



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Lawsuit Filed Against Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment



TUCSON- In a show of solidarity, Tucson members of 'Arizona Together' held a news conference at Tucson City hall simultaneous with the group who filed the actual lawsuit against the Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment (PMAA) in Phoenix.

By Mark R. Kerr

Tucson (ON) - A legal challenge to the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA) ballot measure was filed Wednesday, July 12 in Maricopa County Superior Court in Phoenix, by couples seeking continued protection provided by existing domestic partner benefits.

Five couples seeking continued protection provided by existing domestic partner benefits filed the lawsuit against Protect Marriage Arizona - the anti-domestic partnership initiative. Three elderly couples from Tucson and two City of Phoenix employees and their partners are plaintiffs in the suit filed today by Chuck Blanchard of Perkins Coie Brown and Bain P.A. and Lisa T. Hauser of Gammage & Burnham, P.L.L.C.

"If Protect Marriage Arizona passes it will take a lot away from us," said Maxine Piatt, a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "For example, last year I was in and out of the hospital at least four times. If it hadn't been for Al, I wouldn't be here. Because of our domestic partnership arrangement, he was able to make decisions for me when I was unable to. Without our domestic partnership agreement he probably couldn't have even gotten in to see me, let alone make medical decisions for me. The thought of that breaks my heart."

"If Protect Marriage Arizona passes it will impact us financially," shared Al Brezney, Maxine Piatt's partner and a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "We are both on social security which is a very small amount. In our case remaining unmarried, but bound together in a domestic partnership is our only means of financial survival. Together we can make it, but separately we can't."

Brezney and Piatt share similar circumstances with the other two Tucson couples that are plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Each couple is currently registered in the Tucson Domestic Partnership Registry, established with the support of the Tucson Area Agency on the Aging. The other Tucson plaintiffs include Kaitlin Meadows and Albert Lannon; and Amalia Antonioli and Frank Montoya.

If approved, PMAA would overrule practices in communities like Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tempe, Tucson and the Pima County government, where public employees are offered some of the same benefits for their domestic partners - of the same or opposite sex - that are available to the spouses of married workers, as well as domestic partner registries set up in cities and towns in the state.

In 2003, Tucson was the first municipality in Arizona to offer a domestic partner registry and by June of this year, there were 438 couples on the Tucson Registry. According to the 2000 U.S. Census there were 118,196 households with unmarried partners in Arizona, or 10.7 percent of all couples in the state.

Although not physically present at the filing because of a previous commitment, Paul Knobbe, a City of Phoenix firefighter and a plaintiff in the suit, stated his concern about losing domestic partner benefits currently provided by the City of Phoenix, "My partner Teri and I have been able to breathe easier because of our domestic partner benefits. I'm able to provide health care insurance for our family. If that goes away it will be a financial blow to our family."

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House Rejects Constitutional Amendment To Ban Same-Sex Marriage

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House of Representatives on Tuesday (July 18) rejected a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. The measure fell 47 votes short of the two-thirds majority they needed, reported 365Gay.com.

The failure came despite an appeal from the White House. "When activist judges insist on redefining the fundamental institution of marriage for their states or potentially for the entire country, the only alternative left to make the people's voice heard is an amendment of the Constitution," said a statement issued by the Administration.

The proposed amendment said that "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither the Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

A similar proposed amendment failed to get enough votes last month in the Senate.

At the opening of Tuesday's debate, Rep. Phil Gingrey, R-Ga., said that despite the impending loss holding the vote was important.

"This vote will serve as an opportunity for each and every member of this body to go on record in support or in opposition to protecting the traditional definition of marriage," said Gingrey.

"This bill, to put it simply and bluntly, is about adding discrimination and intolerance to the United States Constitution," said Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass.

"Today, as Americans focus on the grave situation in the Middle East, record oil prices and record federal debt, the leadership of the House continues to ignore the real challenges facing American families," said Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., one of the few openly Gay members of Congress.

Earlier in the day LGBT civil rights activists delivered 180,000 postcards to Congressional offices, asking legislators to vote no.

"Using the Constitution to treat same-sex couples as second-class citizens is wrong and inexcusable," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

"We hope all members of Congress and the American people think hard about what truly is at stake here," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director Matt Foreman.

"Denying one group of Americans the family recognition granted to others would reverse the course of our nation's history of expanding equal rights. It would condemn one group to a

lesser citizenship and deny them the social support our society has constructed to help families and children flourish. Gay and Lesbian families need and deserve the kind of protection and support we currently extend to other families. Let's start acknowledging that truth. Let's start talking about it, and let's start doing it because it is the right thing to do."

Gay Democrats and Republicans hailed the failure of the vote.

"Marriage is an institution that strengthens the American family, and it should be legally extended to all couples," said Jo Wyrick, National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director.

"Americans should be allowed the freedom to discuss this issue at their dinner tables and in their houses of worship. Instead, Republicans would rather use this debate to divide the public through poor policy that attacks the Constitution. House Republicans have twice failed to force through this discriminatory amendment, just as they continue to fail the American public through their misguided priorities."

27 GOP Members of Congress joined a majority of Democrats to deal a decisive blow to the proposed amendment.

"The U.S. House, having failed once again to codify discrimination against Gay and Lesbian Americans in the Constitution, should get back to work focusing on winning the war on terrorism, controlling federal spending, and providing economic and tax relief for all American families," said Log Cabin Republicans President Patrick Guerriero.

"The House spoke very clearly and again said that marriage is an issue the states are perfectly capable of handling. Congressman Jim Kolbe articulated from the House Floor precisely why this amendment is losing support."

A similar attempt to amend the Constitutional failed in 2004.

Conservative Republicans vowed they would return next year and predicted they eventually would win. But one conservative group, the Traditional Values Coalition, said it was a "good thing for traditional marriage" that the measure failed because it wasn't clear enough in ruling out civil unions.

To amend the Constitution a two-thirds majority is required in both houses of Congress to send an amendment to the states. It then would have to be ratified by at least 38 state legislatures. The U.S. Constitution has been amended only 27 times, including the 10 amendments of the Bill of Rights.

UPDATE

Gay Albuquerque Bath House Raid May Spark Rights Suit

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico - The American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico has begun interviewing patrons of an Albuquerque gay club raided earlier this month by police, 365Gay.com reported. The ACLU and LGBT group Equality New Mexico say the civil rights of the 30 or so people in the Pride Gym may have been violated.

Officers allegedly were wearing bullet proof vests and armed with semiautomatic weapons when they entered the bathhouse. At least two patrons say police used excessive force. One man said that armed police ordered people, some naked, into hallways and told them to lie facedown where they were handcuffed. A second man confirmed the report saying that some of those handcuffed were in their 70s.

Police say that it is customary to handcuff people during a police investigation for the safety of the officers. But the warrant police used to enter the club says that officers were concerned about their personal safety and the possibility of sexual assault as a result of a weeklong undercover investigation. "Sending us into this place again puts us or any other undercover officer in danger of sexual assault and or great bodily harm or injury," the request for a warrant said. Equality New Mexico wants to know what kind of weapon could be hidden under a towel or how police were afraid of being sexually assaulted by elderly men.

Five people, including the club manager were charged with minor liquor violations. Police took the club's computer containing a complete list of members and the club's video surveillance tapes. That also is of concern to the ACLU because of individual privacy concerns. Fire officials then closed the club. Pride Gym has since reopened with new signs more clearly showing fire exits. ACLU attorney George Bach said its initial investigation points to excessive force being used by police.

First Words: Relativity Call For Actors, July 22

TUCSON - Stark Naked Productions seeks 7 males, ages 14-55 and 8 females, ages 14-75 for its First Words: Relativity Festival. Open auditions to be held Saturday, July 22, 1 - 4:30 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street.

The event, co-sponsored by PFLAG, Wingspan and the Arizona Human Rights Fund, includes four new plays on the theme of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender family life. Performances are scheduled from Oct. 19-22 at Zuzi's Theater.

Call-backs are scheduled for Sunday, July 23, 2:30-4:30 at Wingspan. E-mail stark_naked_productions@yahoo.com or call (520) 529-8868, for further information or scheduling.

Arizona Together Update

PHOENIX - Five couples seeking continued protection provided by existing domestic partner benefits filed a lawsuit at Maricopa County Superior Court against the Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) - the anti-domestic partnership initiative.

Arizona Together (AT) is providing the resources to help kick PMA off the ballot and are appealing to the community to join them in the effort.

AT has hired the two best lawyers in Arizona who handle these types of challenge. Lisa Hauser and Chuck Blanchard are well known for their election law and ballot experience and that is why we retained their services. The battle to knock the Protect Marriage Amendment off the ballot is going to be an expensive challenge and we need to raise \$100,000 to make sure we have the resources to win.

Maricopa County Superior Court should have a ruling within 5-6 weeks, so time is of the essence. To donate, visit: liftnetwork.lyris.net/t/94003/12186817/822/0/, or call (800) 607-9324. To send a check, make checks payable to Arizona Together, and mail them to: Arizona Together, 319 E. McDowell Road, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85004. . . .

Even with the case, the campaign to defeat PMA continues on. To donate the needed funds, just follow the same links and phone numbers mentioned in the previous paragraph. If you wish to volunteer, stop by the McDowell Road location, or the Southern Arizona office, located at 181 S. Tucson Blvd., Suite 103. Mike Coffman is the new Southern Arizona coordinator. To reach him, call the office, (520) 326-8154, (520) 275-4790, or E-mail: mcoffman@aztogether.org.



