



Senator Presses Gates On Don't Ask, Don't Tell



Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) wants an answer and he wants it by March 16. The question: What is new Defense Secretary Robert Gates' position on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), the ban on Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military.

In a letter to Gates, Wyden said he found Under Secretary of Defense Michael Dominguez's position that he "sees no need to change" to be "extremely troubling. The letter refers to a growing call to repeal the ban, imposed during the Clinton presidency.

"For instance, retired General John M. Shalikashvili stated in a Jan. 2, 2007 New York Times oped that the time has come to reexamine DADT. According to the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "if Gay men and Lesbians served openly in the United States military, they would not undermine the efficacy of the armed forces. Our military has been stretched thin by our deployments in the Middle East, and we must welcome the service of any American who is willing and able to do the job."

Wyden also notes that former Secretary of Defense William Cohen also opposes the ban as do "other prominent military leaders." "In light of

the growing call of military leaders to reconsider DADT and the mounting evidence that calls into question the rationale for this policy, I would like you to revisit the issues I raised with your predecessor and in particular, what, if any, negative effect the repeal of DADT might have on the United States military," the letter says.

Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.) said that he will reintroduce legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." early in this session of Congress. Meehan said that 112 Members of Congress from both parties have signed on to co-sponsor the bill, called the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. Under Republicans the bill never made it to committee hearings.



Defense Secretary Robert Gates

Since the ban on Gays serving openly was implemented a decade ago more than 11,000 men and women have been dismissed under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" according to the Government Accountability Office. The number of Gays and Lesbians who have attempted to enlist and rejected because they said they were Gay is not known. A study conducted last year for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network concluded that the U.S. military could attract as many as 41,000 new recruits if Gays and Lesbians in the military were able to be open about their sexual orientation.

advocate.com.

Asked about Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov's decision to ban the parade, which he deemed "satanic," Putin said that one of Russia's major problems is demographics, a reference to Russia's declining population—suggesting that Gay people aren't doing their part by procreating. But he added that he respects individual choice.

The response drew laughter from the largely fawning Russian press.

Happy 30th Anniversary!!!

Tucson - "Picture it, thirty years ago" as Sophia might say, this day (Wednesday, February 7) marked the 30th year of having an enforceable anti-Discrimination Ordinance on the books. One of the first in the country to do so. Congratulations to our city government and to the LGBT activists who, through a lot of hard work, got this Ordinance into law. For more information about this anniversary be sure to read Mark Kerr's Politics column on page nine in this issue.

Homeless LGBT Youth Crisis Epidemic In U.S. Report Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Two national advocacy groups accused the federal government of neglecting what they described as an epidemic of homelessness affecting tens of thousands of Gay and Lesbian youth, many of whom leave home because of conflicts with their parents, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Coalition for the Homeless said Gay, Lesbian and Transgender youth make up at least 20 percent - possibly as much as 40 percent - of the total number of homeless and runaway youth, a fluid population which experts have estimated at 575,000 to 1.6 million each year.

"The national response to this epidemic has been nothing short of disgraceful," Matt Foreman, executive director of the task force, told reporters during a teleconference.

He urged Congress to increase appropriations for the federal Runaway, Homeless and Missing Children Protection Act, which must be reauthorized next year, and said some federal funds should - for the first time - be targeted specifically at boosting programs to aid Gay and Lesbian youth.

Citing incidents of anti-Gay harassment at homeless shelters, the task force and homeless coalition recommended that some shelter space be set aside solely for Gay youth. They also said any organization seeking public funding to serve homeless youth should be required to prove its staff would treat Gay and Lesbian young people competently and fairly.

In a report completed in Dec. 2006, "An Epidemic of Homelessness," the two groups cited estimates that roughly one-fourth of Gay and Lesbian teens are kicked out of their homes after their parents learn of their sexual orientation. The report said many Gay youths experienced physical violence during the process of coming out.

Once homeless, the report says, these young people are more vulnerable than their peers to problems of mental health, substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. The report's lead author, task force policy analyst Nicholas Ray, said about one-third of homeless Gay youth engage in "survival sex" - exchanging sex for money, food, clothes or drugs.

Assessing existing programs for homeless youth, the report said public funding was inadequate, and asserted that more than 6,000 youths

in 2004 were turned away from programs that lacked resources to help them.

The report also expressed concern that President Bush's push for federal funding of faith-based organizations might lead to situations where a church-run shelter program would discriminate against a Gay youth seeking services.

Dilo Cintron, 25, a Gay man who spent five years homeless in New York City, said staff at one shelter he used were so unsympathetic that they once walked by without intervening while he was being assaulted in a laundry room.

According to Ray, Gay youths at a homeless shelter in Michigan were required to wear orange jump suits to distinguish them from other youths.

The report also cited several programs that were providing effective services to Gay youth, including Green Chimneys in New York City, Waltham House in Waltham, Mass., the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit, Ozone House in Ann Arbor, Mich., and Urban Peak in Denver.

Australia Moves To Block G/L Couples From Adopting Overseas

SYDNEY, Australia - The government has announced legislation to prohibit the recognition of adoptions of foreign children by same-sex couples, reported 365Gay.com.

Full details of the measure will not be known until the measure is formally brought before the House but LGBT activists already say it is clear the Liberal government of Prime Minister John Howard wants to use Gay and Lesbian couples as a wedge issue going into this year's election.

Sen. Guy Bartlett of Queensland said it appears the legislation will not prevent foreign adoptions by Gay couples. "It will just leave children who have been adopted with reduced legal and social recognition and protection, and a less stable family environment," Bartlett wrote on his personal blog. "As soon as the family walks through Australian customs, the child will cease to have two legal parents and one of the parents will cease to have any legal rights or responsibilities for their child," he wrote.

