Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Family of Gay Hostage In Iraq Kept Sexuality Secret Out Of Reprisal Fears

TORONTO - The co-director of the Christian Peacemakers Teams says the family of freed Christian peace activist James Loney kept his sexual orientation quiet out of fear for his safety, reported the Canadian Press. Doug Pritchard says the family feared Loney might come to harm at the hands of his Iraqi captors had they known he was Gay.

Doug Pritchard, co-director of Christian Peacemakers

Pritchard says it likely wouldn't have helped if Loney's partner, Dan Hunt, had come forward with public pleas for his release. Hunt made his first public appearance since Loney's ordeal began last November when he greeted his partner Sunday (Mar. 26) at the airport. Loney arrived in Toronto after he and two other peace activists were rescued by coalition soldiers in Iraq. The 41-year-old Loney was kidnapped in Baghdad along with fellow Canadian Harmeet Sooden, Briton Norm Kember and American Tom Fox, whose bullet-ridden body was found earlier this month.

Loney is expected to travel to his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., where red ribbons decorate the trees and store and restaurant owners have posted welcome-home messages in their windows. In the city of 75,000, signs reading, "Prayers Answered, Welcome Home James" were to decorate several city buildings. At the Civic Centre, a message book was waiting for well-wishers to leave Loney a personal greeting. The Sault Star also published a full-page color photograph of Loney for residents to post in their windows "so that Jim, his parents Claudette and Patrick, and other family members see the joy of an entire community as he arrives home." Loney's parents have kept a low profile since their son's arrival back in Canada, and so far no one is saying exactly when he's expected to arrive in Sault Ste. Marie.

Amnesty: Widespread Police Abuse Against GLBT Americans

NEW YORK - A report released Thursday (Mar. 23) by Amnesty International details widespread homophobia - including the use of torture - by American police officers against Gays, Lesbians and the Transgendered, 365Gay.com reported. The report says that thousands of LGBT people across the country are victims of a system that fuels discrimination and facilitates torture, ill-treatment and impunity.

The report "Stonewalled – Still demanding respect" is based on interviews conducted by Amnesty International between 2003 and 2005 with members of the LGBT community, victims of gender-based violence, survivors of police abuse, activists, lawyers and law enforcement officials across the US. "The interviews reveal a very clear and worrying pattern. Cases of beatings, sexual violence, verbal abuse, harassment and humiliation by law enforcement officials against LGBT people take place on any given day in detention centers, prisons, in the home, and on the street," said Amnesty in a media statement accompanying the report.

In one example a women from Athens, Georgia, said that in 2004 she was forced into her apartment at gunpoint by a former County Deputy and raped because she is a Lesbian. She said the officer vowed to "teach her a lesson". Within the LGBT community in the USA, Transgender people, members of ethnic or racial minorities, young people and immigrants are particular targets of police abuse, the report says.

A Native American Transgender woman told Amnesty that in October 2003 she was stopped in Los Angeles by two police officers as she was walking along the street in the early hours of the morning. According to her testimony, the officers handcuffed her and drove her in the police car to an alley off Hollywood Boulevard where she was beaten, verbally abused and raped. After her ordeal she was thrown to the ground and told "that's what you deserve."

Despite the significant progress over recent decades in the recognition of LGBT rights in the US, persistent discriminatory attitudes have created a situation in which abuse of LGBT people is frequently dismissed as "normal" the report said. Victims often do not report police brutality and other crimes against them, said Amnesty, because they fear hostile or abusive response from the police and because, as they know, many reported abuses are not properly and impartially investigated.

"There are still some discriminatory laws; but the bigger problem is the discriminatory way in which many laws are applied, which often results in the arrest and detention of individuals just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity," the report said. In another instance, in December 2003, a young African-American Gay activist was waiting at a bus stop when Chicago police officers arrested him allegedly for loitering with intent to solicit. Despite providing identification and corroborating information from the organization he represents, he was detained for two days.

"Effective reform requires the backing of the highest ranks. There needs to be a fundamental understanding of the right to freely express one's sexual orientation or gender identity," said Amnesty. The report concludes with a call by Amnesty for US federal and state authorities to take action to prevent discriminatory application of the law, to investigate all allegations of sexual, physical and verbal abuse against LGBT people by their officials and to bring those responsible to justice.

The report was released as an internal investigation began in Savannah over allegations by a Gay man who said police did not help him when he was attacked last week. "I think he saw I fit a stereotype that fits a Gay person," Travis McLain said of his attacker in an interview with the Savannah Morning News. "He didn't beat me up because I have pink hair; he beat me up because he thought I was Gay." McLain said Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police didn't search for the suspect, wait for an ambulance or include all of the information he offered in the police

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G/L Marriage Ban Can Shield Domestic Violence Abusers, Court Rules

By Mark R. Kerr

DAYTON (ON) - An Ohio state appellate court has ruled that the state's 2004 marriage amendment effectively prevents the state from prosecuting domestic violence between unwed couples.

In a decision released Friday (Mar. 24), a divided three-judge panel of the Second District Court of Appeals ruled that Ohio's strict constitutional limitations on marriage mean that its domestic violence statutes may not be enforced against a "person living as a spouse."

"This Ohio ruling should be a wake-up call for mainstream Arizona who think they are unaffected by the extremist, anti-LGBT movement's agenda. It's not just the LGBT community anymore that is being attacked - it's anyone who doesn't adhere to an extreme religious code," said Amy Kobeta, Director of Public Affairs for the Arizona Human Rights Fund.

"This ruling confirms what we in Arizona have been concerned about – the unintended consequences of this type of amendment hurts families and denies important protections to survivors of domestic violence. This is a perfect example of how these amendments go too far," added state Representative Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix.

The broad language of many of the 19 state constitutional amendments, as well as proposed measures, including the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA), purport to define marriage has led to litigation around the country as right-wingers attempt to widen the scope of the amendments while civil rights advocates try to contain the damage.

Ohio's amendment has clashed with the wording of their state's domestic violence law and the Arizona proposal (PMAA) is modeled on Ohio's now state constitutional amendment.

"Clearly as Ohio shows, this amendment could be a huge step backwards for domestic violence victims in Arizona," said Melita Quance, Wingspan Anti-Violence Project Coordinator.

"The effects will not be limited to the LGBT community nor to traditional benefits," commented Kent

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UPDATE

Phoenix Pride Weekend April 1-2

PHOENIX - On Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2, come join in on Phoenix's Pride Weekend!

Phoenix's LGBT Pride Committee will be holding their annual parade, Saturday, Apr. 1, starting at 11 a.m. on 3rd Street north from Virginia, and the annual Pride Festival will also commence at Steele Indian School Park, 3rd Street at Indian School Road, from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Apr. 2., 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets are $15 for a two-day pass or $10 for a single-day ticket, children under 12 free with an adult and can be purchased online at phoenixpride.org, or Movies on Central & Unique on Central, 4700 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix. If the admission price is economically taxing, free admission to the Festival may be arranged by becoming a festival volunteer and volunteering a minimum of four hours, E-mail volunteers@phoenixpride.org for more information.

Pride Theme & Logo Contest Announced

TUCSON - Tucson Pride Inc. (TPI) announced the launch of the 2006 theme and logo contest, with this year's theme " Stand Together . . . For Equality, With Pride, In Action!"

This year's theme, according to a statement from TPI was chosen as a call to action for their community; asking everyone to stand and be recognized. The winning entry's logo will be used in an array of print advertising for 2006, including posters, flyers, ads, t-shirts and more. The winner of this year's contest will receive $150 for their entry.

Contest specifications include: Entries must coincide with this year's theme. Entries should be created in color, in PDF, JPEG or TIF format. Deadline for entry submission is midnight, Apr. 8. Entries received after that time may not be considered. Winning entry will be chosen Apr. 12. Winner must agree to sign over all rights of use for winning entry to TPI, submissions cannot be returned and all submissions become the property of TPI. To submit your entry, mail to P O Box 57478 Tucson, AZ 85732, or E-mail: info@tucsonpride.org. TPI also announced that this year's OUToberFEST is being re-thought and re-designed from the ground up. Everything you think you know about our pride event is changing, including the name. If you have suggestions for the new name of Tucson's annual pride event, please send them to TPI via one of the addresses above. This is not a contest and no prize will be awarded. TPI will make its final decision at their monthly Board meeting on Apr.12 as well

Treasures For TIHAN, May 6

TUCSON -"Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising event for the programs and services is coming up on Saturday, May 6, 6 p.m. at The Hotel Arizona (formerly the Radisson Hotel), 181 W. Broadway.

A sparkling evening of great music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items to raise funds to support the programs and services, the "Treasures " benefit is the largest event of the year, raising over $84,000 last year.

Tickets for the event are $50 ($23 is tax-deductible), and can be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647 or online at tihan.org If you can help by donating or soliciting items for our auction–trips, gift certificates, massages, antiques, jewelry, rugs, unique gift items, and collectibles of value (over $50 in value, please), please contact Scott at TIHAN, (520) 299-6647, E-mail: scott@tihan.org.

Jell-O Wrestling, An Honored Tradition

TUCSON - On Sunday, May 7, wrestlers will be slipping and sliding in a pit of Jell-O (the color is a secret!) to help raise funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) in a totally unique way. The 19th anniversary of the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Extravaganza and Benefit Auction will take place that day at Woody's, located at 3710 N. Oracle Rd., with doors opening at 2:00 p.m. and wrestling scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m.

Jell-O was begun in 1987 when funds to help support people with HIV/AIDS were non-existent and so the community banded together to find a way to help, forming the organizations of Shanti, PACT and TAP. Each of these organizations started different fundraisers, such as Jell-O, Festival for Life and AIDSWalk, all of which still take place today. If you've never been to Jell-O Wrestling, be sure to put May 7 on your calendar now and enjoy the most fun and amazing spectacle of fund-raising that you could possibly ever imagine!

Tickets for Jell-O and Raffle tickets will both go on sale at Woody's and at SAAF this week. Tickets to Jell-O are $6 in advance and $10 at the door. This year's Jell-O Wrestling Raffle features a grand prize of a one-week stay in Mazatlan during the month of November, plus $250 in cash and tickets are only $1 each.

Please visit the Jell-O website at www to get more information or contact Mae at (520) 628-7223 or by email at events@saaf.org. See you at Woody's on May 7!

Older Lesbian Support Group Forming

TUCSON - On Saturday, Apr. 8, 2 - 3:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., a new group will be forming for older Lesbians.

This is the group's first meeting, so come join them and let them know what you think is important for the group: format, meeting times, topics, etc. etc. Now is the time to help create the group you will want to participate in.

For information contact, Pat Woelke, (520) 624-1779 x22, E-mail: pwoelke@wingspan.org or Isadora, (520) 745-5235.

Groups Release Tool To Help LGBT Patients To Talk To Their Doctors

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Mautner Project, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, and the Human Rights Campaign have released a new tool and online videos designed to help Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender people be more open and improve communications with their health care providers, particularly when discussing issues related to sex and sexual orientation, reported Advocate.com.

"Individual and institutional homophobia in the health care system has a devastating effect on the health and well-being of the LGBT community," said Mautner Project executive director Kathleen DeBold in a press statement. "By improving communications between patients and providers, these simple tools will help LGBT people receive the quality health care they need and deserve." The two-sided printed tool–one side geared for patients, the other for health care providers–is available online at hrc.org.

The tool advises patients on five key topics: asking for referrals to LGBT-friendly providers; inquiring by telephone when making an appointment if the practice has any other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender patients; bringing a friend for support when you plan to discuss your sexuality with your provider; bringing up the topic of your sexual orientation when you feel most comfortable doing so; and knowing what questions to ask about the specific health care issues affecting LGBTs. The agencies also have produced two instructional videos–one for patients, the other for health care providers–that focus on ways to improve care for LGBT patients. The videos also can be accessed online.

Amnesty: Widespread Police Abuse

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report. The probe was ordered by Interim Police Chief Willie Lovett. "Apparently there seems to be a lot of accusations that this agency is discriminating against Gays and Lesbians," Lovett said. "That is not a stigma I want to attach to this department. That is simply not true."

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

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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
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Informing the Community
The Observer

Making Your Wishes Clear

PHOENIX - With taxes, probate, guardians and other potential legal issues, estate planning is plenty complex already - and that assumes you're married, reported the Arizona Republic. Gays and unmarried straight couples face special complications when it comes to transferring property at death or naming others to watch after their affairs in case of incapacity. The law accords married spouses many privileges and protections that unwed couples don't receive.