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IN MEMORIAM

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Wingspan Volunteer Orientation July 22

TUCSON - Ask not what your Wingspan can do for you; ask what you can do for your Wingspan by attending the next Wingspan Volunteer Orientation Saturday July 22, 11 a.m., 425 E. 7th St.!

There has never been a more exciting time to get involved with Wingspan. The only way we can continue to grow and serve our community is with the help of our volunteers. The first step to getting started is to attend the Wingspan general volunteer orientation. This orientation is geared for new and potential Wingspan volunteers, and is open to anyone wanting to learn about Wingspan's history, organizational structure, and the many opportunities to volunteer.

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

Tucson Pride Update

TUCSON - Tucson Pride, Inc. (TPI), which plans, produces and promotes pride activities within the Tucson LGBT community announced that Splash Bash: Oasis Tucson, has been scheduled to take place Sept. 2, at the Doubletree Hotel, Pride in the Desert (formerly OUToberFEST), will take place Oct. 14, at the DeMeester Center in Reid Park, and Pride on Parade, scheduled for Oct. 15.

TPI are currently seeking volunteers for several positions at these events, and specifically, reliable security personnel. Volunteer shifts are a minimum of two hours in length, with certain positions requiring a longer commitment. Volunteer benefits include: Participation in the Volunteer Dollars program, which pays \$8 per hour worked towards the volunteer's favorite non-profit organization. Courtesy admission to the event worked. First to receive incentives and promotional giveaways, and most importantly, the chance to work with TPI in building and maintaining a safer and healthier local LGBT community.

If you are interested in partnering with TPI by volunteering at one of this year's events, please complete a volunteer application online at tucsonpride.com, or request that one be mailed to you by calling the TPI Prideline at (520) 622-3200.

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.



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

www.wingspan.org

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.



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SAAF

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Amanda Irvine

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein

Contributing Columnists

MARK R. KERR - LEE THORN

JERRY DIAZ

*

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Informing the Community

The Observer

COMMENTARY . . .
by State Senator Paula About

On The Importance Of Walking Door To Door

There is only "one show in town" for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Arizona this November and that involves defeating the initiative called "Protecting Marriage." No where in 2006 are our rights more challenged than by this single initiative...most of our LGBT community members have never been challenged at the ballot box like we are this year. We are more vulnerable as a community because of it.

As a former leader in LGBT politics and a former "worker/leader" in the state of Maine's attempt to defeat an anti-Gay legislation and initiatives, and as a very active Democrat in Pima County and Arizona's electoral process, I have some observations to share and hope that you folks reading this will become inspired and sign up to work for the Arizona Together coalition.

In Arizona, the process that enabled Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano to win her election in 2002 was the unique combination of fabulous fund raising in Maricopa County and the fantastic grassroots campaigning, phoning, door knocking and Get Out the Vote campaign in Pima County. Pima County has a very distinct role in Arizona politics and as a LGBT community, we must rise to the challenge that the role requires. We must also as much as is possible to help Maricopa county, and they must walk and talk to help us out with door to door voter contacts, too.

So, with all due respect, if we don't get off the couch and go knocking door to door and talking to voters, we don't stand a chance of defeating this anti-Gay initiative. We, in Pima County, worked our tails off in 2002 to win help the Governor's race. We know what it takes, and it's all about walking and talking to voters.

So, how do you do it, you might be asking. Let the pro's with the campaign train you. But in order to get you to make that call to them, you might want a few tips from someone who's been knocking on doors for the last several years.

At first, it may be a bit intimidating to think of talking to strangers about your personal life. You also might think that everyone out there is grouchy when they're interrupted by door knockers. But I'm here to tell you that you're wrong! Tucsonans are courteous folks when you catch them at their door. For the most part, they are welcoming and appreciative of the information you are going to share with them. Most folks will be glad for the opportunity to talk to an actual LGBT person about the whole "Gay issue."

Your comfort level will rise greatly the more people you talk with. It's good practice for us all to come out at every door. Pretty soon it will become "old hat" to most of us.

Our goal in walking and talking is to educate the public about a vote that they are mostly unin-

formed about. We want to imprint our story on their psyche so that when they vote, they do so with us in mind.

If we can get to the voters first with our life stories, with our reasons and experiences to help them vote no, then we stand a better chance of inoculating our voters against the propaganda they will be exposed to as the campaign progresses.

The act of walking door to door can be an inspiring and uplifting experience. It feels great to "come out" and have a direct talk about what's important in our lives. It feels great to have an open discussion with a stranger about our issues, our lives. And it's empowering to work in our community, to put a finger to the pulse of the ordinary citizen. To actually get a stranger to vote in support of our rights is awesome. It can empower our own spirit and our life.

So please go online to Wingspan (wingspan.org) or call, (520) 624-1779, or go online to Arizona Together (aztogether.org) or call (520) 326-8154, (602) 254-6401 or (800) 607-9324 and sign up today to volunteer. And bring a friend or acquaintance with you. You'll be glad you did.

(State Senator Paula About represents Legislative District 28 in the Arizona Legislature.)

Gay Games Officially Open

CHICAGO - A light breeze wafted over the crowd Saturday night (July 15) at Soldier Field briefly breaking a hot humid night that marked the Opening Ceremonies of the seventh Gay Games, reported 365Gay.com.

In the stands, tens of thousands of people cheering some 12,000 LGBT athletes from around the world as they marched into the stadium.

Athletes from 70 countries are competing in events ranging from body building to swimming and diving to dancing.

The Gay games anthem was sung by Gay former NFL player Esera Tavaia Tualo. Another former NFLer, Dave Kopay administered the Gay games oath to the athletes, and former major league baseball player Billy Bean administered the oath to the officials.

On stage was a who's who of Gay and Gay friendly entertainers - Erasure's Andy Bell, Margaret Cho, Frankie Knuckles, Jody Watley, Megan Mullally, Heather Small and Kate Clinton.

The performance featured over 1,400 dancers, acrobats and musicians and ended with spectacular fireworks.

In introducing Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Megan Mullally noted that Daley "doesn't bat for the team but he bats for Gay rights."

The Games mean big business for the Windy City. An estimated \$50 - \$80 million will be spent in Chicago during the course of the

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Sat July 29th**

UPDATE

Wingspan Announces 2006 Award Winners

TUCSON - Wingspan announced that their annual awards will be presented at the 9th Annual Wingspan Dinner and Award Ceremony Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Tucson Convention Center.

The evening will include a keynote address by Neil G. Giuliano, President of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and former Mayor of the City of Tempe. A dance with music by LeeAnne Savage will conclude the evening. Tickets will go on sale in early August.

Donna Rochester is the recipient of the 2006 Community Ally Award. The Community Ally Award recognizes a straight ally who has shown outstanding support to Southern Arizona's LGBT community. Donna Rochester's name has become synonymous with that of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in Tucson. Having served on the PFLAG Board of Directors and having chaired the group for many years, Rochester has walked along with countless families on their journeys with LGBT family members. With her tireless dedication and unflagging energy, she has been instrumental in keeping PFLAG thriving and visible in the community.

Under Rochester's leadership PFLAG has served as a steady source of information and support. Through regular meetings family members and friends network and form bonds that reinforce inclusive family values. Because of her work, PFLAG now offers scholarships for LGBT youth and young people who would otherwise have less opportunity to pursue continuing education. Rochester has continuously made herself and PFLAG available in the LGBT and Southern Arizona communities. PFLAG has acted as a coalition partner for many LGBT causes and Rochester has advocated for LGBT issues to outside agencies and is always ready with information and PFLAG materials. Her leadership, energy, and tireless support have made Tucson a better place for LGBT people and their families.

The 2006 Godat Award is given, posthumously, to Craig Snow. The Godat Award recognizes an individual who has given a lifetime of outstanding contributions to Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. As the founder of the Tucson AIDS Project (TAP) in 1985, Craig Snow helped engineer the first local, organized response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. An all-volunteer effort, TAP provided basic services to those living with HIV and AIDS at a time when other service agencies were not even talking about the disease. Snow put in endless hours and took a leadership role that allowed the agency to grow, add paid staff, and expand its services. Under his direction TAP became a nationally recognized organization known for innovative programs. Snow was instrumental in the merger of TAP with two other agencies in 1997 to create the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). At that time Snow graciously stepped down as director recognizing that multiple executive directors would not serve the agency well and would take funds away from vital services to people with HIV/AIDS. Snow formed a consulting firm with his personal and professional partner, Artie Stone, that lent its expertise and experience to local non-profit groups and he continued to work tirelessly for local causes and was a key player in the creation of the LGBT&S Alliance Fund through the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, which has awarded

more than 50 grants totaling nearly \$300,000 to local nonprofits.

