and women is not one of those threats. If anything, it is an indication of respect for marriage.

But same-sex couples are out of luck, because it is against state law for them to marry.

So why the push for a state constitutional ban on what is already illegal?

If the proposal for a constitutional ban gets 183,917 valid signatures and makes it onto the ballot in 2006, it is expected to draw conservative Republican voters to the polls in the same election in which Gov. Janet Napolitano, a moderate Democrat, will be running for a second term.

That's the politics part. Had the goal been to simply create a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage ASAP,

supporters could have pushed to put it on the ballot this year. Napolitano urged lawmakers to do just that earlier this year. They didn't.

Set politics aside and this is still bad idea.

Supporters of the amendment say the lack of a specific ban on same-sex marriage in Arizona's Constitution leaves the state open to the kind of court ruling that allowed such unions in Massachusetts.

But the Arizona Court of Appeals upheld the state law banning same-sex marriage in 2003, and the Arizona Supreme Court subsequently declined to review that decision, thus allowing it to stand.

What's more, the amendment being pushed by the Protect Marriage Arizona Coalition includes the statement that "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."

Opponents of the amendment argue convincingly that this would prohibit towns, cities, counties and the state from offering domestic-partner benefits, which are used by heterosexual couples living together.

It likely would also prohibit civil unions for Gay couples. Such unions could satisfy legitimate concerns about gaining legal standing to make medical and other decisions on behalf of an incapacitated partner.

So if somebody tries to get you to sign a petition they insist is about saving marriage. Consider that:

1. Same-sex marriage is already against the law in Arizona.
2. The courts have upheld that ban.

3. The Constitution should be about enshrining rights, not discrimination.

[The above was an editorial from the June 7, 2005 Arizona Republic, from which this is reprinted.]

New Breast Cancer Drug Lowers Death Rate

EDMONTON - Breast cancer patients who take the Sanofi-Aventis drug docetaxel instead of the older medicine flurouracil cut their risk of death by 30%, researchers said on Wednesday, June 1, reported Reuters on Advocate.com.

Among the women who received docetaxel, "there's no group of patients that didn't benefit, so you can't pick out someone who's not a winner from the new treatment," said study author John Mackey of the Cross Cancer Institute.

The benefit of the docetaxel combination "was so large and so striking it's turned a lot of heads. It's a high-water mark for chemotherapy. It has catapulted the (docetaxel) regimen into being a standard of care," Mackey said.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, involved 1,491 women in 20 countries whose tumors had spread to at least one lymph node. Each drug was used in combination with two other commonly used anticancer medicines, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide.

The docetaxel treatment, which is already the standard of care in many cancer centers, reduced the risk of death after five years by 30%, bringing the survival rate up to 87%, compared to 81% for patients using flurouracil. Docetaxel

also reduced the recurrence of cancer. Of the patients put on docetaxel, 25% had their breast tumors reappear after five years, compared to 32% of those using flurouracil.

Researchers, however, found that the docetaxel combination increased the risk of some serious side effects such as diarrhea and mouth sores. On the other hand, docetaxel produced significantly less nausea and vomiting than flurouracil. Another advantage of the docetaxel therapy was that it produced better results no matter how far the breast cancer cells had spread through nearby lymph nodes.

The flurouracil treatment "was a reasonable choice during the treatment period of 1995 to 1998, but this may not be the case in 2005," said Edith Perez of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. But in her editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine, Perez said the side effects and the fact that the treatment was not tested on women older than 70 "cannot be minimized."

Docetaxel was approved for use in 1996 and is sold under the brand name Taxotere. Docetaxel is a chemical cousin of the drug Taxol, which has been around for more than a decade but still remains popular. Which one is better won't be known until the two are tested against each other.

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Fruit Fly May Hold The Secret To Sexuality

NEW YORK - A male fly's sexual courtship of a female fly is a complicated business of tapping, singing, wing vibration, and licking, but a single gene is all that is needed to produce this complex behavior, according to new research published in the journal *Cell*, reported 365Gay.com.

The gene encodes the Fruitless protein. Male and female flies carry different versions of the fruitless protein, as a result of sex-specific splicing of the mRNA. The male form of Fruitless is critical for the male courtship ritual and males' preference for mating with females, as previous studies have shown.

Now, Barry J. Dickson and Ebru Demir of the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences show just how intimately fruitless is linked to these stereotypically male behaviors. They discovered that female flies with the male version of fruitless behave like males, directing at other females a sexual display nearly identical to their male counterparts.

Female flies with the male version of the protein also make amorous advances toward male flies that express female pheromones. In these cases, "we have been able to reverse the sex roles during *Drosophila* courtship," Dickson and Demir say.

Dickson and Demir created male-spliced versions of fruitless in female flies and female-spliced versions in male flies. Males with the female version of fruitless "barely court at all" when paired with virgin female flies in an observation chamber, according to the researchers.

Males with the female fruitless splice form were also more likely to court other males than flies with the male

form, suggesting that male-specific fruitless splicing "not only promotes male-female courtship, it also inhibits male-male courtship," the researchers say.