'There are something like 1,000 rights that accrue to married couples under state law,' said Michael Tucker, an estate-planning attorney at law firm Polese, Pietzsch, Williams & Nolan in Phoenix. Unmarried partners, by contrast, 'are legal strangers to each other,' he said. That's why it's critical for people in non-married unions, Gay or straight, to state their wishes, goals and other directives in writing.

'If you're a non-traditional couple, you better have a will or something else in writing, and you better cross all your t's and dot all your i's,' said Dean Fink, a commissioner at Maricopa County Probate Court. 'That's the only way to give legal status to your partner.' Arizona doesn't recognize common-law marriages - heterosexual cohabitation arrangements lacking a marriage license and ceremony - unless a couple can prove that this type of situation applied to them in Colorado, Texas, Utah or about a dozen other states that recognize such unions. Forms of proof can include cohabitation, using a shared last name and filing joint income-tax returns; specific rules vary by state.

When children are involved, estate planning for unwed couples can get more complex. Consider the case of Shelli Guthrie and Debie Jarnagin, a same-sex Phoenix couple with four children ranging in age from 9 to 12. Jarnagin adopted the four children by herself, because Arizona law prohibits unmarried couples from adopting. That means she needed to provide written authorization, through a legal directive called a power of attorney, allowing Guthrie to make decisions involving medical care, schooling and other issues affecting the kids. The powers of attorney also let them make financial and health decisions for each other in case of incapacity, and they have wills for transferring assets to each other at death. 'If anything happens to one of us, everything goes to the other,' Guthrie said. 'If something happened to both Debie and me, the kids would be cared for by their godparents.'

When singles or unwed couples die without a will, trust or other directives that name beneficiaries, their assets will pass to relatives through the probate system, following the rules of intestacy. In Arizona, spouses generally are first in line, followed by children or other descendants, parents, descendants of parents, grandparents and then descendants of grandparents. 'The state of Arizona has a plan for people without a will,' Tucker said. 'If people want other results, they have to make it happen.'

Wills and trusts aren't the only documents that can transfer assets to beneficiaries in Arizona. Other options include pay-on-death titling for bank accounts, transfer-on-death titling for securities accounts and beneficiary deeds for real estate located in Arizona. Also, IRAs, 401(k) plans, life insurance policies and annuities let you name beneficiaries. Except for wills, these various directives transfer assets outside the court-supervised probate system.

Angela Ellsworth and Tania Katan, a same-sex couple in Phoenix, have taken advantage of several of those directives, including estate-planning documents to oversee their respective business interests. Both women have histories of cancer, and they consider it especially important to specify health care rights and responsibilities for each other. 'Without legal documents, we have no power of attorney in case of a medical emergency. We are concerned about our wishes being honored in our absence,' said Katan, a writer and performer. 'Estate planning is the closest way for us to legally state that we are a committed couple.'

When Gay or unwed straight couples fail to prepare their estate plans properly, it's possible assets could pass to family members who disapprove of their lifestyles. Wills and trusts can be worded to discourage relatives from contesting the transfer of assets to a partner, Tucker said, who drew up estate-planning documents for Katan and Ellsworth. For example, you can insert a clause stating that anyone who contests a will would receive nothing or only a minimal asset amount. People who aren't beneficiaries typically wouldn't be notified anyway. All these arrangements require foresight and action. 'People have to create by will or contract the same type of results for themselves as they'd acquire by marriage,' Tucker said.

Poll: Nationwide Support For G/L Marriage Up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The public backlash over Gay marriage has receded since a controversial decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 2003 to legalize those marriages stirred strong opposition, says a poll released Wednesday (Mar. 22), reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Gay marriage remains a divisive issue, with 51 percent opposing it, the poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found. But almost two-thirds, 63 percent, opposed Gay marriage in February 2004.

"Most Americans still oppose Gay marriage, but the levels of opposition are down and the number of strong opponents are down," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center. "This has some implications for the midterm elections if this trend is maintained. There are Gay marriage ballot initiatives in numerous states."

Gay marriage got intense media coverage in 2004 after the Massachusetts court case, the decision by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom to issue thousands of marriage licenses to Gay couples and similar cases. But the intense focus on Gay marriage has declined in the last year. In 2004, opponents of Gay marriage were able to pass ballot initiatives banning the practice in 11 states, from Georgia to Oregon. Those Gay marriage initiatives also helped conservatives rally their voters to the polls. The number of people who say they strongly oppose Gay marriage has dropped from 42 percent in

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Major Adoption Institute Supports G/L Parents

WASHINGTON, D.C. - As debate over the issue flares in several states, a major adoption institute says in a new report that it strongly supports the rights of Gays and Lesbians to adopt and urges that remaining obstacles be removed, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com. "Laws and policies that preclude adoption by Gay or Lesbian parents disadvantage the tens of thousands of children mired in the foster care system who need permanent, loving homes," the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute says in the report issued Friday (Mar. 24).

It advises agencies and officials to make firm statements in support of such adoptions, forsaking a "don't ask, don't tell" approach that prompts some Gays to feel their chances of adopting hinge on being discreet about their sexual orientation. Adoption agencies should energetically recruit Gays and Lesbians, including them in outreach programs and parenting panels, the institute said. The report arrives on the heels of a nationwide poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press that found public approval of adoption by Gays is increasing. In 1999, 57% of Americans opposed the practice and 38% approved, while the new poll found 48% opposed and 46% in favor, with a margin of error of three percentage points.

The divided sentiment has been reflected recently in Massachusetts, where Catholic Charities is ending its century-old adoption program rather than comply with a state law banning discrimination against Gays. Florida is the only state with an outright ban on adoption by Gays. Mississippi bars Gay couples, but not single Gays, from adopting; Utah requires adopting parents to be married. Some Florida legislators have been working unsuccessfully thus far to modify the state's ban and allow Gay foster parents to adopt children already in their care. Measures have surfaced in a few other states that Gay rights advocates fear would restrict adoption by Gays or undermine Gay families.

In Arizona, the senate is considering a house-passed bill that would give married couples priority over single people in adopting children who are in state custody. Family Pride, a national group representing Gay and Lesbian families, says the bill is discriminatory because Gays cannot legally marry in any state but Massachusetts. In Utah, Gov. Jon Huntsman this week vetoed a bill vigorously opposed by Gay rights groups that would have allowed biological parents to terminate their child's relationship with third parties, such as same-sex partners. The bill stemmed from a custody dispute between two Lesbians; the biological mother sought to prohibit her ex-partner from visiting her daughter. In Ohio, conservative lawmakers introduced a bill to ban placement of an adoptive child in a household where anyone is Gay. House speaker Jon Husted does not intend to let the bill advance to a vote, spokeswoman Tasha Hamilton said. The bill's chief sponsor, Rep. Ron Hood, contends that children raised by Gay parents face increased risk of physical and emotional problems. His concerns are shared by many conservative groups that argue that same-sex partnerships are less stable than heterosexual marriages.

The Donaldson study, written by Illinois State University adoption expert Jeanne Howard, acknowledges that research on Gay parenting remains relatively scant. "Still, virtually every valid study reaches the same conclusion: The children of Gays and Lesbians adjust positively, and their families function well," the report says. The report was funded by the Gill Foundation and the Human Rights Campaign, both active in Gay rights causes. The Donaldson Institute's executive director, Adam Pertman, said the financial sponsorship did not influence the report's findings. It concluded by suggesting that Gay parents could play a major role in reducing the backlog of more than 110,000 children in foster care awaiting adoption.

City Probes Conduct Of Lesbian Fire Chief

MINNEAPOLIS - Fire Chief Bonnie Bleskachek, one of the few openly Gay and Lesbian fire chiefs in the country, is on paid leave while the city investigates her conduct amid a lawsuit from her former domestic partner charging employment discrimination, the PlanetOut Network reported. City spokeswoman Gail Plewacki told the St. Paul Pioneer Press that privacy laws prevent her from divulging why the city is investigating Bleskachek. The investigation began at least a week before March 14, when Bleskachek and the city were sued in federal court by her former domestic partner, Minneapolis Fire Capt. Jennifer Cornell, the Pioneer Press reported.

Cornell, who shares custody of two children with Bleskachek, accuses the chief of interfering with her career. Cornell claims Bleskachek had a relationship with another woman in the department, only to take action against her after they broke up. Cornell's suit claims she filed a complaint over similar issues with the city in 1994, when Bleskachek was assistant fire chief, and that the city later dismissed the complaint. The suit seeks an end to discrimination and $75,000 in damages.

Bleskachek's attorney, Jerry Burg, would not say whether the city's internal investigation was connected to the lawsuit. "Our understanding is that it's standard procedure to place someone who is subject to an investigation on paid leave," Burg said. The case puts Mayor R.T. Rybak, who appointed Bleskachek as chief in November 2004, in a potentially difficult political situation. Both Rybak and Bleskachek have refused comment, the mayor saying through a spokeswoman that he cannot comment on ongoing litigation.

Poll: Nationwide Support For G/L Marriage Up

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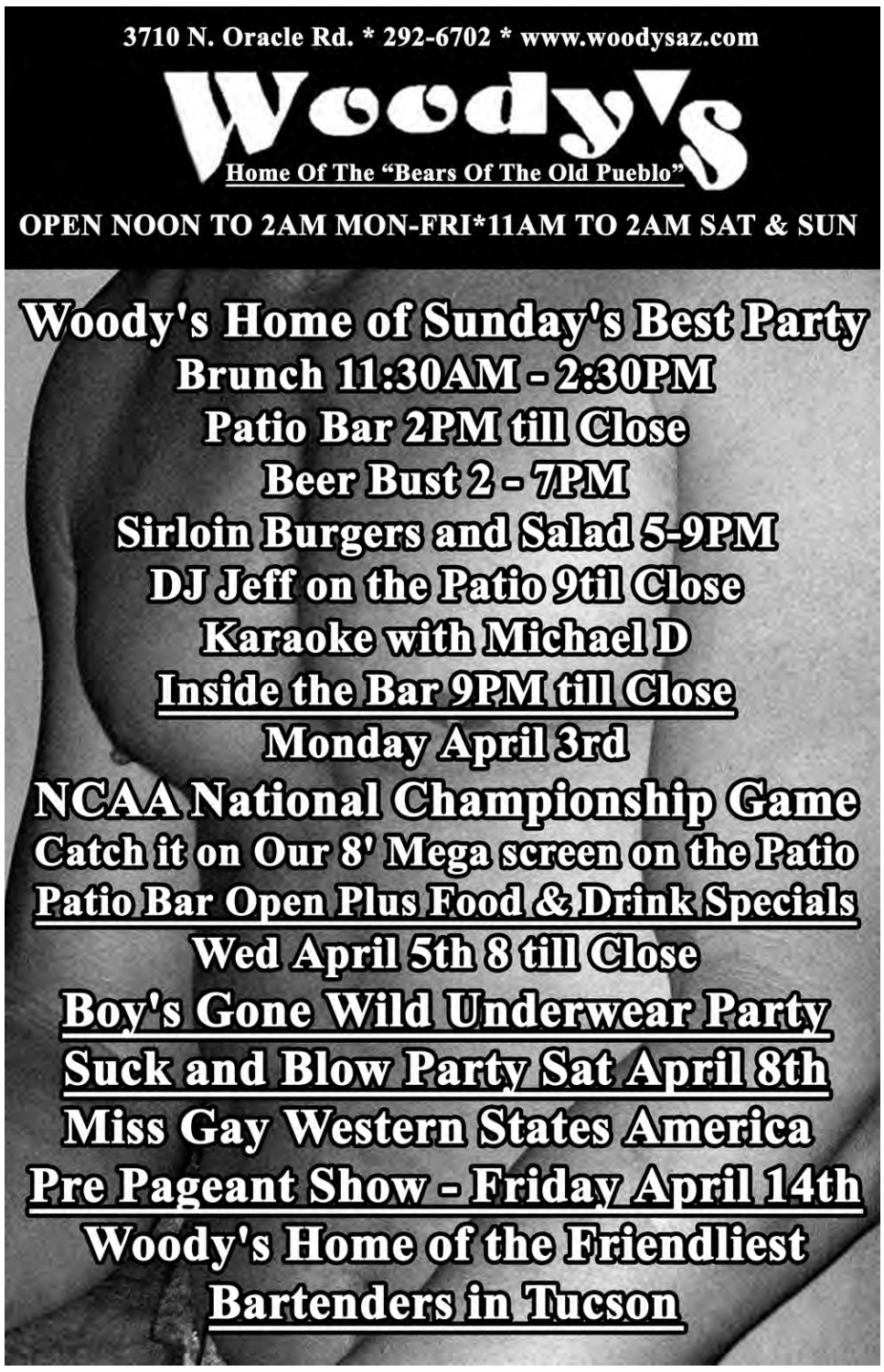
early 2004 to 28 percent now. Strong opposition has dropped sharply among senior citizens and Republicans. People are now evenly split on allowing adoptions by Gay couples and six in 10 now favor allowing Gays to serve openly in the military. Legal challenges of laws on Gay marriage could result in more court decisions that stir public opinion, but this midterm election year is starting with far less public anxiety about one of the nation's most volatile social issues. The telephone poll of 1,405 adults was conducted March 8-12 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



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PERSPECTIVE

Consequences Or The Truth

By State Senator Paula Aboud

In light of the recent court ruling in Ohio's District Court of Appeals, Ohio, thousands of Ohio citizens are no longer protected by their 1979 domestic violence laws because of the 2004 Defense of Marriage amendment to their constitution. Arizona's "Protect Marriage Arizona" amendment initiative is modeled after Ohio's Defense of Marriage amendment and the consequences to our state can be just as drastic.