Putin Says Gays Not Helping Russia's Population Decline Duh!

MOSCOW - At an annual press conference Thursday (Feb. 1), Russian president Vladimir Putin answered questions from dozens of reporters on a variety of topics, including the ongoing controversy over Moscow's Gay pride parade, reported the Associated Press on

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AND DRIVE**

UPDATE

'Thank GLAAD It's Friday' Feb. 16

SCOTTSDALE - Join Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation president Neil Giuliano and the Phoenix Host Committee for GLAAD's first-ever Absolut Vodka's "Thank GLAAD It's Friday" on Friday, Feb. 16, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at B.S. West, 7125 E. 5th Avenue.

Tickets are \$35 and include a one-year GLAAD membership.

For tickets and more information visit glaad.org/TGIFPHOENIX or contact Janelle Eagle at eagle@glaad.org

New Mexico Lawmakers Shelve Anti-LGBT Proposals

SANTA FE, New Mexico - Two bills aimed at blocking same-sex couples from marrying have been defeated in the New Mexico Legislature, reported 365Gay.com. The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee voted down both a proposed amendment to the state constitution, and a separate Defense of Marriage bill that each would define marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

The vote was along party lines - all four committee Democrats voted in favor of tabling the measures; the three Republicans against it. The tide was against both bills. Even if they had been approved at the committee level both would need to be passed in both houses of the legislature. To pass a constitutional amendment and then send it on to voters is particularly difficult in New Mexico. Unlike most bills which need approval of a majority in the chamber at the time of the vote a measure destined for the ballot box needs a majority of the total number of members of the chamber - whether they are present or not.

Republican state Rep. Gloria Vaughn was behind the proposed constitutional amendment. In 2005 she unsuccessfully tried to push through a Defense of Marriage bill (DOMA). New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for President, opposes same-sex marriage but declined to comment on either bill while they were before the legislature. New Mexico currently is one of only a handful of states that have no legislation specifically barring same-sex marriage.

MCC Fundraiser Feb. 10

TUCSON - Water of Life will hold their Gala 2007 fundraiser, Feb. 10, 7 p.m. at Water of Life-MCC, 3269 N. Mountain.

There will be a silent auction, hor d'oeuvres, deserts, live entertain-

ment by Susan Artemis, Desert Voices, and others, as well as dancing.

Tickets for this evening of entertainment is only \$25. For more information, call (520) 326-6202.

Stage Door Canteen Feb. 17

TUCSON - Come enjoy Desert Voices (DV) annual silent auction fundraiser/cabaret, featuring champagne, wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres and shopping, Saturday, Feb. 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Historic Y Theatre (University and 5th Ave.)

The entertainment will feature soloists and small groups from the chorus, including DV's "Andrews Sisters Trio," as well as the full Desert Voices chorus singing the hits of the era. A radio play looking in on the Wilsons, a typical Tucson family dealing with life, rationing, and shortages in 1943 in the Old Pueblo will be performed. Live auctions and raffles will round out the evening. The cost is \$30 per person (no discounts) with \$20 tax deductible.

For ticket information, call the DV box office, (520) 791-9662 or contact your favorite chorus member. Tickets may also be purchased at Antigone's on 4th Avenue. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door the evening of the performance.

'Steel Magnolias', Feb. 10

TUCSON - Live Theatre Workshop announced that the curtain will rise on their next production, "Steel Magnolias," Feb. 10 and run through Mar. 18.

Based on a true-story, "STEEL MAGNOLIAS" is a heartwarming comedy, revolving around the lives of a close-knit circle of friends who meet every Saturday morning in a beauty shop in the small Louisiana Parish of Chinquapin County. At the center of the group is Shelby Eatenton, about to be married and start her own family - despite the fact that her diabetes could get in the way. Her mother, M'Lynn Eatenton, looks to her four closest friends for strength and laughter as she battles her deepest fears to support her daughter's decisions. In Truvy's beauty salon, where all the ladies who are "anybody" come to have their hair done, Truvy and her assistant, Annette, dispense shampoo and free advice to Shelby and M'Lynn, and enjoy the quick witted remarks of Miss Clairee; the local social leader, and the town's rich curmudgeon, Miss Quiser. The play is alternately hilarious and touching - and, in the end, deeply revealing of the importance of friendship. A moving story wrapped in witty humor, and told by women who are lively, funny, and marvelously amiable company-- in good times and bad.

The show opens on Saturday, Feb. 10 and runs through Sunday, Mar. 18. Show times are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. Enjoy a post show opening reception Saturday, Feb. 10 and meet the cast. Tickets range from \$17 - \$14 and cash discounts available. Call (520) 327-4242 for reservations.

'Love Won Out' Protest Feb. 10

PHOENIX - A protest of Focus on the Family's "Love Won Out" conference will take place Saturday, Feb. 10, 8 - 10:00 a.m. at the Bethany Bible Church, 6060 N. 7th Avenue in Phoenix.

Focus on the Family brings its anti-LGBT venom to Phoenix with the "Love Won Out" conference that teaches that homosexuality is a sin that can - and should - be cured. The day-long conference, featuring Anne Heche's mother, Rev. Nancy Heche.

Contact Amy at amyk@ahrf.org for details.

Moda Provocateur Feb. 11

TUCSON - A spectacular evening of style, fashion, and entertainment will be presented on Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Fourth Annual Moda Provocateur fashion show, including an appearance by the Hollywood Graffiti Gown and designers Jerry Skeels and Randy McLaughlin.

