



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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'Protect Marriage, Ban G/L Weddings' Senators Told

WASHINGTON, D.C. - For more than an hour Thursday afternoon (Oct. 20) members of the Senate Sub Committee on the Judiciary heard from both foes and supporters of same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The sub committee was holding its first hearings on a new attempt to pass a constitutional amendment to prevent Gay and Lesbian couples from marrying.

"We will have to define marriage - the only question is who will do the defining - the people or the judges," Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) the sub committee chair and a supporter of the amendment.

Attempts by Republicans to pass the so-called Federal Marriage Amendment that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman failed last year. The measure was reintroduced in January. A House version was reintroduced in March.

Opponents of same-sex marriage told Senators on Thursday that judges are writing their own laws and only a constitutional amendment would "preserve the sanctity of marriage".

"They're playing cynical political games that threaten the security of American families," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

"While some senators are trying to appease their extremist base, millions of Americans who support equal rights and responsibilities for all families will see through these hearings. Not only would the amendment ban marriage for same-sex couples, but it would threaten domestic partnerships and civil unions. It's time for Washington to get back to helping all families, not hurting them."

ACLU Legislative Counsel Christopher E. Anders said Democrats and moderate Republicans must reject the new attempt to pass the measure.

"Discrimination has no place in our federal laws, and certainly not in the Constitution. That document exists to protect rights, not deny them," said Anders.

"With all the issues facing Congress right now, there is no reason to focus time and energy on denying marriage protections to same-sex couples," Anders added. "Hardworking, taxpaying Americans in loving relationships don't need lawmakers playing political games with their families."

Among those speaking in opposition to the amendment was Christopher Harris, an assistant professor of Pediatrics at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Harris, who is a Gay African-American, has a 3-year-old daughter and has been a pediatrician for almost 20 years.

Harris told Senators the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) found that there are no relevant studies of the effect of parental sexual orientation on children that show any measurable effect on the quality of parent-child relationships or the children's mental health and successful socialization.

He said that civil marriage can help foster psychosocial stability and financial and legal security as well as an augmented sense of societal acceptance and support.

To amend the Constitution, the legislation must be passed by a two-thirds majority in the House and in Senate and then ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures.

Arizona Together Update

TUCSON - The many events between October 8 - 11 - OUToberFest, the Latina/o Marriage Forum, Pride Parade, and the Coming Out Day party - were not only immense fun for all involved, but overwhelmingly productive!

Arizona Together was able to register forty (40) Domestic Partnerships with the City of Tucson, we signed up over 200 new volunteers to help us spread the word against CAP/PMA, we registered new voters in Pima County and handed out hundreds of stickers and flyers to educate people!

During these events it became clear that while many people knew of the CAP/PMA amendment, they did not know there was a way to fight back; many others did not even know there was an amendment. It is gratifying to know that we were able to educate so many people during these events, so that we can build an even stronger coalition to push back CAP's hate-based agenda. . . .

Stand Up and Be Counted! A new website, partnercensus.org, is collecting general information about how many unmarried straight couples, and Gay and Lesbian partners live in Arizona. Please visit this site and contribute your time and information for this critically important project - you don't have to provide your name but you can still be counted!

Want to Get Involved? There are many things you can do, large and small, to fight the CAP/PMA amendment:

If you would like to volunteer or want more information, just send Jess Knutson an email or sign up on the Web site of our Arizona Together statewide coalition. Consider helping with office tasks, or by joining our Speakers Bureau or one of our committees: Coalition Building, Faith, Political Change, Media, Social Change/Outreach to LGBT, Fundraising. . . .

Know a Group that May want to Join the Coalition? The Arizona Together coalition is non-partisan and invites membership from any group interested in advocating for equity, social justice and fair treatment for all LGBT and straight individuals and couples. For more information, email Jess Knutson, jk@aztogether.org or call (520) 624-1779, ext. 21.

Mother Of Modern Civil Rights Movement Dies



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - Dec. 1, 1955 - Rosa Parks Being Booked in jail for her refusal to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man. See story below.

DETROIT - [Editor's note: We mourn the loss of the woman known as the mother of the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks. On Dec. 1, 1955, Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress, made history simply by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Parks was arrested and sent to jail, but in the process, she helped to launch the modern civil rights movement. Rosa Parks was not the first African American woman to refuse to give up her seat. But hers became the test case to challenge the system, and she became an iconic figure of the civil rights movement. Rosa Parks was 92 years old.]

Rosa Louise Parks (Feb. 4, 1913 - Oct. 24, 2005) was an African American seamstress and figure in the American Civil Rights Movement, most famous for her refusal in 1955 to give up a bus seat to a white man who was getting on the bus.

Rosa Parks was born as Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama, daughter of James and Loeona McCauley. She grew up on a farm with her grandparents, mother, and brother; for most of her adult life she worked as a seamstress making white sheets.

In the early 1950s, Parks became active in the American Civil Rights Movement and worked as a secretary for the Montgomery, Alabama branch of the NAACP. Just six months before her arrest, she had attended the Highlander Folk School, an education center for workers' rights and racial equality.

On Dec. 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Parks refused to obey a public bus driver's orders to move to the back of the bus to make extra seats for whites. Rosa was tired of being treated as a second-class citizen and stood firmly. She was arrested, tried, and convicted for disorderly conduct as well as for violating a local ordinance.

The very next night, 50 leaders of the African American community, headed by relatively unknown minister Martin Luther King, Jr. gathered to discuss the proper actions to be taken after Mrs. Parks' arrest. What ensued next was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The

entire black community boycotted public buses for 381 days. Dozens of public buses stood idle for months until the law legalizing segregation in public buses was lifted. This event helped spark many other protests against segregation. In helping in this boycott, Rosa Parks helped make her fellow Americans aware of the history of the civil rights struggle.

In 1956 Parks's case ultimately resulted in United States Supreme Court's ruling that segregated bus service was unconstitutional.

Afterwards, Parks became an icon of the civil rights movement. She moved to Detroit in the early 1960s and served on the staff of U. S. Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan) from 1965 until 1988. She continued to reside in Detroit until her death.

Rosa Parks was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame for her achievements in civil rights in 1983.

After a lifetime of activity fighting racism, Parks was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. The Rosa Parks Library and Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, was dedicated to her in November 2001. It tells the story of the events leading up to her historic act of civil disobedience, and how her simple act connects to the larger tapestry of the civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks, who was also an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., is remembered as the "mother of the civil rights movement" and one of the most important Americans of the 20th century. Even after her death, she is considered a symbol of courage and determination and inspiration not only to African Americans but to freedom-loving people everywhere.

Rosa Parks died at the age of 92 on Monday, Oct. 24, at approximately 7 p.m. EST at St. John Hospital on the east side of Detroit. She suffered from dementia and lived in a nursing home for the last few years of her life. As of yet, no funeral plans have been announced to the public.

UPDATE

Observer Endorsements For Early Voting In Tucson General Election

TUCSON (ON) - As previously reported, early voting and voting by mail is presently ongoing for the City of Tucson general election, taking place Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Many Tucsonans are taking advantage of the two options offered for those readers of The Observer, and those who have requested an easy to carry list of the paper's recommendations to use when filling out their mail-in ballot or when they go to one of the City's satellite locations to vote prior to Nov. 8. Here the list again.

Tucson City Council - Ward 3, Karin Uhlich (D).

Tucson City Council - Ward 6, Nina Trasoff (D).

Proposition 100 - No.

Proposition 400 - No.

For more information, contact the Tucson City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213, or go online to: tucsonaz.gov/clerk/elections.php.

Early Voting Now Through Nov. 4

TUCSON - Early voting and voting by mail has begun for the three Tucson City Council seats up for consideration in this year's election. All registered voters in the city can vote for council members from Wards 3, 5 and 6.

Early ends Friday, Nov. 4. Tucson's general election, is Tuesday, November 8, and to be eligible, one must be a city resident, 18 years of age or older, and registered to vote.

Voters wishing to cast early ballots may do so either at the following locations: City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., City Clerk Election Services, 800 E. 12th St., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or the Wilmot Library, 530 N. Wilmot Road, on Monday's and Tuesday's from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday's and Saturday's from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday's from noon to 4 p.m. The last day to cast an early ballot at these locations is Nov. 4.

Voters also can cast early ballots by mail, and request an early ballot by filling out an online form at tucsonaz.gov/clerk, by calling (520) 884-8683, mailing a written request to City Clerk, P.O. Box 2031, Tucson AZ 85702-2031, or faxing a written request to (520) 791-2674. The last day to request an early ballot is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. All early ballots must be in the City Clerk's possession by 7 p.m. Tuesday Nov. 8 to be counted. For more information, call the Tucson City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213.

Senior Pride Halloween Party

TUCSON - The Senior Pride group will be hosting a Halloween Party, Oct. 29, 1 - 4 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Join them for a great costume event with dance, chat, snack and have an all around spooky time. An Informal costume contest with prizes will take place. Bring a snack to share (if you like) and dance music you like.

For more information, contact Pat Woelke, (520) 624-1779, pwoelke@wingspan.org.

Volunteer At Wingspan

TUCSON - Wingspan is looking for fabulous, compassionate, smart people to volunteer for their front desk, information referral service, and many other programs and services, Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center offers.

The next volunteer orientation will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, 10:00 -11:30 a.m. Volunteer opportunities are open to people of any sexual orientation and gender identity. People of color, bilingual speakers, youth, seniors, people living with AIDS, people with disabilities, sign language interpreters, and people with computer skills are encouraged to volunteer. So be a part of something larger! Learn new skills! Make new friends! Feel even better about yourself! You deserve it!

For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact Michael Woodward (520) 624-1779 or volunteer@wingspan.org.

A Tribute To Will Inman Oct. 29

TUCSON - The University of Arizona Poetry Center will host a tribute to well-known Arizona poet Will Inman, a supporter of LGBT rights, on Saturday, October 29, 4 - 6 p.m. at the Poetry Center, 1600 E. 1st Street (at Cherry Avenue).

This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot behind the Poetry Center and in non-reserved Zone 1 lots. This event will also celebrate a new major collection of Inman's selected poems, titled *Surfings*, published by Howling Dog Press of Colorado.

Participants will include Inman and *Surfings* co-editors David Ray and Michael Rattee. Others are invited to read or speak about Will Inman's work and influence in our community. Note from Clyde Appleton: Will has been a lifelong activist for peace and justice. He's now in poor health and living at Devon Gables. This tribute surely is deserved and it is overdue.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the Poetry Center. Requests should be made as early as

possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. For more information, contact Michael Rerick, (520) 626-3765, poetry@u.arizona.edu.

Old Pueblo Volleyball Group Forming

TUCSON - The annual recreational volleyball group is starting up again for it's eleventh year of fun, spiking and digging out shots.

This group plays every Saturday, 11 a.m., at Himmel Park (northwest corner, Tucson Blvd., and 1st St). Adults of all ages, LGBT and straight are welcome to join the fun.

For information, contact Dan, (520) 850-1247.



Dear Tucson Observer & Community:

In my effort to express TIHAN's public thanks to the many individuals and groups who helped raise an astounding \$26,000 at this year's "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show, I inadvertently omitted a few key people, for which I sincerely apologize.