A section of Arizona's amendment provides "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." Ohio's court ruled that the ability of unmarried couples to get domestic violence protection orders will be limited and state lawmakers may have to step in to change the domestic violence laws.

The Ohio Supreme Court will rule on the lower court's ruling within 30 days. Arizona can use this example of loss of protective rights to increase awareness of those considering supporting the so-called anti-Gay initiative.

This initiative will affect huge numbers of Arizonans, and this is just one example of the many ways other citizens can be affected. According to the 2000 census, there are 118,000 unmarried couples in Arizona, 105,000 are self-identified as "straight" and 12,000 are "Gay". These people may not be protected from domestic violence if this amendment passes in Arizona, not to mention the loss of the right to visit a partner in the hospital, the right to income and estate tax benefits, the right to make arrangements for one's burial, etc.

Arizona Together, the statewide coalition against the "Protect Marriage" amendment initiative, is trying to raise awareness about this and other unintended consequences regarding this initiative. Friends and families, Gay and straight, young and old, must all come together against this initiative…we must discourage Arizonans from signing this petition. The consequences are too drastic to imagine for the citizens of this state. Please join Arizona Together today!

[Paula Aboud is the state Senator from Legislative District 28 in Central Tucson.]

Judge Upholds California DP Partner Property Law

SACRAMENTO - Registered domestic partners will continue to get the same tax benefits as married couples who transfer property under a court ruling that upheld a 2003 decision granting that right, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The ruling by Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Jack Sapunor upheld the California Board of Equalization decision to extend to domestic partners a property tax exemption originally written for spouses.

Under tax code dating back to 1979, people who inherit property after the death of their spouses are exempt from the category of "change in ownership," which would subject them to reassessment of the property's value. The board's rule change was inspired by several cases in which surviving partners were forced to sell their homes because they couldn't afford to pay the higher taxes once the property was reassessed.

But county tax assessors who opposed the rule change sued last year, fearing it could invite tax cheating and cut revenue. They argued that the board's decision was unconstitutional because domestic partners were not included in the original tax law passed by voters. Sapunor rejected that argument, in part citing a law that since was passed by state lawmakers that explicitly granted property transfer rights to domestic partners. The law - authored by state Sen. Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, who also had spearheaded the board's decision as its then-chairwoman - took effect in January.

Shannon Minter, an attorney who represented Equality California, one of the intervening defendants in the lawsuit, called it "a significant victory" for Gay rights. "We're very relieved that the court affirmed this commonsense and humanitarian rule," he said Friday (Mar. 24) Attorneys for the lead plaintiff, Sutter County Tax Assessor Michael Strong, did not return a call for comment.

G/L Marriage Ban

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Burbank, Executive Director

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"The straight, mainstream community hasn't felt threatened because the extremists use our community as a scapegoat, and that is hurting them in the long run. We're all at risk if the so-called 'Protect Marriage Arizona' Amendment passes," said Kobeta

Billie Jean King Endorses LGBT Senior Resorts

Billie Jean King

SANTA FE - Tennis legend Billie Jean King has signed an endorsement deal with a developer of LGBT retirement communities, reported the PlanetOut Network. RainbowVision Properties Inc. announced Thursday (Mar. 23) that King agreed to a "six-figure endorsement" contract for its properties in Santa Fe, N.M., and Palm Springs, Calif.

King approved and endorsed the Billie Jean King Fitness Center & Spa at RainbowVision Santa Fe, which opened in November, and she will advise on the design of a similar fitness center at the Palm Springs property, which is scheduled for construction next year. The company said its RainbowVision Santa Fe complex is the first full-service condominium resort community for LGBT seniors.

"RainbowVision is opening new doors for LGBT Americans entering their second 50 years," King, said in a prepared statement. "It's an honor to be part of Joy Silver's vision and of a project that creates communities of equality where people can be themselves, live life to the fullest and age with style."

Joy Silver, president and CEO of RainbowVision, said, "Billie Jean brings a new level of awareness and visibility to the issues facing LGBT people entering their second 50 years, and she's helping to change the face of retirement living for years to come."

Named by Life magazine as one of the "100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century," King is tied with Martina Navratilova, another Lesbian tennis icon, for the most Wimbledon titles: Each has 20. King is also one of the high-profile athletes who are ambassadors to the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago in July.

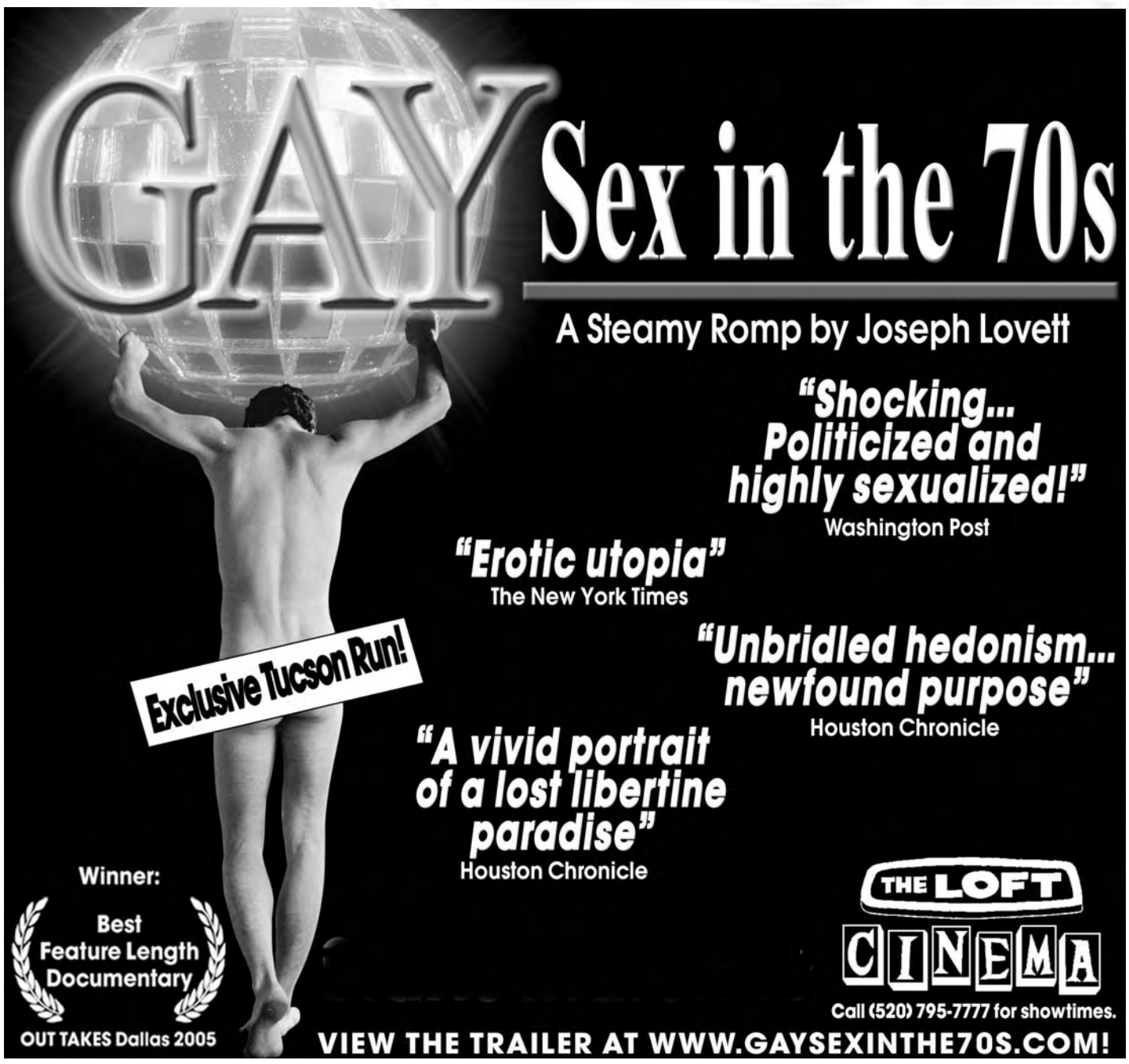
Abstinence Program Banned From Rhode Island Schools

PROVIDENCE - The Rhode Island Department of Education has banned from public schools a privately run abstinence program that critics say violates students' constitutional rights, reported 365Gay.com. A nonprofit group, Heritage of Rhode Island, had been offering its program to schools throughout the state free of charge.

The organization received a $400,000-a-year grant from the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop the program. But critics say that it provided a misguided view of safe-sex. One parent complained to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which took the issue to the Department of Education. The ACLU said that the program embraced sexist stereotypes, isolated Lesbians and Gays, broke state privacy laws and showed students a videotape with religious references.

Rhode Island Education Commission Peter McWalters viewed the material and issued a directive to schools not to use the material. The directive said that the program is "not consistent with Rhode Island Health Education Standards. This program therefore should not be offered as part of the public school health curriculum in Rhode Island schools." McWalters also called upon school systems to submit information about the AIDS-HIV curricula they are using and said he is putting together a review panel to make sure the curricula meet the requirements of state law.

Abstinence programs have come under fire from medical and teen advocacy groups including the Society of Adolescent Medicine, Advocates for Youth and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. In January, the Society of Adolescent Medicine issued one of the most exhaustive reviews to date of government-funded abstinence-only programs. The review said that the federal policy "fails to require the use of scientifically accurate information while promoting approaches of questionable value."



COMMENTARY. . . . by Ellen Goodman

Taking The Insults Personally

In my business, it's only fair to acknowledge a bias. My bias is named Ruthie.

Ruthie is the youngest cousin in a bumper crop of babies that have extended our family over the last few years. When she was adopted, we didn't pass out cigars, we passed out Baby Ruth bars. So maybe it's our fault that she's now in the sugar-rush stage of toddlerhood, leaving her parents joyously breathless and regularly transforming her grandmother's house into Early Childproof Decor.

Did I mention that Ruthie has two daddies, something her toddler cousins take for granted? Did I mention that Ruthie's birth mother chose this couple to raise her, picking these two men from all the dossiers at the adoption agency?

Ruthie is why I take it personally when the Vatican calls Gay adoptions ''gravely immoral" or says that such adoptions ''mean doing violence to these children." Ruthie is why I grimace when Russell Johnson, chairman of the Ohio Restoration Project, says, ''experimenting on children through Gay adoption is a problem." Ruthie and her parents are not an experiment. They are a family. Part of my family.

Once again, we are back to the subject of Gay adoption. This month, Catholic Charities in Boston was called on the Vatican carpet. For years the agency had operated a kind of ''don't ask, don't tell" policy. Over the course of two decades, Catholic social workers had placed 13 children with Gay parents, saving most from the revolving door of foster care.

But Roman Catholic law forbids Gay adoption, and Massachusetts state law forbids discrimination. Faced with a conflict, the bishops overrode the board of Catholic Charities and ended its long and cherished role in adoption.

Now this issue is rolling out across the country, all the way to San Francisco. There, the new archbishop appears to be on a similar collision course with Catholic Charities and secular laws.

In Massachusetts, Governor Mitt Romney, nodding madly to conservatives in his bid for a presidential run, has filed a bill to grant a religious exemption to discrimination laws. But if you give one church permission to discriminate against Gays, what's next? Permission to discriminate against blacks or Jews who want to adopt? Isn't that where we came from?