The Hollywood Graffiti Gown is a 25 year-long philanthropic project where the designers have gathered over 450 signatures of celebrity women and women leaders to show their support for the fight against AIDS. The signatures have been hand-beaded in platinum beads, bugle beads, Rochelle beads, and Swarovski crystal stones onto a striking German black velvet floor length couture gown. The sparkling signatures include: Katharine Hepburn, Barbara Streisand, Bette Davis, Whoopi Goldberg, and Mother Teresa. The purpose of the gown is to raise continued awareness to communities around the world about HIV/AIDS.

Host Chuck George, Chief Meteorologist from KOLD News 13 will emcee the show which has been organized by five of Tucson's hottest salons, Avalon for Hair, Skin and Nails, Toni & Guy Hairdressing, Ric Erickson Studio, Yen Salon Spa and Perceptions Salon Spa. Each salon works with one or more boutique in the Tucson area, presenting a steady stream of models showing off the latest hairstyles, make-up, designer wear and dance moves. Boutiques include Pour Moi, Via Montepoleone, Parachute, Loop (formerly Sunset Canyon), Buffalo Exchange, L.A. Image, My Closet and Kanella's.

Proceeds benefit the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). SAAF is an AIDS service organization providing services to people living with HIV/AIDS and HIV prevention programs to reduce the rate of infection in the local community. The event will be held at The University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom and will begin with cocktails (no-host bar) and hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. while the show will take the runway at 6:00 p.m. Advance tickets start at \$30 with student ID, \$50 for general seating, (\$60 at the door if available), \$75 reserved seating and \$90 table seating available by calling SAAF at (520)628-7223. Tickets are also available at participating salons. More information about the event and SAAF can be found at saafmoda.org or by contacting Jess at (520) 628-7223.

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375 South Euclid Avenue.

Contact Lisa Carter at 628-7223
or lcarter@saaf.org
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

SAAF



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EDITORIAL

KGUN 9 Not On Tucson LGBT Side

TUCSON (ON) - During the month's of February, May and November, television has ratings periods referred to as "sweeps," in which the networks and stations determine their ratings to set their rates to run advertisements respectively.

Television viewers during these times will get more than their fare share of sensationalistic, salacious material and fear-mongering, especially during newscasts, all in the name of "ratings." This was the case on Friday, Feb. 1, on the KGUN-9 (Tucson's ABC affiliate), 10:00 p.m. television newscast in a story on "sex in public places," by reporter Jennifer Waddell.

Wingspan, Tucson and Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community center and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) sent out action alert news releases and E-mails on this and the Observer wholeheartedly agrees with and urges all readers to follow suit and take action. What follows is a combination of the two releases and E-mails, from both organizations as well as the opinion of this publication.

Wingspan learned that Jennifer Waddell would be featuring a story on the 10 o'clock news about people who meet people online, and then go to public places to have sex. Previews of the story included internet sites, bathroom interiors and a female reporter walking through a park talking about men meeting for public sex.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, Wingspan Executive Director, Kent Burbank, spoke with Ms. Waddell to express his concerns about ensuring that the story would not reinforce or promote harmful stereotypes about LGBT people. Ms. Waddell insisted that the story was not about Gay men and would not portray Gay men as sexual deviants or

predators. She assured Mr. Burbank that KGUN understood its responsibility to not propagate negative stereotypes about LGBT people. It is unfortunate that Ms. Waddell's assurances were not reflected in her reporting. Wingspan strongly condemns the sensationalistic and inflammatory story that Ms. Waddell and KGUN 9 aired last night.

Ms. Waddell insists that the story is designed to promote public safety and awareness. However, the piece that aired last night employs tactics of fear-mongering and sensationalism, and demonizes men who have sex with men. She points out that the internet is a dangerous place for kids and that this technology is now being used to create opportunities for people to have sex in public places. Neither of these stories is new nor groundbreaking. Everyone knows that parents should carefully monitor their children's use of the internet, and talk to them about the dangers of sexual predators. And, as the Advocate article points out, public sex is hardly a new phenomenon; another local station aired a similarly lurid report during Sweeps Week just two years ago.

GLAAD reached out to the KGUN newsroom to learn more about the story and offer our services as a resource, our request was met with resistance, hostility and a blanket statement that the station would not comment on the story until it aired. Further communication with Andrew W. Stewart, Vice President and General Manager for KGUN, confirmed that nobody associated with the station was willing to have a discussion with GLAAD about the concerns raised by the community.

Arizona chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) contacted Ms. Waddell prior to the story airing to express their concerns. Enrique Perez Gomez,

LULAC Arizona State Director, said that LULAC "is very conscientious as to how the public's perception of a singled-out group seen in a negative light can cause reprisals of the worst type, including a feeling of justification to vent rage via verbal or physical means.... my concern [is] that our LGBTQ allies might suffer reprisals."

Ms. Waddell's story took the behavior of a small subset of the larger community, sensationalized it by showing images of men lurking in bushes and children playing in parks, and generalized it to Gay men. Also by interviewing a Gay man with his face hidden in shadows, Ms. Waddell only reinforced the stereotype of Gay men as hiding in dark places, seeking public sexual encounters. Although the reporter mentioned that married men are also engaged in these acts, the only image that likely remained embedded in viewers' minds was that of Gay men as sexual predators. The story likely left viewers fearful of public parks and suspicious of all Gay men who happen to use the parks for legitimate social and recreational purposes.

Although loath to draw more attention to such a biased and irresponsible piece of journalism, you are encouraged you to view the story for yourself at kgun9.com/NewsArticle/tabid/1112/xmid/9272/Default.aspx and then contact Ms. Waddell to let her know your feelings.

The Observer and Wingspan does not condone acts of public sex, illegal under city and state status. Wingspan and The Observer prides itself on promoting the healthy development of young people and creating a community free of violence, harassment and discrimination. The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, the City of Tucson Commission on LGBT Issues and the Tucson Police Department have been working

together for over 5 years to address park safety issues.