Dickson and Demir refer to fruitless as a behavioral "switch gene" that is both necessary and sufficient to produce a particular behavior. Switch genes that trigger the development of a particular anatomical feature like wing structure have been studied extensively, but there are very few studies of switch genes that control a complex behavior, the researchers note.

In part, this is because finding behavioral switch genes can be a difficult task. The key, says Dickson, is demonstrating that a specific gene is sufficient to produce a particular behavior.

"This means showing that gene X is sufficient to create the potential for behavior Y in an otherwise normal animal. It is the 'otherwise normal' part that is tricky," he says.

"Putting gene X into another species and expecting to see a behavior is unrealistic—a 'flight' gene from *Drosophila*, if it existed, is not going to make a mouse fly," Dickson explains, noting that only members of the same species might be expected to share the same set of "normal" behaviors.

"So you need to put gene X in a normal animal of the same species that doesn't normally do Y. This is really only possible with sex-specific behaviors" like courtship, he says.

Dickson also says there is "something of a debate going on between the view that single genes can have profound effects on behavior, versus the more holistic view that behavior is so complex that we can never learn anything

meaningful about a behavior by studying the action of a single gene."

Still, studies show that a single gene can trigger the development of complex anatomical structures like eyes or limbs, by influencing sometimes hundreds of other genes, Dickson notes.

"I don't see any good reason why innate behaviors, which are a consequence of how the nervous system is built, should be any different. Indeed, I think that is what our work shows," he says.

In a second *Cell* paper, Dickson and colleagues demonstrate that nerve cells expressing the fruitless gene are linked in a circuit in both males and females. The finding suggests that the "essential difference in sexual behavior between males and females lies in the functioning of this circuit and not its construction," according to the researchers.

Dickson and colleagues have already begun collaborations with other researchers to determine how the fruitless gene might be involved in other behavioral patterns like aggression. "I think it is going to be fascinating to try to figure out how a fly decides between 'love' and 'war', and what fruitless and the fruitless-expressing neurons have to do with this," he says.

LGBT civil rights leaders said that the new research, part of a growing body of evidence that suggests sexuality is determined before birth, debunks theories that homosexuality can be altered by faith or aversion therapy.

"Science is closing the door on right-wing distortions," said the Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese.

"No matter what, all people deserve to be treated equally and with dignity and respect. The growing body of scientific evidence continues to refute the opponents of equality who maintain that sexual orientation is a 'choice.'"

Hepatitis C Deaths Expected To Triple In Next 10 Years in U.S.

ATLANTA - The number of hepatitis C-related deaths in the United States will triple during the next 10 years, with as many as 30,000 Americans dying annually from problems caused by the disease, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reported Advocate.com.

About 8,000 to 10,000 Americans already die each year from the disease. CDC officials say that many of the people dying from hepatitis C-related complications contracted the virus between the 1960s and the 1980s. Because the virus typically lies dormant in the body for many years, those infected with HCV in the 1990s or later will begin to experience symptoms in the next decade.

HCV, a blood-borne virus, is transmitted through shared needles and blood transfusions, and less commonly through unprotected sex. HCV is a common coinfection among HIV-positive people, with as many as 25% of all HIV patients also infected with hepatitis. As many as 5 million Americans are currently infected with HCV; worldwide, there are an estimated 200 million people with hepatitis C. There is no vaccine to prevent HCV infections, and current treatments are effective for only about half of those patients who take them. New treatments currently in clinical trials might offer better results, experts say, but those drugs are still years away from Food and Drug Administration review and approval.

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Local Governments Grapple With Which HIV Tests To Provide

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Local governments are grappling with which HIV tests to provide to their citizens, with some favoring new rapid test kits that can provide results in about 20 minutes and others opting for HIV RNA screenings that take much longer to get results back to those being tested but which can detect HIV infection in its earliest stages, The New York Times reports on Advocate.com.

Rapid HIV tests search for HIV antibodies, which typically take four weeks or longer to appear in the bloodstream, making them unreliable for detecting very early HIV infections. But the advantages of the tests, say HIV experts, is that they can produce results in about 20 minutes, allowing those being tested to receive near instantaneous results. With standard HIV screenings, blood samples are sent to labs for testing, and results aren't available for days or even weeks. As many as one third of people receiving standard HIV screenings don't return for their results.

However, HIV RNA tests can detect even tiny amounts of virus in the blood within about 10 days of infection, allowing health workers to identify people who have been very recently infected. Because blood-based levels of HIV can soar to extremely high levels during early stages of infection, those who are newly infected can easily transmit the virus to others through unprotected sex or through shared injection drug paraphernalia. Identifying HIV cases as early as possible could help prevent these HIV-positive people from unknowingly passing the virus to others. Some studies have also shown that treating HIV infection in its earliest stages may also significantly slow HIV disease progression.