This year's recipient of the Hall Award is Kevin Maxey. The Hall Award is named after longtime Wingspan supporter Stephen Hall, who died of AIDS-related complications in September 2001. The award recognizes an individual who best embodies Steve Hall's commitment and dedication toward advancing the mission, values, and work of Wingspan. Kevin Maxey is a founder of the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), a Wingspan program whose mission is working for basic rights for Transgender and transsexual people to be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community. Maxey's leadership and dedication have furthered that mission immeasurably. SAGA offers multiple monthly meetings for discussion, support, and networking. Maxey's quiet leadership has allowed SAGA to become a nationally recognized model for support and services for this community and a pioneer of innovative programs such as the Arizona Transgender Workplace (ATWORK) Project and the Alexander John Goodrum Transgender Mental Health Project. Maxey is both a front line volunteer, willing to do the everyday work of organizing events, staffing information tables, and providing presentations, and is an experienced leader who helped facilitate the merger of SAGA with Wingspan, sharing the strengths of the two organizations in a mutually beneficial way so that both are stronger.

Gay Cop Sent To Prison For Stalking Ex-Lover

EDINBURGH, Scotland - A former police officer who used the force's computers to stalk and harass his ex-boyfriend has been sent to prison, reported 365Gay.com. John Neilson was sentenced to 18 months behind bars.

At his trial the court heard that Neilson, 46, and Paul Duffy, 26, had a brief affair after meeting online in a Gay chatroom. When Duffy ended it, court was told, Neilson went on a "campaign of terror." "Using a police computer he kept a virtual surveillance on Duffy, and got background files on his family. Neilson bombarded Duffy with obscene text messages and made repeated threatening phone calls. He then tried to "out" his victim to family and friends and enlisted nightclub bouncer James Docherty, 29, to help.

For months Duffy was afraid to go to authorities because of Neilson's police connection. Finally, on the verge of a breakdown, he filed an official complaint and the pair was arrested. Neilson and Docherty confessed to a litany of offences in connection with the case. Neilson was ordered jailed for harassment and fined \$1000 for misusing police computers. Docherty was ordered to serve a year in prison. When the pair get out of prison the men are banned from approaching Duffy for five years.

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Mass. Session Adjourns Without Taking Up Anti-G/L Amendment

BOSTON - A special joint session of the Massachusetts legislature considering a long list of constitutional amendments abruptly adjourned Wednesday (July 12) evening without taking up a proposal that would ban same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. They decided to reconvene on Nov. 9, two days after the general election.

The vote drew jeers from supporters of the amendment who had crowded into the State House for the session. "This move shows the flagrant disregard for the will of the people by Senate President Travaglini and every legislator who voted to recess the convention until November," said Kris Mineau, president, Massachusetts Family Institute.

But the delay was hailed by LGBT rights groups who believe time is on their side. "We now have four more months to show legislators how well marriage equality is working in Massachusetts," said MassEquality Campaign Director Marc Solomon. "We hope they will see that Massachusetts is ready to move on. It's hard to come up with a single issue that has been the subject of as much political debate and input as marriage has. There have already been 16 votes, hundreds of hours of debate, and thousands of pages of public testimony. The Legislature should dispense with this undemocratic, discriminatory amendment and move on to the real concerns facing Massachusetts."

An attempt at the start of the session to move the anti-Gay amendment up near the top of the list failed to get the required unanimous consent. Earlier in the day hundreds of people on both sides of the Gay marriage issue demonstrated in front of the State House. Opponents of a Gay marriage

ban - most of them same-sex couples, many with their children - gathered on the Boston Common, across the street from the State House. They carried signs calling for rejection of the proposed amendment

"When does civil rights get put on the ballot for everyone to vote on?" Jim Singletary, a 44-year old Salem man who married his longtime partner, Jim Maynard, last year, told the Boston Herald. Members of the group hung a rainbow banner that said "don't discriminate" from the steps of the State House. Supporters called for the citizen-based amendment to be passed.

A proposed amendment written by lawmakers last year narrowly failed to get enough votes to have the issue placed before voters. But a citizen-based referendum needs the support of only 50 lawmakers - 25 percent of the House and Senate - in two constitutional conventions for it to be put to voters. If the measure passes two consecutive sessions of the legislature the earliest it could be put on the ballot would be 2008.

While the amendment would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, blocking same-sex couples from marrying, it would not nullify those Gay marriages which have already taken place. Since same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts in May 2004 more than 7,000 Gay couples have married. Opponents of the proposed amendment had hoped that the Supreme Judicial Court would take the measure off the legislature's hands and rule that Attorney General Thomas Reilly should not have certified the question a citizens group used to gather signatures for the measure. The Supreme Judicial Court ruled that Reilly acted lawfully.

Homophobe Fred Told To Pay Up

DETROIT, Michigan - Mundy Township has sent 'God Hates Fags' preacher Fred Phelps a bill for \$5,000 and says if he and his followers don't pay he'll be hauled into court, reported 365Gay.com. Phelps and his followers at what he calls Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas regularly announce they are about to stage demonstrations in communities across the country to denounce homosexuality. Usually they actually show up at only a fraction of the locals.

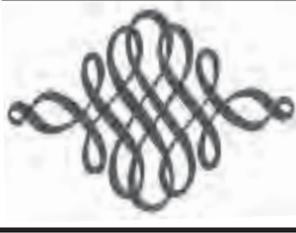


Preacher Fred Phelps

Lately the group - mostly Phelps' relatives - has been demonstrating at the funerals of soldiers killed in Iraq, accusing America of incurring God's wrath because it is soft on homosexuality. A motorcycle group of former servicemembers has been traveling the country setting up a line of flags to block out the Phelps' protests. The Phelps' clan told officials in Mundy Township, about 50 miles northwest of Detroit, recently that they planned to demonstrate at a memorial service for Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon and called on the township to provide security claiming there could be violence if their right to free speech is threatened.

Police Chief David Guigear put a special detail on duty for the protest but the Phelps protestors failed to show up. Guigear says the group gave no warning it wasn't coming and the township wants to be reimbursed for the cost of the extra policing. Westboro member and it's lawyer Shirley Phelps-Roper says the group didn't show up because the Holy Ghost

told them at the last minute to stay home. Phelps-Roper says there's no way its going to pay. Police "took an oath, and their duty is to keep the peace," Phelps-Roper said. "If they do anything as foolish" as sending a bill, she said, "I'll laugh all the way to the trash can."



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Homophobes' Reggae AIDS Concert Cancelled

NEW YORK CITY - A three-day firestorm that erupted after two anti-gay reggae artists were invited to appear at an AIDS concert ended Wednesday (July 12) after the promoters pulled the plug on the event. But black gay bloggers, who say they scored a victory in quickly mobilizing the community, are still smarting from what they perceive as an indifferent and high-handed attitude by the concert organizers.

LIFEbeat, the music industry's AIDS organization, planned a Reggae Gold Live concert July 18 at New York's Webster Hall. But when word got out that performers included reggae artists Beenie Man and TOK—whose lyrics call for beating and killing gays—black LGBT bloggers erupted in outrage. John Canelli, LIFEbeat's executive director, told Associated Press that the performers' presence would "create dialogue around AIDS and the Caribbean-American community" and an "opportunity for groundbreaking change and good to come from it."

Protesters say that it was insulting at best for an organization whose mission is to educate youth about the dangers of HIV/AIDS to invite musicians who celebrate brutality against gay men and lesbians. On its site Wednesday (July 12), LIFEbeat cited "the possibility of violence" as the reason for canceling the concert. The statement went on to encourage bloggers who protested the musical acts to "come forward again to do something positive for the Caribbean American community."

The more than two dozen protesting bloggers say the cancellation is a partial victory. "I'm pleased that those two artists will not be performing in

New York City, but it was not our intention to have the concert cancelled," said Kenyon Farrow, spokesman for the New York State Black Gay Network. "Our main goal was for the two artists to publicly renounce their homophobic lyrics," Farrow said. "If they wouldn't do that, then we wanted LIFEbeat to dis-invite them." Bloggers spearheading the effort called LIFEbeat's stated rationale for canceling the concert a "copout." "Everything in their statement was an attempt to deflect from the real issue, which is homophobia and its connection to the spread of HIV/AIDS," author, TV personality and Gay.com columnist Keith Boykin said. "The statement is insulting and made it sound like the bloggers were inciting violence, and tried to make it sound like we don't care about the Caribbean AIDS crisis. The people making decisions at LIFEbeat have been totally clueless."

Bloggers behind the protest say emphatically that no threats of violence were ever made against LIFEbeat's staff or board of directors, or the concert. Jasmyne Cannick, activist and blogger, said the campaign was simply to "educate LIFEbeat about the history of the performers that they choose and to make them aware of the recent murders of gay people in the Caribbean."

Bloggers and other activists agree that, while the result was not exactly what they had hoped for, the effort was unprecedented. "This is an example of the ability to mobilize and channel our efforts via the internet," Boykin said. "We didn't go through traditional organizations to do this. We didn't even leave our homes." Cannick said she was pleased that the effort was over. "I've been sitting at my computer for nearly 48 hours. I can finally get up now."

Lawsuit Filed Against Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment

Continued from Page One

Paul Knobbe and his partner Teresa Hewitt are joined by Glenn Cromer, also a City of Phoenix firefighter and his partner Rebecca Miller as plaintiffs in the suit. Like Knobbe and Hewitt, Cromer and Miller currently share domestic partner benefits provided by the City of Phoenix.

Arizona Together, the coalition formed to fight the PMAA, said in a statement that the proposed amendment "an anti-domestic partner initiative because it disintegrates domestic partner benefits jeopardizing the lives of children, families and seniors throughout the state. If the amendment passes, Arizonans will lose their health insurance benefits, hospital visitation rights, decision-making powers and inheritance rights."