From past experience, both locally and nationally, that these types of lurid and sensationalistic reports often result in increases in anti-LGBT harassment, discrimination and even violence in communities. The Observer, GLAAD and Wingspan holds Ms. Waddell responsible for any such acts that happen in Tucson as a result of her shoddy journalism.

Wingspan, GLAAD and The Observer condemns Ms. Waddell for broadcasting harmful stereotypes of Gay men in order to try to increase KGUN's languishing ratings (third in the Tucson market behind KVOA and KOLD). Ms. Waddell likely thought that she could pull out this old and worn story from the bag of tricks that TV news stations have been using for years to try to drum up audiences during Sweeps Week. In 1998, the Advocate ran a national report that uncovered how TV stations across the country have used these negative and biased stories to increase their ratings. To read the full article: http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1589/is_n758/ai_20584710.

Contact Ms. Waddell, Mr. Andrew Stewart and Mr. Bill Berra of KGUN to express your concern and disappointment that such items in a Tucson marking the thirtieth anniversary of its anti-discrimination (Wednesday, Feb. 7) ordinance are broadcast and they won't be tolerated.

Jennifer Waddell, Reporter, KGUN-9 News, Tel: (520) 290-7719, Cell: (520) 260-6355, jwaddell@kgun9.com.

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Molly Ivins Dies Of Breast Cancer



Molly Ivins

AUSTIN, Texas - Best-selling author and columnist Molly Ivins, the sharp-witted liberal who skewered the political establishment and pointed out the ridiculousness of President Bush's push to ban same-sex marriage, died Wednesday (Jan. 31) after a long battle with breast cancer, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com, she was 62.

David Pasztor, managing editor of the Texas Observer, confirmed her death. The writer, who made a living poking fun at Texas politicians, whether they were in her home base of Austin or the White House, revealed in early 2006 that she was being treated for breast cancer for the third time.

More than 400 U.S. newspapers subscribed to her nationally syndicated column, which combined strong liberal views and populist-toned humor. Ivins's illness did not seem to hurt her ability to deliver biting one-liners. "I'm sorry to say

[cancer] can kill you but it doesn't make you a better person," she said in an interview with the San Antonio Express-News in September, the same month cancer claimed her friend former Texas governor Ann Richards.

To Ivins, "liberal" was not an insult term. "Even I felt sorry for Richard Nixon when he left; there's nothing you can do about being born liberal-fish gotta swim and hearts gotta bleed," she wrote in a column included in her 1998 collection, "You Got to Dance With Them What Brung You."

In a column in mid January, Ivins urged readers to stand up against Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq. "We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war," Ivins wrote in the January 11 column. "We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans, and demanding, 'Stop it, now!'" Ivins's best-selling books included those she coauthored with Lou Dubose about Bush. One was titled Shrub: The Short but Happy Political Life of George W. Bush, and another was BUSHWHACKED: Life in George W. Bush's America.

Ivins' jolting satire was directed at people in positions of power. She maintained that aiming it at the powerless would be cruel. "The trouble with blaming powerless people is that although it's not nearly as scary as blaming the powerful, it does miss the point," she wrote in a 1997 column. "Poor people do not shut down factories.... Poor people didn't decide to use 'contract employees' because they cost less and don't get any benefits."

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Ex-Bishop 'Silenced' Due To Church Action

TUCSON - After finding out he wouldn't be welcomed by Roman Catholic dioceses in Tucson and Phoenix, a retired bishop from Detroit has canceled plans to speak in Arizona, the Arizona Daily Star reported. The Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, a retired auxiliary bishop from the Archdiocese of Detroit, was scheduled to speak about homosexuality and the church (Feb. 6). Gumbleton is known for advocating more inclusion for Lesbians and Gays in the church and for speaking out about the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests.

Tucson Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas said that he would not welcome Gumbleton to the local diocese, not because of Gumbleton himself, but because of the group that was hosting him, Call to Action. Sponsors from the Tucson chapter of Call to Action take positions that are contrary to church teachings, Kicanas said. For that reason, the group's messages cannot be promoted on church property, he said. The national group Call to Action says its mission is freeing the Catholic Church to become a force for peace and justice in the world. Its Web site includes information about optional celibacy for priests and on the status of women, Gays and Lesbians in the church. Critics of Call to Action say its members are disobedient Catholics.

"He's being silenced," said Laurie Olson, vice president of the local Call to Action chapter, which had found a non-Catholic church for the talk. "His assistant called and she said that he was required to cancel because he was denied permission by the bishop (Kicanas)." Kicanas said he'd written to Gumbleton and made it clear he would not be in Tucson at the invitation of the local diocese. Diocese of Phoenix Bishop Thomas Olmsted had similar correspondence with Gumbleton, Phoenix

diocesan spokesman Jim Dwyer said. Gumbleton was scheduled to be in Phoenix (Feb. 7) to give a talk titled "The Gospel for Today," to be hosted by the Phoenix Chapter of Call to Action. But Olmsted told Gumbleton his diocese could not sanction the talk because of Call to Action's sponsorship. Dwyer explained that Call to Action has a reputation of dissent regarding key Catholic teachings. The local chapter of Call to Action says it follows the national mission. The group has hosted speakers who urge improved transparency and inclusion in the church, and its members have proposed more democracy in the church, such as the election of bishops. "We'd hoped the bishops would follow in the footsteps of Christ and allow Bishop Gumbleton, one of their own, to speak on issues of justice," national Call To Action co-director Nicole Sotelo said.