Because both forms of HIV testing have distinct advantages and disadvantages, health officials often struggle with which approach they should adopt, the Times reports. Government officials in New York City and throughout New York State have opted for the rapid HIV testing because of its quick results and the fact that the tests can be administered through street-level HIV outreach programs. Health officials in San Francisco and North Carolina are continuing to rely on HIV RNA tests because of their ability to detect early HIV infections.

AIDS experts say it would be ideal to offer both tests simultaneously, but health officials say that it would be too costly and too difficult to train HIV outreach workers to administer and document the more complicated HIV RNA tests.



Dear Dr. X,

I was chatting recently with a friend, and he said that he did not use condoms as a top because the chance of getting HIV as a top was so incredibly small, like for oral sex. I always thought topping was still pretty dangerous, even though bottoming was even more so. Is he right? Is topping the same risk as oral sex?

Signed, Bottoms Up

Dear Bottoms,

Love the name! (call me!) Let me say, on record, that your friend is wrong, wrong, wrong. While he is correct about oral sex being incredibly low risk for HIV, the risks rise dramatically with anal sex, both as a top and as a bottom (as practiced without condoms).

Of course the risks are greater as a bottom. This is because the membranes in your rectum can very easily absorb HIV from any pre-cum or ejaculate deposited

there. As a top, you are not allowing the other person's pre-cum or ejaculate into your body, however; HIV is present in the mucous that lines the walls of the rectum. As you penetrate your partner (without a condom), your urethra (piss slit) pulls open and allows small amounts of this mucosal lining to enter your body. As you withdraw, the urethra is closed, trapping the mucous and the HIV in your body, where it can be absorbed. Each time you push in, you can expose yourself to more and more HIV. More bad news: recent studies have shown that the mucosal lining of the rectum can have as much as forty percent more of the HIV virus present in it that ejaculate or vaginal fluids. Yeah.

What this means is that although acting the bottom is definitely more of a risk, acting the top does not mean that you are home free. Whichever your choice, you should always wear a condom to protect yourself, and your partner. Remember that not everyone will know their HIV status for sure when you ask them.

Also remember that there are other STD's besides HIV that you need to worry about, including those that are spread through oral contact. You don't need to f*** to get an STD. That's why many folks use condoms for oral sex too (flavored are great for this). I know the idea of a condom with a blow job is just not sexy, but then neither is herpes or syphilis. Though in today's world, I bet you could find a website devoted to trying to make 'em sexy.

If you would like to share your thoughts about bare-backing, or if you just want to hear what others think about it, Gay Men's Health Project is sponsoring a free, open community forum on the subject on Monday June 13th. It starts at 7 pm, and will be at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. SAAF is located at 375 S. Euclid Avenue, just south of Broadway. You are welcome to come and share your thoughts and experiences, or to simply listen to others. Beverages and light snacks will be served. For more information, call Dave M. with GMHP, (520) 628-7223.

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Sexy Venus enters caring Cancer and warms the cockles of our hearts. We suddenly feel as if the world needs our help as we take on all comers with one hand. Become ambidextrous and gather up a bevy of warm memories.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

The time to build bridges with family members is with Venus in Cancer. Mellow tones ring in even the nastiest of situations. Be yourself, proud Ram, and don't take "no" for an answer. Today it is yes, yes, yes. While you are so affirming, consider enhancing your home by redecorating or moving stuff around. Say a definite "yes!" to tossing out that beer barrel side table.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls seem to know exactly what to say with Venus in Cancer. Speak your mind and maneuver around the fallout. You are tempted to blurt out the most inappropriate (yet heartfelt) things now. Thankfully even your foulest comments become delicious bon mots most of the time. Have you ever thought of politics? Forgetaboutit compadre; you're just too honest.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Venus in Cancer makes you more fiscally astute than usual. Pink Twins finally recognize the value of a dollar and how difficult it is to accumulate. If you can keep a careful eye on the retirement prize, this is the time to push your monetary cause one step further. You are tempted to purchase an antique or decorative object now but may splurge on that gem by the bar.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

You are even more appealing than usual with Venus in your own sign. Get Out there and meet and greet, Gay Crab. You impress, interviews go well and you seem to know what you are talking about. Set the agenda now by beginning new projects, trying new things and creating a new image. Who knows? For the first time in your life you may even get a good haircut.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Proud Lions are pleasantly surprised at the extent and power of their good vibes with Venus in Cancer. You can easily overcome dastardly evil plans of hidden enemies, at least in the short term. There is a healing taking place within you. Intuition is on target so do good things for deserving people and build up the good Gay karma. You get more than you give and you like that!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Queer Virgins seem to be more in tune with group dynamics. Rather than coolly fade into the background they emerge, bold and beautiful, into the forefront. Gather your good buds together and plot a pink revolution. If you choose, bring warring factions to the peace table and strike a happy compromise. If not, create a new paradigm and enjoy it with a select few.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

If your corporate political skill needs a bit of brushing up, try try again while Venus posits in Cancer. Proud Libras make some inroads in otherwise treacherous shark waters with their charming and charismatic style. You can even overcome entrenched workplace enemies if you can manage to spin a little sugar into the honest truth. Or you can hit them when they are not looking.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Proud Scorps peer longingly at the far horizons. Venus in Cancer expands your vision and tickles your already itchy feet. Think of a great global Gay project and become a pioneer. You have the tender touch now and can make a warm and compelling impression on those who you do not know well and who may differ. Say the word and I will nominate you for diplomat to the United Nations.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