It seems that many see Gay adoption as another issue to rally the right in the culture wars. There are now efforts underway in 16 states for laws to ban Gay adoptions. These would add to a crazy quilt of state laws ranging from Florida, which bans Gay adoptions but allows Gay foster parents, to Mississippi, which bans adoption by Gay couples but not Gay singles, to Utah, which prohibits all unmarried couples from adoption.

But let's put my Ruthie bias aside for the moment. Let's even put aside the studies that support my bias: A comprehensive review of them coming out next week from the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute shows again that children of Gay parents do fine.

If some still insist that it is ''gravely immoral" to raise children in Gay households, what exactly do those wedge-drivers propose to do?

We have always had Gay parents. Most had children the old-fashioned way, hiding their sexuality as long as they could. Now they can also do it the new-fashioned way with every reproductive aid from sperm bank to surrogate.

A researcher analyzing the 2000 Census estimated 250,000 kids being raised by same-sex couples. If Gay parenting is harmful, do we take children away from their biological Gay parents? Do we make it unlawful for Gays to use fertility technologies? How? If there are states that allow Gay adoption, would we ban interstate travel for that? And what do we say to a birth mother who picks a Gay couple? No?

Today 60 percent of agencies accept applications and 40 percent knowingly place children with Gay parents. Social workers, whether at religious, state, or private agencies, want only one thing: to find safe, good homes in a country with 500,000 children adrift.

''The effect of all this opposition is not to prevent Gay people from becoming parents," says Adam Pertman of the Donaldson Adoption Institute. ''All it can do is diminish the pool of mothers and fathers for children who need homes."

We all talk about ''the best interest of the child." What makes up that interest? On my list are attention, love, security, humor, and a besotted family racing to keep one step ahead of a toddler. Of course, a little bias on that child's behalf never hurts.

[Goodman is a columnist for the Boston Globe, from which this is reprinted from the Mar. 24 edition.]

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NY Attorney General Endorses G/L Marriage

N.Y. Attorney General Eliot Spitzer

NEW YORK - New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has become the first candidate for governor in the history of the Empire State to publicly endorse same-sex marriage - even though he is currently in court defending a state law banning Gay unions, 365Gay.com reported. Spitzer is the frontrunner in the race for the Democratic nod for governor. His expected running mate, Senate Minority Leader David Paterson also supports same-sex marriage as do all six people seeking the Democratic nomination for Attorney General and state Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi, also a Democrat.

They are all among more than 40 elected officials across NY state who have signed onto an initiative by Empire State Pride Agenda - New York's LGBT rights group - called New Yorkers for the Freedom to Marry. "We are proud that elected officials all across the state are joining clergy members in standing up for our families and for a New York where all people are treated equally under the law," said Alan Van Capelle, Executive Director of Pride Agenda. "When same-sex couples are able to marry and government provides our families the same protections and support it provides to all other families, these elected officials will be seen as being on the right side of history."

Tom Suozzi, Spitzer's Democratic rival, opposes same-sex marriage but supports domestic-partner benefits. Republicans scoffed at Spitzer's support for equal marriage rights. The Attorney General's support is the first definitive statement he has made on the issue, although he said in a legal opinion two years ago that a review of state law led him to conclude it is illegal to marry same-sex couples, but added that did not believe the legislation would hold up in court. That law is being challenged in the state's highest court. In May the Court of Appeal will hear the case. As Attorney General Spitzer is obligated to vigorously defend the existing law. A Global Strategy Group survey last year found that 51% of New Yorkers support marriage for same-sex couples while 42% do not.

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Randy Quaid Sues Over Brokeback Check

Actor Randy Quaid

OKLAHOMA CITY - Days after a bus of Equality Riders (pictured) came through the state, stopping at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, the Oklahoma Board of Education has repealed its antidiscrimination policy protecting sexual orientation, Advocate.com reported. The change happened without notice last Thursday in Oklahoma City in response to a state representative's complaints about the Equality Ride, in which more than 30 young LGBT activists are attempting to meet with students at Christian universities that ban the enrollment of Gays.

Previously, the school board's antidiscrimination policy covered sexual orientation, as well as a student's family, social, and cultural background. Now those categories have been struck from the policy, which has reverted back to state and federal antidiscrimination laws protecting a student's race, for instance. The action came at the request of Oklahoma Representative Kevin Calvey, a Republican seeking election to the United States Congress. He said in a statement that "the board's new rule will protect public schools from having to allow homosexual rights organizations to hold meetings on school grounds."

Citing the recent Equality Ride protests at the two universities, where several Equality Riders were arrested, Calvey added, "This isn't really at the high school level yet, but I would expect it someday to be." The head of an Oklahoma Gay-rights group said that the policy change is a part of wider political positioning by conservatives this election year. "It's just open season on GLBT people at the state Legislature," Laura Belmonte, president of Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights, told tulsaworld.com. "It is our belief that these conservative legislators are using these issues as a wedge issue to try to mobilize their base in an effort to take over the Senate this year." There was no comment from the school board's superintendent.

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POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Lies About PMAA Revisited

In the Center for Arizona Policy's (CAP) "Family Facts Arizona" newsletter, dated July 14, 2005, then founder and President, Lynden (Len) Munsil, now a candidate for the Republican Gubernatorial nomination wrote in section three, entitled "Lies About PMAA (Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment)," that "I will be addressing some of the false arguments being made to scare people into not signing the PMAA petitions." Munsil adds that " . . . much of the rhetoric you will hear from opponents is pure politics, scare tactics and fiction."

Munsil continues, giving a list of "some of the things the PMAA does not do" that included hospital visitation, inheritance rights, medical decision making, "other benefits," providing for each other in their last will and testament, preventing government from enforcing "domestic violence laws against domestic partners who become violent," "private businesses providing benefits to whoever the business wants to provide with benefits." These claims by Munsil have been proven otherwise in this column for this publication in 2005 and again will be shown this year as the July 6 petition filing deadline for PMAA and potential campaign and vote by Arizonans draws closer.

Munsil didn't stop there, writing that, " . . . the amendment simply reserves the special status of marriage in our laws to people who are actually married." More Munsil fiction because of
the following:

On Jan. 13, 2005, in a written statement by Munsil from CAP announcing the initiative, Lynden said the PMAA will be " . . . a comprehensive, constitutional marriage amendment . . . "; The PMAA's language, filed with the Arizona Secretary of State, May 16, 2005 states, "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."; and,

Cathi Herrod, then lobbyist for the CAP and now interim President, said in the May 17, 2005 - Arizona Daily Star article,"Gay Marriage Supporters, Foes Framing Debate for 2006 Vote," that " . . . the amendment, if approved, would outlaw that registry (City of Tucson Domestic Partner Registry). That is because it gives unmarried couples the same access as families to city services, as well as the same visitation rights at hospitals within the city."

In the June 18, 2005 - East Valley Tribune,"Same-sex Marriage Fight Looms," Herrod said "'If it gives a legal status to unmarried individuals,' . . . 'it would not be allowed.'"

In their Jan. 13, 2005 CAP announcement statement, Munsil wrote that "marriage, the foundation of our society, is too important to politicize."

Even more fiction and pure politics since on May 17, the day after that Len, Cathi and their minions filed the paper, they launched their campaign with press conferences in Tucson, Flagstaff and with a political rally in the mall between the Arizona House and Senate chambers, "the epicenter of Arizona politics."

In the May 17, 2005 - Arizona Daily Star article,"Gay Marriage Supporters, Foes Framing Debate for 2006 Vote," Munsil is quoted as saying "You never know where the next activist judge is going to strike," and that . . . "courts here have never been asked to decide whether Arizona has to recognize the marriage of a Gay couple legally performed in another state."

More Munsil fiction and convenient memory loss because of Standhardt v. Superior Court, 206 Arizona 276 (Arizona Appeals Court 2003) that upheld Arizona's statute prohibiting same-sex
couples from marrying (A.R.S. 25-101) as well as the statute (A.R.S. 25-112) which prohibits marriages from other states mentioned in A.R.S. 25-101 won't be recognized in Arizona that Munsil and the CAP acknowledge in their issue brief, "Civil Unions and Gay Marriage."

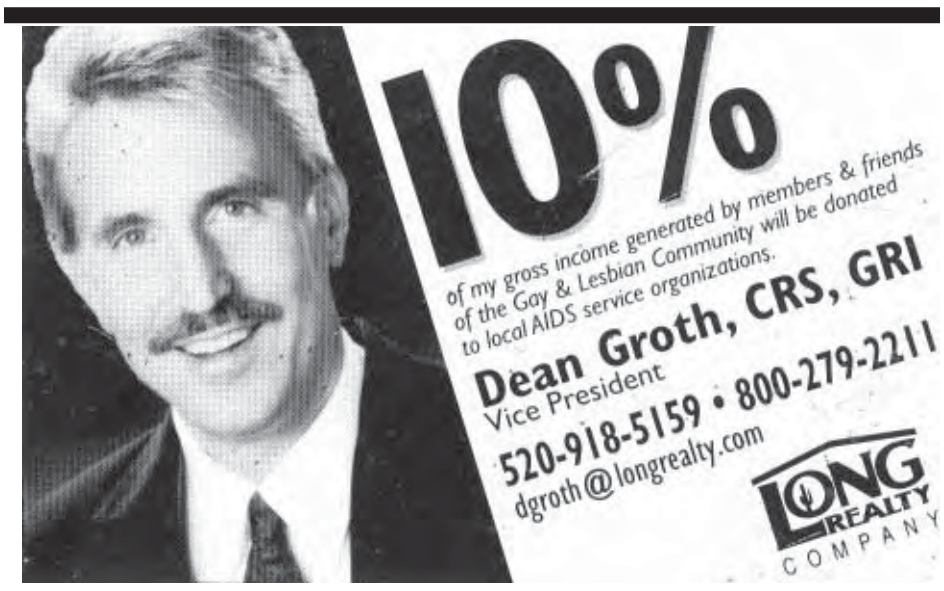
It gets even better since in the same position paper, it goes on to state that "one of CAP's first successfully drafted and lobbied laws was Arizona's 1996 ban on same-sex marriage." In an interview in the Apr.10, 2005 - Arizona Daily Star article, entitled, "Len Munsil Wants to Convert You," as well as his biography on CAP's Web site, azpolicy.org, that "he personally drafted (SB 1038, creating A.R.S. 25-101 and A.R.S. 25-112)" and the " . . . prohibition on same sex marriage," which was written "in the basement of the House late in the session."

As stated earlier in this column, Munsil in July 14, 2005 Family Facts Newsletter, gave a list of "'some of the things the PMAA does not do' including hospital visitation, inheritance rights, medical decision making, 'other benefits,' providing for each other in their last will and testament, preventing government from enforcing 'domestic violence laws against domestic partners who become violent.'"

In the Jan. 6, 2005, article, "State Will Be Asked to Ban Gay Marriage, Civil Unions Partner Benefits Part of '06 Vote," published in the Arizona Daily Star, Cathi Herrod " . . .noted, though, that 11 states adopted constitutional amendments in November, eight with similar provisions. She said Arizona's measure is being modeled on the Ohio amendment, which says state and local governments 'shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage.' . . ."

Ohio's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage bars prosecutors from charging some unmarried people under the state's domestic violence law, a state appeals court ruled. Friday's (Mar. 24, 2006) decision by the second district court of appeals is the first from Ohio's 12 appellate courts to rule that the Defense of Marriage amendment, passed by voters in 2004, means that the domestic violence law does not apply to unmarried people.

So who was lying then and now?



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UPDATE

UCC Launches New GLBT-Positive TV Ads; Networks Refuse To Run Them

CLEVELAND - The United Church of Christ has unveiled a new television commercial aimed at showing the denomination is inclusive but already the major TV networks have refused to run the ads, reported 365Gay.com. Called "Ejector Seat," the ad employ humor to underscore one of the campaign's central themes, "God doesn't reject people. Neither do we."

The 30-second commercial begins with a shot of an African-American mother trying to calm a crying baby. Sitting in a church pew, the mother fidgets anxiously, as she endures disapproving looks from fellow worshippers. Eventually, someone in the wings pushes an "ejector" button to rid the church of her - and her noisy baby. Into the air they go flying. In similar fashion, a Gay couple, an Arab-American, a person using a walker, among others, get "ejected." Finally, when a homeless person wanders in and takes a seat, nervous parishioners - expecting she'll get the boot for sure - scoot away from her.