First, a huge thank you to Merlin Cummins, for all his efforts with Turnabout. Merlin, the co-owner of the Yard Dog Saloon, was one of the "dogs" who performed in Ray Gregg's spectacular number "Mame/Who Let The Dogs Out?". Also, Merlin was instrumental in ticket sales for Turnabout at the Yard Dog, which sold an amazing number of tickets for the show. Thank you, Merlin!

Secondly, a big "thank you" to Dean R. Taylor and Grady Hopper for helping count the thousands of dollars that came in from the show. We are very grateful for your help!

Finally, thanks to Lori Madera for help with costumes and dressing for Marc Brunelle. Since TIHAN is an organization that relies so heavily on the volunteer efforts of community-minded individuals who give of their time and energy and skills, we do our best to recognize and thank those who make a difference in our community. Again, my thanks to Merlin, Dean, Grady, and Lori. And if I have left out anyone else, please accept my apologies and let me know so that I can be sure to thank you personally!

Scott Blades
Executive Director - TIHAN

In Their Own Words

"I want everyone to remember me as a person who wanted to be free." - Rosa Parks

"You treated her with deference because she was so quiet, so serene — just a very special person," adding that "there was only one" Rosa Parks. - U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-MI



How can I help?

? You can make a difference by volunteering with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation!

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***Client Support**
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***Speaker's Bureau**
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***Special Events**
***Fundraising**
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Volunteer orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our main office, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Sign up today!

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



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)
(520) 792-8382 (Fax)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.M-F

Office Closed Thursdays

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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COMMENTARY . . .

The Federal Marriage Amendment



By Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT

ate threat by those in black robes.

In the ensuing months, no States have been forced to recognize same-sex marriages. Rather, several States voted to amend their constitutions to ban same-sex marriage. The Defense of Marriage Act remains the law. Now, even more than last year, there is no imminent crisis that demands the diversion of Congress's attention from all these other urgent problems or that justifies an alteration of our founding document.

We heard a lot of rhetoric about "judicial activism" in last year's debate. The proponents of the FMA claimed that we had to pass it in order to prevent courts from inflicting same-sex marriage on the American people against their will. Ironically, the FMA - now renamed the Marriage Protection Amendment - would itself produce a wide range of litigation that judges would need to resolve.

We cannot say that other state courts will not someday follow the lead of the Republican-appointed judges in Massachusetts to interpret their State constitutions to allow Gay marriage within their States, or to recognize same-sex marriages entered into in other States. If this is "judicial activism," however, it is of the State-based variety. We should not adopt a doctrine of constitutional preemption. We should take the prudential course and respect State governments to be responsive to their citizenry.

As the Massachusetts experience has shown, State governments have the tools to respond to decisions they do not like without turning to the Federal government. As a general matter, State constitutions are more easily amended than our Federal Constitution, and in most States, judges are elected, providing an automatic check on their ability to act against the wishes of their citizenry.

By the same token, elected officials in a State may sometimes embrace a decision that the Senate Republican leadership would

consider "judicial activism." That is exactly what happened in my State, when each of the justices on the Vermont Supreme Court found in Baker v. Vermont that Vermont's marriage laws were unconstitutional because they denied the benefits associated with marriage to same-sex couples. The Vermont Supreme Court referred the matter to the Vermont Legislature, which passed a civil unions law, on a bipartisan basis, after lengthy and often heated deliberation.

I remember a time when leaving States in control of such issues as family law was an easy decision for Members on both sides of the aisle. I am disappointed that our Republican colleagues would endorse this broadly drafted amendment since it so clearly violates the traditions of Federalism and local control that their party, at least in the past, has claimed to respect and cherish.

The particular Federal solution that has been proposed, meanwhile, is exceedingly confusing and subject to interpretation. For example, who would be bound by the provisions of the Marriage Protection Amendment - State actors, private citizens, or religious organizations? What would constitute the "legal incidents" of marriage? Can a legislature pass a "civil unions" law that mirrors its marriage law in all respects, save the word "marriage?" Can the people of a State put protections for civil unions in their State constitution? What State actors are forbidden from construing their own constitutions - the judiciary only, or executive branch officials as well? Of particular concern to me is the fate of the Vermont civil unions that have been formed under the color of state law. Despite an initially contentious debate, this State law remains on the books five years later, and there has been no ensuing crisis in the lives of Vermont families. It is not clear to me, however, whether the proposed amendment would make this law unconstitutional. In short, while the language of the amendment before us has changed slightly from the original version, it raises the same concerns. I look forward to receiving testimony today that will illuminate the problems with the proposed language.

Academic discussion of the proposed language will be helpful but for some time now I have been asking President Bush to explain what language he supports when he gives speeches on the need for a constitutional amendment. Is the language that this subcommittee is considering today endorsed by the President? I note for the record that the White House has not sent a representative to offer his support or concern for the scope of this drastic proposal.

In addition to my concerns that this effort will trample on States' rights, we should all be aware of how the discrimination in such a measure will affect American families that currently exist in this country who seek the protection of civil unions and the acknowledgment of their committed relationships. As an American who has been married for 40 years, I am a great fan of the institution of marriage. I believe it is important to encourage and to sanction committed relationships. I continue to oppose measures such as the Federal Marriage Amendment. I do not think it is necessary and believe it would be a sad day for our nation if we amended our founding document for the first time to specifically disfavor a group of Americans. I hope that those who claim to care about healthy families will turn away from wedge politics and scapegoating so we can focus on, and I hope, properly address the variety of pressing issues already piling up on Congress's agenda.

[These remarks were delivered by Sen. Leahy at the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights Hearing on "An Examination of the Constitutional Amendment on Marriage," on October 20, when the Republican-controlled committee took up the Federal Marriage Amendment again.]



TUCSON'S HOTTEST GAY NIGHT CLUB

FRIDAYS

Noon - 8pm Happy Hour
4 - 9pm Martini Madness (Drink Specials on all Martinis)
9pm - Close DJ Mike Lopez Spinning on the Patio and DJ Q on the Dance Floor

SATURDAYS

5 - 8pm Karaoke on the Patio and Teriyaki Beef Kabobs #3 for Teriyaki Beef Kabobs and \$1 Draught Beer
8:30pm Showtime Starring Ajia Simone
10pm - Close DJ Q Spinning on the Dance Floor and DJ Mike Lopez on the Patio

SUNDAYS

Noon - 4pm Troy's Recovery Bar \$1.75 Bloody's and Screwdrivers
4 - 8:30pm Karaoke on the Patio
5:30 - 8pm Bar-B-Q to Benefit Community Charity
9pm - Close DJ Mike Lopez Spinning the Hottest Club Music

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DAILY SPECIALS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Hours: Noon - 2am</p> <p>Happy Hour: Noon - 8pm</p>	<p>Troy's Recovery Bar 12-4pm \$1.75 Mimosas & Bloody Marys Karaoke 4-7:30pm Beer Bust 5:30-7:30pm DJ Mike Lopez 10pm - Close <small>some restrictions apply</small></p>	<p>DJ Craig Carter Spinning the Hippest Music in Tucson! \$1.50 Well Vodka Drinks 10pm - Close</p>	<p>Tropical Tuesdays with DJ Craig Carter spinning music from the 70s, 80s and 90s \$2.50 Tropical Drinks 10pm - Close</p>	<p>The Best Premier Drag Shows in Town! 9pm The Divalicious Show Starring Bunny Fu Fu Dance with DJ Q 10:30-Close</p>	<p>Boyz Night Out Hot Bar Staff and GoGo Boyz dancing in their underwear \$1.75 Long Islands \$1.50 Tequila Shots 10pm - Close</p>	<p>Dance all night with DJ Mike Lopez spinning the best music in town! 9pm - Close</p>	<p>Beef Kabobs, Beer and Karaoke 5-8pm Drag Show 8:30pm - 10pm Party with DJ Mike Lopez 10pm - Close</p>

VENTURE-N
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UPDATE

Desert Voices Announces 17th Season



TUCSON - Get prepared for some amazingly magical moments as Desert Voices, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight chorus begins their 17th season of song.

The chorus has titled this season "Reaching Out" to as they continue their mission of building community through song and performing music that reflects and promotes positive images of the LGBT community.

This season the chorus will present two full concerts in Dec. 2005 and Apr. 2006, as well as holding their annual Silent Auction Fundraiser with Cabaret style entertainment in February of 2006. The chorus has already been asked to sing at five different community events in October and November and plans to bring their positive messages to the community as often as possible throughout the 05-06 season.

The concert season will open with "As We Dream By The Fire", on Saturday, Dec. 3-4, at Dunbar Auditorium, 325 W. 2nd Street, at the corner of Main Street and Second Street in Tucson. As always, the chorus combines songs that are familiar, new and slightly twisted (a la Desert Voices), under the talented leadership of director Chris Tackett, now in his third season with Desert Voices.

DV's Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser, Feb. 4, "A Passionate Affair," features shopping in abundance, just in time for Valentine's Day gift giving. Plan to bring your sweetie and let her or him pick out just the

right treasure. The fundraiser will be held at the Historic Y, 300 E. University, between 4th and 5th avenues in Tucson.

To close out their concert season, the chorus will be exploring the Ins and Outs of Gender Expression as only Desert Voices can, with "A Many-Gendered Fling" on Saturday, Apr. 29-30 30, 2006. This concert will have the chorus will taking a closer look at imposed gender definition, and the beauty and variety of self-expression in our community. The concert will feature exciting new choral arrangements of songs by Namoli Brennet performed by Desert Voices. It will be held at the Dunbar Auditorium, 325 W. 2nd Street in Tucson.

Season tickets are now being sold for both concerts and the Silent Auction Fundraiser for a discounted rate of \$40 (\$35 for Seniors and Students with ID). Advance tickets for individual shows can be purchased for \$15/\$12 per concert and \$20 for the Silent Auction fundraiser (no discounts). Tickets at the door will be \$18 for the concerts, if available. To order your tickets, call the Desert Voices office at (520)791-9662 (tickets may be charged by phone), or go to their website, www.desertvoices.org, to download a ticket order form. Antigone Books will also be selling tickets prior to each show.

The Desert Voices yard sale, previously planned for November 5, 2005, has been postponed. Watch their website for more information about this fundraiser in the future.

Don't miss a moment of Desert Voices' exciting Season 17! Get your tickets today!

Woody's
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Woody's Halloween Weekend Party
Saturday Halloween Costume Party and Contest

\$100.00 1st \$50.00 2nd \$25 3rd Place

Sunday Karaoke
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\$75 Scariest Face at 11PM

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TIHAN Receives Grant From AGRA

PHOENIX - Ron Trusley, Vice President of AGRA, presented the check for \$1,261.00 at Charlie's, the popular country-western bar in Phoenix where AGRA holds its monthly meetings, to IBT's Peter Sittig, who drove to Phoenix to represent TIHAN and accept the check. The grant comes from the proceeds of last Jan. 20, 2005 AGRA rodeo held in Phoenix. "TIHAN is proud to be chosen to receive part of the funds from the Gay rodeo, and we are very grateful to AGRA, its volunteers, and the Gay rodeo community in Arizona," commented Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN.



LGBT Leaders Remember Rosa Parks

WASHINGTON, D.C. - LGBT civil rights groups are remembering the role played by Rosa Parks on the beginning of the fight for Gay rights in America, reported 365Gay.com. Parks died Monday night at age 92.