What is it that makes all Gay Archers so loveable and attractive? It has to be Venus in Cancer. You are not only especially charming, you become the epitome of sexy and have a choice of an array of admirers. Enjoy it while you can and don't waste time. This magic will dissipate quickly and before you know it you go from twinkie to day old bread. At least you'll have your dough.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Pink Caps love being in a relationship and now, with Venus in Cancer, you find the perfect saucer for your cup. One on ones go smoothly and harmoniously if you remember all those little things that make your significant other significantly happy. If you are in the market, you may just find your treasure among the trash. (Of course, you may prefer trash...) but you have to seek to find.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Although it may be cold comfort to heat seeking Aqueerians, Venus in Cancer makes the day to day job less dreary and onerous. If the job doesn't get your juices going try a brisk workout that will increase the chances of summer fun. Exercise now and enjoy your heated times in a couple of months. Imagine them watching you walk the gang plank when you look so ship shape!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Venus in Cancer adds quite a bit of good fortune to an already lucky and carefree Guppie. Take advantage of your luck and pluck to send things your way. Expand your outlook and tap into anything that tickles your Gay muse. Or plan a fabulous party. Just make sure that you don't waste this energy on any of the seven deadly sins except perhaps lust and gluttony.

Jean O'Leary

Continued from Page One
as co-executive directors of what became the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They fought on issues such as repealing sodomy laws.

O'Leary also was active in Democratic politics. In 1976 she was one of three openly Gay delegates to the national convention. She chaired the Democratic National Committee's Gay and Lesbian Caucus from 1992 to 2002. Working through Midge Costanza, a special assistant to President Jimmy Carter, O'Leary organized the first White House meeting of Gay and Lesbian leaders, which was held in March 1977. "This is the first time in the history of this country that a president has seen fit to acknowledge the rights and needs of some 20 million Americans," O'Leary said in her opening remarks at the three-hour meeting.

In 1988 O'Leary and Rob Eichberg established the first National Coming Out Day, designed for Gay men and Lesbians to publicly declare their sexuality. O'Leary had also served as executive director of a public interest law firm and in later years lived in Palm Springs, Calif., and ran a political consulting firm. In addition to her partner, Lisa Phelps, O'Leary is survived by two brothers, a sister, and Phelps's two children. A memorial service was being planned at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
by Lee Thorn

539

Early last month my favorite daily newspaper ran a story saying that the Pima County Attorney dismissed 539 felony drug cases in one fell swoop. The paper thought it was a big enough story to be put at the top of their front page. I think it's such a big story that there's not a readily available context in which to place it.

How about a historical context? Has any county attorney in the history of the United States ever dismissed 539 felony cases all at once? If so, I've never heard about it. Of course it must have happened somewhere. What if a massive fire destroyed a government building that housed the offices of a county attorney? You could reasonably have 539 felony cases go up in smoke. It wouldn't be out of the realm of possibility, but I think I'd remember it if I'd ever heard of something like that actually happening.

Perhaps we could put the event into some kind of economic context. What would happen to a private law firm that was about the same size as the county attorney's office if it one bright day lost 539 felony cases? Obviously it would immediately be out of business, but would its instant disappearance create a black hole in the legal universe strong enough to suck in every lawyer and law student in the galaxy?

Even in a county attorney's office suffering humiliating disasters on a fairly regular basis, losing 539 cases in one stroke is hard to put into context, unless.

Unless you put the catastrophe into a political context in which case you instantly transform it into a simple non-event. The county attorney will be reelected as many times as she cares to run. The lost 539 felony cases won't even be an issue in any future campaign. And the cognitive dissonance arising from the difference between a staggering catastrophe and a non-event brought me to this thesis: Non-politicians who know how to run things should be in charge of running things; politicians should be in charge of hiring and firing the people who run things.

One reason we have absurdly mismanaged public agencies is that the qualities that get you elected to public office aren't relevant to how well or poorly you can run an office.

The current county attorney, and the current sheriff for that matter, will be reelected forever because they will look, especially when compared to their opponents, like nice grandparents whose hearts are in the right place and who will try to do the right thing. The 539 felony cases won't come up and neither will the long string of lesser disasters.

The same goes for the sheriff. Homicides committed by the staff of the jail he's charged with running have never been a political issue. He comes across fine on TV. Heart in the right place. Do the right thing. Not to worry.

If we want to inject some quality into government agencies, we need to have them run by technocrats who serve at the pleasure of our politicians. Under that arrangement, if you lost 539 cases in one day you'd be looking for a new job the next. Under that arrangement, if the same guard in the jail you're running killed two different inmates on different occasions for no apparent reason you'd be on your way to the unemployment office.