The commercial ends with a mood shift, where shots of diverse, friendly people set the stage for the announcer's invitation: "The United Church of Christ - no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." CBS, NBC, ABC, Fox and WB have rejected the commercial, claiming it's an advocacy ad and too controversial. A number of cable networks have, however, accepted the ad. The ad will begin airing nationally on April 3, in advance of Easter. UCC is spending $1.5 million on the commercial and hopes to raise another $800,000 to keep the ad on the air through Mother's Day. It is the second time the major networks have refused to air a UCC Gay-friendly ad. In 2004, the church produced a 30-second commercial featuring two muscle-bound "bouncers" standing guard outside a picturesque church and selecting which persons are permitted to attend Sunday services. Written text interrupts the scene, announcing, "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we." The commercial went on to win a prestigious national advertising award.

In unveiling the "Ejector Seat," ad Monday the Rev. John H. Thomas, UCC general minister and president, said that if the "Bouncer ad" reminded us that God doesn't need gatekeepers, then "ejector seat" reminds us that grace may come in the guise of the stranger, even someone who makes us uncomfortable. "'Ejector seat' continues to challenge the church - all churches - to a more extravagant welcome," Thomas said. "While celebrating the way the UCC has reached wide in that welcome, it also reminds us that many in our communities continue to feel left out and left alone."

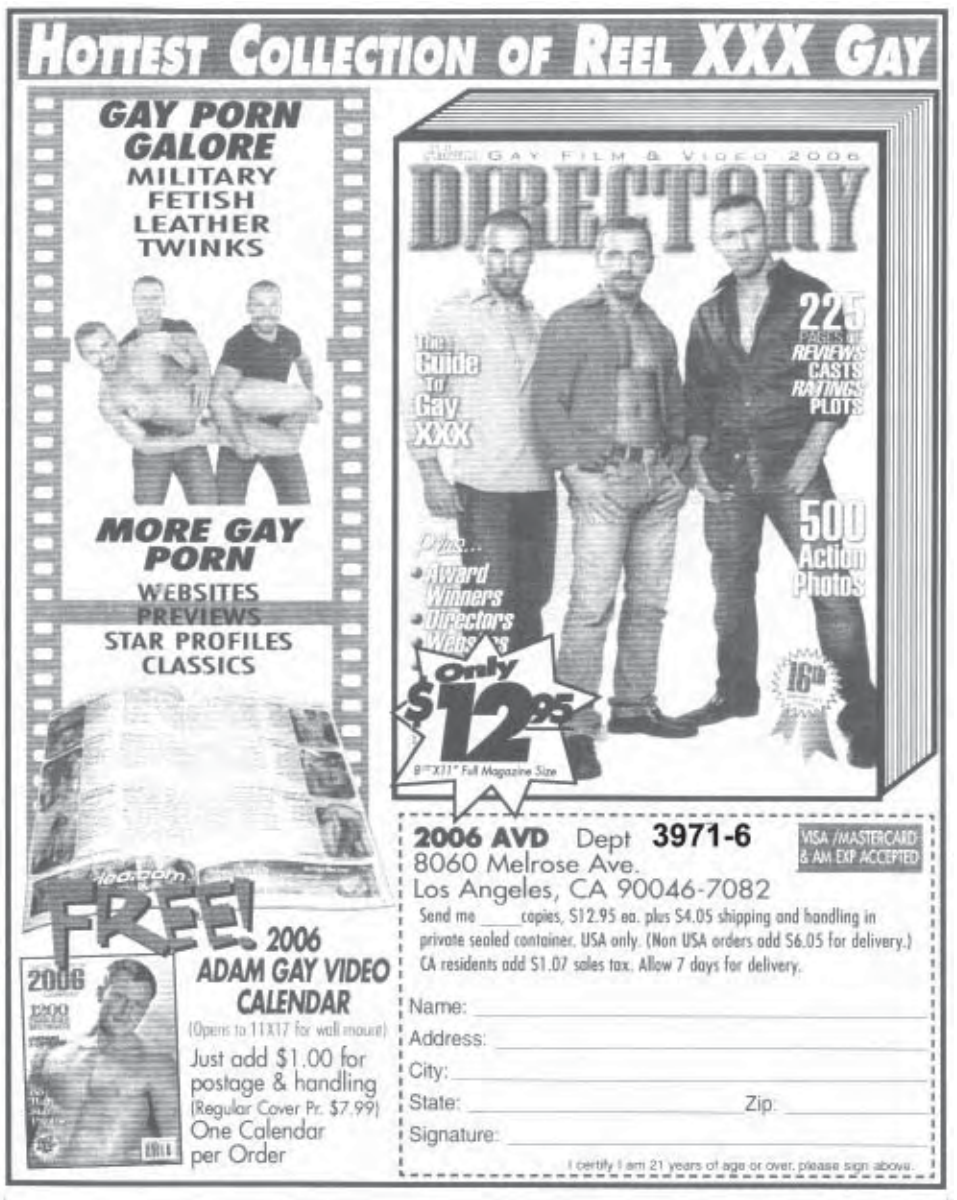
Utah Governor Vetoes Anti-G/L Parenting Bill

SALT LAKE CITY - Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. has vetoed a bill that would prevent a court from awarding parental rights against the wishes of the biological or adoptive parent, reported 365Gay.com. The legislation stemmed from a case that made international headlines in 2004 when a judge awarded visitation rights to the former Lesbian partner of the child's birth mother who claims to have turned straight after "getting religion".

The case, Jones v Barlow, is now before the Utah Supreme Court. Keri Lynn Jones and Cheryl Pike Barlow met in 2000 and were together about three years. "Probably after we were dating six months maybe, we decided we wanted to have a baby in the next year so we spent a lot of time talking to our attorney," Jones contends in court papers. Jones contends they intended to rear the girl - now 5 years old - together and took several steps to establish legal relationship for her and the baby. Barlow disputes that she ever intended for Jones to have a legal relationship to the child. At the beginning both women shared in the joy of the birth. But then, Barlow said, she discovered Jones was having an affair with another woman.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. LaVar Christensen (R-Draper) who also sponsored Utah's constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and is involved in suit challenging Salt Lake City's domestic partner benefits. Opponents of the legislation said it could affect grandparents and/or stepparents.

"The biological parent's right to exercise that authority unilaterally - casting aside bonds that have been created over the course of many years without so much as a hearing to determine what might be in the best interests of the child - would trump all other considerations unless the biological parent had previously "been adjudicated as an unfit parent," Huntsman wrote in his veto. "Giving such parents an absolute right to terminate a child's relationship with a step parent standing in loco parentis would be a mistake. I must therefore veto this bill," he said. House and Senate leaders said that they will poll fellow lawmakers to determine if there is enough support for an override session in the next few weeks. Lawmakers have 60 days to reinstate the laws.



Potential AIDS Vaccine Shows Promise

ATLANTA - Twenty-five years after the first AIDS cases jolted the world, scientists think they soon may have a pill that people could take to keep from getting the virus that causes the global killer, reported the Associated Press. Two drugs already used to treat HIV infection have shown such promise at preventing it in monkeys that officials said they would expand early tests in healthy high-risk men and women around the world.

"This is the first thing I've seen at this point that I think really could have a prevention impact," said Thomas Folks, a federal scientist since the earliest days of AIDS. "If it works, it could be distributed quickly and could blunt the epidemic." Condoms and counseling alone have not been enough - HIV spreads to 10 people every minute, 5 million every year. A vaccine remains the best hope but none is in sight. If larger tests show the drugs work, they could be given to people at highest risk of HIV - from Gay men in American cities to women in Africa who catch the virus from their partners.

People like Matthew Bell, a 32-year-old hotel manager in San Francisco who volunteered for a safety study of one of the drugs. "As much as I want to make the right choices all of the time, that's not the reality of it," he said of practicing safe sex. "If I thought there was a fallback parachute, a preventative, I would definitely want to add that." Some fear that this could make things worse. "I've had people make comments to me, 'Aren't you just making the world safer for unsafe sex?'" said Dr. Lynn Paxton, team leader for the project at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The drugs would only be given to people along with counseling and condoms, and regular testing to make sure they haven't become infected. Health officials also think the strategy has potential for more people than just Gay men, though they don't intend to give it "to housewives in Peoria," as Paxton puts it.

Some uninfected Gay men already are getting the drugs from friends with AIDS or doctors willing to prescribe them to patients who admit not using condoms. This kind of use could lead to drug resistance and is one reason officials are rushing to expand studies. "We need information about whether this approach is safe and effective" before recommending it, said Dr. Susan Buchbinder, who leads one study in San Francisco. The drugs are tenofovir (Viread) and emtricitabine, or FTC (Emtriva), sold in combination as Truvada by Gilead Sciences Inc., a California company best known for inventing Tamiflu, a drug showing promise against bird flu.

Unlike vaccines, which work through the immune system - the very thing HIV destroys - AIDS drugs simply keep the virus from reproducing. They already are used to prevent infection in health care workers accidentally exposed to HIV, and in babies whose pregnant mothers receive them. Taking them daily or weekly before exposure to the virus - the time frame isn't known yet - may keep it from taking hold, just as taking malaria drugs in advance can prevent that disease when someone is bitten by an infected mosquito, scientists believe.

Monkeys suggest they are right. Specifically, six macaques were given the drugs and then challenged with a deadly combination of monkey and human AIDS viruses, administered in rectal doses to imitate how the germ spreads in Gay men. Despite 14 weekly blasts of the virus, none of the monkeys became infected. All but one of another group of monkeys that didn't get the drugs did, typically after two exposures. "Seeing complete protection is very promising," and something never before achieved in HIV prevention experiments, said Walid Heneine, a CDC scientist working on the study. What happened next, when scientists quit giving the drugs, was equally exciting.

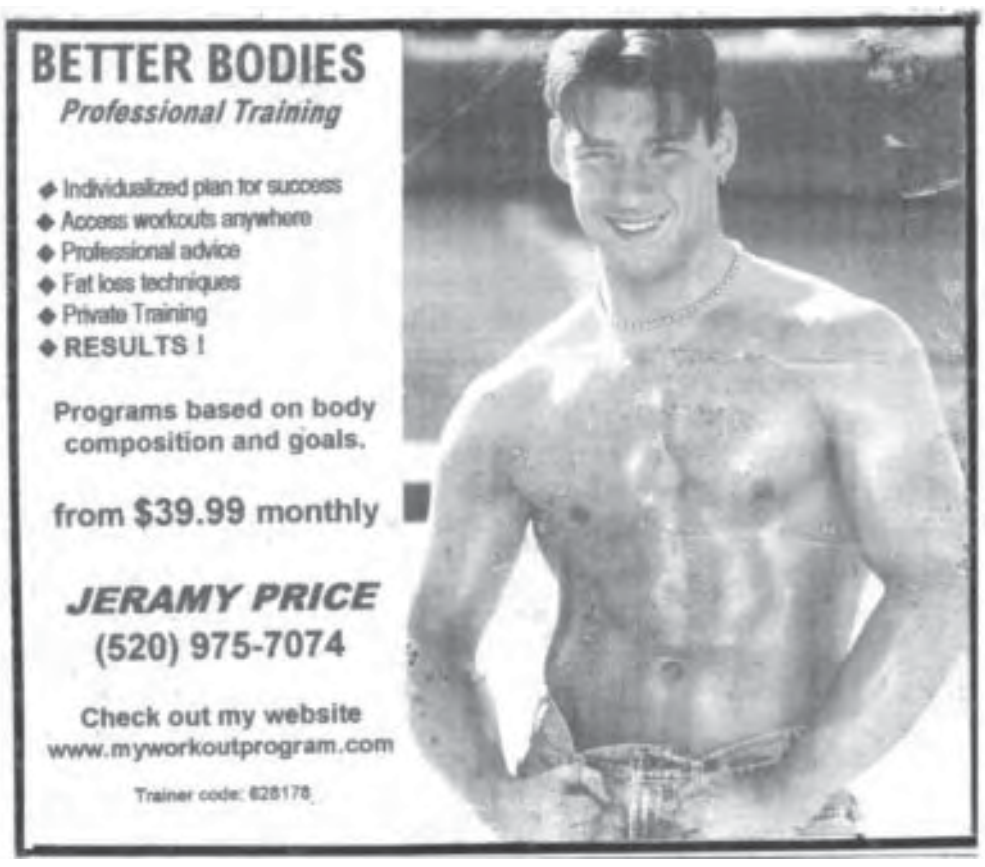
"We wanted to see, was the drug holding the virus down so we didn't detect it," or was it truly preventing infection, said Folks, head of the CDC's HIV research lab. It turned out to be the latter. "We're now four months following the animals with no drug, no virus. They're uninfected and healthy." Years of previous monkey studies using tenofovir alone had shown partial protection. The scientists thought to add the second drug, FTC, when Gilead's combination pill, Truvada, came on the market last year. The results, announced at a scientific meeting last month in Denver, so electrified the field that private and government funders alike have been looking at ways to expand human testing. "This is an approach we've considered for a long, long time," but didn't try sooner because AIDS drugs had side effects and risks unacceptable for uninfected people, said Dr. Mary Fanning, director of prevention research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

