



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Gates Donates \$287-Million To Speed Up HIV Vaccine Hunt



Microsoft's Bill Gates and wife Melinda

TORONTO - The Gates Foundation is putting its financial might behind the global fight against HIV/AIDS, donating \$287 million US to create an international network of researchers aimed at accelerating the discovery of a vaccine to prevent the disease, reported the Canadian Press. The package of grants - 16 in all spread among more than 165 researchers in 19 countries, including Canada - represents the largest single investment for HIV/AIDS by the philanthropic organization created by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda.

Dr. Nicholas Hellmann, interim director of HIV, TB and reproductive health programs at the foundation, said that with worldwide HIV infections occurring at a rate of 11,000 a day, a preventive vaccine is the best long-term hope for controlling the AIDS epidemic.

"Unfortunately, developing an effective HIV vaccine has proven to be tremendously difficult, and despite the committed efforts of many researchers around the world, progress simply has not been fast enough," Hellmann told a media teleconference announcing the five-year funding commitment. "There still remain many unanswered scientific questions, and, in addition, resources haven't always been allocated in the most strategic way, which means there is also a greater need for collaborations amongst investigators."

To that end, the foundation has earmarked about two-thirds of its grants to create 11 large-scale consortia that will pursue innovative ideas for designing an effective HIV vaccine. The five remaining grants will fund central laboratories and other facilities to ensure that research results from one scientific team can be compared in a standardized fashion with those from other teams.

The aim of this collaborative network is to quickly identify the most promising candidate vaccines and pursue their testing and development, Hellmann said. All the researchers accepted grants on the understanding that any successful vaccine would be made available cheaply and quickly to HIV-ravaged developing countries.

Dr. Giuseppe Pantaleo, chief of immunology and allergy at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois in Lausanne, Switzerland, said scientists from around the world have been working for more than 20 years to develop a vaccine.

"The key problem is that traditional ways of making vaccines - which have worked well against other diseases - have largely failed for HIV," said Pantaleo, who will head a consortium of international researchers focused on improving candidate HIV vaccines based on poxvirus models, which have been shown to stimulate immune responses at the cellular level. (A poxvirus-based vaccine was used to eradicate smallpox.)

Working within Pantaleo's group will be one of Canada's top vaccine specialists, Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sekaly, an immunologist at the University of Montreal.

"It really is a privilege to be part of this consortium and it's recognition of all the work we've been doing for the past several years," Sekaly said Wednesday (July 19) from Montreal. That work has focused in part on the role of T-cells - the immune cells targeted by the AIDS virus - and how they could be strengthened to fight off infection.

Another Canadian chosen by
Continued on Page Four

G/L Athletes Still Struggle With 'Coming Out'

CHICAGO - As a 340-pound (154-kg) nose tackle in the National Football League, Esera Tuaolo was a pretty tough guy. But as a closeted Gay athlete he recalls living in constant fear, reported the Reuters network. "I felt like if I had come out while still in the NFL I would have been in physical danger," Tuaolo said in an interview. "They would have taken me out - gone after my knees, or tried to paralyze me."

Hawaiian-born Tuaolo, who played for the Atlanta Falcons in the 1999 Super Bowl game, was in Chicago to participate in the weeklong Gay Games VII sports festival, and appeared on a panel called "Brokeback Locker Room," about the challenges facing Gay and Lesbian athletes. Panelists agreed that although homosexuals now enjoy increased acceptance in public life, the sports arena has been a tough nut to crack.

"Sports is the last frontier in terms of homophobia," said Helen Carroll, sports project coordinator with the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. For that reason many athletes, including women's basketball standout Sheryl Swoopes and golfer Rosie Jones, have waited until the twilight of their careers before coming out.

In baseball, "there's a lot of pressure to fit in with what everyone else is doing - you need to have a really hot-looking wife and start having kids right away," said Billy Bean, who played for three major-league teams from 1987 to 1995.

Bean "came out" as a homosexual in 1999. In the intervening years little has changed for Gay athletes in the sport, he said. "There is one kid in the

minor leagues who e-mails me two or three times a day. But big leaguers won't risk anything - even an e-mail could become public information," he said. Even as public acceptance of Gays develops, "Owners and managers are afraid of two or three players poisoning the team atmosphere ... it's that mixture that the front office worries about," Bean said.

Leigh-Ann Naidoo, a South African beach volleyballer, said she could hardly believe that at the 2004 Olympics in Athens she was one of just a dozen or so "out" athletes. "My coming out was so I could share my Olympic experience fully with my partner," she said. "But it doesn't threaten my life to say that I'm Gay, whereas for others it may."

Tuaolo said he is working with about 30 high school and college athletes on "coming out" issues. He has also spoken to NFL employees and, last season, to the NFL's rookie symposium about homophobia and on being a Gay man in sports.

Carroll said more and more standout high-school athletes are out, and that one of her missions has been to counsel coaches about how to deal with such situations. "I tell coaches: 'You have a Gay or Lesbian athlete and you'll have a better team if you get the team to gel together,'" she added. Still, Carroll said, talking only goes so far, adding, "My new mantra is educate - and litigate. It seems to take us a bit further toward our goals."

The highly publicized case of Rene Portland, a winning Penn State basketball coach accused of harassing Lesbian players for decades, was "a very teachable moment," Carroll said. "I call it educating Joe Sixpack."

Gay Chat Mayor West Dies

SPOKANE, Wash. - Former Spokane Mayor James E. West, who opposed Gay-rights bills but was recalled from office over an Internet Gay sex scandal, died Saturday of complications from recent cancer surgery. He was 55.

The conservative former Republican state senate majority leader was diagnosed in early 2003 with colon cancer that later spread to his liver. A statement issued by University of Washington Medical Center said his family and pastor were at his side at the Seattle hospital. "As a family we wish to thank the caregivers at University of Washington Medical Center, and the many friends of Jim for their support and prayers," the family said in their statement.

Seven months after The Spokesman-Review newspaper began publishing results of a computer "sting" it conducted to track the mayor's online activities in a Gay chat room, West was ousted from office on Dec. 6, 2005, on a single charge that he used his office for



James E. West

personal benefit. West was the first Spokane city official to be recalled from office, ending a 27-year career in city and state politics.

The former Spokane city coun-
Continued on Page Three

UPDATE

Observer Correction

TUCSON - In July 19 edition of the Observer (#1148), in the story entitled, "Transsexual Professor Battles For Female Scientists," the name in the caption under the picture should have been listed was Dr. Ben Barres, not Dr. Barbara Barres.

This was an error on the part of the staff of The Observer, for which their apologies are extended.

Tucson Pride Call To Volunteers

TUCSON - Tucson Pride, Inc. (TPI) plans, produces and promotes pride activities within the Tucson LGBT community.

For 2006, TPI is proud to produce Splash Bash: Oasis Tucson on Sept. 2 at the Doubletree Hotel, and Pride in the Desert (formerly OUToberFEST) on Oct. 14 at the DeMeester Center in Reid Park. TPI will also continue its support of Pride on Parade, this year 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.

To sign up, call the Pride Line, (520) 622-3200, or go online to tucsonpride.com.

Desert Voices Open House Aug. 7 & 14

TUCSON - Desert Voices (DV), the premiere GLBTS (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight supportive) Tucson Chorus, is looking for singers to join us in our most exciting season yet, Changing History, and will be having an "open house," Aug. 7 & 14, 7 p.m., at Water of Life-MCC, 3269 N. Mountain.

Join DV as we take a fascinating look at homosexuality during World War II, through the music of the era. It's an experience you won't want to miss. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting out, DV has a place for you. Come in to our open house, say hello, stop and chat and find out more about DV.

The chorus is open to everyone, GLBT and S, who feel drawn to our cause of promoting the acceptance of all people throughout Tucson and Arizona. So come to the open house and meet the singers, board members, and musicians, you'll be glad that you did! For more information, go online to desertvoices.org or call (520) 791-9662.

Arizona Together Update

TUCSON - Arizona Together is calling in all volunteers and those who signed up to help for a phone-banking effort to spread the word about Proposition 107 (formerly the anti-domestic benefits amendment).

Mike Coffman, Southern Arizona coordinator, said that the phone-bank will begin in the very near future and the effort to defeat Proposition 107 continues. He added that if phone-banking is not your strong suit, contact the Arizona Together office anyway, so you can find out other ways in which you might help.

The signatures have been turned in, the proposition number has been assigned, and the gauntlet has been thrown down. Now we need your help. We must show the Center for Arizona Policy that Tucson does not concede to hatred disguised as morality. Call (520) 326-8154 to sign up or for more information.

Wingspan Annual Dinner Sept. 16

TUCSON - The 9th Annual Wingspan Dinner and Award Ceremony will be held on 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 and former Mayor of the City of Tempe. A dance with music by LeeAnne Savage will conclude the evening. Tickets will go on sale for the Dinner 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.

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. 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.

For more information, go online to wingspan.org or call (520) 624-1779.

IN MEMORIAM



Mark Brunelle

We are very sorry to report that Marc Brunelle, community activist and TIHAN volunteer, passed away unexpectedly over the weekend at his home at the age of 47.