At the center of the lawsuit is that the Protect Marriage Amendment initiative violates the Separate Amendment Rule by seeking to incorporate in one ballot measure at least three separate issues.

"Presently, the Protect Marriage Amendment initiative language bundles three issues into one, including jeopardizing any unmarried households across Arizona," commented Chuck Blanchard, co-counsel for the lawsuit. "This simply is unacceptable; as a voter I'm offended. Issues of this magnitude should not be shoved into one box. It doesn't make for good public policy."

"This initiative seeks to make several drastic public policy changes in one swift move," stated Lisa Hauser, co-counsel for the lawsuit.

"Voters have the right to assess one issue at a time and may support one issue without supporting the other. This ballot bundles three very different issues into one, including the dismantling of employer benefits for both straight and same-sex domestic partners which is of great concern to my clients."

Nathan Sproul, consultant and spokesperson for the Protect Marriage Arizona committee, said in an interview with another publication that the initiative has only one purpose: defining what is marriage in Arizona.

"Part of what a comprehensive definition is what marriage is and what marriage is not," he said. Sproul said the other effects of the initiative would impact "counterfeit marriages."

That, he said, extends not only to civil unions, which some states have recognized as an alternative to same-sex marriages, but also benefits.

"Marriage is the cornerstone of everything that is good about society," Sproul said. "Therefore, when society gives benefits back, it should give benefits back to what is a real marriage, which is the union of one man and one woman."

A decision on the lawsuit isn't expected for weeks. In the meantime, Arizona Together, also a plaintiff in the lawsuit, will stay the course and continue raising funds to defeat Protect Marriage Arizona at the polls in November.

(For more information about the lawsuit filed, read the Politics 2006 column in this week's edition.)

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Transsexual Professor Battles For Female Scientists



Dr. Barbara Barres

Barres, who switched sexes when he started taking hormones in 1997. "I've lived in the shoes of a woman and I've lived in the shoes of a man. It's caused me to reflect on the barriers women face." Barres' opinion piece, published in journal Nature, was a response to the debate former Harvard president Lawrence Summers reignited last year when he said innate sexual differences might explain why comparatively few women excelled in scientific careers.

Summers' clashes with faculty, including over women in science, led to his resignation, though not before he committed \$50 million US on childcare and other initiatives to help advance the careers of women and minority employees. Even so, Barres thinks a meaningful discussion of what he calls the "Larry Summers Hypothesis" ended too soon, leaving missed opportunities and a bad message for young female scientists. "I feel like I have a responsibility to speak out," he said. "Anyone who has changed sex has done probably the hardest thing they can do. It's freeing, in a way, because it makes me more fearless about other things."

In his article, Barres offers several personal anecdotes from both sides of the gender divide to prove his own hypothesis that prejudice plays a much bigger role than genes in preventing women from reaching their potential on university campuses and in government laboratories. The one that rankles him most dates from his undergraduate days at MIT, where

as a young woman in a class dominated by men he was the only student to solve a complicated math problem. The professor responded that a boyfriend must have done the work for her, according to Barres. Barres makes a point of saying that he never felt mistreated or held back as a female scientist. At the same time, he wonders if his personal experience somehow shielded him from the more insidious effects of gender bias. "I wasn't subject to the same stereotype threat because I never identified with women when I was growing up," he said. "In a way that was one of the lucky things for me about being Transgender."

Aside from his unique vantage point, the thrust of Barres' article is that neither Summers nor the prominent scientists who defended his position used hard data to back up the claim that biology makes women less inclined toward math and science. He cites several studies, including one showing little difference in the math scores of boys and girls ages four to 18 and another that indicated girls are groomed to be less competitive in sports, to support his discrimination argument.

"If a famous scientist or the president of a prestigious university is going to pronounce in public that women are likely to be innately inferior, would it be too much to ask that they be aware of the relevant data?" he writes in Nature. "It would seem just as the bar goes up for women applicants in academic selection processes, it goes way down when men are evaluating the evidence for why women are not advancing in science."

Harvard University psycholinguist Steven Pinker, whom Barres names in his commentary as a leading defender of Summers, already has written a letter to the editors of Nature criticizing the piece as "polemic" that "contains numerous falsehoods and scurrilous statements." Pinker said both he and Summers relied on "a large empirical literature showing differences in mean and variance in the distributions of talents, temperaments, and life priorities" among men and women to explain why women might be under-represented in some scientific disciplines. "He should learn to take scientific hypotheses less personally," Pinker said. Barres said he won't be surprised if the Nature article makes him the kind of lightning rod for criticism that Summers was last year. He said he is disappointed that more senior women faculty have remained silent on the issue. "Women have heard this stuff so much from people like Larry Summers, some corner of their brain starts to believe it," he said.

SAN FRANCISCO - As an Ivy League-trained neurobiologist who oversees a research lab at Stanford, Ben Barres feels qualified to comment on whether nature or nurture explains the persistent gender gap in the scientific community, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. But it wasn't just his medical degree from Dartmouth, his PhD from Harvard and his studies on brain development and regeneration that inspired him to write an article blaming the shortage of female scientists on institutional bias.

Rather, it was that for most of his academic life, the 51-year-old professor who now wears a beard was once known as Dr. Barbara Barres, a woman who excelled in math and science. "I have this perspective," said



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POLITICS 2006
 by Mark R. Kerr

Article 4, Part 2, Section 3

Five couples seeking continued protection provided by existing domestic partner benefits filed a lawsuit, Wednesday, July 12 in Maricopa County Superior Court (Case# CV2006-010505) against the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona amendment (PMAA), which would prohibit governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

106) measure to repeal Arizona's Clean Elections law and its proponents, No Taxpayer Money For Politicians, headed by Nathan Sproul, the current coordinator for PMAA, as well as the campaign manager for 2006 Republican gubernatorial candidate, Len Munsil, who is running as a Clean Elections candidate.

If allowed to be on the ballot and approved, the PMAA would overrule practices in communities like Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tempe, Tucson and the Pima County government, where public employees are offered some of the same benefits for their domestic partners – of the same or opposite sex – that are available to the spouses of married workers, as well as domestic partner registries set up in cities and towns in the state.

Proposition 106 (which was drafted by Sproul) was stricken from the 2004 general election ballot in Aug. 2004, for violating Article 4, Part 2, Section 13 of the Arizona Constitution since the proposed measure covered several subjects. Attorney for the plaintiffs in the case was Chuck Blanchard and Lisa Hauser was the attorney for the defendants.

Lisa Hauser, the other co-counsel commented that the PMAA, "seeks to make several drastic public policy changes in one swift move, by bundling "...three very different issues into one, including the dismantling of employer benefits for both straight and same-sex domestic partners which is of great concern to my clients."

Under current Arizona law, (A.R.S. 25-101, A.R.S. 25-112), marriage is defined as between one man and one woman and that the state will not recognize a marriage from another state that is not between one man and one woman.

Chuck Blanchard, co-counsel for the lawsuit, added that the PMAA could, "jeopardize any unmarried households across Arizona."

These statutes were drafted by the current Republican Gubernatorial candidate, then President of the Anti-LGBT Center for Arizona Policy, Len Munsil, approved by Arizona's Legislature and signed into law by then Republican Governor, Fife Symington, in 1996.

At the center of the lawsuit filed is that the PMAA violates the Separate Amendment Rule (Article 4, Part 2, Section 13) of the Arizona Constitution, by seeking to incorporate in one ballot measure with different, multiple issues.

In 2003, these statutes were challenged in court in the case of Standhardt v. Superior Court, and were upheld by the Arizona State Supreme Court in May 2004.

Gay Games Officially Open

Continued from Page Three events.

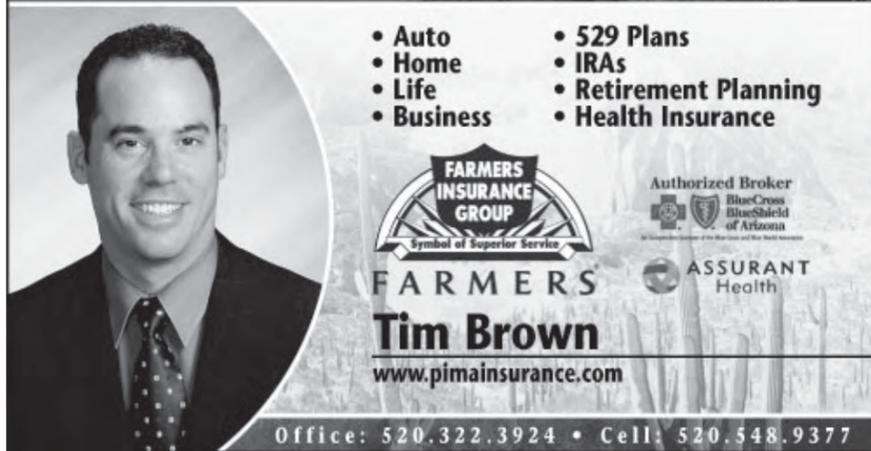
Article 4, Part 2, Section 13 of the Arizona Constitution reads "Every act shall embrace but one subject and matters properly connected therewith, which subject shall be expressed in the title; but if any subject shall be embraced in an act which shall not be expressed in the title, such act shall be void only as to so much thereof as shall not be embraced in the title."

Banners promoting the games are hanging on streets all over Chicago. They feature a games logo and the official slogan: "Participation, Inclusion & Personal Best".