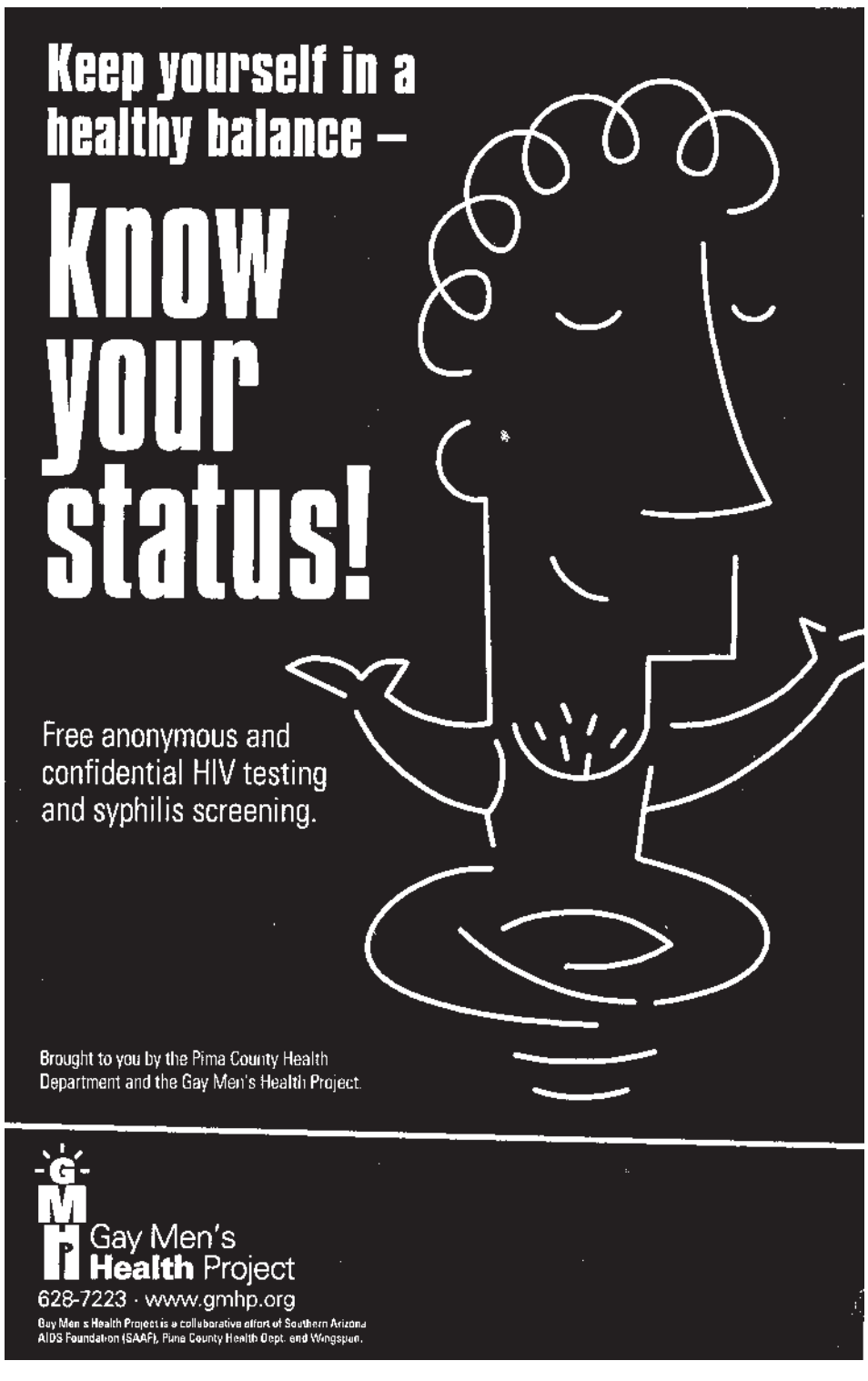
Tenofovir changed that when it came on the market in 2001. It is potent, safe, stays in the bloodstream long enough that it can be taken just once a day, doesn't interact with other medicines or birth control pills, and spurs less drug resistance than other AIDS medications. The CDC last year launched $19 million worth of studies of it in drug users in Thailand, heterosexual men and women in Botswana, and Gay men in Atlanta and San Francisco. A third U.S. city, not yet identified, will be added, CDC announced last week. Because of the exciting new monkey results, the Botswana study now will be switched to the drug combination; the others are well under way with tenofovir alone.

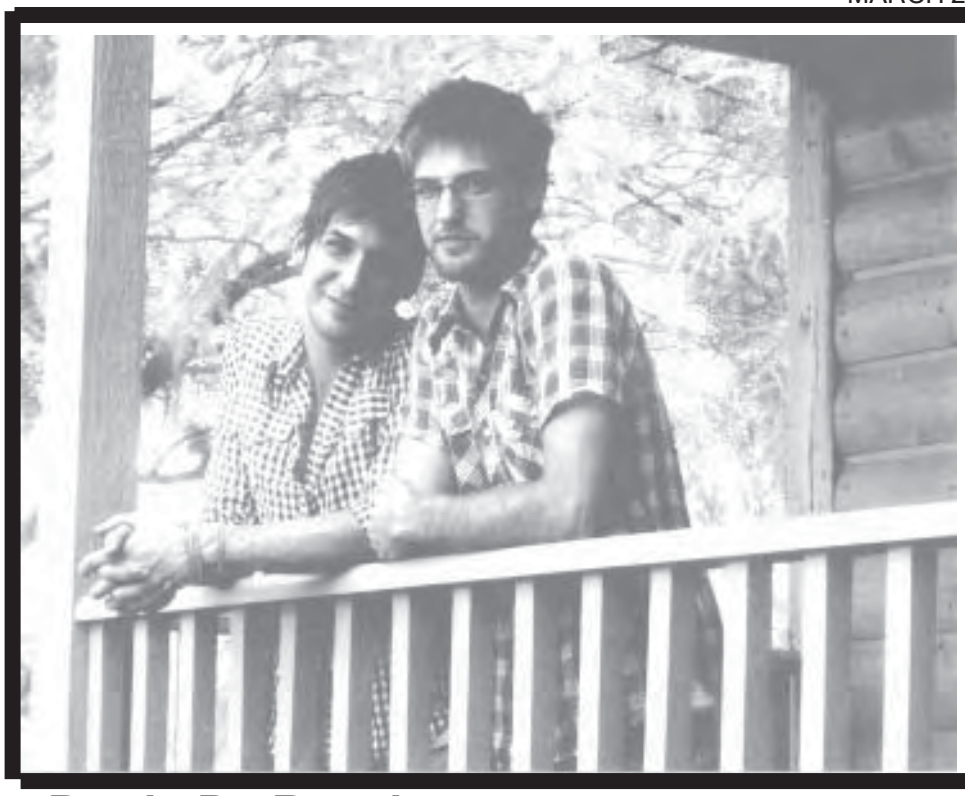
Farthest along is a study of 400 heterosexual women in Ghana by Family Health Initiative. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded it and others in Cambodia, Nigeria, Cameroon and Malawi, but the rest were doomed by rumors, including fears that scientists wanted to deliberately expose people to HIV or that study participants who got infected might not have access to treatment. In other cases, activists demanded better health care or clean needles for drug users as a condition for allowing the studies to proceed. Such problems are "part of the HIV prevention landscape" in many foreign countries, said Dr. Helene Gayle, who formerly oversaw AIDS research for the Gates Foundation. Expense also could limit use of the drugs. Gilead donated them for the studies and sells them in poor countries at cost - 57 cents a pill for tenofovir and 87 cents for Truvada, the combination drug. That's more than the cost of condoms, available for pennies and donated by the truckload in Africa, but often unused.

In the United States, wholesale costs are $417 for a month of tenofovir and $650 for Truvada. Still, health officials are hopeful the drugs could fill an important gap. The National Institutes of Health is starting a tenofovir study in 1,400 Gay men in

Continued on Page Thirteen







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Portia De Rossi
and girlfriend Ellen DeGeneres

NEW YORK - Out actress Portia de Rossi tells Vogue magazine that working on Ally McBeal with Calista Flockhart and other thin actresses sent her into a dangerous weight-loss spiral, Advocate.com reported.

Saying that she had "literally wanted to disappear," de Rossi says, "I've often wondered if I wasn't on that show if [her weight loss] may not have happened. I didn't really know at that point what it was like to be a celebrity, and the only people I knew at the time who had a similar experience were these women who I worked with. They became my role models."

Encouraged by girlfriend Ellen DeGeneres, de Rossi decided to come forward and discuss the issue openly, adding, "I'm not proud of this struggle."

Are The Boy Scouts Of America Breaking The Law?

TORONTO - The co-director of the Christian Peacemakers Teams says the family of freed Christian peace activist James Loney kept his sexual orientation quiet out of fear for his safety, reported the Canadian Press. Doug Pritchard says the family feared Loney might come to harm at the hands of his Iraqi captors had they known he was Gay.

Pritchard says it likely wouldn't have helped if Loney's partner, Dan Hunt, had come forward with public pleas for his release. Hunt made his first public appearance since Loney's ordeal began last November when he greeted his partner Sunday (Mar. 26) at the airport. Loney arrived in Toronto after he and two other peace activists were rescued by coalition soldiers in Iraq. The 41-year-old Loney was kidnapped in Baghdad along with fellow Canadian Harmeet Sooden, Briton Norm Kember and American Tom Fox, whose bullet-ridden body was found earlier this month.

Loney is expected to travel to his hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., where red ribbons decorate the trees and store and restaurant owners have posted welcome-home messages in their windows. In the city of 75,000, signs reading, "Prayers Answered, Welcome Home James" were to decorate several city buildings. At the Civic Centre, a message book was waiting for well-wishers to leave Loney a personal greeting. The Sault Star also published a full-page color photograph of Loney for residents to post in their windows "so that Jim, his parents Claudette and Patrick, and other family members see the joy of an entire community as he arrives home." Loney's parents have kept a low profile since their son's arrival back in Canada, and so far no one is saying exactly when he's expected to arrive in Sault Ste. Marie.

New Hampshire House Nixes Anti-G/L Amendment

CONCORD - The New Hampshire House delivered a crushing blow on Tuesday (Mar. 21) to supporters of an amendment to the state constitution that would ban same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. In a late afternoon vote lawmakers rejected the amendment 207-125.

Last month, a committee studying the proposal recommended the House reject it. The Judiciary Committee voted 14-7 to recommend that the amendment not be adopted. New Hampshire law already bans same-sex marriage, but opponents want to have the state Constitution declare that "a marriage between one man and one woman shall be the only legal union that shall be valid or recognized in the state."

They say that would keep the issue out of the courts. Earlier this month conservative activists delivered seven-thousand letters to lawmakers urging them to vote for the amendment.

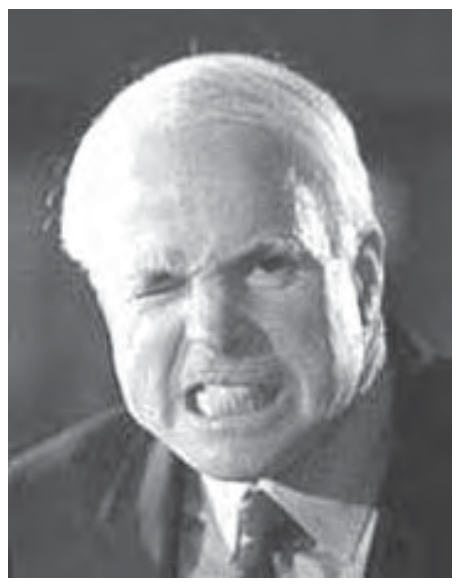
In Their Own Words

"Every good Christian ought to kick Falwell right in the ass." - Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater in response to Jerry Falwell stating he was concerned that Sandra Day O'Connor might be moderate on abortion and other social issues, 1981.