Nearly 50 years ago, she made a simple decision that sparked a revolution for Black equality and served as an inspiration for the women's movement, the anti-war protests of the 60s and the Gay rights movement that followed.

Parks story began when a white man demanded she give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus, the then 42-year-old seamstress said no. At the time, she couldn't have known it would secure her a revered place in American history. But her one small act of defiance galvanized a generation of activists, and earned her the title "mother of the civil rights movement."

"I think her legacy is the way she demonstrated how one person can make a difference, how a movement is built on the acts of individuals," Lambda Legal executive director Kevin Cathcart told 365Gay.com. "Her inspiration to all of us is that individual people can create great changes."

"Rosa Park's acts of courageous defiance clearly demonstrate how one person can awaken the conscience of a nation," said Ray T. Daniels, a spokesperson for the National Black Justice Coalition. "It is this indomitable spirit that will continue to motivate those who strive for equal rights for all and fairness for all families."

In 1955, Jim Crow laws in place since the post-Civil War Reconstruction required separation of the races in buses, restaurants and public accommodations throughout the South, while legally sanctioned racial discrimination kept blacks out of many jobs and neighborhoods in the North.

Mrs. Parks, an active member of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was riding on a city bus Dec. 1, 1955, when a white man demanded her seat. She refused, despite rules requiring blacks to yield their seats to whites. Two black Montgomery women had been arrested earlier that year on the same charge, but Mrs. Parks was jailed. She also was fined \$14.

Following the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969 a number of the demonstrators said they took their inspiration for protest from Parks.

"Rosa Parks told us to stand up for what we believe in," James Esseks, litigation director for the ACLU told 365Gay.com. "While no two civil rights struggles are the same, she was an inspiration to all of us who are working to make sure America treats all of its citizens equally."

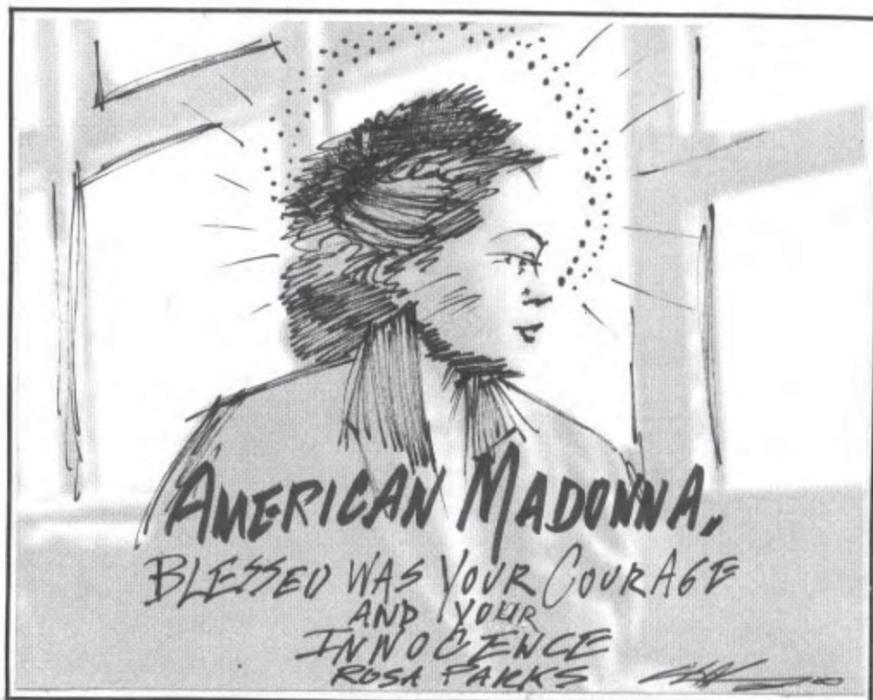
"With one simple yet extraordinary action, Rosa Parks made our nation a better and fairer place for all Americans," Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese said in a statement. "By insisting on the dignity and respect every human being deserves, Parks boldly moved the country toward fairness. Parks didn't stop on the bus, but kept going, working throughout her life to make the world a better place. With her passing, a true legend is lost but an inspiring imprint will always remain."

Last year when New Paltz mayor Jason West announced he would perform same-sex weddings despite a state law barring them he invoked Parks' name. "The people who would forbid Gays from marrying in this country are those who would have made Rosa Parks sit in the back of the bus," West declared.

Later in 2004 San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom in a speech at the John Kennedy School of Government at Harvard said that his issuing of some 4,000 same-sex marriage licenses last year was akin to the actions of Rosa Parks during the civil rights movement.



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G/L Homecoming King & Queen Elected By High School

BUFFALO GROVE - The homecoming king and queen of Buffalo Grove [Ill.] High School in suburban Chicago are a jock and a cheerleader, but they're far from typical. The boy is

the cheerleader, the girl is the jock, and they're both openly Gay, reported Sirius Out-Q on Advocate.com.

Jen Wohlner and Ryan Cooperman are popular leaders at the school. Wohlner plays sports and went to her prom with another girl last year. Cooperman is on the cheerleading squad. NBC-Five Chicago reports classmates cheered thunderously when the two were chosen homecoming king and queen last week. Wohlner says it shows the school, "and maybe the generation as a whole, is just a little more progressive."

But there's always someone standing by ready to rain on the homecoming parade. Peter LaBarbera of the Illinois Family Institute complained to NBC-Five that "something once sort of universally regarded as a sin is now becoming sort of cool in high school."



U.S. Attorney Investigates Anti-L/G White House Shill



Armstrong Williams

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The US Attorney's office has begun an inquiry into the use by the Bush administration of anti-Gay commentator Armstrong Williams to promote its so-called marriage initiative, reported 365Gay.com.

The probe was launched following a request from the Education Department after months of pressure by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)

The Government Accountability Office has concluded that the Education Department engaged in illegal "covert propaganda" by hiring Williams to promote the No Child Left Behind Act without requiring him to disclose that he was being paid. The Education Department's inspector general also reviewed the Williams deal.

Earlier this year 365Gay.com reported that Williams was paid nearly a quarter million dollars by the White House to promote the President's agenda in his columns and nationally syndicated talk show. Williams is a former aide to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. In a column following the November 2 election Williams linked Gay rights advocates with organized crime.

"Despite the rhetoric that you hear from the homosexual Cosa Nostra, the lack of support for the Gay marriage amendment has nothing to do with prejudice," he wrote. "It's not about trying to dictate to adults what they should do in the privacy of their own homes. Let's be clear about that. Opposition to the Gay marriage amendment isn't about disallowing homosexuals the same basic rights we extend to everyone else. It is about recognizing that marriage between man and woman is the bedrock of our society. It is about the citizens of this country saying, en masse, that they are unwilling to deconstruct certain basic and essential norms in our culture and society."

After Williams was exposed the White House pulled the plug on the operation, but sources close to the investigation say that Williams did not return any of the money, nor did the administration request it.

The U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia is investigating whether Williams accepted public money without performing his required duties. The attorney's office has a range of potential remedies, from suing to recover the money to possible criminal charges,

"The inspector general wouldn't refer this to the U.S. attorney unless there was evidence of misconduct that requires further investigating," Dan Katz, Lautenberg's chief counsel, told the Associated Press.

After Williams was exposed two other cases came to light where the administration hired journalists to promote its agenda in the guise of unbiased commentary and news. Syndicated conservative columnists Maggie Gallagher and Michael McManus were paid by the administration to promote the marriage initiative. In 2003 Gallagher testified before a Senate subcommittee in support of a constitutional ban on Gay marriage but failed to mention she was on the White House payroll. McManus, whose syndicated column, "Ethics & Religion," appeared in 50 newspapers, was hired as a subcontractor by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Investigation Of Bloch Bias Issue Begins



Special Counsel Scott Bloch

Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) on Tuesday. In recent months, the case has been supplemented with new allegations against Bloch for supplying misleading information to Congress and misusing his office to support a person espousing creationist views even though the Office of the Special Counsel had no jurisdiction in the matter, PEER said. Bloch previously served as deputy director for the Justice Department's Task Force for Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

Violations against Bloch include failing to uphold the long-standing interpretation of federal law that protects federal civil service employees from discrimination based upon sexual orientation, according to the Human Rights Campaign, one of the organizations that lodged the complaint. According to PEER, the grievance specified instances of illegal gag orders, cronyism, invidious discrimination and retaliation in forcing the resignations of a number of his legal and investigative staff. The White House and the Office of Personnel Management's director Linda Springer have stated that federal law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in government jobs.

"No bureaucrat has the right to single-handedly roll back decades-old protections for workers securing our homeland and protecting our nation's health," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. He said OPM's Inspector General should reel in a "renegade appointee" who has "ignored the law to satisfy his own extremist agenda."

This is the third probe involving Bloch in less than two years in office. The Government Accountability Office and a U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. - After a seven-month delay, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management has begun investigating the alleged misconduct of Special Counsel Scott Bloch, who refused earlier this year to enforce a policy protecting federal workers from bias based on sexual orientation, reported the PlanetOut Network.

In March, a coalition of whistleblower protection and civil rights groups filed a complaint against the former ethics attorney for violating the very nondiscrimination laws his office is charged with enforcing.

Documents acknowledging that the probe would begin were released by Public

Continued on Page Seven

Investigation Of Bloch Bias Issue Begins

Continued from Page Six

subcommittee both have ongoing investigations. In June, openly Gay Reps. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., joined more than 80 colleagues who called for President Bush to preserve the ban on civil service discrimination. The letter was sent in response to Bloch's refusal during an appearance before a Senate subcommittee to enforce the policy. The dispute first arose shortly after Bloch was named to run OSC, and he cast

doubt on the validity of the discrimination ban, Frank's office said. Bloch, who joined the office in early 2004, also removed any references to the policy from his agency's Web site.

PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch called Bloch "just another in the growing line of unqualified Bush appointees who manage to make huge messes after just months in office." An OPM spokesman told PlanetOut that he "can't comment on any ongoing investigation."

Etheridge: I Used Medicinal Marijuana



Melissa Etheridge

NEW YORK - Melissa Etheridge says she smoked medicinal marijuana to help with the side effects of chemotherapy during her

treatment for breast cancer, reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network.

The 44-year-old singer, who was diagnosed over a year ago, is now cancer-free. "Instead of taking five or six of the prescriptions, I decided to go a natural route and smoke marijuana," Etheridge said in an interview that aired Sunday (Oct. 16) on "Dateline NBC."

When asked how her doctors reacted, Etheridge says, "Every single one was, 'Oh, yeah. That's the best help for the effects of chemotherapy.'" The singer said she smoked marijuana every day for her pain and symptoms and "the minute I didn't feel it, I stopped."

The use of marijuana with a doctor's recommendation is legal in California and nine other states, but is against federal law. Asked if she was concerned about federal prosecution, Etheridge replied, "No, I didn't worry. But it was worth it." She recently released a new greatest hits album, "The Road Less Traveled," including the new song "I Run for Life," which is dedicated to the fight against breast cancer.