But tickets for most competitions are going fast and some events already are sold out including diving and the aquatic show.

The Gay Games will end on July 22 with the Closing Ceremony at Wrigley Field. On tap to perform will be Cyndi Lauper, Ari Gold, Kristine W, ANT, Sharon McNight, Levi Kreis and, Jason & deMarco.

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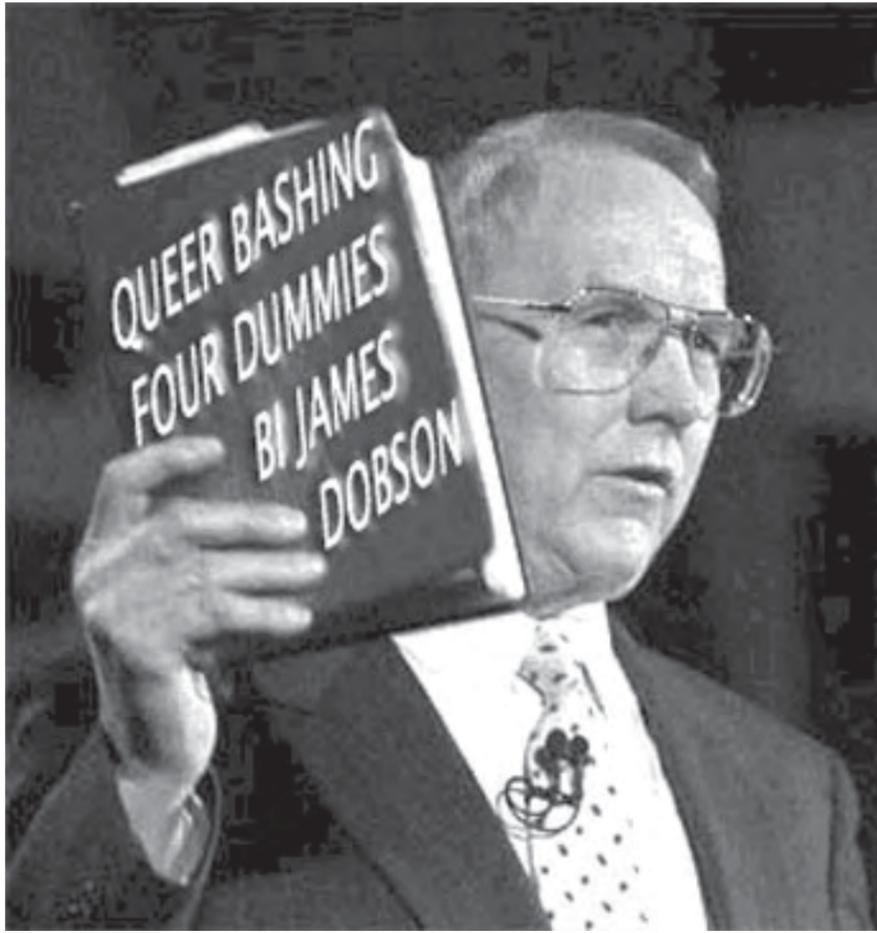
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LGBT Families March On Dobson's Lair



Focus On Family's James Dobson

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado - More than two dozen Gay and Lesbian families began a march Monday (July 17) from Denver to Colorado Springs, to protest homophobic pundit James Dobson's Focus on the Family and the group's far-reaching influence in anti-Gay political and social actions throughout the United States, reported 365Gay.com.

The families aim to take turns walking a four-mile segment of the 65-mile route until they reach Focus on the Family's Colorado Springs headquarters July 22, where they plan to "prayerfully" ask Dobson to "end your religion-based discrimination against our community," organizers Soulforce said Monday in a written statement. They were joined at the kickoff at the Colorado State Capitol by New York University sociologist Judith Stacey, a prominent researcher on children raised by same-sex couples. "I am deeply troubled by the ways in which Focus on the Family willfully misrepresents my research on Lesbian and Gay parenthood to support their ideological opposition to homosexuality," Stacey said. She said part of her research compared the impact of two biological parents with single parents and she said it was wrong to try to extend that to apply to couples, the Associated Press reported. "That is a direct misrepresentation of the research," she said.

In Colorado Springs, the marchers plan to be joined in a candlelight vigil by Judy Shepard, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, and openly Gay actor Chad Allen, who raised evangeli-

cal eyebrows by starring in "End of the Spear," a biopic about slain Protestant missionary Nate Saint.

Soulforce made recent headlines with its six-week Equality Ride, in which young activists were repeatedly arrested when they tried to start discourse at religious colleges that discriminate against LGBT students. A similar protest at Dobson's headquarters last year ended in the arrest of Soulforce youth director Jacob Reitan and his parents, all devout Christians, after they tried to deliver a pro-Gay letter to Focus management. Soulforce regards Focus on the Family "one of the world's primary sources of defamation against LGBT people and same-gender families," saying that "the misinformation that flows from Dobson's radio and television broadcasts reaches millions of people each day in approximately 162 countries and 21 languages."

Dobson's group is among the chief financial backers of the so-called "ex-Gay" movement, Soulforce alleges, and has powerful political establishments, called Family Policy Councils, in most U.S. states that support political work against LGBT equality. Focus on the Family spokesman Gary Schneeberger told AP that his organization refused to meet privately with Soulforce members last year but offered to hold a public debate, which Soulforce refused. He said he didn't know if Dobson would meet with the group this year, but he doubted it.

Same-Sex Handholding Now Illegal In Zimbabwe

HARARE - Zimbabwe strongman Robert Mugabe's government has made it a criminal offense for two people of the same sex to hold hands, hug, or kiss, reported 365Gay.com.

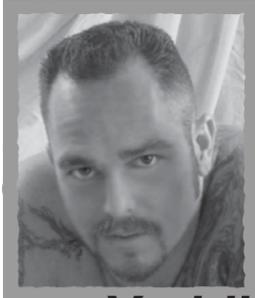
The "sexual deviancy" law is one of 15 additions to Zimbabwe's criminal code quietly passed in Parliament. The sections involving Gays and Lesbians are part of an overhaul of the sodomy laws. Until now laws against sodomy were limited

to sexual activity.

The revised law now states that sodomy is any "act involving contact between two males that would be regarded by a reasonable person as an indecent act."



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Sailor Discharged After Coming Out On Radio Speaks

NEW YORK CITY - When Naval Petty Officer Rhonda Davis walked across New York's Brooklyn Bridge on a rainy Saturday (July 15) in June to support marriage equality, she had an epiphany: She could no longer stay in the closet, reported 365Gay.com.

So when a reporter from local radio station 1010WINS interviewed her at the rally, Davis said proudly that she served in the Navy and that she looked forward one day to marrying her female partner of four years. As a journalist and public affairs officer, Davis was well aware that her public statements, a violation of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Gays, would get back to the Navy. The next Monday (July 17), her commanding officer asked her to recant her radio interview. She wouldn't. And with that, discharge proceedings began immediately. Davis told PlanetOut that, although her 10-year career is over, she has no regrets about coming out.

"Co-workers came up to me that week and said, 'Didn't you know what you said was against policy?'" Davis said. "Of course I knew it very well. But the morning of the march was a defining moment for me. I decided I shouldn't have to follow a rule that other (heterosexual) service members don't have to follow. I was no longer willing to be treated as a second-class citizen. And I would rather sacrifice my career in the Navy, which I still love, than continue to sacrifice my self-respect." Davis says her frustration over the forced closet of "don't ask, don't tell" came to a head after her partner returned to her native Korea to get a work visa to return to the United States. "My emotions were all bottled up, and I wanted to talk to people at work about our separation. I tried to open up, but co-workers just shut down and wouldn't discuss it. I felt like saying, 'Fine, I'll be quiet about my life if you stop telling me all about your wives and husbands.'"

The Department of Defense has

discharged more than 11,000 service members since 1993 under "don't ask, don't tell." According the Government Accountability Office, more than 800 of those service members were trained in skills deemed 'mission critical' by the Pentagon. However, the policy isn't enforced across the board: Some officers look the other way when they learn that there are Gay men or Lesbians in their command, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Steve Ralls, spokesman for the legal group, said Davis' discharge is further evidence of the "sanctioned homophobia" of "don't ask, don't tell." "Service members come out for many reasons," he said. "Sometimes they come out as a last resort to end harassment. Other times they have an integrity issue, like Rhonda did, and where the core values of honesty and integrity instilled by the military are at odds with a policy that forces them to be dishonest." The Pentagon sees both reasons for coming out as voluntary disclosures, something that the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network disagrees with. "We believe that when you are forced to compromise your safety or your integrity it is never voluntary" to come out, Ralls said.

Davis was informed that she would receive an honorable discharge, although the paperwork is still working its way through the system. Now she is applying for jobs at LGBT and human rights organizations, and is exploring the possibility of taking a cross-country tour to tell her story. Although she has no animosity toward the military, Davis said the discharge process showed her the necessity of doing everything she can to end "don't ask, don't tell. I kidded myself by thinking things would change while I was in the service. Now my paperwork says prominently, 'Homosexual admission.' It's sad to see that my 10 years of service has come down to just those two words."