Meanwhile, his Senate successor, the driver of the "straight talk express," Sen. John McCain will deliver the Commencement message at Rev. Jerry Falwell's Liberty University on May 13, 9:30 a.m., in the Liberty University Vines Center. From the Liberty University press release, " . . .Sen. McCain and Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell have had their share of political differences through the years, the two men share a common respect for each other and have become good friends in their efforts to preserve what they see as common values. . . ."

"'Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, denounced the twin pillars of the Christian religious right, Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, as 'agents of intolerance.' 'Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell on the right,'" McCain said Feb. 25, 2000 in an article for the conservative National Review, Feb. 29, 2000 in a New York Newsday article, as well as an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on that same day.

Perhaps it is time for another kick in the ass . . . for the "straight talking panderer," McCain?



Senator John McCain

Rev. Jerry Falwell

The Late Barry Goldwater

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
Accountability

by Lee Thorn

Even for those of us who are not enthralled with the subject of secondary education per se, the interminable wrangling over testing kicks up a bunch of related social issues that deserve to tickle our fancy. Consider this: Would Bush be president if he had been required to pass a comprehensive standardized test in order to obtain his high school diploma? If that doesn't put the issue of educational accountability squarely in the center of your radar screen, I can't imagine what would.

There seem to be a couple of really large social issues related to testing and any number of interesting wrinkles underneath them. A brand new wrinkle popped out of the ARIZONA DAILY STAR on March 17 when a federal judge was reported to have "refused...to require Arizona high-school seniors who are not yet English-proficient to pass the AIMS test to graduate this year." The category of "seniors who are not yet English-proficient" is intriguing. Does it mean that these seniors are proficient in another language? Should they have to demonstrate proficiency in that language to get a pass? How about a student who's not proficient in any language? Should he get a pass?

Here's what's actually new. The federal court in this ruling is dramatically increasing its role in the educational function that the states have traditionally controlled. In 2000 the court ordered the state of Arizona to come up with adequate funding for English learners. That order could fairly be characterized as the court influencing the school system's curricula. This new ruling is something quite different. Here the court is influencing the school system's function of certification. The court has moved from saying, "You must make this learning opportunity available," to saying, "You must certify that this learning has been accomplished."

Isn't that what a high school diploma is? It's a certification that a course of learning has successfully been completed. This new federal ruling undermines the whole concept of the high school diploma as certification. One student is held to the standard of having to pass the AIMS test to get his diploma while another student at the same school from the same class year can get the same diploma without passing the test. Hence, the diploma is certifying two different things without making the difference apparent to prospective employers or anyone else who might have an interest in what it's supposed to represent.

Not to sound overly harsh about the matter, but what the court is ordering – the giving of one diploma for two different accomplishments – really amounts to a fraud. You're putting the same label on two different products. If you couldn't get away with that while running a grocery store, why should you be able to get away with it while running a high school?

It was while contemplating this dilemma that the perfect solution to all the years of AIMS controversy occurred to me. People want to demand that students pass the AIMS test because they believe (falsely, alas) that it will increase educational accountability. On the other hand, denying students their high school diplomas because they fail a test has seemed so harsh that the implementation of the requirement keeps being delayed and now, as in this current court case, exceptions are being created. But both sides can have their cake and eat it. Just give everybody who attends the minimum number of classes a high school diploma, but have different grades of diplomas to indicate different levels of accomplishment.

This scheme could solve the current impasse and could easily be amended to reflect the evolving educational fashions of the future, all without generating diplomas tinged with fraud. You'd have a high school diploma "grade one" that would indicate that the recipient had done all the traditional high school requirements and had passed all the various parts of the AIMS test. "Grade two" would be the same as grade one except the recipient would have failed one part of the test. "Grade three" he failed two parts. I'm not sure how many parts there are, but you get the idea. There'd be a lower grade diploma for people who passed all the traditional stuff but completely failed the test. The lowest grade diploma would be for people who attended the classes but didn't pass them or the test.

Everyone who attends high school faithfully walks away with a diploma. Everyone who has an interest in evaluating the student – employers, college admissions people, etc. – would quickly become aware of what the various grades signified. No need for any fraud or deception. No need for any more delays or exceptions. Is everybody happy? Was that so hard? I still believe that reliance on standardized testing has grossly reduced both the breadth and the depth of curricula at all levels, but that's another column.

[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.]

Potential AIDS Vaccine Shows Promise

Continued from Page Eleven

Peru. Private and government funders are considering others. Tenofovir also is being tested in microbicide gels that women could use vaginally to try to prevent catching HIV. "If you're in an area where there's a really high HIV incidence, something that's even 40 percent effective could have a huge impact," Paxton said. And in the Atlanta labs where Heneine, Folks and others are still minding the monkeys, "the level of enthusiasm is pretty high," Heneine said. "This is very promising. For us to be involved in a potential solution to the big HIV crisis and pandemic is very exciting."

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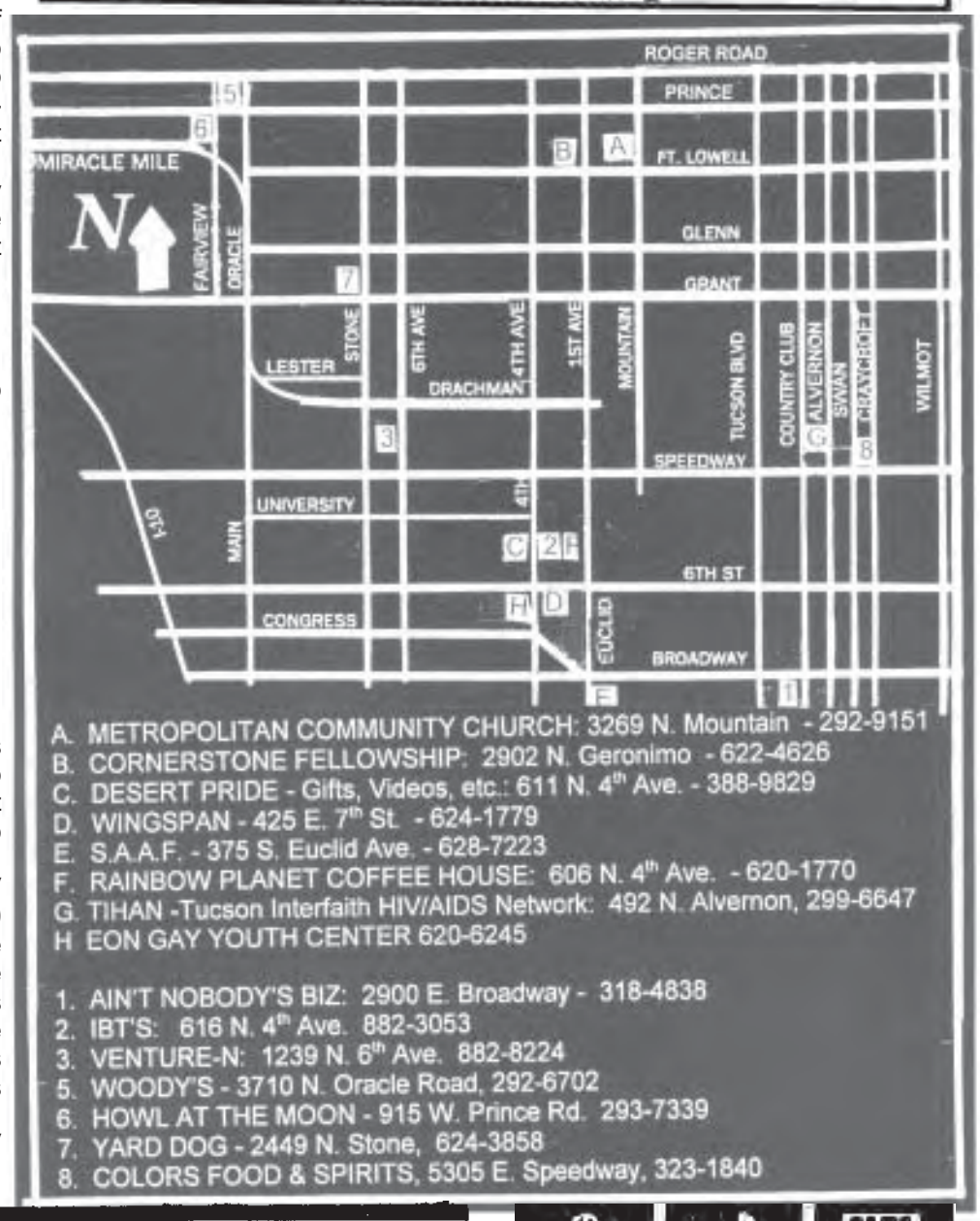

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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, March 29
7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Wingspan Anti-Violence Project focus groups sponsored by the UofA giving a meeting here you can give your opinion on services offered to the LGBT community in Tucson, especially for current and former clients of the Anti-Violence Project. This meeting take place at Wingspan, 425 7th Street. 624-1779 Ext 17 for more information. There will be a second meeting of this group on Saturday, March 29.

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m Join Merlin for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, March 30
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, March 31
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed: 8:30 a.m. Join Tom and the Sunrise Scientists for a Bagel Brunch and a 2 hour lecture from Einstein's Relativity and the Quantum Revolution: Modern Physics for Non-Scientists. Monthly 2-hour meetings will finish this 12 hour course in 6 months. Please contact Tom at 744-9036 for reservations and directions.

Saturday, April 1
Phoenix Pride 2006 Steele Indian School Park in midtown Phoenix. Festival opens at 11:00 a.m. today and Tomorrow - April 1 & 2. The closing time at 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday. Headliner on the Festival Stage Saturday will be Jennifer Holliday. Advance ticket sales for both admission and beverages are available for online purchase with your credit card at www.PhoenixPride.org. You get a printed receipt to take to the special Pride Will Call area to pick up your tickets. A discounted weekend (2-day) admission ticket is available for only $15; single day admission ticket is $10 The biggest parade in Phoenix history will kick off at 11:00 a.m. The parade route is moving to 3rd Street, northbound from Virginia to Indian School Road. Visit their website at www.PhoenixPride.org

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Wingspan Anti-Violence Project focus groups sponsored by the UofA giving a meeting here you can give your opinion on services offered to the LGBT community in Tucson, especially for current and former clients of the Anti-Violence Project. This meeting take place at Wingspan, 425 7th Street. 624-1779 Ext 17 for more information. There will be a second meeting of this group on Saturday, March 29.

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.m. Join Jack and Mike for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Mike and Jack at 881-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. We invite you to join us for our monthly Pot Luck Dinner and to get to know the members of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to ogle an array of hot dishes, meet new men, and greet old friends. Reservations are not necessary. Call Steve at 745-0304 for location and directions.

Sunday, April 2
Phoenix Pride 2006 Steele Indian School Park in midtown Phoenix. Festival opens at 11:00 a.m. today and Tomorrow - April 1 & 2. The closing time at 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday. Headliner on the Festival Stage today will be RuPaul. Advance ticket sales for both admission and beverages are available for online purchase with your credit card at www.PhoenixPride.org. You get a printed receipt to take to the special Pride Will Call area to pick up your tickets. A discounted weekend (2-day) admission ticket is available for only $15; single day admission ticket is $10. Visit their website at www.PhoenixPride.org

Tucson Prime Timers, Brunch, Noon, Colors 5305 E. Speedway

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom hosts Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under $10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com by the Event Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

Monday, April 3
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch 12:30 p..m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, April 4
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m. Lunch Out: Fromino's Greek 3242 E. Speedway No reservations are needed, but you can call Jim or Donat 299-5727 for more info. Considered to be the best and hottest Greek in Tucson.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A Circle Of Men by Tom Sayler-Brown Are you looking for an opportunity to connect with men at a deeper level? A Circle Of Men meets every Tuesday evening. Please call Tom at 591-2828 for info and directions.

#3 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Danny for a night of 'Smoker Poker' at Mother Hubbard's. Winner take all, down-and-dirty cards. Playing of Poker and Smoking of pipes, cigars, and cigarettes allowed! Wow! 2 ways to press your Luck! Contact Danny for more info at 349-5295.

Wednesday, April 5
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Bruce 743-3890 MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the host du soir. If you are a nervous first timer, you will find printed rules of play, and guys eager to get you up and in the action as you learn the game!

Thursday, April 6
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on Fabulous 4th, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating caffeine enhanced beverages, delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. . Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

Friday, April 7
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and totally enjoy putting your acting/ miming and pantomime skills to the test. For directions and reservations [(a limited space event, please plan ahead and phone early)], place a telephone call to Lee and Merlin, your gracious yet competitive emcees and moderators, at 207-5336.