There's no philosophical reason in a democracy for having technical administrative jobs done by politicians. We've got a city manager running the city and a county manager running the county. Why not have technocrats run the county attorney's office and the sheriff's department? That would not give us perfect accountability, but, in stark contrast to the present arrangement, it would likely give us some accountability.

Elections are really personality contests, and maybe they should be. We vote for people we like and trust, not for people who know how to do things. Politicians should shake hands, kiss babies, stick their moistened pinkies into the air to detect the direction of the breeze and, when their technical people fail at something so spectacularly that no historical or economic comparisons can even be found for their failures, our politicians should say to their administrators, "Hit the road, Jack."

My thesis is premised on the notion that how some government agencies are run does in fact matter. I would argue that it matters to the life of the community when you give 539 felony suspects get-out-of-jail cards. I'd also argue that it matters to the life of the community if you can't get arrested and taken to jail without risking a fatal beating from the guards.

For anyone who doesn't agree that these things matter, our current system is working just fine.

[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.]

Ford Boycott On Hold

Continued from Page One
to the pressure.

"Ford Motor Company values diversity among all of its constituents," said Joe Laymon, Ford's vice president of Corporate Human Resources and Labor Affairs, in a statement.

"The Company prides itself on strong and clear values - respect for our customers, communities, employees, suppliers and dealers; acceptance of our differences; inclusion of different people with different perspectives; and integrity to always do the right thing."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called on Ford to hold its ground.

"In less than one week, the American Family Association (AFA) capitulated and suspended its boycott of Ford Motor Company. It's abundantly clear that AFA heard — loud and clear — from Ford dealers that they thought the boycott was a stupid idea," said NGLTF executive director Matt Foreman.

"You'd think AFA would have learned something from the flop of its nine-year boycott of Disney, which it had to suspend on May 24. The central demands of that boycott were that Disney stop extending domestic partner benefits and ban the annual Gay Days celebration. Disney refused, continued to support Gay causes, and the 16th annual Gay Days celebration ended yesterday, having attracted more than 150,000 participants."

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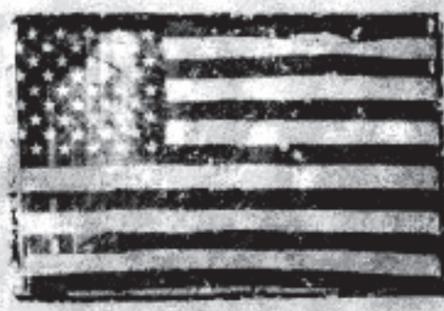
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G/L Marriage Bill Dies After Third Attempt

SACRAMENTO - After three attempts to get a simple majority in the state Assembly, a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in California fell to defeat Thursday evening, June 2, 365Gay.com reported.

According to the office of the bill's author, Assemblyman Mark Leno, the bill had 37 yes votes to 35 no votes, but it did not have the 41 votes necessary to get it out of the 80-member Assembly and on to a vote in the state Senate.

Assembly Bill 19 (AB19), the Civil Marriage Protection Act, was put to a vote on Wednesday, Thursday morning and Thursday night.

California's state Assembly was the first legislative body in the country to consider marriage rights voluntarily. It took a court order for Massachusetts to grant marriage rights to same-sex couples.

"We had people who were adamantly against it last year who were speaking adamantly in favor of it on the floor," Democratic Assemblywoman Sally Lieber told the Associated Press (AP). "This was progress even though it's not enough."

Gloria Negrete McLeod, a lawmaker considered friendly to the cause of LGBT rights, explained to the AP why she abstained. "Voting for this bill may erode the advances we have made."

Social conservatives said they were "happy and relieved" with the outcome, but warned more must be done.

"We've avoided this particular bullet, but more attacks on marriage are coming from judges in San Francisco," said Randy Thomasson, president of the Campaign for Children and Families. "The people of California are learning that to keep everything about marriage for a man and a woman, they absolutely must pass a true-blue state constitutional amendment to override the politicians and judges who have such blatant disregard for marriage and the voters."

Thomasson said he feared within a year a San Francisco state appeals court may uphold Judge Richard Kramer's ruling that man-woman marriage is "unconstitutional" and the California Supreme Court will decide "Gay marriage by another name." Thomasson urged voters to pass a state amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, described the events in the California Assembly as disappointing "for California and the nation."

But Minter promised Thursday's vote is "only the first step. We will come back to the California State Assembly, Senate and Gov. Schwarzenegger to fulfill our state constitution's promise of equality."

Buster's Lesbian Friends To Be Honored

PROVINCETOWN - Family Pride Coalition, the national organization to promote same-sex marriage, is honoring the Lesbian family featured in a PBS series that sparked outrage from Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, 365Gay.com reported.

The family of Gillian Pieper and Karen Pike will receive Pride Coalition's fourth annual "Families of Courage" award.

In January, on her second day on the job, Spellings issued a scathing attack on the kid's series "Postcards from Buster" because it included the same-sex family.

The episode shows the title character, an animated bunny named Buster, on a trip to Vermont where he meets the Lesbian couple.