Marc, a longterm survivor of HIV for almost 20 years, was well-known in the Tucson community as a friend, performer, organizer, caregiver, and fundraiser. For the past 10 years, Marc has helped organize and produce the popular "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show, and he was currently hard at work with this year's benefit. Over the past decade, Marc worked tirelessly and helped raise almost \$90,000 for the AIDS awareness and support services provided by his favorite charity, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN).

Marc and Lloyd, his partner of 15 years, were active members of St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church. In addition to his volunteer work at the church, Marc volunteered at TIHAN for the past 10 years, helping with HIV education, serving as a CareTeam volunteer, answering telephones, and raising funds for support services. Marc was also a regular participant in Strength for the Journey, a United Methodist-sponsored retreat for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. Marc lived life passionately, and counted among his blessings his partner, family, and pets, as well as his church and TIHAN "families" and many, many friends. Among his passions were karaoke, Broadway show tunes, fried chicken, lobster, and the Turnabout show, where he performed as "Marci Phillips" (often as Liza Minnelli) to raise money for TIHAN's AIDS awareness and support services.

Marc's legacy will live on through those he touched and the programs and organizations that he helped support. A memorial service will be held in August—please call TIHAN at 299-6647 for more details about the service as they are available. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marc's memory to TIHAN and mailed to 1011 North Craycroft, #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

"Marc Brunelle's heroic journey living with HIV serves as a great reminder that our brothers and sisters continue to live courageously in this battle against AIDS," said Scott Blades, TIHAN's Executive Director. "Our community owes so much to him for his many contributions, and we grieve his passing with much sorrow, but celebration for all that Marc has given to us and our community."

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



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, please contact Wendy Ascione at 628-7223 wascione@saaf.org

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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

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Protests, Dialogue Mark Iranian Teen Deaths

NEW YORK - More than two dozen anti-death penalty vigils were held around the world Wednesday (July 19) to mark the first anniversary of Iran's hanging of two teens accused of homosexuality, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Before Mahmoud Asgari and Ayaz Marhoni were executed publicly, they were held in prison for 14 months and lashed 228 times. While the teenagers were accused of raping a 13-year-old boy, several human rights groups believe that the rape charge was merely trumped up and that the teens were killed under Muslim sharia law for the crime of homosexuality.

Vigils and protests were held in Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, New York, Provincetown, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Sioux Falls, Washington, D.C. and more than a dozen cities across Europe and South America.

In London, Labor MP Chris Bryant hosted a meeting at the House of Commons, which included Green Party European lawmaker Jean Lambert and activists Simon Forbes and Peter Tatchell. In addition to protesting the execution of children and Gays, speakers from the U.K.-based Gay rights group OutRage called on Iran to halt the arrest, imprisonment and torture of LGBTs and called on other countries to halt the deportation of Iranian LGBT asylum seekers.

At the London event, OutRage founder and worldwide protest organizer Tatchell claimed that a year-long investigation into this case has revealed that the Iranian governments allegations against the two hanged teens were riddled with contradictions, lies. "At first it was claimed by Iranian

officials that they were aged 18 and 19, then that they were 19 and 21, then aged 18 and 20, and finally they made the claim that they were both above 18 at the time of their alleged crimes," Tatchell said. "However, the best evidence is that both youths were aged 17 when they were executed and therefore minors, aged 15 or 16, at the time of their alleged crimes. And by instituting charges of kidnap and rape, the Iranian authorities apparently hope to discredit the victims, discourage public protests and deflect international condemnation."

In New York, the demonstration took a quieter approach as Human Rights Watch and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Committee hosted a forum to set new goals and strategies for changing Iran's human rights policies. A standing-room only crowd at the New York Gay and Lesbian Center discussed the difficulty of pressuring Iran, and discussed new for dealing with human rights issues in a country that resents western interference, according to Paula Ettelbrick, executive director of the international rights group.

"In the U.S. we are acculturated to stepping in and taking action," Ettelbrick told the PlanetOut Network. "That's not how other countries do it and it certainly doesn't work when dealing with Iran. Condoleeza Rice can't just tell Iran to stop executing Gay people. We know now that bringing change in human rights means being globally sensitive." The New York gathering, which featured moving stories from Iranian LGBT refugees and their families, marked a shift in tactics about how to overturn Iran's practices. The consensus was, before the country's government can be engaged, human rights groups

outside Iran need a much greater understanding of all of the forces at work in the country, Ettelbrick said. "We have to think more strategically about how to deal with these issues at a time when any human rights group associated with a western group is discredited and marginalized (in Iran)," she said.

The human rights situation in Iran is intertwined with political conditions, and with the saber rattling of the Bush administration, the job of human rights groups has become especially dicey, said Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights project at Human Rights Watch. "It's a delicate time to do advocacy in Iran," Long told the PlanetOut Network. "The Bush administration's stance since spring of 2005 has increased the power of (Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad) and given the government legitimacy to crack down on political opponents."

And under the hard-line Iranian president, civil rights groups, workers groups, women's movements and others are all considered political opponents, Long said. Long concurred with Ettelbrick that more information about LGBT life inside Iran is needed to devise effective strategies for ending civil rights abuses. And they both agree that it will take time. "One of the things that came out of the meeting was a question: Is our intent to make ourselves feel good or to affect change?" Ettelbrick said. "If it is to really affect change, then we need to talk to more people from Iran to understand their environment, we then, as a nation, need to look at our own policies such as the death penalty, and see how they are affecting the situation over there."

Gay Chat Mayor West Dies

Continued from Page One

cilman, Boy Scout leader and sheriff's deputy had frequently opposed Gay-rights bills during his 20 years in the state House and Senate. The newspaper alleged he offered to help someone he thought was an 18-year-old high school student get a City Hall internship during Internet chats that involved discussions about sex. "I wish I had never gone online at all. I just wish I hadn't," West told The Associated Press in an Oct. 31, 2005, interview. "I scratch my head today. I can't tell you why." West acknowledged having relations with adult men but denied doing anything illegal. He was never criminally charged, although the FBI conducted a public corruption investigation.

After two terms in the House, West served four terms in the Senate, rising to senate majority leader before stepping down in 2003 to run for his "dream job" of Spokane mayor. Less than 18 months into his four-year term, The Spokesman-Review began publishing its series on the mayor's online activities.



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 Sat. Aug. 19th - Live music with TMI
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UPDATE

In Wake Of Setbacks LGBT Groups Launch Marriage Ad Campaign

NEW YORK - Three major Gay-rights groups are taking out full-page advertisements starting Tuesday in 50 newspapers nationwide declaring their determination to keep fighting for same-sex marriage rights despite recent court setbacks, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The media campaign will cost \$250,000; its organizers said it was the largest-ever purchase of print advertising space by Gay rights supporters.

Roberta Sklar of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the ads would run in papers around the country, from The New York Times to The Gazette of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Gay weeklies in Houston, Atlanta and San Diego. The ads feature photographs of five same-sex couples who have been together as long as 53 years and are endorsed by an array of organizations and individuals, including 11 religious leaders and nine mayors.

"From coast to coast, millions of people and hundreds of organizations are working to protect Gay and Lesbian families by ending their exclusion from marriage," the ads say. "Along the way, there will be advances and setbacks, but we will not stop until every American family is treated fairly, with dignity and equality under the law." The ad placement comes at an eventful time for the Gay marriage debate.

Opponents of Gay marriage have recently won important court rulings in several states - most notably New York. However, a proposed federal constitu-

tional amendment to ban Gay marriage failed to win the needed two-thirds support in both the Senate and House.

"There's no question the landscape is mixed," said Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry, one of the three organizers of the ad campaign along with the task force and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation (GLAAD). "This is a long-term conversation," Wolfson said. "Our job is to make sure people hear about Gay families and why marriage matters, and not be drowned out by the horse race of the moment."

Signatories of the ads included the mayors of Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Providence, R.I., Portland, Ore., West Sacramento, Calif., and Palm Springs, Calif.

GLAAD's executive director, Neil Giuliano, said the ad campaign was a milestone because of the strong support from straight political and religious leaders "This clearly shows a maturing of the movement, broadening the base in our quest for equality," he said. "It shows we have the capacity to speak loudly and strongly nationwide."

Among other publications, the ads were scheduled to appear in The Fresno (Calif.) Bee, The News & Observer of Raleigh, N.C., The Times of Trenton, N.J., and The Olympian of Olympia, Wash.

Gates Donates \$287-Million

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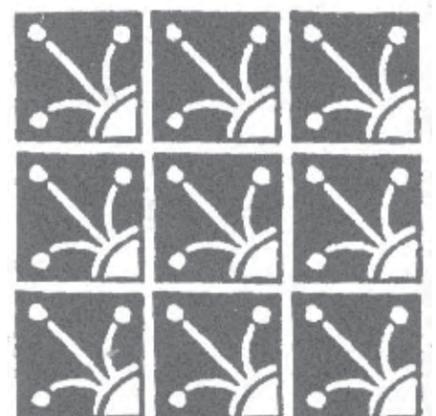
the Gates Foundation is Dr. Ken Rosenthal, head of molecular medicine at McMaster University, who will be working for two consortia. Part of his work will involve helping to develop standardized tests for measuring specific immune molecules and determining their possible role in stopping HIV infection. His lab also has been working for several years to develop a vaccine that would stimulate the body's innate immune system located in mucous membranes - including the nose, mouth and respiratory system, the stomach and intestines, and the genital tract. It is this "mucosa" - specifically the genital mucosa - which acts as the portal for HIV to enter the body, he said Wednesday from Hamilton. "All (trial) AIDS vaccines have been injection vaccines that enter your (blood) and those do not trigger a long-lasting, strong mucosal response. So we have since the very beginning of this epidemic argued that we need a mucosal vaccine for HIV."