Pro Gay Judge Lauds Judicial Independence



Chief Justice Margaret Marshall

BOSTON - The chief justice of the highest court in Massachusetts, who led a 4-3 ruling that extended marriage rights to same-sex couples under the Massachusetts constitution in 2003, says the independence of judges may be more important today than when the nation was founded. Margaret Marshall is only the second woman appointed to the supreme judicial court since it was founded in 1692, making it the oldest appellate court in the Western Hemisphere. She also is the first woman to be its chief justice, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

Massachusetts is the first and only state to approve same-sex marriage, an issue that prompted 11 other states, including Oregon, to adopt constitutional bans on same-sex unions last November in the 2004 general election. Marshall since has been speaking about protecting judicial independence, especially when rulings may be unpopular. "Judicial independence is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end—a government under the rule of law," Marshall said in a speech Monday at Willamette University in Salem, Ore. "When the

rule of law is broken, we have government by opinion poll."

Marshall said courts have a duty to act as a check and balance on unrestrained majorities. After delivering the annual John C. Paulus Lecture at the university's law school, Marshall was asked whether laws against same-sex marriage might eventually be dropped. "Ask me in 16 years; I do not have a clue," Marshall said. "The main thing about having decided a case is that you go on to the next case." But she noted that it was a state court, the California supreme court in 1948, that overturned a ban on interracial marriage nearly 20 years before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down similar bans in 16 states. "State courts are proving grounds for a vast array of problems," Marshall said.

Judges in Massachusetts are screened by a committee, appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the governor's council, an elected body. But unlike their counterparts in Oregon and elsewhere, they do not have to run for election on their own. Marshall said that provision is in the original 1780 Massachusetts constitution, which calls for judges "as free, impartial, and independent as the lot of humanity will admit." It is listed under the state bill of rights, which Marshall said John Adams and others drafted as a safeguard against abuses by the British colonial government.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Again, Lather, Lie, Rinse & Repeat

In the column entitled "Lather, Lie, Rinse & Repeat," for this publication (Observer #1109), this reporter showed readers that long time strategy of the radical right that if a lie is repeated, the mainstream media will pick up the fabrication and publish it, and less than 72 hours after publication (print/online) of the column, another example of this took place in Arizona.

'prohibition' and 'benefits,' this poll language is closest to the actual language of the amendment. For that reason, I would pay much more attention to this poll than any other."

Again, "lather, lie, rinse and repeat." Here's why:

A story in the Friday, Oct. 21 edition of the Arizona Republic newspaper, by reporter Chip Scutari, entitled "Poll hints wide support for ban on same-sex marriage," discusses the paper's recent survey conducted on same-sex marriage, writing, "... most voters would support a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, but the survey didn't touch on the most controversial part of the ballot measure: denying benefits to unmarried couples." Thirty-seven percent of those surveyed opposed, 57 percent supported a ban.

Protect Marriage Arizona, the group spearheading the petition drive, disguised as the Center for Arizona Policy, the extreme, right-wing group really behind the measure, filed their paperwork, on May 16, 2005, and for which the language reads: "To preserve and protect marriage in this state, only a union between one man and one 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."

"It is good to see polling results that clearly show Arizona voters supporting the Protect Marriage Amendment," Nathan Sproul, a consultant for the group pushing the initiative, said for Scutari in the article.

In the Arizona Republic poll, only one question was asked on whether people would support a state constitutional ban on same sex marriage. Only one question was asked while another poll, conducted by Arizona State University pollster Bruce Merrill for Phoenix Public Television station KAET in September asked voters whether they would favor an initiative that includes a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, as well as the PMAA, which if approved, denies public benefits to unmarried domestic partners. Sixty percent of those who responded to that question said they would oppose the (PMAA) initiative. According to a press release from Merrill dated Sept. 27, 41 percent opposed while 49 supported a ban on just same-sex marriage to the first question of two that was asked.

Scutari, in the same article, writes the following items, blurring the intent of the actual initiative, known as the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA):

"... Opponents of the initiative say its wording clearly would deny government benefits to domestic partners. Proponents say the wording doesn't go that far."

"The disagreement over the true reach of the initiative is expected to be at the heart of an expensive and heated campaign over the initiative, which would be on the November 2006 ballot. Backers of the plan praised the latest poll results because they said it was the most accurate wording of what voters are most likely to see on the ballot. ..."

According to the Arizona Secretary of State's office, under state law (A.R.S. Title 19), petitions for initiatives and referendums to be placed on the ballot must contain the language of the proposed measure. That language must be consistent on the initial paperwork filed, the petitions circulated as well as for the voters' publicity pamphlet and the ballot. If any changes are to be made, all the paperwork, according to A.R.S. Title 19, must be refiled, new petitions with the changes in language must be issued and those signatures gathered prior to the change must be thrown out and will not be counted. More than 183,917 valid signatures of registered Arizona voters will be needed to place a measure on the Arizona 2006 general election ballot.

"Opponents are seizing on the phrase 'no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created.' ... Their strategy will be to emphasize that the ballot measure isn't just about Gay marriage; Arizona already bans such unions. They're confident support will wane when voters realize it could affect benefits for unmarried heterosexual couples."

Scutari goes on to state the actual language of the initiative but doesn't dispute or challenge Sproul on his comments, or discuss Arizona law on initiatives and referendums, which could be construed as an attempt to mislead the readers on what they may face on the 2006 general election ballot.

Protect Marriage Arizona, as of press time, has not refiled their paperwork, changing the language of their proposal, according to the Arizona's Secretary of State Website, azsos.gov, so they are continuing their effort to gather the signatures needed while distorting the intent of their measure, or "again, lather, lie, rinse and repeat."

This article was picked up on by Paul Davenport of the Associated Press, in an Oct. 21 article entitled, "Marriage amendment supported by most Arizonans," for which the Arizona Daily Star, Tucson's morning daily newspaper, as well as two national LGBT web sites, advocate.com and 365Gay.com all ran the story, putting across the misconstrued notion that it will "depend upon the wording of the initiative."

Contact: Arizona Republic - Chip Scutari - reporter, Chip.Scutari@arizonarepublic.com. Arizona Republic - Ward Bushee - editor, ward.bushee@arizonarepublic.com. Associated Press, Paul Davenport, info@ap.org. Advocate.com - feedback@advocate.com. 365Gay.com - editor@365gay.com. Arizona Daily Star - David Stoeffler, dstoeffler@azstarnet.com.

Seizing upon this, at the Center for Arizona Policy's website, in their "Family Facts Newsletter" dated Oct. 19, Lynden Munsil, head of the right-wing, homophobic organization writes, "... A few weeks back I told you not to panic when poorly-written polls seemed to suggest opposition to the Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment. Now we have proof that wording is everything in these polls. A brand-new Arizona Republic poll shows the PMAA up by 20 points - 57 to 37, with 6 percent undecided. While other polls have emphasized words that are not in the actual amendment - words like



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Conservatives And Democrats Agree, Miers Won't Be Confirmed

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A Democrat on the Senate committee that will consider Harriet Miers' nomination said Sunday that President Bush's Supreme Court choice lacks the votes now to be confirmed, saying there are too many questions about her qualifications, reported 365Gay.com.

"If you held the vote today, she would not get a majority either in the Judiciary Committee or the floor," said Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY). On the 18-member GOP-controlled committee, "there are one or two who said they'd support her as of now."

Miers, a longtime Bush confidante who has never been a judge, was nominated to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The nomination has troubled some conservatives who say it was a risky choice because Miers was a blank slate on issues such as abortion and Gay rights.

Democrats, too, have expressed concerns about her support for anti-Gay sodomy laws, contradictions in her position on legal protections for people with HIV/AIDS and whether the current White House counsel could sever her close ties to Bush and rule independently once she were on the bench.

"The hearings will be make or break for Harriet Miers in a way they haven't been for any other nominee," Schumer said on NBC's "Meet the Press" (Oct. 23). "She'll have to do very well there. She has a tough road to hoe."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) rejected suggestions that the White House was considering whether to withdraw Miers' nomination. Hutchison said the former Dallas lawyer is highly qualified and deserves to present her case. Confirmation hearings are set to begin Nov. 7. "She is the only one whose entire career is in private practice," Hutchison said, in contrast to the current justices. "I can't imagine not having someone with practical real-world experience."

Sens. Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Lindsey Graham, (R-SC) have asked the White House to release more information on the nonlegal work Miers has performed there over the past five years. Brownback, a Judiciary Committee member, cited concerns he had about Miers' views on affirmative action following reports that she supported diversity and numerical set-asides when she was president of the State Bar of Texas. "I do think we're going to have to see more information - not attorney-client privilege type information, but more information of the work product that she was involved with at the White House that was not of a legal nature but that's of a policy nature," Brownback told "Fox News Sunday" (Oct. 23).

Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, the ranking Democrat on the committee, agreed. "The president has based that decision based on what he's seen her do in the White House. We ought to at least know what she did in the White House," he said.

The head of the Democratic National Committee, Howard Dean, said it was his guess that Miers would not be confirmed if the White House failed to provide the request documents. "We have no idea what this woman's record is about. She's obviously an accomplished attorney. The question is what does she believe. We have no idea," Dean told ABC's "This Week" (Oct. 23). "We've got to see what she wrote for the president when she was his legal counsel," he said.

Walgreens Attacked For Gay Game Support

CHICAGO - Walgreens is the latest company to come under fire by a conservative Christian group for its support the 2006 Gay Games to be held in Chicago, 365Gay.com reported.

The drug store chain has given games organizers \$100,000 and has been named a Platinum-level sponsor of the event. But, the Illinois Family Institute is calling for the company to take back the money. The institute, which already has begun a campaign against Kraft Foods and Harris Bank which have each contributed \$25,000 to the games, says that if Walgreens does not disassociate itself from the games it will encourage its members to stop patronizing the company's stores.

"The Gay Games are about homosexuality, and I think it's wrong for Walgreens to sponsor it," Peter LaBarbera, executive director of the Illinois Family Institute told the Chicago Tribune. "They've taken the step of becoming an official sponsor, which is putting the Walgreens name to endorsing this event."

The company, like Kraft and Harris, shows no sign of caving in to the institute's demands. A Walgreens spokesperson said that the company is participating in the Gay Games to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

LaBarbera said he has no problem with AIDS awareness and education because: "Homosexual behavior itself is a leading cause of HIV." But he said that he is opposed to an event to promote Gay athletes to do it in. "If they want to donate HIV drugs, that's one thing," LaBarbera said.

Despite the bluster and threats of boycotts the institute has had little effect on fundraising Tracy Baim, co-vice chair of Chicago Games told the Tribune. "They keep doing this, and corporate America keeps coming," said Baim. "When we meet with [potential] sponsors, we are very upfront with being targeted by the IFI. It brings a higher visibility to the discrimination we face."

In May the institute and the American Family Association began an effort to get Kraft Foods to end its relationship with the games.

The Gay Games will take place in Chicago from July 15 - 22. Over 12,000 athletes from more than 100 countries will compete in 30 sports ranging from softball to dancesport, swimming to tennis.

Device Reminds HIV Patients To Take Their Medicine

BALTIMORE - A cell phone-size device that reminds HIV patients to take their medications is particularly useful in helping those with slightly impaired memory to stick to their dosing regimens, researchers report in the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases, reported Advocate.com.

The portable Disease Management Assistance System, dubbed "Jerry" by the Johns Hopkins University researchers, can be programmed to deliver a voice reminder to users to tell them when to take their drugs.