Although the Pieper-Pike family only made up a small segment of the episode, Spellings told the public broadcaster that that many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles and accused it of wasting public money.

In a letter to Pat Mitchell, then president and chief executive officer of PBS, Spellings issued a veiled threat of funding cuts if the network does not pull the show.

"Congress' and the Department's purpose in funding this programming certainly was not to introduce this kind of subject matter to children, particularly

through the powerful and intimate medium of television."

Pieper and Pike said they were touched to receive the award.

"As parents, we feel fairly humble about such an honor because we simply did what any mother would deem necessary," said Pieper. "When bullies come knocking, you stand up for your child's safety and rights. We acted on instinct. The real courage lies in our children who stood up along side us and fought for their family's right to be seen and loved by America. That's courage."

The award will be presented at the Pride Coalition's 10th annual Family Week event in Provincetown next month.

A longtime activist for human rights and diversity in the workplace, Pieper is a nationally-renowned presenter, and is a founding member of the Vermont statewide team known as Safe Harbors, a Department of Education-sponsored effort to maintain safe, civil schools for LGBT youth, families and staff.

Pike is an award-winning photo-journalist. Her work has appeared in countless publications, including Time, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times and the best-selling book America 24/7.

The couple was united in a Vermont civil union in 2002 and has three children, Emma, 12, James, 12, and David, 10.



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Native Nations Divided On G/L Marriage

ALBUQUERQUE - The Navajo Nation's tribal government voted Friday, June 3, to override its president's veto of a measure banning same-sex marriage on the nation's largest Indian reservation, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The Dine Marriage Act of 2005 defines marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman. It also prohibits plural marriages as well as marriage between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, brothers and sisters and other close relatives.

Dine is the Navajos' name for themselves.

"In the traditional Navajo ways, Gay marriage is a big no-no," said Kenneth Maryboy, a delegate from Montezuma Creek, Utah. "It all boils down to the circle of life. We were put on the earth to produce offspring."

The Tribal Council vote was 62-14, with 12 delegates abstaining or absent, to override Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.'s veto last month.

"My feeling is that the reason they overrode the president's veto is that they have a huge animosity toward the president," said Percy Anderson, a Gay rights organizer who started a Web site and petition to lobby against the marriage act.

Anderson, who previously held an elected office in the tribe's Manuelito, N.M., chapter, said he believes the council is locked in a power struggle. "They want to show the president that they are the governing body," Anderson said.

Maryboy disagreed, saying his constituents overwhelmingly oppose Gay marriage and generally disapprove of Gay

relationships.

"My supporters told me to stay firmly against it, especially the ministers who join people in marriage," he said.

A spokesman for Shirley said he will issue a statement override over the weekend.

Delegate Larry Anderson of Fort Defiance, Ariz., author of the Dine Marriage Act, did not return numerous phone calls seeking comment.

The Navajo Nation, which has more than 180,000 residents, spans parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Same-sex marriages are not allowed in any of those states.

Meanwhile, in Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation's highest court has agreed to hear the case of a Lesbian couple attempting to file their marriage certificate.

In May 2004, Cherokee members Dawn McKinley and Kathy Reynolds were married in Tulsa but have not been allowed to file the license with the tribe.

Cherokee Tribal Council attorney Todd Hembree filed a petition June 16th, 2004, against the couple's marriage.

He says it didn't follow the Cherokee gender-specific law, and asked the court to consider the marriage certificate null and void.

Since the issue emerged, the tribe has said it doesn't support same-sex unions.

In 2004, the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council unanimously approved language that defined a union as between one man and one woman.

Police Take Man's License Because He's Gay

SICILY - Police stopped a driver in a routine road check and seized his license after discovering he is Gay, 365Gay.com reported.

During the spot check police discovered that man, identified only as Danilo G. had been exempted from military service because of his sexuality.

His license was suspended and police began an investigation on his "suitability" to take the wheel.

The 23 year old man took the suspension to court, according to the Italian news service Ansa. A judicial tribunal in the city of Catania ruled Monday, June 6, that being Gay was merely "a personality disturbance" which had no bearing on a person's ability to drive.

In a written ruling the court said: "It is clear that sexual preferences do not in any way influence a person's ability to drive motor cars safely."

The judges added that homosexuality "cannot be considered a true and proper psychiatric illness, being a mere personality disturbance."

Even the ruling has made LGBT rights activists angry, accusing the judges of not having even a basic understanding of homosexuality.

The man's lawyer says the issue isn't over yet either. He's demanding over a half million dollars in compensation from police.

Giuseppe Lipera called the officer's actions "utterly scandalous and

offensive."

"Danilo ... is deeply perturbed by what has happened. He has lost his hair and is suffering shock," Lipera told Ansa.

Beauty School Cited For HIV Bias

PARAGOULD - A cosmetology school in Arkansas was told on Thursday, June 2, that it must readmit a student it had expelled for being HIV-positive, 365Gay.com reported.

The Hair Tech Beauty College had dismissed student Allan Dugas after he informed an instructor that he was HIV-positive. The school claimed that it was illegal for people with HIV to practice cosmetology in the state.