Gumbleton was featured in a recent article on the National Catholic Reporter's Web site, has been in the national news lately because he was not reappointed pastor of the inner-city St. Leo's Catholic Church, which he'd led since 1983. In a video of his last Mass at St. Leo's, filmed by a parishioner and posted on the National Catholic Reporter's Web site, Gumbleton says he still wants to lead St. Leo's and believes he was not reassigned because of the recent openness with which he spoke concerning victims of sex abuse in the church. Gumbleton also has talked about his own childhood sexual abuse by a priest. The Archdiocese of Detroit says it did not renew Gumbleton's position because of his age. At age 75, all bishops must submit a letter of resignation directly to the pope, wrote Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, in a letter to parishioners distributed the weekend of Jan. 20-21. Maida wrote that the pope had accepted Gumbleton's resignation.

Retired Lesbians Sue For Partner Benefits

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico - Three Lesbians whose domestic partner benefits ended when they retired from state jobs filed suit Monday (Feb. 5) alleging the state discriminated against them in canceling the health benefits, 365Gay.com reported.

"After serving the state for 25 years, I hoped to retire with the same peace of mind as my straight colleagues," said Ellen Novak, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "But retirement has meant that my partner has had to switch to costly private health insurance with inferior coverage at the point in our lives when we are most likely to face health problems. I worked just as hard as my colleagues, so it doesn't seem fair that my family has been saddled with this burden." Novak and her partner Linda McCreary, Havens Levitt and her partner Rebecca Dakota, and Mary Meyer and her partner Hope Miner are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The lawsuit charges that the state's policy of denying Lesbian and Gay state retirees equal health insurance for their partners violates the state constitution's equality guarantees. Unlike their straight colleagues, Lesbian and Gay employees are barred from marrying in the state and therefore, in the absence of domestic partner benefits, are denied equal compensation. "Lesbian and Gay employees make commitments and form families just like straight employees, and their families have the same needs,"

said Peter Simonson, Executive Director of the ACLU of New Mexico. "Health insurance is an important portion of how employees are compensated. It's not right for the state to take care of straight families, but to force Gay and Lesbian families to bear the significant expense and suffer the inferior coverage of private health insurance at the point in their lives when they need health care most."

In 2003, Governor Bill Richardson issued an executive order providing state employees, both Gay and straight, with the option of providing their partners health insurance through domestic partner coverage. Under the order, domestic partner coverage is not available to employees after they retire, while spousal coverage is provided. Proposed legislation which was introduced by Senator John Grubescic and will be the subject of a committee hearing would close the loophole and provide benefits to the domestic partners of retired employees. "The state legislature has the opportunity to spare taxpayers the needless expense of defending this lawsuit by passing this bill," said Simonson. "The cost of providing the domestic partners of state employees with access to retirement health insurance would only result in less than a one percent increase in claims dollars paid out by the authority. And this nominal cost would likely be offset by the savings to the state on account of having more people insured."



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McGreevey Files For Divorce



Ex-Governor James McGreevey and ex-wife Dina

November 2004, when McGreevey resigned as New Jersey's governor following a stunning public announcement that he was "a Gay American" who had had an affair with a male staffer. "It's a sad day for everyone," McGreevey told the Associated Press Friday. "It is something that had to be done. We are blessed with a wonderful daughter who remains our focus." McGreevey has been married twice. He has a 14-year-old daughter, Morag, from his first marriage, which also ended in divorce.

Matos McGreevey, who stood at her husband's

ELIZABETH, New Jersey - The nation's first openly Gay governor filed for divorce Friday from his wife of seven years. Lawyers for James E. McGreevey filed a two-page document in Union County superior court, seeking to dissolve his union with Dina Matos McGreevey, advocate.com reported. A spokeswoman for the court, Sandra Thaler-Gerber, confirmed receiving the filing Friday (Feb. 2).

side as he told the world he was Gay, now lives in Springfield with the couple's 5-year-old daughter, Jacqueline. McGreevey lives in Plainfield with his partner, Australian-born money manager Mark O'Donnell. Neither Matos McGreevey nor her lawyer responded to requests for comment Friday. She has 35 days to answer her husband's filing or file a counterclaim.

The two have lived apart since

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Mary Cheney Pregnancy 'Not A Political Statement'

NEW YORK CITY - The decision to become pregnant and raise a child with her female partner was not political, Mary Cheney, a daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, told a Barnard College audience. "This is a baby," Cheney said Wednesday at a forum sponsored by Glamour magazine. "This is a blessing from God. It is not a political statement. It is not a prop to be used in a debate by people on either side of an issue. It is my child."

family. She did not say how the child was conceived. The baby is due in the spring and will be the vice president's sixth grandchild.

Cheney announced in Dec. 2006, that she and her partner of 15 years, Heather Poe, were starting a

Dick Cheney became testy last week when CNN's Wolf Blitzer asked him what he thought of conservatives who are critical of his daughter's pregnancy. Cheney told Blitzer he was "over the line." In a brief interview with The New York Times after Wednesday's panel, Mary Cheney said she agreed that Blitzer had crossed a line. "He was trying to get a rise out of my father," she said.

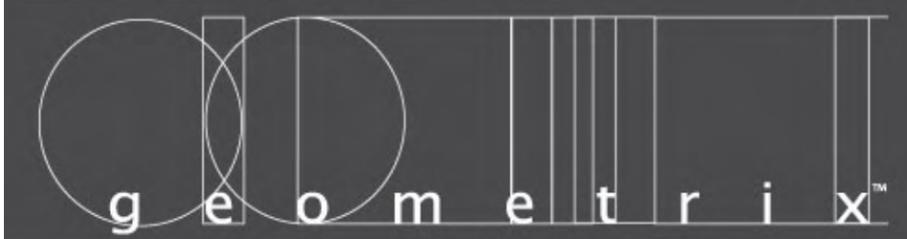
Former Player, Penn State Coach Settle Lesbian Bias Suit

STATE COLLEGE, Pennsylvania - A former player on Penn State's women's basketball team has settled a discrimination suit she brought against coach Rene Portland, 365Gay.com. The announcement of the settlement was made Monday (Feb. 5) by the National Center for Lesbian Rights which represented Jennifer Harris, and attorney's for Portland. Details of the agreement have not been made public by agreement between the parties.

said she would be dismissed for any future violations. Portland disagreed with that finding, called the school's investigation flawed and maintained that Harris' departure was purely related to basketball. The lawsuit was to have gone to trial this spring.