Tucson Prime Timers, Cocktails 7:00 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

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Tuesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M
Wednesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M
Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M

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4th Stop:

Venture-N
1239 N. 6th Avenue
Thursday April 20th, 2006
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

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

HOROSCOPES

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Just when you thought that all your hard work would never pay off, that every herculean effort was like slogging through mud, Saturn redirects and propels you forward. Be prepared to pick up steam and forge ahead. You've learned a thing or two. So show 'em what for.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Creative block can be very frustrating, especially for a particularly creative soul like yourself. You have been nursing a few great ideas, waiting for the right time to release them into the atmosphere. It is time. Let your Gay muse amuse when Saturn finally redirects. Proud Rams are eloquent, wise, measured and a slice of pure genius. Ahem. Well, at least this week.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Maybe there has been a bit of an uneasy truce between you and certain family members over the past few weeks. Queer Bulls, ever cognizant of the potential impact of their anger, have thought it best to stew quietly and idle by the docks. Well that ship has now sailed. Saturn redirects and gives you permission to call things as you see them. Do more than whisper.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Have something on your mind? Is it starting to weigh on you? Unload and release it as Saturn redirects. Pink Twins often refrain from saying anything that might be considered rude or controversial. They prefer to be mellow, charming and diplomatic. Get off your buns and take a chance on being frank and spill the beans. Add some mustard with relish.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
If the ups and downs of the financial markets have gotten you dizzy, take stock of your portfolio this week. Gay Crabs can be especially concerned about their fiscal prospects. Thankfully Saturn now redirects and rewards those who have done their homework and built their equity through sweat and study. Are you a bull or a bear? Does it really matter?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Tired of doing all the work while others grab the credit and the spotlight? Grrrr. Proud Lions are ready to drop their mops and claim their rightful place. And you won't have to do it on your own. There are guardian angels waiting to reward you. Saturn redirects and places you right in the center of the action. Prepare for it ... and wear clean underwear in case you are overexposed.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
The low level cosmic rumblings in the far distance begin to move closer and increase in volume. But these are not destructive rumblings. They are a reckoning and a welcome one at that. Queer Virgins are at an impasse and secretly hope that something dramatic will cause them to make a decisive move. Saturn redirects goads you out and about. And about time!

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Who let you off your leash? Proud Libras are full of fun and cannot be contained. And why should they be? They have been chomping at the bit and waiting for a chance to make very merry. Saturn redirects and blasts you into outer space. You are a celestial being who knows how to have a good time. Let's see who gets caught in your gravitation pull. Or is it push?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Even proud Scorps with a self-directed attitude should now be able to reap the karmic rewards for all their professional efforts. Little do you realize there is someone in the chain of command who is watching your every move. Don't be surprised if it all manages to link up. Will you rise to the level of your competency or sink to new depths? Uh oh.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Break out of your usual skin when Saturn redirects. The tried and true is tired and blue. The familiar is all too too boring. Find an excuse to escape to new vistas and taste a new slice of life. You are only encumbered by a narrow vision. Open your eyes. Gay Archers can become international sensations. Will we feel the earth move or will it just jostle our teacup?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Your drab and conservative appearance seems to morph into something sexy and alluring. How did you do that? Better ask Saturn as it redirects. Pink Caps now seem to know just what to do and just what to say to attract almost anyone they choose. But don't let the magic dissipate by waiting too long. Once you pick your tomato be sure to make a spicy tomato sauce.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Take the temperatures of your various relationships and see if they are warm, lukewarm, cool or cold. Brrr. Aqueerians have a chance to turn up the heat and improve their connections when Saturn redirects. You have learned quite a bit about others' needs and motivations over the past few weeks and may be able match supply with the demand.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
You work in a much smarter and organized way and can plow through a series of detailed projects. Concentration and aptitude is at a peak. But all work and no play makes for a washed out rainbow Fish. So delegate the really awful stuff if you can. There is nothing that you can't do. And now, as Saturn redirects, there is nothing that you can't get others to do for you.

School Board Scraps Anti-Discrimination Policy In Wake Of Equality Ride

OKLAHOMA CITY - Days after a bus of Equality Riders (pictured) came through the state, stopping at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa and Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, the Oklahoma Board of Education has repealed its antidiscrimination policy protecting sexual orientation, Advocate.com reported. The change happened without notice last Thursday in Oklahoma City in response to a state representative's complaints about the Equality Ride, in which more than 30 young LGBT activists are attempting to meet with students at Christian universities that ban the enrollment of Gays.

Previously, the school board's antidiscrimination policy covered sexual orientation, as well as a student's family, social, and cultural background. Now those categories have been struck from the policy, which has reverted back to state and federal antidiscrimination laws protecting a student's race, for instance. The action came at the request of Oklahoma Representative Kevin Calvey, a Republican seeking election to the United States Congress. He said in a statement that "the board's new rule will protect public schools from having to allow homosexual rights organizations to hold meetings on school grounds."

Citing the recent Equality Ride protests at the two universities, where several Equality Riders were arrested, Calvey added, "This isn't really at the high school level yet, but I would expect it someday to be." The head of an Oklahoma Gay-rights group said that the policy change is a part of wider political positioning by conservatives this election year. "It's just open season on GLBT people at the state Legislature," Laura Belmonte, president of Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights, told tulsaworld.com. "It is our belief that these conservative legislators are using these issues as a wedge issue to try to mobilize their base in an effort to take over the Senate this year." There was no comment from the school board's superintendent.

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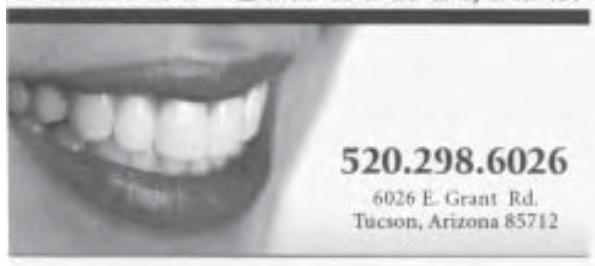
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P.O. Box 13312
Tucson, AZ 85732
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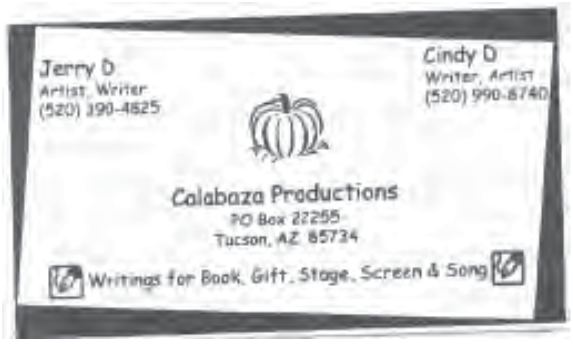
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org


Jerry D
Artist, Writer
(520) 390-4625
Cindy D
Writer, Artist
(520) 990-8740
Calabaza Productions
PO Box 22255
Tucson, AZ 85734
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Furnishings & Decor - Barrio to Old Modern
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5055 E. Speedway @ Rosemont, Tucson, AZ

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, $5.00 MINIMUM
CLASSIFIED ADS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE

PERSONALS

GWM LOOKING FOR WINTER SNOWBIRD. Companionship, cuddling and love. 731-6152 1132

ROOMMATES

MALE SEEKING SAME To share 2 bedroom apartment $260/mo. + 1/2 elec. 6th Ave. & Grant. 661-5848 1031

HOUSING/FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 2BR/2BA in desirable 'Lost Barrio' warehouse/shopping district. "The Look", charm, cool comfort and privacy. Downtown. UofA mile. $850/mo. 326-6158 1133

TEMPORARY HOUSING. Nice for quiet, "cat loving" student or professional persons. Includes 2 months rent and utilities. Walking distance to UofA. $350/mo. April 25 - June 22. Ideal situation for someone who loves cat companions and who is honest and respectful of using one's home. Call 670-8743 1133

SERVICES

RELAX WITH A FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR MEN in a private studio on the est Side. Call Ralph, 883-74 96. 1129.

SERVICES

COMBINATION TECHNIQUE OF SWEDISH, ESALAN, SPORTS, REIKI, ACCUPRESSURE AND REFLEXOLOGY AND STRETCH. Completely relax in my private one-on-one studio on the east side. My technique is strong and deep. If you want a wimpy massage, I'm not your man. Outcalls and late night appointments available. Personal training in the privacy of your home is also a service I provide. Let me whip you back into Date Weight. Stefano 358-7978. 1133

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1137

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 1127...

SENSUOUS/EROTIC MEN'S FULL BODY MASSAGE. Experienced Therapist. Satisfaction guaranteed., Tucson'$ Be$t Deal. $45/hr. Evenings/Weekends only. John 327-3135 1132

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway & Swan area. IN and OUT calls 7 days. 548-6314 1130

PROFESSIONAL THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE GUARANTEE QUALITY. Tantric sensuality. Strong and masculine give you passion. An exceptional experience for 24 years. Call now.. Marc 881-4582 by appointment. 1128..

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced -- Economical -- Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520) 888-7264 in Tucson. 1130

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, $2.50 Domestics and Well. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music from Bob Feldhaus during Brunch (11:30-2:30) & Dickie Steede during dinner (6:30-9:30)

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11am. Kitchen open until 9pm. Watch the NFL here! $1.00 Jumbo Hot Dogs, $2 Chili Dogs. $2 Smirnoff Sundays. Free Texas Hold'Em Poker Tourneys 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 $1 2-7p. $2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

YARD DOG - Open 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. Kitchen open 4-9 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 & Beefeaters 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, $2.50 Domestics and Well. 1stTuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert"shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until l0pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: $2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 - midnight

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. $1 off to those wearing 80s concert t-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics Well. 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. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Women-only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30 p.m. Play for prizes and points.

IBT'S - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" 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, $2.50 Domestics & Well. 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. Kitchen open 4-9pm. 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-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics and Well . 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.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3 sm pitchers, $5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 4-9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside.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-1am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3 Skyy cocktails, $2.50 Domestics and Well Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Singer, piano player Marilyn Harris performs during dinner from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Reservations suggested.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 11:00 am. Kitchen open til 9pm. 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.

Arts & Entertainment

Now playing thru APRIL 9
Beouwulf Alley Theatre Company presents an adaptataion of Harold Pinter's dark comedy "The Birthday Party". 11 S. 6th Ave. 882-0555

Now Playing thru APRIL 23
Top Hat Theatre Club performs a comedy about a mobster and his girl friend. 3110 E. Ft. Lowell. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. 3:00 p.m. Sundays. 326-6800.

Now playing thru *APRIL 30*
"Black Coffee" at Live Theatre Workshop. 327-0160 5317 E. Speedway. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays - Saturdays. 3:00 p.m. Sundays.

Now playing thru May 27
Gaslight Theatre presents "The Three Musketeers", at 7010 E. Broadway. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays - Thursdays; 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sundays. 886-9428.

APRIL 10
"The Bob Dylan Show" starring Bob Dylan and his Band with Merle Haggard and the Strangers. Tucson convention Center Arena 321-1000

Arts and Entertainment

Continued

APRIL 15 - MAY 6
"Tuesdays With Morrie" Arizona Theatre Company. Temple of Music and Art. 622-2823.

APRIL 18
Engelbert Humperdinck at Casino del Sol AVA Amphitheater.. 838-6700.

MAY 9 - 14
"Les Misérables" The world's most popular musical playing at Tucson Music Hall. Ticketmaster or TCC Ticket Office. 321-1000.

AUGUST 17 - SEPTEMBER 24
"The Lion King" Broadway's Award Winning Musical. At Tucson Music Hall. Tickets: Tucson Convention Center Box Office, 260 S. Church Ave. Ticketmaster 321-1000.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
IBT'S - Starting this Wednesday and every Wednesday in the future a new show "Misstique" at 9:00 p.m. hosted by Bunny FuFu and starring Janee Starr and Veronica Halliwell.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2
YARD DOG SALOON - Steak Night 7:00 p.m. Cooked to order by Rob and Pete.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
WOODY'S - Watch the NCAA Championship Game on their 8' Mega Screen. Patio Bar open plus drink specials.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
WOODY'S - "Suck and Blow Party". Full details forthcoming.

YARD DOG SALOON - Black Party

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
WOODY'S - Miss Gay Western States America Pre-Pageant Show.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
IBT'S - Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Prom Party

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.

WINGSPAN

Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group mets 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 WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call298-6727, 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 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, 425 E. 7th St. 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, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)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

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, and reading from Buddhist spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

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. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.

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