The American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of Dugas, queried the Arkansas Board of Cosmetology, which responded that there is no such law. The board then contacted the school, saying it "does not consider HIV/AIDS as a communicable disease that can be transmitted during the course of cosmetology."

"It is already state law that no cosmetology school can discriminate against people living with HIV/AIDS," said Grif Stockley, an attorney with the ACLU of Arkansas. "We know for a fact that you don't get HIV from getting a haircut."

Stockley said that Dugas does not plan to re-enroll in the school, the Associated Press reported.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 8

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you—and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, June 9

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

Friday, June 10

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

Saturday, June 11

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Mike & Ted hosts Pinochle Night with a B-B-Q for the players only. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Ted & Mike at 544-2140.

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

Sunday, June 12

Men's Social Network (open to members and other men interested in finding out about MSN): 3:00 p.m. Robert hosts our annual Open Steering Committee Meeting. Come share your ideas on activities you'd like to undertake for your fellow MSN'ers as well as to voice your opinion. For reservations and directions. Please call Robert at 400-1376.

Monday, June 13

Lunch – 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave. Tucson Prime Timers Bowling – 10:30 a.m.. Visitors Welcome.

Tuesday, June 14

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

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Terry hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you—and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

Wednesday, June 15

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you—and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, June 16

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

Friday, June 17

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come and put your acting/miming skills to the test. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Saturday, June 18

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed) 7:30 am Join Jack & Mike and Ed & Marcus for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike/Jack at 881-5733 or Marcus/Ed at 407-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Steve at 664-2076.

#1 - Tucson Prime Timers Visitors Welcome, Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle
#2 - Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

Monday, June 20

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for the "putting out the Newsletter" Night. For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.
#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 p.m. Join us for the MSN Premiere of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" (after Newsletter Night). For reservations and directions, please call Arlan at 323-7414.

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling – 10:30 a.m., Visitors Welcome. Lunch – 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone

Tuesday, June 21

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

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie; "Fargo". For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017

Wednesday, June 22

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

Thursday, June 23

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

Friday, June 24

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

Saturday, June 25

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

Monday, June 27

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling — 10:30 a.m.. Visitors Welcome. Lunch — 12:30 p.m. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone

Tuesday, June 28

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

Wednesday, June 29

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you—and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

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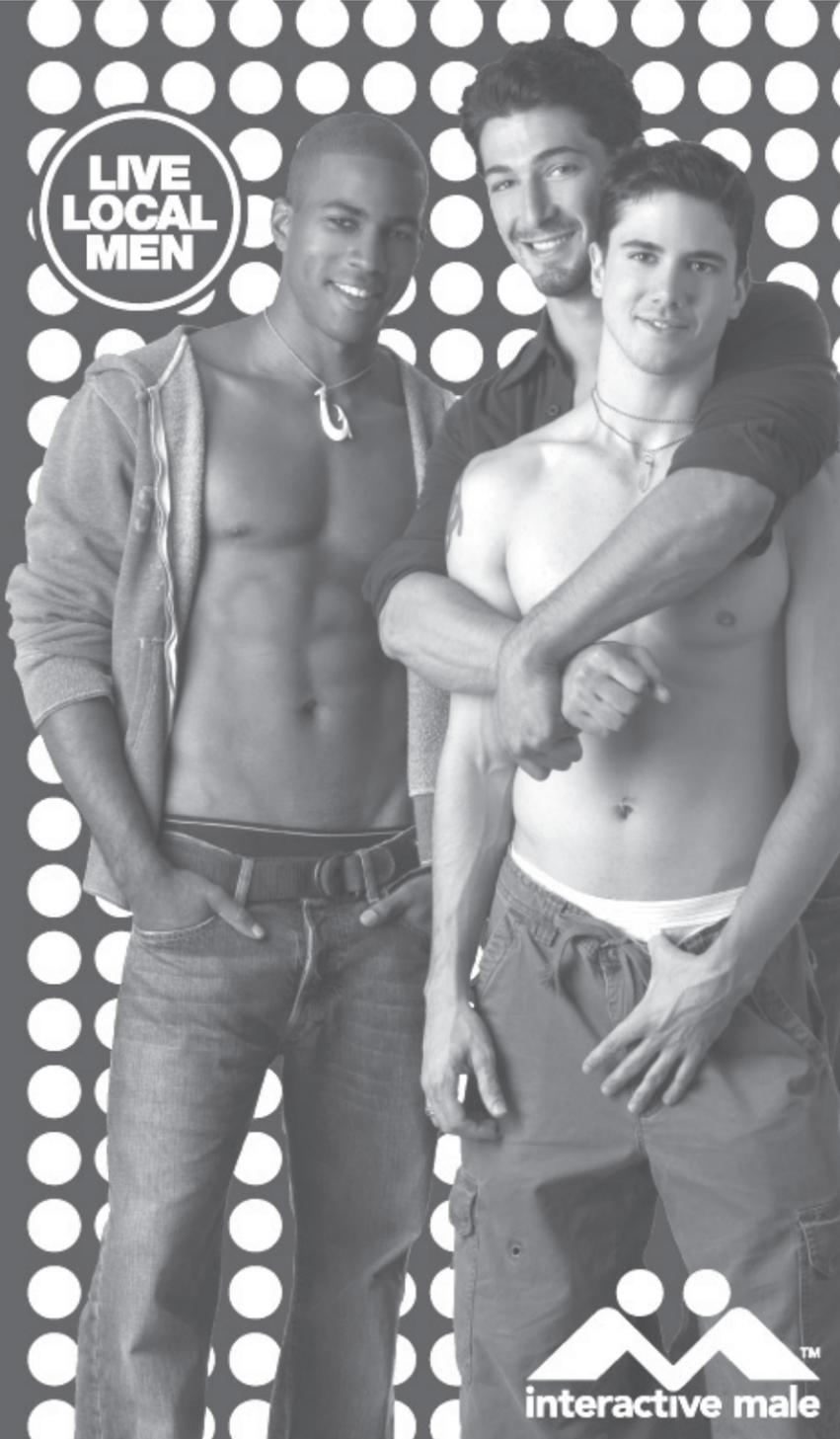
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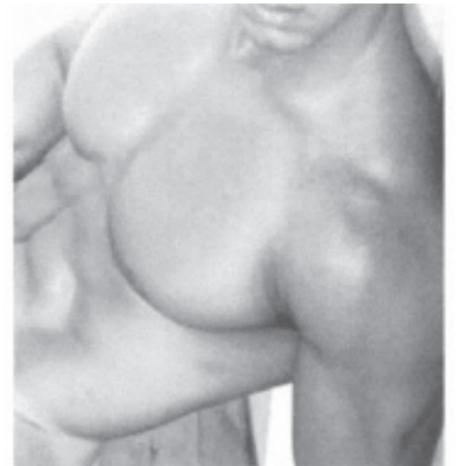
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COLORS - Open 11am. Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Lunch menu served 11am-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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. Brunch \$5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio open 1pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7p. \$2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