The researchers found that among memory-impaired patients, those who used the system had a 77% adherence rate, compared with 57% of those who did not. The researchers conclude that HIV patients who occasionally forget to take their lifesaving drugs could significantly improve their adherence rate with consistent use of devices like "Jerry."



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Judge Nixes Ex-Gay Injunction

Commercial Appeal reported.

"We're still very encouraged and we believe the court will eventually rule in our favor," said Nathan Kellum, counsel for LIA. "There are no disputed facts, it's just a question of the state misapplying the statute of licensure."

Love In Action's stated mission is "the prevention or remediation of unhealthy and destructive behaviors facing families, adults and adolescents," including promiscuity, pornography and homosexuality. The company has drawn protests from Gay rights advocates, who Love In Action claims were instrumental in getting the state to inspect the facility and push for its closing. The Love In Action organization came to national attention earlier this year when a teenager complained he was being sent to the facility by his parents in an attempt to "turn him straight."

On his web log 16-year-old from Bartlett, Tenn., and said his parents "tell me that there is something psychologically wrong with me. ... I'm a big screwup to them, who isn't on the path God wants me to be on. So I'm sitting here in tears ... and I can't help it."

MEMPHIS - A federal judge has refused to allow Love In Action ministry, which claims to counsel Gay clients to turn straight, to continue "treating people," 365Gay.com reported.

An injunction was sought against an order from the state Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities, which found that the organization's two Memphis facilities were controlling patients' access to their prescription medication and thus needed to be licensed as a mental health facility.

Love In Action International Inc. has sued the state to oppose being required to get a license. It claims that the facility did not restrict access to medication, but kept it in a central location to prevent theft and tampering. The ministry is being represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, an Arizona-based Christian legal organization, that regularly fights Gay rights issues.

U.S. District Judge Bernice Donald denied the motion Friday (Oct. 21), The

Vermont Legislators To Congress: Grant Same-Sex Partner Benefits

MONTPELIER - More than half of Vermont's 180 lawmakers have signed a letter calling on Congress to make civil-union partners eligible for federal programs like Social Security and military survivor benefits, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

"We urge you to extend the same federal statutory legal benefits and protections offered to married couples to those couples who have entered into a state-sanctioned civil union," said the letter signed by 97 Vermont legislators to House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Vermont became the first jurisdiction in the world to offer the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples when it enacted its civil union law in 2000. From the beginning, though, the state law has not applied to federal benefits for which spouses in a heterosexual marriage are eligible.

Kevin Blier of the Center For American Cultural Renewal, which opposes Gay marriage and civil unions, said what the letters signers are seeking would violate the U.S. Constitution's equal protection clause because it would grant rights to a class of Vermonters not available to residents of states that don't recognize civil unions. "Vermont needs to be a responsible steward in our federal system and respect the public policy of other states," Blier said in a statement. "I ask, do Vermonters want Nevada's prostitution laws imposed on us?"

Benefits sought for civil union partners include federal inheritance rights, veterans' benefits, immunity in federal court from being compelled to testify against a spouse, tax benefits available to married couples filing jointly, immigration rights and others.

"I'm the only (Vermont) state legislator with a civil union," said Rep. Jason P. Lorber, D-Burlington. "My partner and I are very happy to have a civil union. It's un-American to discriminate. We shouldn't be giving certain benefits only to straight people." Lorber said he has a cousin who has a partner of more than 10 years. "Her partner is European and doesn't have U.S. citizenship," he said. "They've gone through all the different channels with immigration. They

can't marry, so she (his cousin's partner) can't become a U.S. citizen." He said the couple had decided to move to Canada. "You shouldn't have to choose between your country and the love of your life."

The lawmakers' letter quotes comments by President Bush last year in which he said he did not oppose states offering civil unions to same-sex couples.

"The granting of federal statutory benefits and protections to individuals who have already entered into a state-sanctioned civil union would not constitute the equivalent of establishing a federal definition of marriage," said the letter, whose lead signers were Vermont House Speaker Gaye Symington and Senate President Pro Tem Peter Welch. "Rather, it would enable these individuals to exercise all of the benefits and privileges intended in a state civil union law," it added.

Lorber said he did not know what sort of reception the letter would receive in a Congress controlled by conservative Republicans. He said he did not believe that granting spousal benefits to civil union partners would violate the federal Defense of Marriage Act. The new law the letter is seeking would refer to civil unions and not marriages, he said. Lorber said Welch and Symington would give the letter to Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., so he can bring it back to Washington.

That presentation was to be made when Frank, who is Gay, speaks at a Democratic fundraiser in Burlington Friday evening (Oct. 21) that is being hosted by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Vermonters and their supporters.



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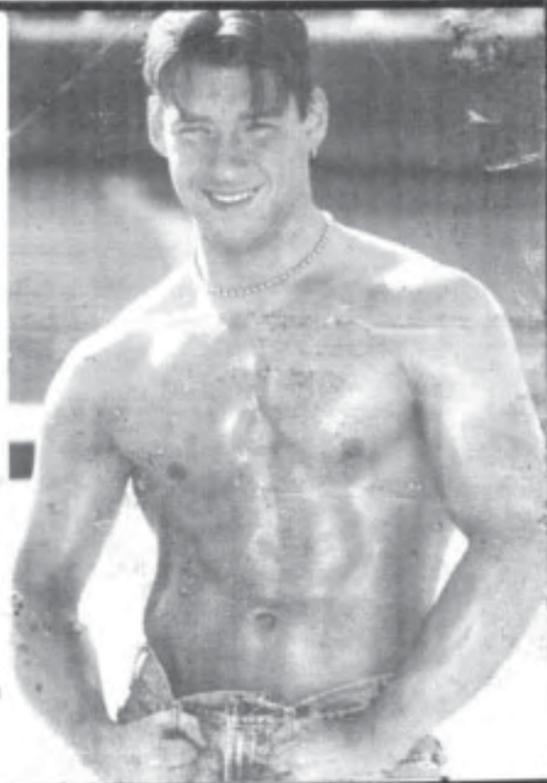
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HOROSCOPES

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The Sun moves into intense Scorpio and encourages us to create new approaches to everyday issues. We find ourselves brooding over the details and carefully crafting a line of attack. Don't be haunted by feelings of guilt. By next week we can enjoy the treat of tricks, or something like that.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

Turn up the heat on your sexual soup to a steamy boil. What proud Ram can resist such an aroma? There is more to this passionate madness than first meets the eye. In the course of Sun in Scorpio, you find clues about yourself and what makes you tick. So after you tire of looking deeply into someone else, turn that interest inward and gain a few new personal insights.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

You can strut and fret your hour upon the stage queer Bull but it's a helluva bore doing it without an appreciative audience. Thankfully, Sun in Scorp sheds a warm light on relationships so expect an enthusiastic crowd of at least one to applaud your scenes. Share the love and forge a commitment. Don't award winners say "I owe it all to my partner?" If not, they should!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Sun in Scorp highlights work and any health related enterprises. The job goes much easier now and pink Twins can accomplish a great deal of work in a relatively short amount of time. Even more important however are the beneficial effects of a revamped diet or exercise regime. Get those potentially beautiful buns to a trainer. Remember it's always g string season!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

As Sun travels through Scorpio, pink Crabs are encouraged to kick up their claws and have a rollicking good time. You know how to make merry, but don't waste this valuable creative energy on silly nonsense, tempting as it may be. Try to rev up your artistic Gay muse and create something beautiful, wonderful and inspired. Okay it can also be the numero uno party of the year.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Proud Lions can explore their genealogical roots and branches. Talk to your parents and see what you can discover about your background; you may be pleasantly surprised.... or shocked! While you're at it, give your relatives insight into the true lavender you. And there may be some kissing cousins in the background. Is that a spindly twig or a strong new branch?

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

If the words don't come, take a deep breath try again after the Sun enters Scorp. Queer Virgins have great oratory prowess now and can unleash an eloquence that fuels their great ideas. Say what you feel right from the heart. Who knows, one of your manifestoes could really gain traction. Not a moment too soon. Watch your toes as the steamroller gets into motion. Ouch!

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Invest your pennies carefully with Sun in Scorp. Use the week to review the bottom line and plan a cogent fiscal and retirement strategy. Gay Libras have a particularly clear vision of what will and will not work for them financially, but the real secret to success is to not become too greedy and reckless. And yet, is it really possible to be too greedy? Never!

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Sun in your own sign gives you confidence and great stage presence. Proud Scorps can use this affirming time to meet scads of new people as well as set their personal agenda for the next few months. Mount your marketing campaign and take it on the road, compadre. And while you're at it, be the diva of the day and fully enjoy your birthday celebration. Err, let 'em eat cake?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Gay Archers feel in the pink spiritually when the Sun traipses in Scorp. You seem to be able to sense friend from foe and can overcome any hidden obstacles that shadowy enemies try to place in your path. A bright light shines in even the most hidden corners of your life and chases the demons away. So breathe free cousin and empty out that rancid closet of yours. Tag sale anyone?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Seek and strengthen friendships and the social ties that bind while the Sun enters Scorpio. Pink Caps feel their oats in any social endeavor (and with any luck, you'll feel someone else's too). Gather the forces and launch a Gay get together. But don't become too selfish and greedy. It isn't a case of "What's mine is mine and what's yours is mine". Only steal the best and leave the rest.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Your professional prospects brighten as the Sun enters Scorpio. Put your efforts into building a stronger career path for yourself. Although Aqueerians are usually content to play second fiddle rather than first string, you are now encouraged to get much more involved. However you take control, I know that you will be a benevolent impresario when you get on top... Very impressive!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

Guppies get itchy fins with Sun in Scorpio. If you have an opportunity to travel in the next few weeks, do so. You will find it expansive and invigorating. Open yourself up to all sorts of new and exotic stimuli to gain a new perspective on life. Have you considered going back to school and learning a thing or three? Well, maybe just take a photography class and see what develops.

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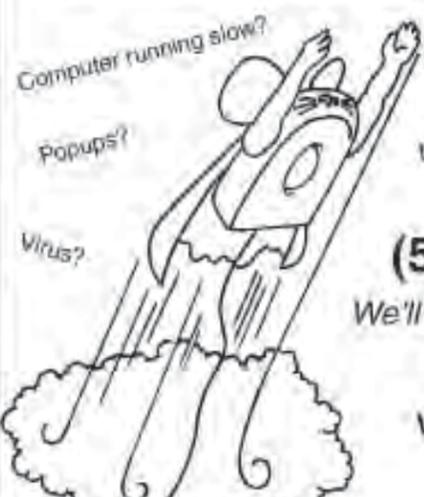
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Good Show

by Lee Thorn

My favorite Tucson art gallery, Davis Dominguez at 154 W. 6th, has put up another great show. It features paintings by Charlotte Bender and Duncan Martin, but it includes about a dozen other artists. The guy that runs the place would probably say that the other artists aren't technically part of the show. I say that any such distinction is perfectly meaningless to a gallery visitor.

I decided to write about it because I can't remember the last time I saw so many interesting paintings in one exhibit. At the same time I've got to admit that there wasn't any single work that really knocked my socks off on a purely emotional level. Cerebral pleasures surpass emotional ones here, but both sorts can be found.

Duncan Martin, one of the featured artists, is capable of showing horribly bland calendar art along with his breathtakingly original works. Doesn't he know the difference? Is he perhaps attempting to reach two different groups of buyers?