Rosenthal said the Gates Foundation funding and creation of research networks means his lab and others in Canada will be brought together with the world's top vaccine researchers to collectively tackle a virus that has infected more than 40 million people worldwide. "It's extremely energizing and exciting for us. And in fact, it's crucial for us to get our work done."

The collaborative notion represents a radical shift in the world of science, where researchers typically jealously guard their results until publication or presentation to their peers.

tious diseases specialist at Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, said the grants will transform the way AIDS vaccine research is done. "Until now, most HIV vaccine research has been conducted by small groups of investigators that, for the most part, have worked independently," she said, noting that there have been no standardized tools to compare results or mechanisms to share information.

McElrath, who will head one of the 11 consortia, said the approach means her team will work much more closely with international colleagues than might otherwise have been the case. "It will not be easy to change the way we do business in the HIV vaccine field, but I'm convinced that we have no other choice, because developing an HIV vaccine is no ordinary challenge, and the pace of progress has been too slow."



Dr. Juliana McElrath, an infec-

Soulforce Takes Protest To Home Of 'Focus On The Family'



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Hundreds of Gays, Lesbians and their supporters ringed the headquarters Saturday evening (July 22) of the conservative Focus on the Family, 365Gay.com reported. Most of the Gays came with their partners, many with their children. They held hands as they walked around the perimeter of the complex.

The protest, organized by the nondenominational group Soulforce, began in front of the state Capitol in Denver. Over the five days groups of same-sex couples and their kids marched in relay-style to Colorado Springs, picking up more and more people along the way.

Openly Gay actor Chad Allen and Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard who was murdered because he was Gay, led the final 2-mile march from Rampart Park in Colorado Springs to the FOF headquarters. Focus has been one of the most vocal opponents of same-sex marriage and Gay adoption. Soulforce organized the march and protest to counter what it calls a "disinformation campaign" aimed at vilifying Gays. "We're just here to show the beauty of the Gay and Lesbian family to those that may not know it," said Allen.

At the kickoff rally at the Capitol, New York University professor Dr. Judith Stacey who accused FOF of twisting research on Gays "to prop up unscientific claims." "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," said Stacey. "This politically motivated distortion of social science contributes to serious harm to Lesbian and Gay parents and their children."

She was the second noted scientist to accuse FOF of purposely misrepresenting research. Last month Canadian researcher Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, an associate professor at the University of British Columbia, said that Focus on the Family is incorrectly blaming an increased rate of suicide attempts on "pro-Gay advocates" who tell Lesbians they were born Gay and must "embrace homosexuality."

Focus defends its statements. Although it did not attempt to engage any of the protestors in discussion the organization had spokespeople on

hand to present its views to the media. One of them, Melissa Fryrear, said she is a "former Lesbian who found a way out" and is now a "gender issues analyst" at FOF. "We don't believe that marriage should be redefined, we believe that children are raised best in the home of their mother and father," said Fryrear. And she accused Soulforce of trying to push its agenda on her organization. "They seem to be very intolerant of our positions and our ideals and what we believe," she said.

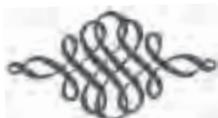
A handful of police were on hand but there were no problems. This past spring Soulforce sponsored a 51 day cross-country trip to draw attention to schools that bar Gay enrolment. Called The Equality Ride it was marked by arrests when protestors entered a number of campuses. The ride ended April 26 with the detention of 21 riders at West Point. Riders also were arrested at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia which is affiliated with Christian Broadcaster Pat Robertson; and at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

AHRF Southern Arizona Caucus Meeting August 3

TUCSON - Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) Southern Arizona caucus will be holding their monthly meeting, Thursday, Aug. 3, 5 p.m., at 4817 E. 5th St.

The Southern Arizona Caucus is a regional group that functions as an AHRF subsidiary in Tucson. This group is open to anyone - new members, supporters, longtime members - you're welcome to participate. The Southern Arizona Caucus endorses local candidates, plans local events and organizes volunteers for local activities.

For more information, contact Andrew Held at andrewheld1@comcast.net.



"CONGRADULATIONS"
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Friday July 28th:

"Sonny Jones" on the Patio @ 9pm

Saturday July 29th:

DJ "Dynasty" @ 10pm

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@ 7pm (Prizes)

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Philadelphia May Evict Boy Scouts Council

PHILADELPHIA - The city said it will evict a Boy Scout council from its publicly owned headquarters or make the group pay a fair rent price unless it changes its policy on Gays, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The Boy Scouts' Cradle of Liberty Council, the country's third-largest, has been battling with the city for more than three years over the policy, which like the national Scouts organization forbids Gays from being leaders.

City Solicitor Romulo L. Diaz Jr. wrote a letter to William T. Dwyer III, president of the Cradle of Liberty Council, stating that the council's "discriminatory policies" violate city policy and law, and that city officials have not been assured the group will not discriminate. Unless the city gets a "fair-market rent agreement," the council will be evicted, the letter says. The group has made its headquarters on a half-acre owned by the city in the upscale Philadelphia Art Museum area since 1928, when the city council voted to allow the Scouts to use the property

rent-free "in perpetuity." The Scouts pay for building upkeep.

Council spokesman Jeff Jubelirer questioned the timing of the city's move. "With an epidemic of gun violence taking the lives of Philadelphia's children every day, it is ironic the administration chose this time to destroy programming that services 40,000 children in the city," Jubelirer said.

Stacey Sobel, executive director of Philadelphia's Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, said she's pleased the city is taking action. "If they are going to discriminate, the taxpayers shouldn't be subsidizing it," Sobel said.

The Boy Scouts of America's policy on Gay leaders was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. In 2003, the council in Philadelphia said it would adopt a nondiscrimination policy on Gays. However, weeks later the group dismissed an 18-year-old Scout who publicly acknowledged he was Gay. Dwyer did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Nurses Union Sues To Gain Spousal Benefits

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Nurses Association has filed a federal lawsuit to overturn an arbitrator's decision denying health benefits to the same-sex spouse of a nurse employed at a hospital in Haverhill, Mass., reported the Associated Press on the PlanetOut Network.

The suit alleges that arbitrator Arnold M. Marrow and Merrimack Valley Hospital, which is owned by Essent Healthcare of Nashville, Tenn., breached a clause in the nurses' contract prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation when they denied coverage to the legal spouse of Maria Ciulla, a registered nurse at the facility. The suit also charges that Marrow inappropriately applied the federal Defense of Marriage Act to the case, instead of basing his decision on the arguments at hand.

"This is a blatant case of discrimination by an overzealous, out-of-state employer who purposefully chose to discriminate against their Gay and Lesbian employees when they could have treated all spouses equally and complied with their contractual obligation not to discriminate," Roland Goff, director of labor relations for the Massachusetts Nurses Association, said in a statement.

The case dates from last fall, when, shortly after her Oct. 1 marriage, Ciulla was turned down for spousal health benefits, which are provided to the self-insured hospital by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Her grievance over the denial led to arbitration, which was

heard by Marrow, an administrative law judge with the American Arbitration Association. The hospital argued it had the legal right to deny coverage because the contract prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation, but did not list eligibility for benefits for same-sex spouses.

At the arbitration, Martee J. Harris, a corporate vice president for human resources for Essent Healthcare, disclosed that she asked Blue Cross/Blue Shield to limit its definition of a "spouse" to opposite-sex couples; the insurer had expanded the definition to include married Gay and Lesbian couples after the landmark Goodridge decision legalized same-sex marriage in 2004. According to the nurses' union, however, Marrow ruled against denying the benefits by citing the federal Defense of Marriage Act - instead of the contract or the employer's arguments. "I find it necessary to go outside the language of the collective bargaining agreement, to construe the (Defense of Marriage) Act, as well as the potential impact of other aspects of federal law (ERISA) in order to properly decide the issue before me," he wrote.

After the arbitration ruling, Ciulla expressed her disappointment in a letter to hospital CEO Robert Allen. "I am an RN and as RNs we care for and treat people from all walks of life. Our patients vary in race, color, religion, mental status, educational level, financial level, and yes, even people with different sexual orientation," she said. "I treat people as I would like to be treated, as an equal. I am only asking to be treated as an equal."