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. w/Special Happy Hour prices til 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. 1st Wednesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP.

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 w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. \$1 off to those wearing 80s concert t-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

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. "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 w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & 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 w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

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 - Open 10am.w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

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

saturday

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. 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 w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Miguazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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.

CASINOS
AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL
COMING ATTRACTIONS:(Box office 838-6700 - I-10 Exit Valencia West)
JUNE 16 - Reba /w Brad Paisley and Terri Clark
JUNE 27 - Tom Jones
JUNE 30 - Journey
JULY 3 - Paul Rodriguez
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)
JUNE 13 - Al Green

BAR CALENDAR
Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8
WOODY'S - Sarong Party. 8pm until closing. Party !!!

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Hot Jazz and Cool Martinis every Friday from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. Followed by 'Guys & Dolls' hosted by Lucinda Holliday and specials guests.

WOODY'S - June birthdays celebrated today. Sign up with your favorite bartender.

YARD DOG SALOON - DJ Shawn will be playing for dancing and listening on the air cooled patio beginning at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
YARD DOG SALOON - Eggs Benedict being served this morning starting at 10:00 a.m. Check it out!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
WOODY'S - Patio bar open from 1pm to closing. Brunch served 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (Includes Bloody Marty, Mimosa or Screwdriver). Beer Bust 2pm until 7pm. Sirloin Burgers 5pm - 9pm. Karaoke 9pm to closing. Sport Court open all day.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14
VENTURE-N - Spaghetti Nite by Ayce from 6 to 8 p.m. \$2.00 !

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15
Gay Men's Health Project "Beach Party" Underwear Night 8pm til Midnight.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
CONTINUED

JUNE 9 THRU 26
Arizona Onstage Productions, the company that brought "Falsettoland," last year's "Assassins" (winner of the MAC Award - Best musical of 2004) and this year's side splitting musical comedy "Ruthless" brings "A New Brain", a musical tale to Pima Community College Center for the Arts Black Box Theatre for 11 performances.

The story revolves around Gordon Schwinn - an openly Gay musical composer tired of writing for children's television shows. He discovers a brain disorder, and is faced with having dangerous surgery. He and his life partner Roger make decisions before surgery takes place. Along the way, the audience meets singing frogs, M.R.I. machines that turn into sailboats, and mothers smart enough to wear black to "hide the fat".

"A New Brain is the semi-autobiographical story of William Finn, the Tony-Award winner/composer/lyricist.

Tickets to Arizona Onstage Productions go fast. January's "Ruthless" was sold out for every performance. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for students/seniors. Call (520)206-6989 to get your tickets. Visit arizonaonstage.org for more information.

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDSWALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park, s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDSWALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run. Tucson's support of AIDSWALK over the years has made an important and lasting statement about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDSWALK attracts approximately 4,000 walkers annually and continues to enjoy strong corporate underwriting alliances.

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18. AIDSWALK Tucson 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 of 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.

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; Desert Girlz MTF Support meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Desert 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)

REVELLE 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 18 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



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