His worst piece is "Massive, Over the Catalinas," clouds building up in stately symmetry over a sedate row of mountains. Some rain cells are politely running. Others will surely start. It's bona fide calendar purdy pitcher stuff.

But then there's "Shadow Ridge," a fascinating study of clouds and mountains in which the cloudy half of the painting looks like the negative of the mountainous half because the shadows of the clouds are "printed" on the ridge. Hard to believe that the artist who created the compelling tension of this piece could have wasted his time on "Massive."

The exhibit's other featured artist, Charlotte Bender, gets my vote for Best of Show with her "Maya-n," an oil on canvas depiction of drapery artfully crumpled over a short run of stairs. Bender uses the bends, folds, ins and outs of the drapery to construct a brilliantly subtle and intricate exercise in coloration. She makes colors dance, and the dance is a deliberately complicated and challenging ballet. The Impressionists loved to paint Gothic church facades to get very similar effects, little suspecting that all they really needed was a sheet and a staircase.

Bender's "Fillip the Peruvian" is a very alert looking llama posed in front of more artfully crumpled fabric with a blanket artfully draped over his back, doubtlessly wondering, "What in the world is going on?" Hilarious. Bender also gives us something that looks like the Grand Canyon covered with a striped sheet. "Forming Earth" is oil on canvas on about a four-and-a-half foot square. The work has interesting shapes and good use of light and dark, but it's nowhere near as richly colored or as interesting as "Maya-n."

Duncan Martin's "Swell," a lustrous abstraction inspired by a sea swell, is about 18x24 inches and consists of a foreground of gray and white squiggles under a shining green blob. The work is exciting in its originality and soothing in its beauty. Another Martin triumph

is "Morning Surf," oil on canvas about 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 feet, a rocky seascape with crashing waves and an angry sky, all looking so fresh that you can almost smell the place.

Josh Goldberg's "Over a Threshold Leveled Bright," acrylic on canvas about 4x4 feet, looks like some explosive process happening in space with chemical debris drizzling away in the immediate aftermath. The work is purely abstract and hugely dramatic. Its color gives it great intensity, but the painting also seems strangely serene.

Besides those featured, other artists with work on display whose names might be familiar to Tucson art lovers include Andrew Polk, David Pennington, James Cook and Debra Salopek.

An interesting aspect of this show, taken as a whole, is how much paintings with recognizable subjects resemble abstractions. Some paintings are clearly representational. Some are clearly abstract. Many are so much in the middle that if you squint a bit they flip; their subjects dissolve into pure design.

This particular coming together of genres is not a new trend. I'm not enough of an art historian to date it, but it's definitely old enough to vote. The show, which is a very good one by any measure, has the added attraction of letting those of us with a theoretical turn of mind experience the trend in one concentrated dose.

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

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Hoffman Describes Impersonating Capote



Actor Philip Hoffman As Truman Capote

NEW YORK - It took more than a high-pitched voice for Philip Seymour Hoffman to imper-

sonate Truman Capote in the new movie *Capote*. "It was a certain way his mouth functioned, the way his tongue functioned, the way his head was that all fed into the way he sounded," Hoffman told AP Radio in a recent interview," reported Advocate.com.

And then there was a rhythm to the way he talked." Hoffman said he lost weight and wore certain clothes to make himself appear smaller, "but then the way he stands, the way he walks, all these things are going to affect all that stuff."

Playing Capote is Hoffman's biggest role yet, but the 38-year-old actor said he doesn't care if the film fails to land him other lead roles. "I don't think that that's really important," said Hoffman, whose screen credits also include roles in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *Magnolia*, and *Almost Famous*. "You don't want a lead acting role if you're not the one that's supposed to be playing it. I'm perfectly satisfied with the career I've had."

Cop Indicted On Federal Charges In Sexual Assault On Transsexual

SAN ANTONIO - A city police officer already facing state charges has been arrested on a federal warrant accusing him of sexually assaulting a transsexual woman, reported 365Gay.com. Dean Gutierrez, 45, was indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of deprivation of civil rights by committing aggravated sexual abuse while on duty. The 16-year veteran of the police force was arrested Thursday (Oct. 20)

Gutierrez was originally arrested by San Antonio Police following a complaint by Starlight Bernal. She told investigators that on June 10 she was stopped by a San Antonio officer who said he needed to check for warrants. Bernal said that she was then attacked by the officer in his patrol car. DNA tests on bodily fluids found in the vehicle and on Bernal led investigators to Gutierrez.

In an interview following Gutierrez's original arrest Bernal, 22, told television station WOAI that she has had nightmares ever since the attack. "I begged for my life and that didn't help," Bernal told the station. "He (Gutierrez) could have done this to anyone. He had a badge and a gun. He had all the authority to do what he wanted."

Since his arrest by San Antonio police Gutierrez has been on administrative duty and still has not been indicted on state charges. If convicted of the federal charges he could face life behind bars. After a brief court appearance Gutierrez was released on a \$100,000 bond. Gutierrez's lawyer said his client is innocent. "There are a number of inconsistencies we believe will lead to him being exonerated once the trial is over with," said attorney Ed Garcia.

Two Charged In London Gay Slaying

LONDON - The Metropolitan Police late Friday (Oct. 21) charged two men in the brutal killing of a 24 year old man, 365Gay.com reported.

The pair, aged 33 and 25, were picked up in separate sections of London and taken to different police stations. Earlier Friday police for the first time released full details of the severity of the beating endured by Jody Dobrowski' at the hands of his attackers.

Detective Chief Inspector Nick Scola, the lead investigator in the case, said that Dobrowski's face was so battered badly that he was unrecognizable. "This was a brutal attack which left Jody's face so badly injured that he could not be identified visually, even by those who knew and loved him the most," Scola told reporters.

Fingerprints had to be used to make a formal identification.

Dobrowski, 24, was found unconscious on Clapham Common, a popular Gay cruising area, after men in the area heard screams for help. He died a short while later in hospital. Scola also released a statement from Dobrowski's family on Friday.

"Jody knew he was loved and accepted. He knew that we knew.

"He was also a young man still discovering his identity and was facing the difficulty of having to 'come out' which straight people never have to face.

"The timing of this was up to him. He had very little time. He did not know that."

Dobrowski is being called Britain's Matthew Shepard but a group set up to advise police on homophobic crime said that cases such as Dobrowski's murder are only a small indication of the number of crimes against Gays and Lesbians. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender advisory group said that most crimes go unreported because the victims are afraid of being outed or that police won't actively pursue the culprits.

"Most homophobic attacks do not take place in cruising grounds like Clapham Common," said Bob Hodgson, co-chair of the group.

"In fact, most attacks happen outside pubs and clubs and where people live.

"We think there is information about homophobic incidents in the community and we think people know when there is a build-up of tension with increased insults and assaults.

"But at the moment the mechanisms for passing that information to the police is very patchy and we need to beef that system up."



Let me ask you something...
Since when is bigotry a moral virtue?

Back in 1906, a leading American theologian published a best-selling book justifying discrimination against African Americans, saying they were creatures of uncontrollable "sensuality." Similar racist theories were spouted by politicians like the notorious "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman who toured the country under the banner, "Negro equality in politics means social equality, mongrelization, hellfire and damnation!" Belief in the innate immorality of black people, buttressed by selected scriptural references, formed the basis for slavery, segregation and lynchings.

Now come the homophobes, spouting the same hate-filled rhetoric about a different minority group. "Homosexuality is immoral, unscriptural and unhealthy," we are told. It is a "sin," like theft and drunkenness, according to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

The Pitchfork Tillmans of today warn that the "homosexual lobby" wants to bring about the destruction of the American family. Just like their racist antecedents, they are trying to whip up hatred and intolerance in order to build public support for anti-gay laws.

Sure, they can try to hide behind morality, but we all know a bigot when we see one. Think about it.

Ira Glasser
Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union
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Thursday, October 27

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Les hosts a Lunch Out at mother Hubbard's (Grant & Stone). For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

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

Friday, October 28

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

PULSE is hosting a "Chiller" with DJ Qub, after hours tonight from 2:00 until 4:00 a.m. at the Casbah Tea House on 4th Avenue next to IBT's. Food and drinks will be served. PULSE is a collaboration effort with Arizona Department of Health Services, Pima County Health Department, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Wingspan.

Saturday, October 29

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

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

Monday, October 31

Tucson Prime Timers Bowling 10:30 a.m., Golden Pin Lanes, Miracle Mile. Lunch -- 12:30 p.m. Wildcat House, 1800 N Stone Ave.

Saturday, November 5

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

Monday, November 7

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

Saturday, November 12

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

Monday, November 14

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

Saturday, November 19

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

Monday, November 21

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

Saturday, November 26

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

Monday, November 28

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

Saturday, November 19

17th Annual Jerome Beillard Festival For Life, a live and silent auction fund raising event for SAAF will take place from 5pm until 8:30pm. The event takes place at the University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom, 1303 E. University Blvd. Tickets are \$50 in advance. \$60 at the door. For more information call 628-7223 or email events@saaf.org. Amazing artwork, casino-style gaming and live entertainment. Convenient parking at the Mountain and Second Street Garage.

Film Project Fights Homophobia In Canadian Schools

VANCOUVER - Pizza, popcorn and a good movie after a hard day of high school - the perfect recipe to get teens hanging out and talking to each other, reported the Canadian Press on 365Gay.com.

It's with that idea in mind that a Vancouver-based film society wants to raise awareness in schools about homophobia.

The Out on Screen Society, which hosts the annual Vancouver Queer Film and Video Festival, brings films from the festival to high schools as part of a project called Out in Schools. The society hopes the concept will catch on in schools across Canada. Gay and Lesbian film festivals tend to exclude young people because of adult ratings on most of the movies. But organizers say there are dozens of family-rated Gay films, many written and directed by teens themselves.

Teenagers at schools select a film from a menu the society provides, munch on pizza and popcorn and afterward discuss topics from the film.

"It's a great way to use the film as a springboard to start talking about things like, 'What if your best friend is Gay? Or you are Gay?'" said Drew Dennis, a Transgendered person with the society. Dennis, 37, said they have visited five or six schools in Vancouver over the past year with the project and have received a lot of positive feedback. The society hopes it will eventually be adopted as part of school curricula. "Queer youth feel isolation in their schools, and maybe they're getting some support from their friends and maybe they're getting some support in their (Gay-straight alliance) club, but really for them they want to make a difference in the larger school body," said Dennis. "For queer youth to have us show up is really affirming for them."

The society has put together four different film packages about 60 minutes long with one feature and one short film and a discussion package for teachers. For example, one of the short films Dennis said they show, *The Closet Carnivore*, is about a young person whose family is vegetarian, and that person comes out of the closet as a meat-eater.

"It's a good metaphor that queer youth can identify with," said Dennis.

The film is written and directed by a Canadian student and involves student actors. Dennis said the fact the movie is made by a young person helps other youth identify and feel more comfortable with the issues affecting their peers.

One such student is 16-year-old Katie Morgan, who says she recently discovered she is Bisexual. Morgan is a Grade 11 student at David Thompson Secondary School and has been part of her school's Gay-straight alliance club for four years. Morgan believes the Out on Screen project has helped in the fight to stamp out homophobia.