Missouri Lifts Ban On G/L Foster Parents

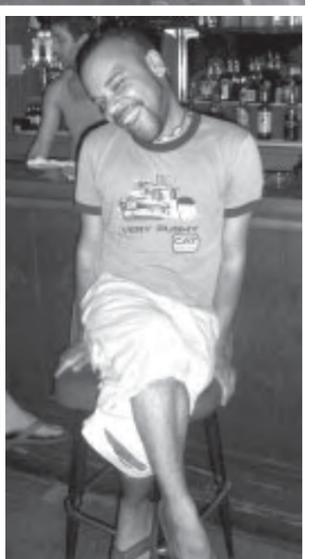
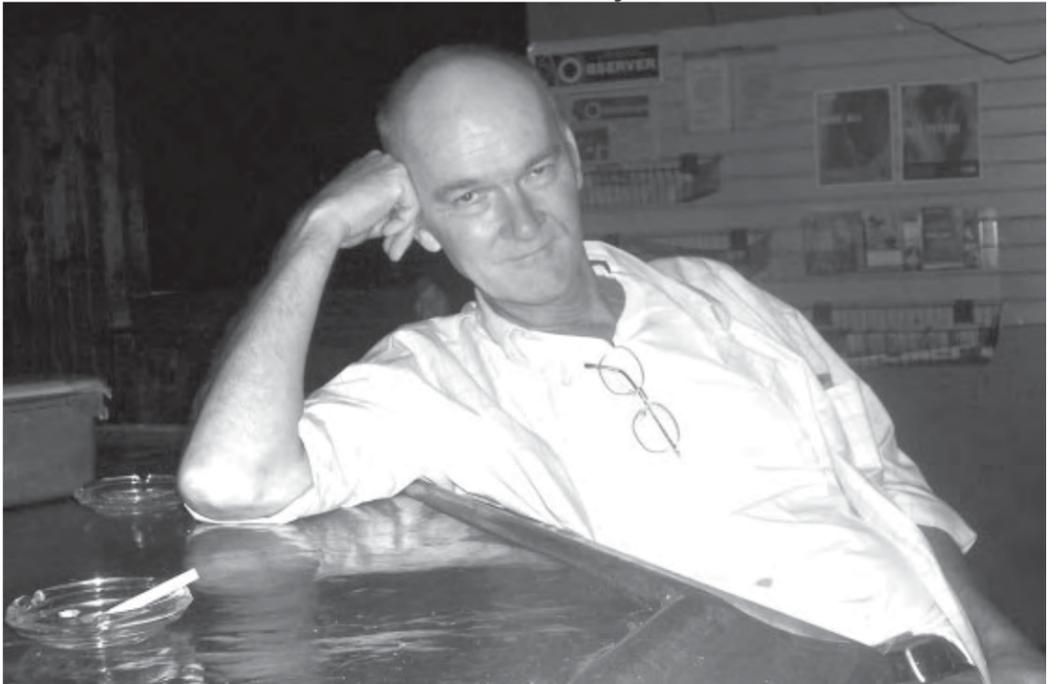
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - Officials in Missouri announced Tuesday (July 18) that they have lifted regulations that automatically prevented Gays and Lesbians from becoming foster parents reported Sirius Out-Q News on advocate.com. But a spokeswoman for the state's Department of Social Services said it might still be difficult for Gays to become foster parents despite the ban's lifting.

Deborah Scott said her department will consider the biological parents' preferences and also take into account the abuse and neglect that occurred to the child. She said

that might sway the state's decision to put a child with Gay or Lesbian foster parents, which, in her words, "would be confusing or add trauma to an already abused or neglected child."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas and Western Missouri told reporters it questions that reasoning and asked the state for additional information. A spokesman for Gov. Matt Blunt said the governor "still believes Gay foster homes aren't the best place for foster children," adding that the department shouldn't intentionally discriminate against people solely because of their sexual orientation.

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POLITICS 2006

by Mark R. Kerr

Proposition 107 Would Protect Whom?

Various local and state laws that would either be rescinded or are just one lawsuit or legal challenge from being history, if Proposition 107 (known previous as the Protect Marriage Arizona amendment), is allowed to be enshrined in the state constitution. One of which is Arizona's domestic violence law.

the problem of domestic violence on the books, (Arizona Revised Statutes 13-3601 through 13-3603), covering misdemeanor and felonious offenses, depending upon the legal circumstances, as well as the following groups, placed in the following classifications:

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; "battering is a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. Battering happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another. Assault, battering and domestic violence are crimes."

The victim and the defendant have a child in common. The victim or the defendant is pregnant by the other party. The victim is related to the defendant or the defendant's spouse by blood or court order as a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister or by marriage as a parent-in-law, grandparent-in-law, stepparent, step-grandparent, stepchild, step-grandchild, brother-in-law or sister-in-law. The victim is a child who resides or has resided in the same household as the defendant and is related by blood to a former spouse of the defendant or to a person who resides or who has resided in the same household as the defendant.

Abuse of family members can take many forms. Battering may include emotional abuse, economic abuse, sexual abuse, using children, threats, using male privilege, intimidation, isolation, and a variety of other behaviors used to maintain fear, intimidation and power. In all cultures, the perpetrators are most commonly the men of the family. Women are most commonly the victims of violence. Elder and child abuse are also prevalent, as well as same-sex domestic partner abuse.

So in November, if Proposition 107 survives the court challenge pending, gets on the ballot and wins approval, Arizona's domestic violence law is in jeopardy. How can this be the case?

In Ohio, voters in Nov. 2004, approved a anti-G/L ballot measure known as Issue 1, a proposed state constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

Acts of domestic violence generally fall into one or more of the following categories: Physical Battering - The abuser's physical attacks or aggressive behavior can range from bruising to murder. It often begins with what is excused as trivial contacts which escalate into more frequent and serious attacks. Sexual Abuse - Physical attack by the abuser is often accompanied by, or culminates in, sexual violence wherein the victim is forced to have sexual intercourse with their abuser or take part in unwanted sexual activity. Psychological Battering -The abuser's psychological or mental violence can include constant verbal abuse, harassment, excessive possessiveness, isolating the victim from friends and family, deprivation of physical and economic resources, and destruction of personal property. Battering escalates. It often begins with behaviors like threats, name calling, violence in the victim's presence (such as punching a fist through a wall), and/or damage to objects or pets. It may escalate to restraining, pushing, slapping, and/or pinching. The battering may include punching, kicking, biting, sexual assault, tripping, throwing. Finally, it may become life-threatening with serious behaviors such as choking, breaking bones, or the use of weapons.

Also in Issue 1 was the following: "the state and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or effect of marriage."

The effect of that part of Issue 1, when it was approved by voters was to strike Ohio's domestic violence statutes off the books. This happened in 2005, thanks to two successful court challenges, and now justice rests with whether the prosecutor will try to charge the perpetrator with other crimes, as well as the case being heard before an open-minded judge.

Arizona's domestic violence law has the same language as Ohio's and Proposition 107 is a carbon copy of Ohio's Issue 1 with following, draconian language stating, "... no legal status for unmarried persons shall be created or recognized by this state or its political subdivisions that is similar to that of marriage ... " So one lawsuit or court challenge will end Arizona's protections against domestic violence, a very important law, if Proposition 107 passes.

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Gay Games Draw To A Close

CHICAGO - Tears of joy ran down the cheeks of athletes and fans Saturday night (July 22) as the 2006 Gay Games drew to a climactic close at Wrigley Field, reported 365Gay.com. For organizers there was a collective sigh of relief - the games went off without a hitch despite near record breaking heat throughout the week. And these have been the most successful and profitable in the history of games.

The Federation of Gay Games Flag was slowly lowered and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley escorted it for the ceremonial transfer to an official from Cologne, Germany, the host city of the 2010 Gay Games. Athletes from some 60 countries embraced one another - some may never see one another again, others made promises to catch up in 2010, and others said they would see each other in Montreal for the first Outgames.

On stage, Gay icon Cyndi Lauper headlined the closing show, along with Ari Gold, ANT, and singing

duo Jason & deMarco. Lauper was dressed as a rainbow Statue of Liberty and performed some of her most memorable disco hits. "Stand proud! Stand together," she told the crowd launching into a medley that included "True Colors" and "Shine". In the stands, fans tossed around hundreds of rainbow-colored beach balls handed out as a promotion by the Illinois Lottery.

The 2006 Gay Games were to have been held in Montreal but that city dropped out following a squabble with the FGG which licenses the games. Chicago was selected several weeks later, but some critics doubted if the local organizing committee could pull it off. They did, brining in more financial support from major corporations than any previous Gay Games and likely to be the first games to finish in the black. When Montreal quit the FGG it organized its own competing event. The Opening Ceremonies will take place on July 29.

Gay Survivor Behind Bars In Oklahoma Federal Pen

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - Richard Hatch the Gay man who won a million dollars winning the first season of "Survivor" has been moved from a low security Massachusetts county facility to the Federal Transfer Center In Oklahoma, his first stop to a federal penitentiary, reported 365Gay.com.



Richard Hatch

Hatch was sentenced to 51 months behind bars in May for evading taxes on his \$1 million Survivor winnings, on

\$327,000 he earned for co-hosting a radio show and \$28,000 in rent on property he owned. However, he was acquitted of seven charges of bank, mail and wire fraud. He could have been sentenced for up to 13 years in prison and a fine of \$600,000. How long he will remain in the Oklahoma facility is not know. Federal officials declined to comment.

Hatch has appealed his sentence and reportedly has been working with his lawyers on the case. At his trial prosecutors said that Hatch failed to pay the IRS because he was greedy. They also claimed he used donations meant for a charity he created to renovate his former home. Hatch's attorney Michael Minns said lawyers and accountants repeatedly gave Hatch poor advice. Minns said Hatch never intended to defraud anyone.

Testifying on his own behalf Hatch said that he had struck a deal with producers during the taping of the show and that they had agreed to pay the taxes if he won the big prize. The show's producer, Mark Burnett, testified earlier in the trial, but neither the defense nor prosecutors asked him about any such deal.