The lawsuit also named athletic director Tim Curley and the university as defendants. "Penn State, Mr. Curley and Coach Portland have disputed Ms. Harris' allegations and have denied any liability with respect to the complaints filed against them," a statement from Portland said. "Ms. Harris has agreed to permanently withdraw and end her legal actions against all parties." Harris contended in the suit that Portland discriminated against her because the longtime coach perceived her to be a Lesbian. Harris is not Gay. The lawsuit said that "believing Jennifer was a Lesbian, Ms. Portland tried to force her to leave the team, humiliating, berating and ostracizing her." In 2005 Harris transferred to James Madison University.

Penn State last year conducted its own internal investigation of Portland. It concluded that she violated school policies with alleged hostile treatment of Harris. The university fined Portland \$10,000 and



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Mike Jones Pays Visit To New Life Church; Rev. Declares "I'm Straight"

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado - Mike Jones, the former escort who allegedly had a three-year sexual relationship with New Life Church founder Ted Haggard, visited the 14,000-member megachurch on Sunday (Jan. 28), reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.



Mike Jones **Ted Haggard and wife Gayle**

"I had read a lot about the church, but there's nothing like seeing it for yourself," Jones told The Denver Post. "It wasn't to rub anyone's face in it by any means. I was wanting to get some perspective, to see where they are coming from, what the magnet is."

Haggard stepped down as president of the National Association of Evangelicals after Jones's allegations became public last year. Jones also claimed that Haggard occasionally used crystal meth during their trysts. In Nov. 2006, Haggard publicly admitted to engaging in "sexual immorality." He urged members of New Life to thank Jones for exposing his transgression.

In other news, Haggard who admitted to "sexual immorality" following allegations of sex with a male prostitute is convinced he is "completely heterosexual," said one

of four ministers who oversaw three weeks of intensive counseling with the disgraced minister. The Rev. Ted Haggard, a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, also said his sexual contact with men was limited to the former male prostitute who came forward with sexual allegations, the Rev. Tim Ralph of Larkspur told The Denver Post

Haggard said in an e-mail Sunday (Feb. 4), his first communication in three months to church members, that he and his wife, Gayle, plan to pursue master's degrees in psychology. The e-mail said the family has not decided where to move but that they were considering Missouri and Iowa. It the oversight board that strongly urged Haggard to go into secular work.

Canadian And Swedish LGBT Groups Frowned On At UN

UNITED NATIONS - A U.N. committee rejected credentials of a Canadian Gay and Lesbian organization seeking consultative status with the United Nations and deferred the application of a similar body from Sweden, according to documents circulated on Friday (Feb. 2), reported 365Gay.com. Accreditation, which has been given to more than 2,000 groups, enables them to take part in U.N. conferences and offer advice in their field of expertise, such as human rights, health and humanitarian aid.

Envoys from the Canadian and Swedish U.N. missions criticized the U.N. Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) at its meeting, with Canada's Nell Stewart expressing dismay at the panel's "pattern of discrimination" in treating groups on sexual orientation. The Canadian group was the Coalition of Gays and Lesbians of Quebec (Coalition Gaie et Lesbienne du Quebec), a national organization. The Stockholm group was the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights.

On the rejection of the Canadian group, the vote was 8 to 6. Against were Burundi, China, Egypt, Guinea, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia and Sudan. Voting in favor were Colombia, Israel, Peru, Romania, Britain and the United States. Abstaining were Angola, India and Turkey. The U.N. committee is a subsidiary of the U.N. Economic and Social Council, which can reverse the panel's decisions. But with notable exceptions it agrees with the committee's rulings. British delegate Thomas Woodruffe told the panel that every NGO that met the criteria approved by the U.N. Economic and Social Council should be admitted in the fields of health, gender and human rights. He noted that 100 groups had been accepted with varying viewpoints not all governments accepted.

Human rights groups are often turned down, particularly when they deal with dissidents in authori-

tarian countries. Even the influential New York-based Human Rights Watch was rejected in 1992 before being admitted a year and a half later. Jewish groups also have a problem, and their applications are usually deferred or rejected. Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization that runs hospitals in Israel, succeeded after lengthy diplomatic fights in 2001. In its decisions, the committee admitted the American Conservative Union and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the (U.S.) Southern Baptist Convention.

Italian TV Network Causes Gay Rights Protest

ROME, Italy - The game show host for Affari Tuoi, the Italian version of Deal or No Deal, has claimed that public network RAI asked him whether he was Gay when he auditioned for the show, advocate.com reported. Variety reports that Flavio Isinna's remarks have sparked a protest among Italy's Gay rights groups.

"The issue of discrimination against homosexuals at RAI is a pressing one that needs to be resolved at all levels, from equal opportunity in the workplace to equal time in the news," Franco Grillini, head of the Gay rights group Arcigay, said in Variety.

The news comes in contrast to the uproar created last week over the network's upcoming show titled Un Medico in Famiglia (A Doctor in the Family), which depicts two male doctors living together as a couple. The landmark show has been slammed by members of the the country's conservative party. According to Variety, Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of dictator Benito Mussolini, said the show was trying to "brainwash" people with the message "that a normal family is composed of two people of the same sex."