"We invited all the people in our school and also other Gay-straight alliances from other schools ... and then we all got together after school and discussed the films," she said. She said topics ranged from loneliness, to the feeling of having no support to what it's like being raised in a religious family. "It just gives kids a better perspective that this is going on in our world and this is what happens," said Morgan. "It (homophobia) is not a small thing, it's a big thing and it needs to be addressed and kids need to know that (being Gay) is not negative. We want to make this positive."

Dennis couldn't agree more, saying the Out on Screen project is something organizers are proud of, although ideally the best thing would be if they didn't need it all. "I think it would be great if we all just got along," said Dennis.

"Hopefully we'll move to a place where this won't be needed."

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A collaboration of the Pima County Health Department and Gay Men's Health Project

High Court Nixes Kansas Teen Sodomy Charge

TOPEKA - One of the most frustrating cases on the Gay rights docket has reached a happy conclusion after several years of court losses, reported the PlanetOut Network. Matthew Limon, now 23, will not have to spend 17 years behind bars for a consensual sexual episode that took place a week after his 18th birthday with another male teenager.

On Friday (Oct. 21), the Kansas Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the state's sentencing laws unconstitutionally subject same-sex teens' sexual encounters to far harsher punishment than heterosexual teen trysts. The court used the lowest standard of judicial review, giving the state of Kansas every opportunity to come up with a reasonable explanation for the vast discrepancy between its treatment of Gay and straight teens. But the state attorneys failed the test.

Limon's case has always appeared to be, in the words of ACLU Gay and Lesbian Rights Project director Matt Coles, "a no-brainer." The Kansas "Romeo and Juliet" law, as it's nicknamed, protects youthful sex offenders from being charged under adult sodomy statutes when they are involved in consensual sex with other teenagers around their own age. A section of the statute specifies, however, that it only applies to opposite-sex couples. As such, Matthew Limon was charged not under Romeo and Juliet, but under criminal sodomy laws.

Due to a couple of similar infractions in Limon's past, the young man was sentenced to 206 months in prison, a term of over 17 years. Under Romeo and Juliet, a first offender would get probation, while a third offender like Limon would be sentenced to just over a year. Limon appealed the sentence to the Kansas Court of Appeals, but lost in early 2002. He then asked the Kansas Supreme Court to take the case, but the justices declined.

In early 2003, the ACLU petitioned

the U.S. Supreme Court to review the matter. A long silence ensued. Then in late June, a day or so after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in Lawrence v. Texas, the high court sent Limon's case back to the Kansas appellate court with instructions to take another look at the case in view of the Lawrence ruling.

Not only did the Lawrence ruling strike laws against consensual adult sodomy, it also overturned the 1986 anti-Gay precedent of Bowers v. Hardwick, which the Kansas court had previously used to justify Limon's tough treatment.

The Kansas appellate court dutifully reviewed Limon's arguments again, but — to the astonishment of Gay rights supporters — it returned with yet another ruling in favor of the state. The Lawrence decision, said the court, applied to adults, not minors. This time the Kansas Supreme Court agreed to review the matter.

In a 19-page ruling, the Kansas justices agreed that Lawrence v. Texas controls the case. Matthew Limon was treated far differently than a teenager caught in a heterosexual act, the court wrote, and the state of Kansas was not able to present a legitimate state interest to justify its unequal policy.

The court ordered the Romeo and Juliet statute revised, deleting the section that refers to the gender of the offenders. Further, the justices ordered the state to recharge Limon under Romeo and Juliet within 30 days, or "take other action." Presumably, the state will simply unlock the prison door.

"As of today, Matthew Limon has already served four years and five months longer than a heterosexual teenager would have received for the same act," said the ACLU's Lisa Brunner in a statement. "He has long since paid his debt to society, and we're thrilled that he will be going home to his family soon."

Jury Rejects Gay Prison Rape Claim

WICHITA FALLS - A jury Tuesday (Oct. 18) rejected the claims of a Gay former inmate that prison officials didn't do enough to protect him from a gang that passed him around to other inmates as a sex slave, reported 365Gay.com.

Roderick Keith Johnson was suing six Texas prison employees, accusing them of violating his constitutional right against cruel and unusual punishment. The jury of six men and six women deliberated nearly eight hours over two days. They could have found that some, all or none of the defendants were liable. The decisions did not have to be unanimous, but 10 of the 12 jurors had to agree.

During the trial Johnson testified that he was beaten, repeatedly raped, and his life threatened almost daily at the James A. Allred Unit in Iowa Park, Texas where he was incarcerated on a petty theft conviction. Johnson testified that despite numerous requests to be transferred to a secure area of the prison officials ignored his pleas for help.

Testifying over three days Johnson said that the gang forced him to wear women's makeup. He said on one occasion when he appeared before a prison official the man made a Gay slur because of the makeup. Another official said that the lipstick and eyeliner was a sign of promiscuity and said that Johnson had brought the rapes on himself.

In yet another example an official told him to get a boyfriend for protection. Other

prisoners backed up Johnson's account of his treatment at the prison. One of the witnesses said he was stabbed by one gang member in an attempt to keep him from testifying.

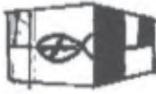
The Texas attorney general's office, which represented the defendants, argued that there was no evidence Johnson was raped and told jurors that he changed his stories. The defense said that Johnson wanted to be moved to a "safekeeping" area because "his lover and other love interests were there."

The defendants and other prison employees testified that they could not substantiate Johnson's half a dozen or so rape claims because he changed his stories or there was no medical evidence. They said Johnson usually seemed upbeat in prison, wearing tight pants and flirting with a corrections officer. Johnson's lawsuit originally named 15 prison officials. But last year the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans dropped eight of the original defendants, including the department's executive director and the prison unit's senior warden.

Last year a Wichita Falls grand jury did not indict 49 prisoners Johnson had accused of rape.



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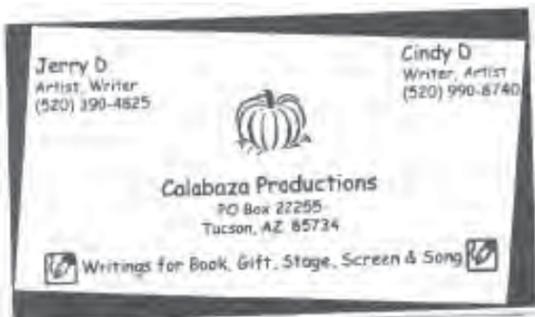
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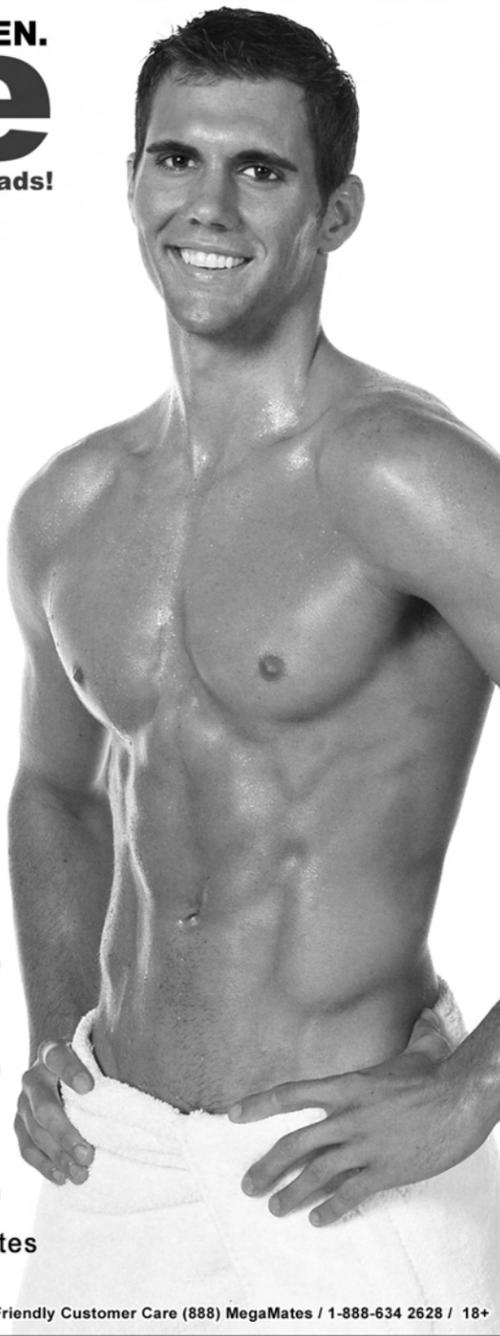


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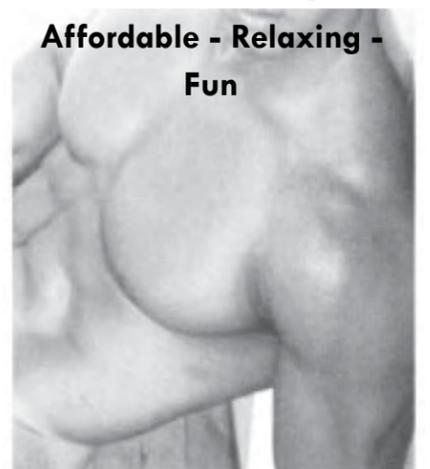
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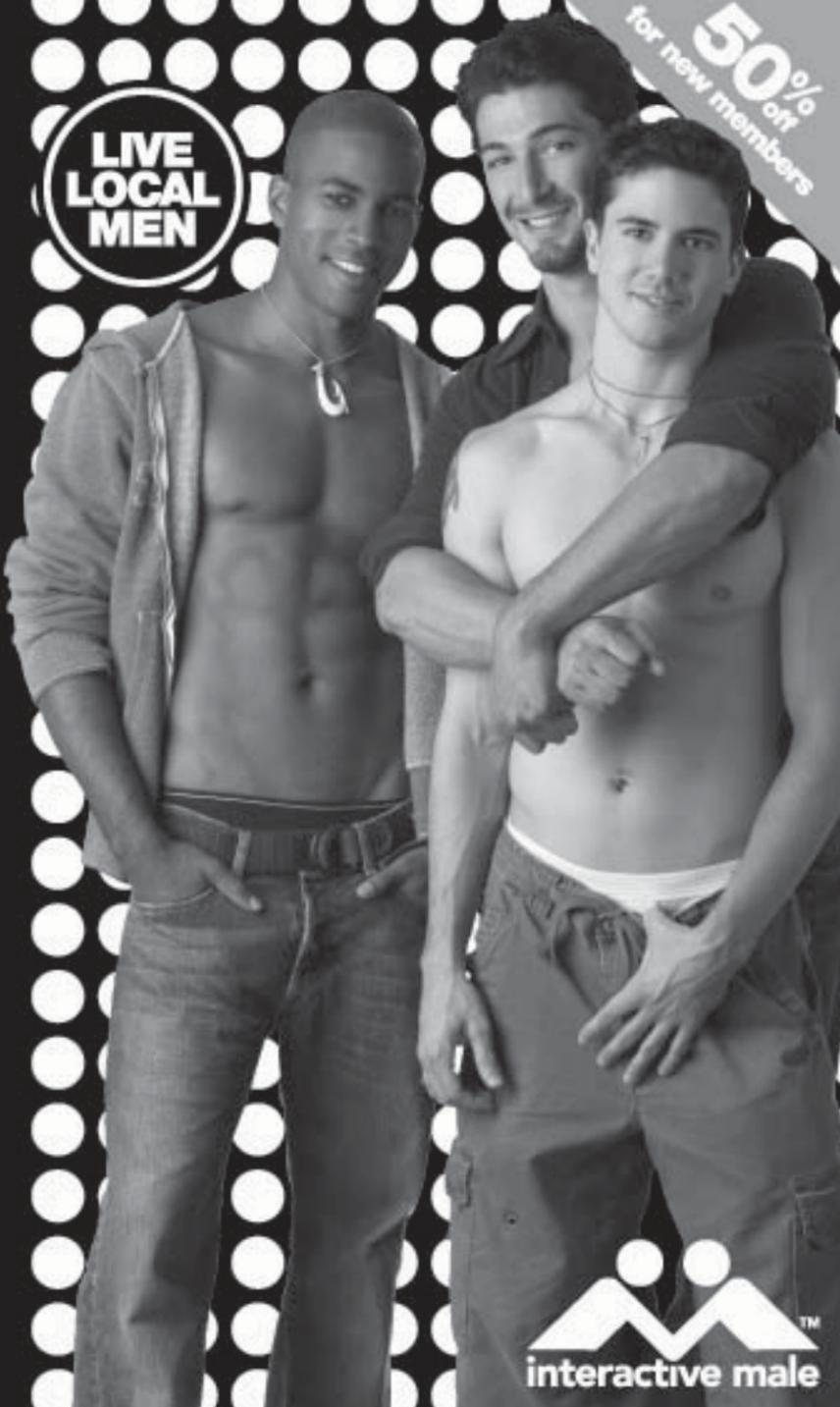
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3 skyy Cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11am. Lotchen open until 8pm. Watch the NFL here! \$1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, \$2 Chili Dogs. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments 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 - Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 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 \$12-7p. \$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 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 5pm.