On "Survivor," Hatch regularly shed his clothes and stood out for being a cunning and ruthless competitor. He won the show's first season in August 2000. He has since appeared on other TV shows, most recently the "Battle of the Network Reality Stars" on Bravo. This isn't his first brush with the law. He was arrested in April 2000 on a charge of abusing his then 9-year-old son. That charge was later dropped.

Radio Host Suspended For 'Fag' Remark

BOSTON, Mass. - A Boston radio station moved quickly to censure one of its talk show hosts after he referred to the head of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority as a "fag," reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

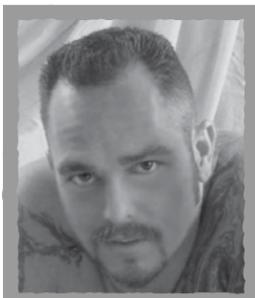
WRKO-AM suspended John DePetro and ordered him to apologize for the remark made on Monday morning about Matt Amorello. Amorello has been under fire since a concrete ceiling panel on a turnpike tunnel fell on a car killing a woman.

On the program DePetro referred to Amorello as "Fag Matt." "And I don't mean Gay fag, I just mean the way when you're a sophomore, juvenile, in grammar school and

somebody would say you're like a sissy boy fag," DePetro said. "I don't mean Gay fag. I mean like sissy boy. He's a little sissy boy. Wife wears the pants."

In a statement Jason Wolfe, WRKO vice president of programming said: "This corporation has zero tolerance for racial intolerance. Mr. DePetro has 72 hours to think about it." In an interviews with the Boston Globe Wolfe said he chose the word "racial" because "people will lump everything in together." DePetro has not commented on the suspension or the demand for an apology.

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COMMENTARY . . .

Gay Marriage Issue Boils Down To Equal Rights

In November 2000, voters in Nebraska passed a constitutional amendment spelling out that the state would recognize marriages between only a man and woman. But that wasn't all. Voters also prohibited same-sex civil unions from being "valid or recognized" in Nebraska.

A federal judge overturned the ban last year, saying it deprived Gays and Lesbians of basic rights. The three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated the ban. The court determined that same-sex couples do not have a constitutional right to marry.

The decision is significant for Iowans because Iowa is part of the 8th Circuit. If Iowa were to amend its constitution to ban Gay marriage, it wouldn't violate the U.S. Constitution, according to this ruling.

"...To our knowledge no justice of the Supreme Court has suggested that a state statute or constitutional provision codifying the traditional definition of marriage violates the Equal Protection Clause or any other provision in the United States Constitution," Chief Judge James Loken wrote.

The decision falls in line with

recent rulings by other courts, also finding that denying same-sex couples marriage rights does not violate a state constitution or the federal Constitution.

But that doesn't mean it's OK. Lawmakers should recognize that equality and basic rights belong to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Beneath the constitutional question of Gay marriage is the real issue facing this country: Some people harbor bias, fear and outright dislike of Gay Americans seeking legal recognition for a union with someone they love.

Some people wrongly believe same-sex couples somehow pose a threat to heterosexual, married couples or the so-called traditional family.

Heterosexual couples, with their too-high rates of divorce, abuse and infidelity, have jeopardized the institution of marriage all on their own.

[The above was the editorial in the July 20 edition of the Des Moines Register.]

Arrests Made In Latvia Pride Attacks

RIGA, Latvia - Fourteen people have been detained in Saturday's anti-Gay attacks on activists and dignitaries during Pride celebrations in Riga, Latvia, the Baltic Times reported Monday (July 24) on the PlanetOut Network. National police spokeswoman Sintija Kajina told the Baltic News Service that 13 of the detainees face administrative charges, while a criminal proceeding will be started against one detainee.

The charges stem from attacks on people who attended a Pride-themed service at the Anglican Church in Riga as part of the weekend festival, officially dubbed "Friendship Days." Anti-Gay protesters threw tomatoes, eggs and bags of liquid excrement at people entering the church service, including European Parliament member Sophie Int'veld of the Netherlands, and riding buses to other Pride events.

"Unhappily for the fascists, a number of the victims then went to a press conference for the foreign media. Thus, this hate crime was not only disseminated worldwide, but the journalists were able to experience first-hand the stench," Lars Grava of Mozaika, one of the groups that organized Riga's Pride, wrote in a letter published Monday by UK Gay News. Also on Saturday, the Times reported, a taxi carrying Swedish Pride participants was chased on its way to the airport, and attempts were made to push it off the road.

Friendship Days' key event, a Pride parade, did not take place after the Riga City Council denied it a permit; a last-ditch court appeal failed. Mozaika is determined to continue its lawsuit against the city council for banning the parade, Grava wrote, and will take it all the way to the European Court of Human Rights if necessary. Events conducted without incident included a brief memorial at the Salaspils concentration camp

outside Riga, where 53,000 people, including Gays, were slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II.

"Our small ceremony was broadcast on Latvian TV that night, including the entire 30-second moment of silence for the death of democracy in Latvia," Grava wrote. There was also an indoor Pride event attended by 250 people, with "furious and pointed speeches" by Swedish, Dutch and Danish lawmakers and members of the European Parliament. Because of the security problems, officials of the Ministry of Integration organized government cars to drive participants home, Grava wrote. Grava called on European governments to condemn the violence. "We are shocked by the hatred that manifested itself yesterday, but we are thrilled by the positive energy that we found among so many friends and supporters," he wrote.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
Regional Water
 by Lee Thorn

I was reading an op-ed piece in my favorite daily concerning the advisability of establishing a regional water agency when I became distracted by some infelicities of expression therein. I noticed, for example, that the phrase, "a major portion of the Arizona's water," would be better off without the "the." But then I realized that it would be small of me to focus on stuff like that, especially since I've been contending that the grammar of op-ed pieces shouldn't matter: it's the thoughts that count.

There are at least two generally recognized principles favoring regional authorities that the piece neglected to mention. One is that regionalism is more efficient because it can avoid the contradictions and disconnects that arise when contiguous entities work on the same problem without sufficient cooperation. The other is that local politicians are frequently too corrupt and/or incompetent to sort out regional problems.

The issues that regional authorities typically address – transportation, water, whatever – are generally complicated but not impossible. If you got a bunch of experts from Brazil or Sweden or India to create a regional water plan for Tucson and gave them the same parameters – as cheap as possible, fair to everybody, sustainable forever – they'd probably all come up with workable plans. But if you got your group of experts to solve the problem, there'd be no payoffs for the local authorities and lobbyists.

The op-ed piece inspiring me today said Indian tribes own a lot of water and, absent a regional authority, Tucson will be bidding against Phoenix and Marana for it. It goes on to say that bidding up the price of water "doesn't do any good for anybody in the (Tucson) metro area. . . ." To that I say, "Hold on just a darn second, Paleface!" The next issue it raises: "ratepayers in Tucson are paying off the debt the water department incurred to build (infrastructure), and ask how they can justify simply turning those facilities over to a regional water agency without also transferring the debt." Well, if you can't justify not doing it, go ahead and transfer the debt. What's the problem?

The piece also argues that different communities have different ethics about water conservation. That seems somewhat fanciful to me. I have a hard time imagining a community that would argue against a cheap, fair, sustainable system. If, however, you find somebody who says he wants a system that wastes water until we run out of it, my suggestion would be that you lock him up and put him on a bread-and-water diet without the water until he comes to his senses.

The essay unintentionally stumbles into the crux of the matter when it says, "If a regional water agency is created, it will have a board that will vote on policy matters . . .

Should Marana's one vote be equal to Tucson's vote?" Here you have the problem in a nutshell: If board members represent political entities, you completely defeat the whole idea of a regional authority. You've simply replaced elected officials who couldn't get the job done by appointed officials who won't be able to get the job done for exactly the same reasons. A board member who represents Tucson will have his first loyalty to Tucson, not to the best solution of the problem. The members should represent their areas of technical expertise. Preferably, they shouldn't even be from around here. Ideally, they'd be from another planet.

The piece quotes a local politician to the effect that he doesn't think a regional water authority is necessary. That's a little like quoting a fox to the effect that he doesn't think the chicken wire around the hen house is necessary. Putting it as politely as possible, the politician is not a disinterested party.

If you were a stone cynic and you were to take a few giant steps back from the theoretical considerations being bandied above, what might you see? Perhaps you'd see that the issue of regionalism is actually the issue of sustainability in a very flimsy disguise. The environmentalists want sustainability built in because they have consciences. The developers want sustainability left out because it will cost them money. Don't get me wrong. I think it's useful and valid to kick the issues around on a philosophical level. But it's also good to step back and see whose ox will be gored.

[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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Flurry Of Court Rulings, With More Ahead On G/L Unions

LOS ANGELES - G/L marriage came roaring back into the headlines this month with a series of court decisions and a congressional vote, the Los Angeles Times reported (July 23). Here's a look at what happened.

What did all the court rulings mean?

Opponents of Gay marriage won six cases in July. However, they acknowledged that only two of them were substantive. The most important victory came in New York on July 6, when the state's highest court ruled that same-sex couples do not have a right to marry. Another key victory came in Nebraska on July 14 when a federal court upheld that state's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. The amendment was the broadest and most restrictive in the nation, so both sides considered it the most vulnerable to a court challenge. "If Nebraska can survive, they all will," said Jordan Lorence, a senior attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, which opposes Gay marriage.