Federal Court: School Cannot Deny Access To GSA

GAINESVILLE, Georgia - A federal judge ruled Friday (July 14) that White County High School must allow students in the Gay-straight alliance club to meet on campus, reported 365Gay.com. U.S. District Court Judge William C. O'Kelley said that the school cannot deny the GSA, called P.R.I.D.E., equal access or a fair opportunity to conduct meetings on school premises during noninstructional time.

O'Kelley said that school officials had violated the Federal Equal Access Act by barring the group from meeting on campus, while allowing other non-curricular clubs to do so. His ruling also said that the school cannot discriminate against student groups on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of their speech.

"This is a great victory for the Lesbian and Gay students and their friends at White County High School who will finally be allowed to meet and can begin to address the violence and harassment against Gay students at the school," said Beth Littrell, Associate Legal Director of the ACLU of Georgia. "But it's also a victory for all students who have been shut out of noncurricular school clubs and activities all year by the school's wrongheaded attempts to prevent the GSA."

In Feb. 2005 students were told they would be allowed to organize a

Gay-Straight Alliance, which later became Peers Rising In Diversity Education, P.R.I.D.E. About two weeks later about 250 angry parents attended a White County school board meeting to protest the club and the board decided to ban all non-academic clubs. The move staved off a threatened suit by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the students, but when some of the non-academic clubs began holding meetings on school property and have their meetings promoted during morning announcements the ACLU filed a federal discrimination suit.

"This has been the best civics lesson ever," said Kerry Pacer, one of the founders of PRIDE. "I couldn't believe the school was so unfair to us when all we wanted to do was to try to address the violence and harassment against Gay students. I'm relieved that the court is going to make the school let us meet."



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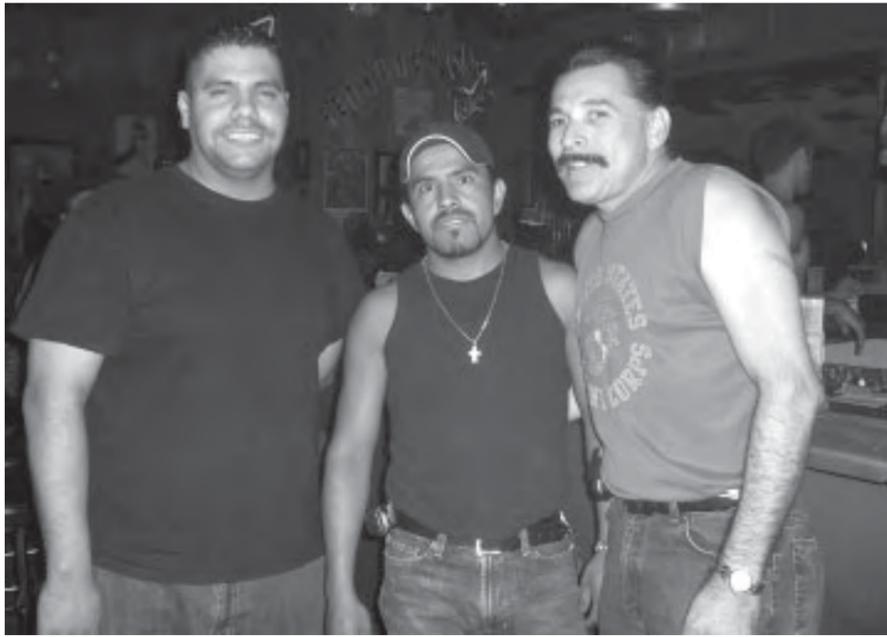
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
Korean Blackmail
 by Lee Thorn

This column is going to be about North Korea's attempt to blackmail the United States, but first I feel compelled to deliver some breaking news to those of you who don't watch C-SPAN: The Prime Minister of England has lost his mind. He's currently advocating a law that would allow cops to take your money for no reason and would force you to go to court and prove that you'd come by the confiscated money legally to get it back! Stay tuned to see if fascism will finally triumph in England without the need of another annoying Blitz.

Getting back to Korea, it's curious and a little troubling that nobody wants to use the word "blackmail." When someone does something expressly to scare the hell out of you and it's understood that he'll quit doing it if you pay him off, that's called "blackmail." Why is everyone studiously avoiding the word? Until we know the why of the question, it's hard to gauge the importance of the question.

Another poser that the blackmail raises concerns New Mexico's Governor Bill Richardson. Is he being no sleazier than the average politician or is he kicking it up a notch when he blames the blackmail on Bush's calling the North Koreans a bad name and when he further opines that multi-party negotiations might be hurting the North Koreans' feelings? Although I don't feel remotely tempted to say anything in defense of Bush, it is fairly despicable to allege that his stupidity in this regard was the proximate cause of the blackmail. And it's almost equally despicable to allege that the blackmail's outcome depends on how many parties attend the negotiations.

Parties blackmail other parties because they want the loot and they think they can get away with it. Something tells me that deep in his heart Governor Richardson is aware of this rather stark and simple fact. So can North Korea get away with it? Sure they can. Look for them to be getting a big present from us and their neighbors shortly after our midterm elections. We wouldn't want paying the ransom to become an election issue. And look for them, as blackmailers usually do, to run the whole scam again before the decade is out.

After all, what's to stop them? Do we have a military option against a one-million-man army that could destroy our close ally's capital city, Seoul, in about 20 minutes without even crossing the border? Do we have an economic option when China keeps North Korea afloat with fuel and food while we remain largely irrelevant? We do a lot of business with China. Why not put pressure on the Chinese to get North Korea to end the blackmail? There are several reasons: One, if we tried to put pressure on China to do anything she didn't want to do, she'd simply tell our multinational corporations who are so contentedly sucking on her many nipples, "Your govern-

ment is becoming a pain in the butt. Straighten it out or go home." Two, does China really want to threaten the little lunatic with the bouffant who clearly has his finger on the trigger and seems willing to pull it? Three, does China really mind a situation in which the United States looks ridiculous and impotent?

To those who would ask, "What's the solution?" I have the same answer I've offered before to the question of what's the solution to Iraq: "What makes you think there's a solution?" In Iraq, although I don't know any solutions, I'm pretty sure that continuing to stimulate the growth and vigor of the insurgency by keeping our troops in that country is not the solution. In North Korea, although I don't know any solutions, I'm pretty sure that paying the little lunatic with the bouffant his blackmail money is not the solution. In both situations we have put ourselves in a deep hole. We don't have any idea of how to get out of that hole. But I'd argue for the wisdom of stopping the digging. In Iraq that means an immediate tactical withdrawal. In North Korea it means, "Don't pay the ransom." And anybody who claims to know where my proposed courses would lead is rummier than Rumsfeld.

There's a philosophical principle behind what I'm advocating, a general rule if you will: When you know that what you're doing is making the situation worse, stop doing it, even if you don't yet know how to make the situation better. I believe I'll name my principle after the person who most directly inspired it - The Rumsfeld Theorem.

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

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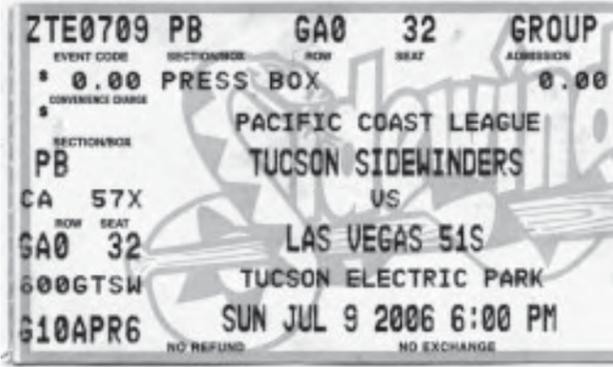
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Retro Mercury backs into Cancer, redirects and decides to rattle our cages with fresh ideas. Do you have a valid point to make or are you just dramatically fanning the air? Think before you bleat, lambs; words go astray and pack a punch.

ARIES (3/21 - 4/20)

Expect a few changes around the house during Mercury's tango. Proud Rams feel an overwhelming urge to call it as they see it with certain impossible family members. Go for it but also be prepared to accept all possible outcomes. Yes, life is too short to compromise but you will gain more traction by waiting until the end of the month. Then give it all you've got!

TAURUS (4/21 - 5/21)

Your words pack a nuclear punch so weigh what you say very carefully. Queer Bulls will have a difficult time keeping things in balance while Mercury circles. On the bright side, you have a unique opportunity to set your personal agenda on full throttle and get the word Out - loud, proud and queer. You discover that you have to tip a few sacred cows over to move the herd.

GEMINI (5/22 - 6/21)

Reexamine all that you hold near and dear during the Mercury fandango. Pink Twins find that their value system is placed on the petri dish of life. Do you like what you see? Change could be in the air. By expressing your raw opinions you may inadvertently lose something that you currently treasure. In retrospect, it might be a weight off your back. Then again, maybe not.

CANCER (6/22 - 7/23)

Mercury glides off course as do pink Crabs. Does it seem like you are veering into strange, untested territory? Others certainly think so. Their impression of you undergoes a transformation. Surprise them - You may get back on track in your life's work or you could decide to spread your wings and fly off in a new direction. Remember to pack a lunch.

LEO (7/24 - 8/23)

Proud Lions should weigh their words very carefully while Mercury transits. Loose lips sink ships and hidden enemies could have a field day with your ill considered stray missiles. There is also the chance that your imagination takes you on a joy ride through the netherworld. Avoid trouble by keeping your perspective and remaining logical and balanced. Uh oh.