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 Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy & Beebeaters Martinis.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. 1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert" shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until 10pm.

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 Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longneck. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm.

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$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 9am. 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 \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. 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 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm.

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Reservations suggested. Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25. Close 1am.

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 re-opens 9 pm to Midnight for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm,, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am.w/Special Happy Hour til-2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 5pm

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Amber Norgard sings originals and cover tunes 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations suggested. Close 1am.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 8pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2 Well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 small pitchers, \$5 large pitchers. \$4.00 Cheeseburger & Fries all day. DJ Johnny D playing your favorite dance & country 9pm to close. Kitchen re-opens 9pm - midnight 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 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9 to close.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/ Arthur Migliazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 5pm.

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BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

WOODY'S - Sign up NOW for a special Wine-Tasting Party at 6:30 p.m. There is limited space so sin up with one of the bartenders before today. Then stick around for the all new "Boys Gone Wild" Underwear Party. Wear underwear or Fetish and get \$1.00 off your drink (excludes draught or schnapps).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

COLORS - Guys and Dolls Show tonight stars Barbra Seville with Diana flair and Jessican Deveraux

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

HOWL AT THE MOON - Costusme Nite - Show it off!

WOODY'S - A weekend of Halloween Parties begins tonight with a Costume Party and Contest - \$100 first - \$50 second and \$25 third place

YARD DOG SALOON - Halloween weekend presents tonight "Night of the Living Dead" with a Halloween Costume Contest at midnight plus drink specials.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

WOODY'S - Halloween Party Weekend continues here with Sunday Kaaraoke and Face Painting/Make-Up Party. \$75 Scariest Face at 11:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Wake of the Living Dead" Halloween party Pumpkin Carving Contest and "Halloween Drink Specials.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

VENTURE-N - Annual Halloween Spooktacular with costume contest, great prizes, specials and more.

WOODY'S - 2nd Annual MasquErotic Halloween Costume Ball. and contest. \$150 First; \$75 Second and \$25 Third.

YARD DOG SALOON - "Return of the Living Dead" Halloween Party. Live DJ "Scary Jerry" 9:00 p.m. to close. Witches Brew and Witches Stew.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - Latino Drag Show!

Teen Learns What It's Like To Be Gay

KERSEY - A male cheerleader at Platte Valley High School in Weld County, Colo., has quit because he said he's been taunted by other classmates who called him Gay, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Cole Graves said the team's picture was posted on the Platte Valley High School Web site with the words "I'm Gay" underneath the two male members of the cheerleading squad. Graves said the abuse has been going on for three or four months. The picture was removed from the school's Web site once the school was notified.

"As soon as we found it, I had the picture pulled," Superintendent Glen McClain told the Greeley Tribune. "We were able to identify the person responsible for it, and we will take appropriate action."

Graves' mother, Kim Albreicht, said her son complained of other students calling him names and told the newspaper that some students were starting fights with him.

Graves said that on Friday (Oct. 21), four male students were waiting to beat him up because they thought he was Gay. The high school junior said he reported the abuse to the cheerleader coaches and then to the athletic director.

"I know I'm not Gay," he told the Tribune. "It's probably harder for a person who is Gay and has to be called names. I feel so sorry for them." He and his parents met with school administrators Tuesday (Oct. 18). The school said it will suspend the student responsible for the posting for one week.



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.saaaf.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.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLD-WIDE** 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 743-0810, 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 M-F.

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, 425 E. 7th 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 message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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 and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

Walters, (602)371-1102

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 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 information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact **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.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

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 / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 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. Visit our web site <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)

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 information.

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.

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

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

LIKE TO READ?
The Guys' Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join us. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Reading selections include Gay-themed novels, bios and other nonfiction. For location or more info, email Bryan at

Bryansct@aol.com

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

LGBT BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, a reading from a Buddhist religious text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Meets every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Sean Seeba at 622-8759 for more information.

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) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting. Check out our website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swot>. Bi-weekly daytime meetings, Saturdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm. Contact John at 327-3135 for more info and upcoming dates.

MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY FORMING for anyone wanting quality friendships, better health and more passion in their lives. This group has far-reaching benefits for those who want to explore their own spirituality, sexuality and purpose in life. Weekly social events include Keys to Healthy Relationships, and Be Your Own Best Lover. Also events include entertainment like dinner, movies, theater and art. Group discussions. Group fun with intimacy, spontaneity and play. A great way to meet other men who are on a more focused path. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.



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622-5924

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Group To Sue Penn State For Anti-G/L Bias

STATE COLLEGE - The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) plans to sue Penn State University on behalf of a former Lady Lions basketball player who says her coach's anti-Gay bigotry led to harassment and forced her off the team, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Karen Doering, the regional counsel for the NCLR, told the PlanetOut Network she will file the suit on behalf of Jen Harris "either next week or the following week," since Penn State refused to retract an inflammatory statement from Coach Rene Portland by Wednesday's (Oct. 20) deadline.

Harris has accused Coach Portland of forcing her off the team in March because the coach believe Harris was a Lesbian. NCLR has also charged Portland with decades of discrimination, adhering to a "no Lesbians" policy for her team, despite Penn State policy forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation. In a strongly worded denial, Portland described Harris as a player with poor grades and a bad work ethic. "She engaged in disrespectful, profane and belligerent behavior toward coaches and teammates, and she exhibited a work ethic and attitude that were unsatisfactory and detrimental to the success of our team," Portland said.

Doering said the statements amounted to a character attack and "contained a number of blatantly false statements." They also became grounds for a lawsuit. "There is no way Jen is considered struggling academically. She has a strong 3.0 G.P.A.," Doering said. "As far as Jen's play on the court, her sophomore year, she was one of the team's leading scorers. From second grade to the present she has dedicated her time practicing. She has an incredible work ethic."

"Jen had a very close relationship with her teammates. The only dissensions with the teammates occurred when her coach instructed her teammates not to associate with her," Doering said. Doering described Rene Portland as "the anti-Gay poster child." "She's infamous for her negative recruiting where she tells players and parents she does not allow Gay players on her team. She's notorious for harassing and kicking off players who she thinks are Lesbians or who fit her stereotype of a Lesbian," Doering added.

Penn State spokesman Bill Mahon told the Digital Collegian, an independent Penn state student newspaper, that NCLR has not yet given the university enough information to begin an investigation of the coach's behavior. "Until we get some information from them, I'm not sure how a reasonable person could suggest that we have enough information to investigate," Mahon said. "All we have are press releases and headlines."

The two parties arranged a conference call on Tuesday (Oct. 18) to share information about Portland, but Doering said it was disappointing. "The feeling I was left with is that they were not serious about doing anything with Rene Portland, and they were not going to do their investigation in a timely manner." Doering noted that since Harris identifies as straight, this case affects all athletes. "Both Gay and non-Gay athletes have been caught up in Rene Portland's discriminatory policy. Because once Rene decides in her head that a player is a Lesbian, her career is effectively over at Penn State."

NCLR plans to cite Pennsylvania's and the United States' equal protection clauses in its lawsuit. The organization also plans to cite Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination. "That's what this is," Doering asserted. "Discriminating against someone because of someone's conceptions of what a

woman is supposed to look like. It has been successful at the high school level, but this might be the first time it is used at the college level."

Brian Osler, director of the Gay and Lesbian Athletes Association, said this case would help other Gay and Lesbian athletes. "For every case that comes to the public light, I'm sure there are several cases that don't get any notice" he told the PlanetOut Network. "Cases like this cause people to examine their beliefs and look a little deeper at the issues."

G/L Protestors Ignore Threats, March Into Naval Academy

ANNAPOLIS - About 40 demonstrators peacefully passed through the gates of the Naval Academy Friday (Oct. 21), even though they had been warned that they risked arrest if they took their protest against "don't ask, don't tell, the military's ban on openly Gay service members onto campus, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The protesters, part of LGBT rights group Soulforce, said just being allowed on campus was a victory. "We're merely seeking the freedom to serve our country without having to lie to do it," said Soulforce member Jacob Reitan. The group had lunch in a visitor's cafeteria. They did not immediately speak with any midshipmen, as they had planned.

Academy administrators were not available for comment on the apparent decision to allow the group onto campus.

Among the protesters was former midshipmen Tommie Watkins, who was expelled from the academy in 1997 because he is Gay. Watkins now lives in Florida and says his visit to Annapolis was his first since being kicked out. He says the academy's policy against Gays mostly reflected the fears of the leadership, not those of the midshipmen. "It's like, people know, we just lie about it," Watkins said.

The group had asked academy officials to allow them to talk to midshipmen, but the request was denied. In a statement Thursday (Oct. 20), public affairs officer Cmdr. Rob Gibbons, said "a service member's sexual orientation is considered a personal and private matter. We do not ask, and service members are not required to reveal, their sexual orientation." However, the academy also said its policy was to "decline any special interest groups from coming aboard the academy to advocate their own causes, business interests and advance personal agendas."

The protest was a test-run for Soulforce's planned national tour next spring of campuses where Gays and Lesbians are threatened with expulsions. Most of them are religious schools, but Reitan said visits are also planned to the other service academies: West Point, the Air Force Academy and the Coast Guard Academy.

A group of Soulforce protesters earlier this year visited the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where the advocacy group is based. Reitan called that visit productive and said Falwell even invited Soulforce protesters to a worship service with students. The protest was the latest challenge to the Naval Academy's stance toward Gay service members. Last year, the Academy's Alumni Association voted for the second time to reject a proposed Gay and Lesbian alumni chapter.

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