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Snickers Pulls Controversial Ad But No Apology



NEW YORK CITY - Mars has pulled its controversial ad showing two mechanics kissing following complaints by LGBT civil rights groups, but it is not apologizing for the commercial than run during the Super Bowl or for the video comments by players posted on its Web site, 365Gay.com reported.

Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Matthew Shepard Foundation blasted the commercial accusing it of encouraging violence against Gays.

"As with all of our Snickers advertising, our goal was to capture the attention of our core Snickers consumer, primarily 18-to-24-year-old adult males," company spokesperson Alice Nathanson told the New York Times in a statement. "Feedback from our target consumers has been positive, and many media and Web site commentators on this year's Super Bowl lineup ranked the commercial among this year's best." "We know that humor is highly subjective and we understand that some consumers have found the commercial offensive," Nathanson told The Times, adding: "Clearly that was not our intent. We do not plan to continue the ad on television or on our Web site."

"That Snickers, Mars and the NFL would promote and endorse this kind of prejudice is simply inexcusable," said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. Giuliano said that in early January, TBWA\Chiat\Day, the New York ad agency that produced the commercial asked GLAAD to review and provide analysis on a Snickers spot. GLAAD agreed, he said but the next day, the agency abruptly withdrew its request without having shown it to GLAAD.

The commercial featured two burly auto mechanics working on a car engine. One of the men takes a Snickers bar out of his pocket and begins to eat it. The other mechanic starts eating the candy bar from the opposite end until the two meet, lips on lips. Then one mechanic says, "Quick, do something manly," at which point they each rip off some of their chest hair.

"The makers of Snickers and it's parent company at Mars should know better," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese. "This type of jeering from professional sports figures at the sight of two men kissing fuels the kind of anti-Gay bullying that haunts countless Gay and Lesbian school children on playgrounds all across the country. Eighty-four percent of GLBT students report being verbally harassed at school, and this type of ad only reinforces that," said Solmonese.

On the Snickers Web site the company offered several different potential endings to the commercial, and it posted video of some of the Bowl players reactions to the kiss commercial. In that video, one of the producers of the commercial could be heard telling Bears tight end Desmond Clark that it took 50 takes of the two men kissing for them to get it right. "I hope they got paid a lot of money," replied Clark

"I am outraged that Mars, the NFL and these players would promote such an anti-Gay message," said Judy Shepard, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. "This campaign encourages the same type of hate that led to the death of my son Matthew ... In particular, I am dismayed that these players, who are role models to our young people, would participate in perpetuating such discrimination and prejudice.

Several Gay bloggers called for a boycott of Mars brands. Both the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay and

Although Mars has removed the commercial and the player remarks from its Web site the video can still be seen on YouTube and elsewhere on the Internet.



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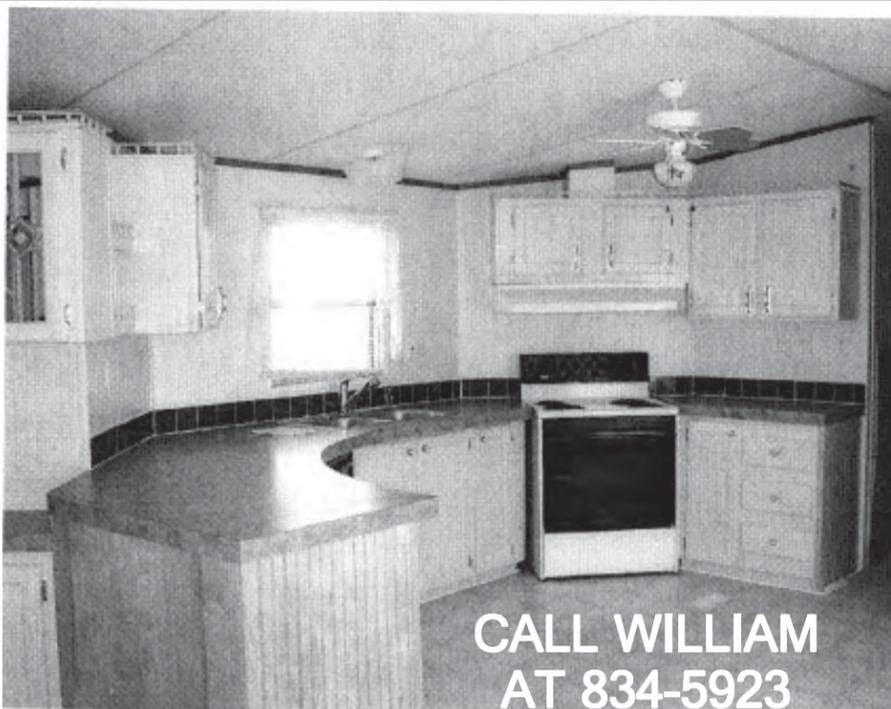
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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

Thirty Years

An important milestone in Tucson's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community to note that on Wednesday, Feb. 7, the City of Tucson marked the thirtieth year of having an enforceable, anti discrimination measure on its books.

On that same day in 1977, Tucson's Mayor and Council, by unanimous vote, adopted Ordinance Number 4616, adding Chapter 17 to their Human Relations Ordinance.

Under Chapter 17, it is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of:

Race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation (perceived or otherwise), gender identity (perceived or otherwise), familial status and marital status in employment, public accommodation or housing.

Businesses covered under Chapter 17 include:

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

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

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

Tucson's ordinance (Section 13) is not applicable to any establishment operated by a bona fide private club, not conducted for the purpose of evading this article, when the accommodations, advantages, facilities and services are restricted to members of such club and their guests nor to any bona fide social, fraternal, educational civic or religious organization, or such private club when the profits of the accommodations, advantages, facilities and ser-

vices, above reasonable and necessary expenses, are solely for the benefit of such organization or club.