VIRGO (8/24 - 9/23)

Queer Virgins can strike up the band in any social arena. Mercury increases your tempo to a ferocious crescendo. Everyone dance or else! You have a tendency to put your friends through a lot of cheap abuse. So at least try to hold off on your more incendiary comments. There is no sense in insulting and alienating pals. Make nice nice not nasty nasty.

LIBRA (9/24 - 10/23)

Pink Libras are buried up to their necks in career challenges when Mercury makes its move. No matter how frustrating professional life may be, don't make any on-air commentary. There is no sense in complaining anyway; your words don't have the intended effect and may even make things worse. Suck it up and hold off for at least another week. Then take over the firm.

SCORPIO (10/24 - 11/22)

Are you a bit too mouthy for your own good? Seems so while retro Mercury holds sway. Proud Scorps can be rather opinionated and now you are ready to take your fight to the mean streets in order to make your point. Ouch, baby. Push may come to shove, especially if the law is involved. Are you prepared to put your principles on the line? Then also be prepared to pay the fine.

SAGITTARIUS (11/23 - 12/22)

The most interesting part of the Mercury transit is whatever nonsense you say to people will sound authentic and ring true. It even gives you a sexy, sensual patina. What a change of pace! Turn on the charm before the clock strikes midnight. Proud Archers seem to know just what to say and do to tempt even the toughest meat into their meet locker. Spice, tenderize and serve sizzling hot.

CAPRICORN (12/23 - 1/20)

Gay Caps are happiest with a significant other and Mercury can charge up partnerships with a few well chosen words. You can electrify a good relationship into an excellent one. However the opposite is also true; A shaky partnership can unhinge and fall apart. Of course, if you're on your own and searching for your dreamboat, it could bring in the fleet. Well hello sailor!

AQUARIUS (1/21 - 2/19)

Mercury now pits your desire to do a good job with your impatience at never getting ahead of the game. Aqueerians are ready to throw off their shackles and announce their liberation from the workforce. If you're fed up with being a working stiff (although some people like it like that...) try working off frustration at the gym. It is a time of rampant capitalism anyway.

PISCES (2/20 - 3/20)

Fun has a way of getting way out of hand during the Mercury tango. You take excessive risks in order to draw all the attention to yourself or to (hopefully) attract new romance. Don't. It's not worth it. One ill timed remark could launch the torpedoes so watch your mouth to maintain the peace. Guppies enjoy accolades, not rotten tomatoes. To be safe, wear something washable.



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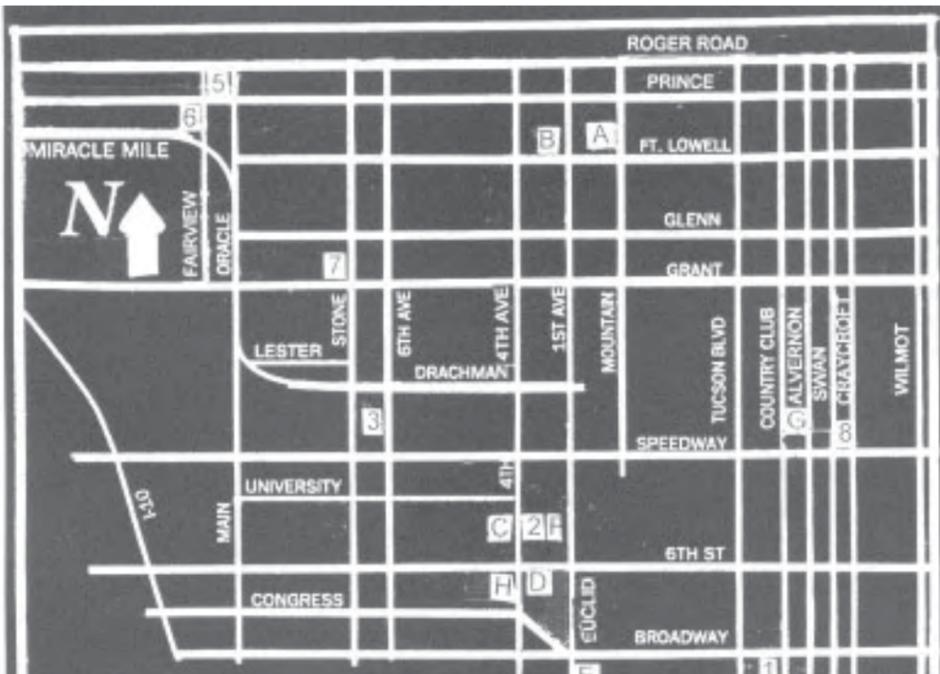
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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, July 19
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm
Canasta! Hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. 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, July 20
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm
Coffee night at Rainbow Planet on Fabulous 4th, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating, caffeine enhanced beverages, plus delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse.....Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

#2 Call TODAY for tomorrow's Pizza Night
 Bruce at 743-3890 for information, reservations, directions, enlightenment, and incredible satisfaction!

Friday, July 21
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
It's PIZZA NIGHT starring your host Bruce and 4 types of pizza! (Bruce is the one without the cheese.) Featuring salacious salad, bubbly sodas, and spunky desserts for only \$5 Dollars!

Saturday, July 22
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Contact tonight's dreamy but taken host Marvin at

745-0304. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay serial killer instincts!

Sunday, July 23
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
 Thom and Ken coordinate Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Ken at 294-6606 or Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com before Sunday Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like sharing a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

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

Monday, July 24.
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
Newsletter and Movie Night! Requiring only moderately developed Biceps, this is a great way to socialize, and also a great way to find out what's up for next month's MSN Calendar a whole 3 days earlier than the average MSN member. This month's Movie is the 2004 'coming out' flick, Dorian Blues. Call Arlan at 323-7414 for directions.

Tuesday, July 25
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of

all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m.
Cheap Movie Night at The Crossroads Movie Theatres Grant and Swan. We will vote on the movie to see and see it together. If there are dissenting votes, at least we will be in the same building together. For more than competent info, contact MSN and Southern Arizona's Premier Cheap Movie Expert: Danny at 349-5295.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. 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.

Wednesday, July 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm
Canasta! Hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. 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, July 27
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm
Coffee night at Rainbow Planet on Fabulous 4th, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating, caffeine enhanced beverages, plus delicious comestibles, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse...Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
Play Bridge hosted this evening by Willie at 297-8756. Lay your cards on the table for a "whist" full evening of Bridge! And remember: Bridge is like sex; If you don't have a good partner, you better have a good hand!

Friday, July 28
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 9:30a.m.
MSN's Otherworldly Sunrise Scientists! This month we explore: Black Holes In Space! Into The Heart Of The "Matter" Enter The Quantum! Wave or Particle?!? Plus! Yummie goodies from our host Tom! (And breakfast, too!) Call Tom for info and directions at 744-9036. Join us and find out what really 'matters'!

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m.
Merlin and Lee host a word for word evening of Scrabble! If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 p.m., Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, July 29
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm
Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. New recruits are always welcome and beginners are tutored to develop their gay serial killer instincts! Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, July 30
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.
 Thom and Ken coordinate Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. Price is usually under \$10 bucks. For reservations and directions, please contact Ken at 294-6606 or Thom at 623-2941, or e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com before Sunday Noon to facilitate reservations. There is nothing like sharing a buffet with men to find everything you have been craving!

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

Monday, July 31
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House. 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, August 4.
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 - 7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, August 6
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - Noon, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, August 7.
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, August 11
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, August 12.
Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting - 11 AM, Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, August 13
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, August 14.
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

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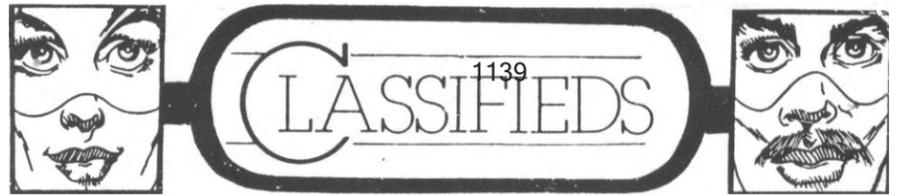
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Delays In OutGames' Visas Questioned

OTTAWA, Canada - The Canadian government is under fire over delays in granting visas for people who want to attend next month's OutGames in Montreal, reported 365Gay.com. OutGames organizers say that 250 visas have not been processed and in about a dozen other cases visas have been denied.

An Immigration Department spokesperson said the OutGames visas are part of a backlog caused in part by the usual summer visa requests by foreigners who want to vacation in Canada and by the increased scrutiny that is a follow-up to 9-11. In a letter to Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg the OutGames expressed "concern" about the situation. Many of those whose visas are tied up are guests invited to take part in an international forum on human rights. But the letter was careful not to accuse the government of discrimination.

The Opposition Liberals in Parliament were more pointed, demanding Solberg investigate the delays. "Canada has been a financial partner in the organization of the 1st World Outgames and the International Human rights Conference from the outset," said Liberal Immigration Critic Raymonde Folco. "Why, with only two weeks remaining until the start of the activities, are dozens of participants

still waiting for a response to their visa applications?" The federal government under the previous Liberal government became a major games sponsor. Former Liberal Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre also was outraged that the participants had heard no news from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "It is absolutely nonsensical that the organizers of the Outgames, who are sponsoring the travel and lodging expenses for these participants, can't even get an explanation as to why this process has been so slow," said Coderre.