What about the other four decisions this month?

In Georgia, Tennessee and Massachusetts, courts upheld the legality of past or pending ballot initiatives to ban same-sex marriage. All three cases, however, hinged on technicalities in state law, not on sweeping constitutional issues. In Connecticut, a trial court upheld a state law banning same-sex marriage. But that was a lower-court ruling, almost certain to be appealed, so neither side in the debate has put much stock in the decision.

Does this string of victories for traditional marriage settle the question?

Far from it. Advocates on both

sides are anxiously awaiting two rulings expected any day, from the state high courts in New Jersey and Washington. If either court rules in favor of same-sex marriage, it could have broad ramifications. Both states grant marriage licenses to nonresidents, so same-sex couples from across the country could arrange weddings there. When they returned to their home states, they could sue for the right to have their marriages recognized. That would touch off a new line of litigation. "The last 10 days have been pretty good for [traditional] marriage, but history's taught us that things can turn around pretty quickly," said Gary Schneeberger, a spokesman for Focus on the Family, a conservative advocacy group.

What if New Jersey and Washington state rule against Gay marriage? Would that settle this debate?

Gay-rights activists say two more decisions against them would be a serious blow to their cause. Even so, it would not end the legal wrangling. Gay-marriage cases are pending in California, Iowa, Maryland and Oklahoma, and activists are sure to file others. "We've known for a long time that we would have a lot of setbacks on the way to full equality," said Toni Broaddus, executive director of the Equality Federation, a Gay-rights group. "We're in this for the long haul."

What's happening in California?

An appeals court panel heard five hours of oral arguments for and against California's law banning same-sex marriage. (The law was passed in 1977 and reaffirmed by voters in 2000 through Proposition 22.) A ruling is expected this fall; the case will then likely go to the California Supreme Court. Regardless of how the courts rule, liberal lawmakers are expected

to try again next year to legalize same-sex marriages. They passed such a bill last year, but it was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Can't the U.S. Congress get involved to preempt all this bickering and suing on the state level?

Opponents of Gay marriage would love Congress to get involved. Their goal is to amend the U.S. Constitution to declare that "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman" and to make plain that no state need extend the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples. In 2004 and again this year, the "Marriage Protection Amendment" failed to get the two-thirds majority needed to pass Congress. Conservatives say such an amendment is vital. Liberals call it divisive and hateful.

With all this tumult in the courts, what is the status of Gay marriage today? Is there any place that same-sex couples can marry?

A few states, including California, offer civil unions or domestic partnerships for Gay and Lesbian couples, but Massachusetts is the only state to permit same-sex marriage. More than 8,000 Gay and Lesbian couples have exchanged vows since a landmark ruling from the state's highest court in late 2003. Because of a provision in state law, however, only couples who live in Massachusetts can get married there. Voters will likely get a chance to ban same-sex marriage in the state with a ballot initiative in 2008.

Ballot initiatives to ban same-sex marriage swept the country a few years ago. Are they still popular?

Yes. So far, voters in 20 states have amended their state constitu-

tions to ban same-sex marriage. The amendments have passed overwhelmingly in every case, often supported by 70% or more of voters. At least seven states will hold popular votes on same-sex marriage bans this fall: Arizona, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. In addition, such bans are pending before lawmakers in half a dozen states.

If both judges and voters keep rejecting their claims, why do Gay couples persist in pushing for the right to marry?

As a practical matter, legal marriage confers hundreds of benefits under state and federal law, affecting tax rates, immigration status, Social Security benefits, even the right to visit a dying loved one in the hospital. Same-sex couples can secure some of those rights through domestic partnerships, where available, or through legal documents granting their partner power-of-attorney or next-of-kin status. But such protection is uneven and incomplete.

Beyond such pragmatic concerns, many Gays and Lesbians see marriage as a fundamental civil right. They compare their campaign to the movement in the 1950s and '60s to overturn state laws banning interracial marriage. And they're prepared to keep at it for decades, if need be, pressing their case through the political system and the courts.

What about other countries? Is this as much of an issue internationally?

Debates about Gay marriage have been raging for decades, not only in the United States but in Europe as well. Five countries permit same-sex couples to marry: Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa and Spain.

Three G/L-Union Measures Vie For A Place On The Ballot

DENVER - It's crunch time for the three state campaigns working for and against proposed November ballot measures related to Gay unions, the Rocky Mountain News reported. With two weeks left to gather 68,000 voter signatures, campaigns are relying on armies of volunteers.

Carolyn Schultz, a Republican from outside Fort Collins, has gathered 120 signatures from friends for state Rep. Kevin Lundberg's measure that seeks to ban domestic partnerships. Sheri Engstrom, a ex-beauty queen from Evergreen, spent three recent Sundays collecting almost 100 signatures in the lobby of her Baptist church for a measure that would put a heterosexual definition of marriage in the state constitution. Ginger Playford, a 73-year-old from Lakewood, collected almost 150 signatures at her Lutheran church and local farmers market, and has been stuffing envelopes and calling supporters of a measure that would give Gay and Lesbian couples legal benefits.

The Gay-marriage issue has galvanized the state's most conservative and liberal forces and has reached the pews of hundreds of Colorado churches and religious groups. If the three campaigns submit enough valid signatures by Aug. 7, voters could see a total of four ballot measures related to the Gay-marriage debate in November.

One measure - Referendum I, would allow Gay partners to be registered by the state and entitle them to certain benefits and rights - is on the ballot because of legislative action. Three other Gay-union proposals are in the signature-gathering stage. Coloradans for Fairness and Equality, which backs Referendum I, has a war chest of nearly \$500,000. It also has more than two dozen full-time employees and hundreds of volunteers, and says it already has 68,000 signatures for its second measure, the Domestic Partnership Amendment, which seeks to cancel out a measure proposed by Lundberg, a Berthoud Republican.

Lundberg said he's not sure his campaign, Protecting Colorado Children, will get enough signatures. Lundberg launched his initiative in April when it became clear the legislature would send Referendum I to the ballot. Joined by former Colorado Springs car dealer Will Perkins, Lundberg has raised the smallest amount of money by far, about \$8,600. He said he has a few thousand petition signatures, but claims to have 1,200 volunteers gathering signatures. Lundberg's proposal would ask voters to approve a constitutional amendment that prohibits the state from creating any legal status similar to marriage for same-sex couples. "I don't have a guarantee that we're going to get it done, but I'm

confident that we're within striking range," Lundberg said.

The head of Coloradans for Marriage, a coalition of Christian groups that wants to define marriage in the constitution as a union between a man and woman, said he is confident more than 500 volunteers will gather enough signatures. But executive director Jon Paul concedes that he won't know exactly how many signatures he has until the last minute. Paul said more than 400 churches are supporting the initiative, which has so far raised about \$105,000.

Schultz, the Fort Collins Republican, volunteered for Lundberg's group last month. A self-described conservative, the former communications director and mother of three said this is her first ballot-issue campaign. She last worked on the Bush 2004 re-election campaign. Schultz said she doesn't approve of Gay couples getting the same rights as heterosexual spouses. "I just see the benefits of traditional marriage and I... consider it the glue that holds this country together."

Playford, the pro-Gay volunteer, said she used to think the same way. Playford grew up in a traditional Christian family and opposed Gay rights until she found out that her son was Gay. She said it took up to a year to accept it and come to the conclusion that some people are born Gay. Now, Playford tries to campaign for Gay rights to make life better for her 43-year-old son. She said she is sad that Colorado is permeated with a "climate of intolerance."

McKellen's Gay Military Appointment



ATLANTA - Openly Gay actor Sir Ian McKellen has side-stepped the American armed forces "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuals recruits, after being made an honorary lieutenant colonel in the national guard during a recent trip to the city.

The Lord of the Rings actor who has always been very vocal about his sexuality since coming out in the 1980s, was given the title whilst promoting recent movie the Da Vinci Code. The 67-year-old hopes the recognition bestowed upon him by the Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, a Republican, will encourage more Gay men in the military to be open about their sexuality.

He tells the New York Daily News, "I was in Atlanta doing press for The Da Vinci Code - and they wanted to honour me. The governor made me a lieutenant colonel. "So the 'Don't ask, don't tell' rule obviously doesn't apply to me. I have a lovely certificate hanging in my office. So inadvertently, they made me the poster child for having openly Gay people in the military."

HOROSCOPES

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Our energy level revs up and charges our engines. Hear it purr? Time to get out in front of things and make hay while the Sun in Leo shines, or something like that.

ARIES (3/21 - 4/20)

Make your move into general merriment while the Sun charges into Leo. Proud Rams run with the bulls and have a grrreat time. In fact, your schedule can become frenetic and out of control. Try to find time in your packed schedule to kick back and allow the inspiration to flow gently over you. Not everything is a rush, push or overpower, unless that really turns you on.

TAURUS (4/21 - 5/21)

Your homelife becomes the center of your universe while the Sun sits in Leo. What delightful entertaining events can you plan now? But don't become reduced to just a housefrau. Queer Bulls deserve a bit of pampering and quiet time to enjoy their surroundings. Be sure to wedge in a few intimate nights alone or with a certain you know who. Ooo, who knew!

GEMINI (5/22 - 6/21)

Yak, yak, yak. The words flow, great ideas surface and before you know it, there is a whirlwind of excitement created in your world. Can you harness all these stray thoughts and put them into successful action, pink Twin? It is said that Sun in Leo can be all talk and little action. Let's show the experts where they are wrong! You are at loose ends. Anyone we know?

CANCER (6/22 - 7/23)

Often, monetary security is not on your list of top priorities. It should be, Gay Crab. Thankfully, as Sun enters Leo, you make some impactful inroads into your future financial security. Do your homework, ask the right questions and take notes. Then embark on some careful investment. Before you know it you make it hand over fist. Where have I heard that before?

LEO (7/24 - 8/23)

Sun in your own sign is a time of rebirth, personal growth, planting of seeds for the future and a generally delightful and affirming time. So what are you waiting for, proud Lion? Get off your easy chair and make your

impression beyond the couch cushion. Anything that captures your heart and imagination can become reality. Your fans await. Is your fly open?

VIRGO (8/24 - 9/23)

Queer Virgins feel an inner need, almost an ache to do something good for the community. With Sun in Leo, anything you decide to do to volunteer or contribute will have extra oomph. If you are faced with too many choices, allow yourself to sit back and review them carefully. You have a knack to intuit just what will go the distance and what will sit at the starting line.

LIBRA (9/24 - 10/23)

Sun in Leo magnifies the importance of friendships. If you do nothing else over the next weeks, be sure to devote some time to strengthening platonic bonds or joining a new club or interest group. Gay Libras are sociable by nature but can become passive over time, floating on the social zeitgeist without stirring a direction. Grab your paddle and start getting somewhere, buddy.

SCORPIO (10/24 - 11/22)

You work best under pressure. Sun in Leo shows proud Scorps what they are made of professionally. If the past few weeks have been a hornets nest of intrigue and risk, start poking around and get into the fray. If the past few weeks have had their times of quiet, steamy brewing, pour your efforts into the general stream and get wet. Rewards are for winners, champ.

SAGITTARIUS (11/23 - 12/22)

Your summer has had a slow start, but there is plenty of time to make up for it. Sun in Leo recharges your energies and pushes you Out into the world. Plan a glorious, exciting and exotic vacation Gay Archer. Explore some new venues with some new fellow travelers. If money is tight, find your excesses closer to home. Nothing succeeds like excess or something like that.

CAPRICORN (12/23 - 1/20)

Sun in Leo has a way of making you sexy, sultry and very yummy. This is quite a departure from the usual. Gay Caps can bottle and sell it but don't let it sit on the shelf too long. Overcome your shyness and paint the town pink. Use this energy to lure any would-be lovers into your Venus flytrap. Add water and lots of sun. Hurry and make good use of time!

AQUARIUS (1/21 - 2/19)

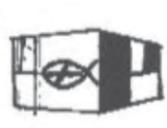
This is not the time to be alone or on your own. An eye towards emotional dependence rather than independence can ultimately get you what and who you want. Sun in Leo can help you reassess current partnerships (and improve or dissolve them) or help you change direction to discover new ones. But it's not always about you, Aqueerius. Sometimes it is with you. Ahem.

PISCES (2/20 - 3/20)

While others lounge the summer away, Guppies can actually be very productive. Your energy levels rise with the temperature and you are inspired to take action. So go and get some things done. Clean off your desk and tackle long standing, detailed oriented tasks. Before you know it you will be faced with the ultimate challenge - how to fill your time. How to indeed!



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Non Bar Calendar

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: 9:30 a.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 fun evening of Scrabble! If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call 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.

Tuesday, August 1

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A Circle Of Men by Tom Saylor-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, August 2

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

Thursday, August 3

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on

Fabulous 4th, the Premier Central Tucson GLBT owned and operated purveyor of stimulating caffeine enhanced beverages, delicious food, WIFI energy, and safe social intercourse. . Just show up to join in this no host cavalcade of queer conversation.

Friday, August 4

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

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

Saturday, August 5

#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:30a.m. Join Robert for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. Two great ways to work on your game! For details and directions, please call Robert at 400-1376.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. We invite you to join us for our monthly Pot Luck Dinner and to get to know the members of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to ogle an array of hot dishes, meet new men, and greet friends. Reservations are not necessary. Bring your favorite dish to share. If you don't cook, bring restaurant, deli, or grocery pre-cooked food. Call Steve at 745-0304 for location and directions.

Sunday, August 6

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

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.

Tuesday, August 8

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. A Circle Of Men by Tom Saylor-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, August 9

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta! Hosted by Marvin.

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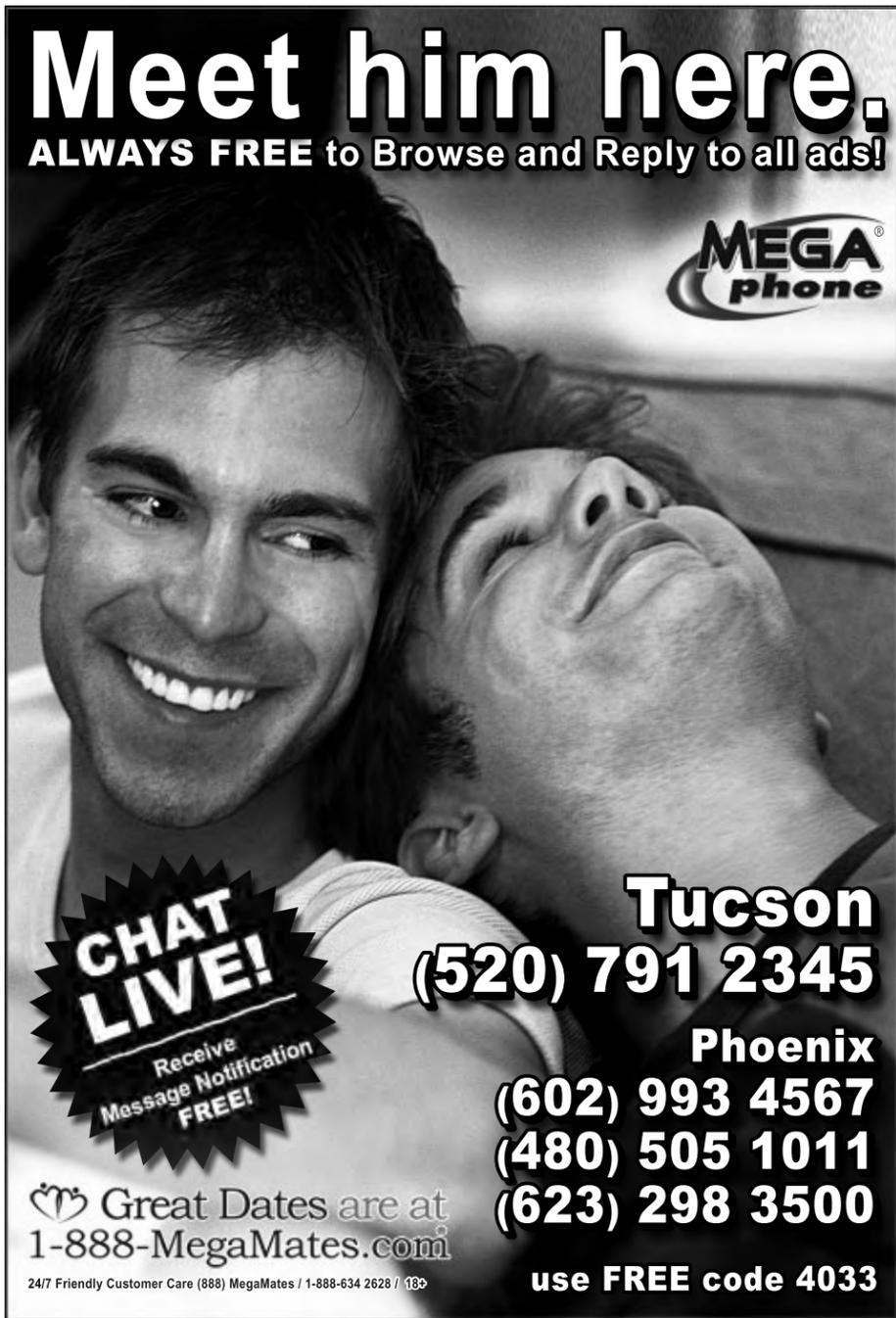
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CLASSIFIED ADS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE

EMPLOYMENT

FULL TIME GROUNDS KEEPER/HOUSEKEEPER position open for East Side estate. Qualified person should be able to perform morning hour outside yard maintenance & move inside the estate to perform housekeeping obligations in the afternoon. Salary is commensurate with experience. Please send your resume to: Position, P.O. Box 17689, Tucson, AZ 85731 or FAX to (520) 731-1821. 1152

Howl At The Moon accepting applications for daytime bartender and for part-time cook. Stop by to fill out application at 915 E. Prince Road or email information to info@howlatthemoontucson.com

HOUSING/FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM STUDIO, TILE FLOORS, swamp cooler, cable, phone hook-up, on bus line. 1 person, no pets. \$400/mo Includes all utilities. Gay friendly. (Deposit neg.) 293-9198 or 247-8268. 1150

AVAILABLE NOW...Swan-Pima area. Small complex. 2-bedroom apartment. Pool. \$600/mo. + elec. & gas. No pets. JoAnn, 326-1934. 1149

3 bedroom/2 bath doublewide on fenced lot near Ajo/Camino Verde. (Country Living near town!) \$700/mo. \$375 deposit. Monthly or Lease. Free Wi-Fi access on property. For more information call Rick or Tom at 578-3352. 1150

ROOMMATES

ROOMMATE WANTED TO SHARE LARGE CONDO MIDTOWN. Own bedroom and bath. Pool and laundry in complex. Share rent and electric. Pool in complex. Parking available. No smoking. Call 881-1369 1148

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1146

MASSAGE

PROFESSIONAL - QUALITY MASSAGE. Real Tantric Sensuality. Not just rub down at cheap prices. Strong, masterful hands leave you blissful & alive. An exceptional experience for 24 years. Call Marc 881-4582, by appointment. 1150.