Noel St. Pierre, an immigration lawyer in Montreal, told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that he has been told several of those rejected entry into Canada were told it was because they have criminal records. St. Pierre told the CBC that he is investigating the nature of the criminal records, since many of the invited athletes face prosecution in their home countries for being Gay.

The 1st World Outgames are taking place in Montreal from July 29 to Aug. 5, and are expected to bring together a total of 12,000 participants and 200,000 visitors.

Keep yourself in a healthy balance – know your status!



Free anonymous and confidential HIV testing and syphilis screening.

Brought to you by the Pima County Health Department and the Gay Men's Health Project.

GMHP Gay Men's Health Project
 628-7223 · www.gmhp.org

Gay Men's Health Project is a collaborative effort of Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Pima County Health Dept. and Wingspan.

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 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Live music with Dickie Steed during Brunch (11:30-2:30)

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

IBT's -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 Bar open 2pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7pm. \$2.50 Sirloin or Chicken Burgers w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. DJ Jeff on the Patio 9pm. 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. Monday Munchies 4 - 9 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around.

IBT's - Open Noon. 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 Martinis 4-8pm.

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 Domestic and well. Game Night with Dan 5-7pm & nightly dinner specials Full menus served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Tequila Tuesday: \$2.00 well margaritas, 50¢ off call tequilas. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Women-only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:30 p.m. for women only.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longneck. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. \$1 off to those wearing 80s concert T-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and 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 - 9 pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only.

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 9am. Patio 7pm. 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 Domestic and 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 - 9 pm.

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 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). 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 Domestic 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.

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. Two-step lessons with Amanda every other Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then dance mix 'til close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight for late night munchies.

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 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

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 Domestic and Well Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Hot new Jazz Duo "Sunnyatta" performs 7-10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Happy Hour 11 am - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$4.00 Burger & Fries all day. Check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9 pm - 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.

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 and Entertainment

Now Playing thru August 19

Gaslight Theatre presents "Gnatman" at 7010 E. Broadway. A comedic superhero musical written and directed by Peter Van Slyke. Performances 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. Sundays. Call 886-9428 for information and reservations.

July 14

Desert Diamond Casino, I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 (7 minutes South of Tucson). Presenting Kool and the Gang. TicketMaster 321-1000.

August 15

AVA Amphitheater at Casino Del Sol presents Earth Wind and Fire. I-19 Exit, Valencia West.. 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.

September 1

Casino Del Sol AVA Amphitheater presents Lynard Skynyrd. Ticketmaster 321-1000. I-19, exit Valencia West. 838-6700.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

WOODY'S - "Water Sports" Underwear Nite 9:00 p.m. until close.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

WOODY'S - SoCoLime show party 9:00 to midnight. \$3.50 SoCoLime shots from their new Chiller. DJ Jeff on the patio from 9:00 to closing.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

HOWL AT THE MOON - Desert Divas a show at 9:00 p.m. and then dance with DJ Johnny D. after the show!

YARD DOG SALOON - Live entertainment on the patio. "Sonny Jones" at 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

WOODY'S - 8:00 to closing they are having a Designer Underwear Party. "Project Runway" on the Big Screen at 10:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

VENTURE-N - Steak Nite! \$6.00 Steak, Baked Potato and salad. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

WOODY'S - Luau Coming! :Get Lei'd". More later.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo on the patio.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

HOWL AT THE MOON - NCC Pageant for Miss Tucson. Call Amanda Nicole at 319-8478 for more information. Preliminaries start at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is here playjng classic rock and more.

Gay Rage Concerns In P'Town

PROVINCETOWN, Massachusetts - For decades Provincetown has been one of the nation's most tolerant communities, making it popular with Gays, reported 365Gay.com. But now, according to the town's police chief, Gays are showing disturbing signs themselves of intolerance and he wants to address it before the situation escalates.

Chief Ted Meyer tells the Cape Cod Times that he has received complaints of Gay people calling straights "breeders" as well as racial epithets directed at Jamaican workers and a verbal attack directed at a resident who signed an anti-Gay-marriage petition. Meyer acknowledges that the complaints number only a handful and than none of them constitute hate crimes but he is nonetheless concerned. "We don't have hate crimes, but we do have hate and nasty comments," Meyer told the Times.

"We've got Gay guys yelling out to straight people, 'you breeders coming here and bothering us,' and that sort of stuff. So it's kind of a reverse discrimination. And they worked so hard to prevent that from happening to Gay folks in town." Meyer said that he is determined to insure the incidents don't escalate. He's has called a public meeting of the town's "No Place for Hate" committee.

In one incident, detailed to the Times by Meyer, a woman who signed an anti-Gay-marriage petition was verbally accosted last week by a man "who was screaming about her being a bigot." That man was Rick Hines, publisher of Provincetown Magazine. He has expressed regret but says "how would you feel if you were discriminated against on a daily basis?" "If you were treated as a second-class citizen? If you were told you can't get married because of who you're with, by your neighbors? And then you run into someone, who you know sees you as a second-class citizen, someone who is trying to stop you from having a normal life together."

Meyer said he believes the push for a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage in Massachusetts has acerbated the situation and he said he's hoping to keep a lid on things.

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.

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 meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson

YOUNG AND GAY?

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

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 298-6727, 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, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30_9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

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; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Wednesdays 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.

The new **MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY** is meeting about honoring the spiritual side of ourselves. It is the men's social/erotic group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities, and real tantric sex education. Call Marc 881-4582 in advance Check it out. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Potluck dinner. Donation.

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

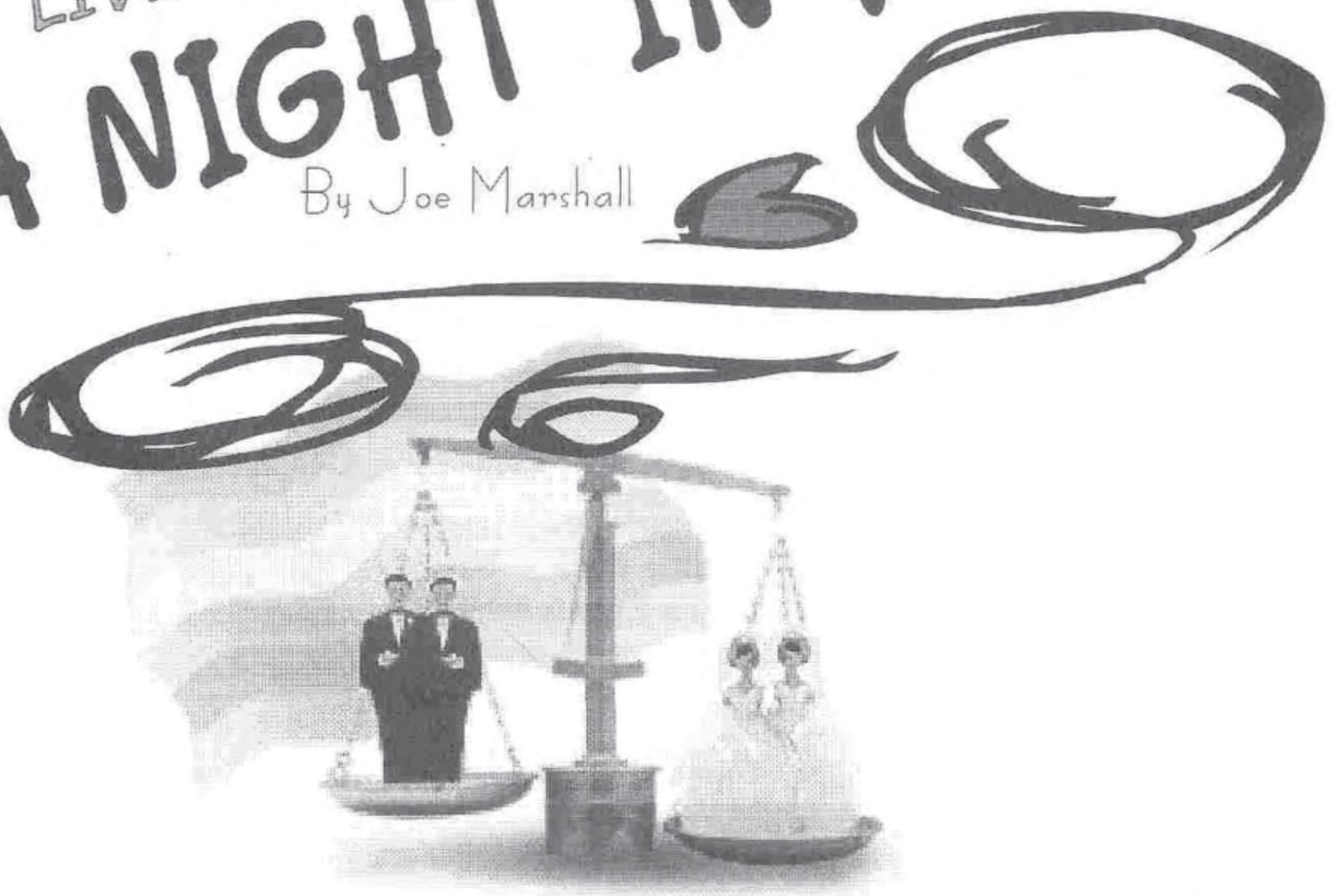




The Alternative Theatre Company Presents:

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