RELAX WITH A FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR MEN in a private studio on the West Side Call Ralph, 883-7496. 1148

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway and Swan area. IN and OUT CALLS. 7 days. 548-6314. 1152

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1156

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 1150

INTUITIVE BODY WORK DESIGNED TO AROUSE YOUR MOST SACRED SENSES. Swedish, Sports, Body Electric, Tantric and more. \$45 in . \$60 out. Afternoons & evenings. Christopher 631-8509. 1149

PERSONALS

DO YOU LOVE MESSAGES but can't afford them often enough? Me too! Let's trade! I'm looking for a fit, not too hairy guy, like me, to trade quality massages with. Contact: back_rubs@hotmail.com 1148

Woman Gives \$275K To Fight Wisconsin Anti-G/L Amendment

MADISON, WI - An heiress has given \$275,000 to Fair Wisconsin, the organization fighting a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. The issue will be put to voters in November. The proposed amendment also would ban civil unions and possibly void domestic partner benefits.

Dale Leibowitz made the donation through her Purple Moon Foundation which donates hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to various causes. According to Fair Wisconsin's campaign finance report filing Leibowitz gave the group \$150,000 in March, \$75,000 in May and \$50,000 in June. She is one of more than 5,000 donors to the group - but by far the largest. The filing shows that Fair Wisconsin after expenses has \$1.08 million cash on hand.

Vote Yes For Marriage, the organization behind the amendment reported that it has raised \$2,500 and has \$1,900 cash on hand. But that does not take into account expenditures by the Coalition for Traditional

Marriage and the Family Research Institute which do have report the cost of producing some 4,000 DVDs that were sent to churches last year or of fliers being handed out at county fairs across the state. Although the material promotes traditional marriage it does not advocate voting for the amendment and therefore is exempt from filing.

Earlier this month a public poll showed that voters were about equally divided on the amendment with 49 percent supporting the it and 48 percent opposed. Previous surveys by other pollsters have showed for the amendment at almost 60 percent and Fair Wisconsin said it appears its grassroots effort at defeating it are paying off.



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 Tournery 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 "Sunyatta" 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 July 30

"Oscar and Felix: A new Look At The Odd Couple" Top Hat Theatre Club. Neil Simon's reworked and refreshed comedy of two divorced men, slovenly Oscar Madison and fastidious Felix Ungar, who try to cut living expenses by living together only to find that they drive each other crazy. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 3:00 p.m. Sundays. 326-6800

Now Playing thru August 27

Live Theatre workshop presents the comedy "See How They Run" directed by Stephen Frankfield. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3:00 p.m. Sundays. 5317 E/ Speedway/ Tickets are \$13-\$16. Call 327-4242 for reservations and more information.

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.

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.

August 18

Desert Diamond Casino presents Smokey Robinson. I-10 and Pima Mine Road (7 miles South of Tucson) TicketMaster 321-1000.

September 1

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

September 3

AVA Amphitheater at Casino Del Sol presents Bill Cosby. I-19 Exit, Valencia West.. 321-1000.

September 9 thru 30

Arizona Theatre Company (ATC) presents William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" as part of Shakespeare for a New Generation, a national theater initiative sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Directed by Jon Jory who directed last seasons elegant "Pride and Prejudice". ATC Box Office 520-622-2823

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

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

SATURDAY, JULY 29

HOWL AT THE MOON - Dance Mix with Johnny D

IBT'S - Karaoke 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. featuring Teri-Beef Kabobs. Followed by "Viva La Diva" show hosted by Bunny FuFu. 8:30 p.m. Mike Lopez on the patio and DJ Q spinning inside. Music starts at 10:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Luau party tonight. "Get Lei'd". Food, music, party favors and tropical drink specials.

YARD DOG SALOON - DJ "Dynasty" at 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

IBT'S - Karaoke 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. Benefit BBQ/Beer Bust \$5=5 Beers & Burger. Followed by 18+ Night!!! The Chicken Coop 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. No Cover for 18-20 year olds. 21+ get in free.

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo on the patio.

YARD DOG SALOON - Boo's Texas Hold-em poker 7:00 p.m. Prizes. Burger & Hot Dogs 5-7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

WOODY'S - Medical Underwear Nite. You provide the underwear, Woody's provides the gown. \$1.00 off all drink for those who participate (except draught beer and schnapps).

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.

WOODY'S - Coming - Woody's Pirates Party! Celebrate debauchery

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

HOWL AT THE MOON - Live music with TMI. Classic rock, blues and more. Starts 9:00 p.m. \$5.00 cover..

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

HOWL AT THE MOON - Native American Little League fund raiser with Tex-Mex band, drag shows and Raffles. Starts at 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

HOWL AT THE MOON - Phoenix AGRA here with Pussy LeHoot as your hostess. Mark your calendars now!

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.

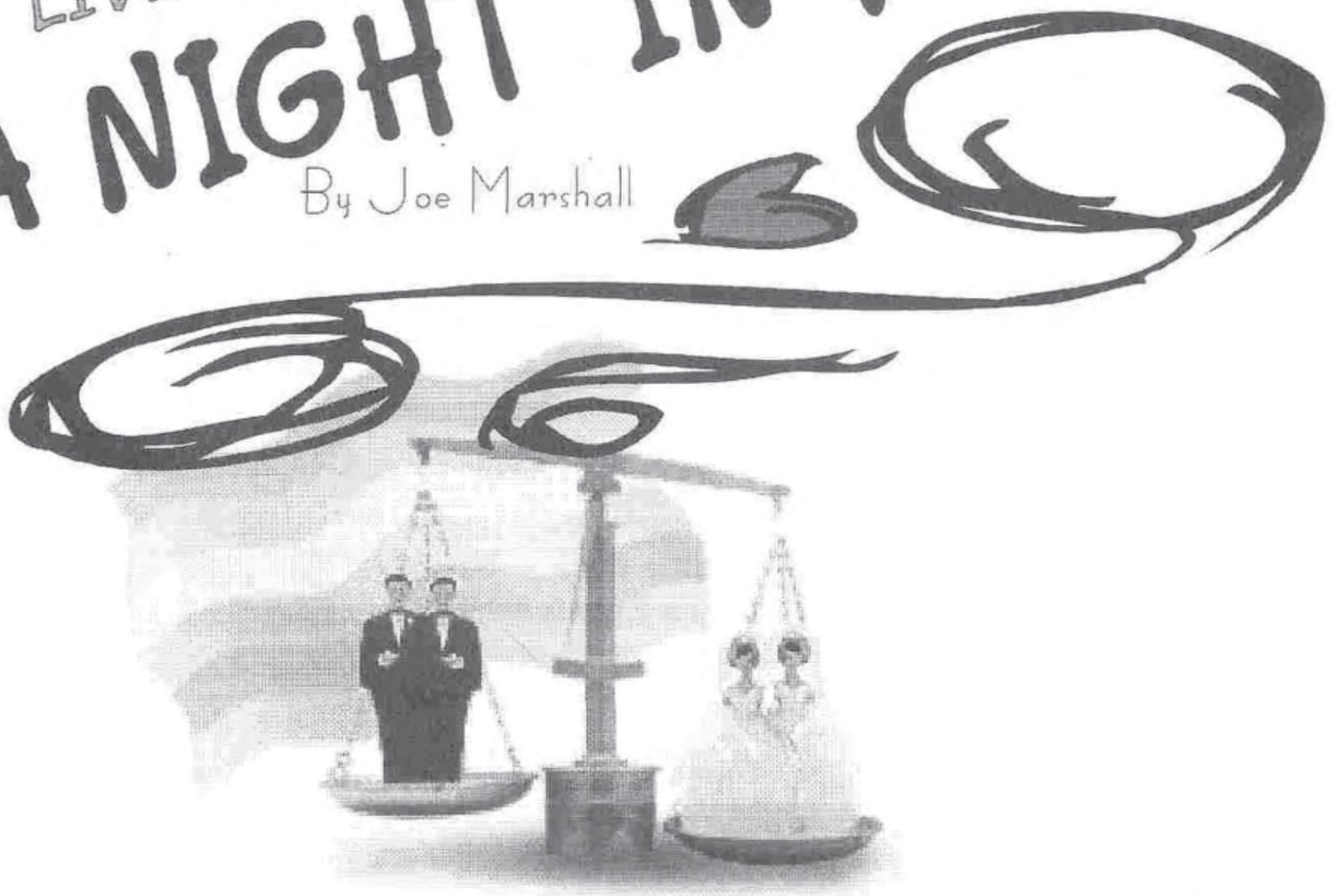




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