Any individual claiming to have been discriminated against in employment, housing or public accommodation in the city limits may file a complaint with the OEOP within 90 working days from the time of the alleged violation or 180 calendar days for housing complaints.

Complaint forms are available from the OEOP or can be downloaded, online, but the OEOP does not accept confidential information via e-mail or over the internet, the complaint form may be submitted in person or by mail. There is no fee for filing a complaint.

After the complaint is filed and if it meets the legal requirements, the OEOP will investigate and render written findings as to whether there is or is not reasonable cause to substantiate the charge. Conciliation by the OEOP is attempted but if that fails and there is reasonable cause to substantiate the charge, the complaint is referred to the City Attorney's Office for prosecution in City Court. For more information, go online to tucsonaz.gov/eoop/, or call (520) 791-4593.

In March, the tenth anniversary of the first governmental entities recognizing Lesbian and Gay relationships and their families with the extension of medical benefits to the same-sex domestic partners (and families) of employees of Pima County government and the City of Tucson will take place. Salacious television newscasts and stories aside, Tucson and Pima County are welcoming and supportive for its LGBT populace.

Initiative Introduced That Would Require Children In Marriages

KENNEWICK, Washington - A new initiative is turning heads around the state as the same sex-marriage debate heats up again, reported kdn.com. Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed has accepted Initiative 957 (I-957), a response to the State Supreme Court ruling last summer.

The Washington Supreme Court ruled that the state could prevent Gay and Lesbian couples from marrying because the state has a legitimate interest in preserving marriage for procreation. In response, the Washington Defense of Marriage Alliance, an LGBT group, filed the Initiative.

I-957 has five clauses that would have to be met for a legal marriage. It would allow only couples capable of having kids to marry, and that they file "proof of procreation" within three years of the marriage. If not, the marriage would be annulled. I-957 would also force couples who married out of state to show the same proof of procreation or their marriage wouldn't be recognized, and it would become a criminal act for anyone in an unrecognized marriage to get marriage benefits. To make it on the Nov. 2008 ballot they need 224,800 signatures by July 6.



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By Jerry D

Looking For Like

By Jerry Diaz

TUCSON - On Friday, Feb. 16, the El Pueblo Activity Center is host to a Valentine's Social. The Center is located at 101 W. Irvington Rd, right next to the Laos Bus Center. The event is scheduled from 5 till 9:00 p.m. and is open to all.

This event is the first in what hopes to be several annual gatherings for community members from all walks of life. The Old Pueblo is growing at record rates, so there are many people out there to meet and greet. COPE Behavioral Services, along with other agencies here in town, want to spread the word of community to the entire city, and hopes that events such as this one will help out in that effort. For people in our community living with HIV/AIDS, social events are sometimes the only means of meeting new people. The stigma connected with those who live with the infection can be discriminating at times, making it more difficult to meet anyone. One community member recently sat down with me to discuss how he handles living in that type of world.

Wayne has been living with HIV since 1989. His life on the streets has taken a toll on his health, but his spirit continues to thrive for not only himself, but those around him who he encounters every day. Wayne attends meetings with other people who are also living with the virus, but he also makes time to stay active in other community events where his status is not the forefront of the event. Wayne has fortunately not had backlash from family due to his diagnosis. He keeps a steady group of friends and can be found advocating for those who live with HIV. Wayne believes that his openness and social bravery keeps

him going sometimes. He feels that the GLBT community is tighter than most others when dealing with the social aspects of those infected with HIV.

For many living with HIV/AIDS, social settings can be a very scary place. Those who are open right away about their diagnosis, can be treated differently right from the start. Those who do not disclose to the public can be branded with labels reserved for criminals. Events such as the coming dance on the 16th will hopefully start a trend in combining all members of the community in a similar setting.

This is not an event for those with HIV/AIDS any more than it is an event for those without. This is not a LGBT event any more than it is a straight one. There will be no categorizing, just social interaction with people who might want to meet more friends and acquaintances here in Tucson.

Wayne is going to attend with the hopes of finding someone he can be friends with and maybe more. He is not shy about the type of person he is looking for in a relationship, but will be happy with meeting anyone who will just treat him like a person. That is all he asks, as most of the city's population will probably agree.

HIV/AIDS is preventable. There is no secret to that. Education is key in knowing that the virus can only be contracted in an exact manner of ways. If you have not already, please make an effort to educate yourself on these facts. There are many agencies here in Tucson willing and able to help you on that journey. Then come dance and have some fun with all kinds of folks on the 16th.

Service Members Legal Defense Network Launches New Website

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), a national legal aid and policy organization dedicated to repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual service members has unveiled a newly remodeled website at sldn.org. The site, which allows visitors to correspond with Congress, service members to receive vital legal aid information and grassroots activists to spearhead repeal efforts in their communities, also highlights the stories and images of service personnel impacted by the law.

online advocacy center. The SLDN.org site also features breaking news regarding "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," profiles of veterans impacted by the law and tools and information for advocating for repeal. The organization's new site is made possible by the generous support of Mediapolis, Inc., and was designed by Audrey Denson. The site also features award-winning photography by Judy G. Rolfe. For more information, and to sign-up as a member of SLDN's online community, visit sldn.org.

"Today, the internet plays a vital role in grassroots organizing and advocacy, and our new site was designed to bring our supporters together and rally our troops to help repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" SLDN director of communications Steve Ralls said in a message to supporters. "The new site still has important legal aid information for service members and information about the law. We also still have the latest news and information about the military's ban and SLDN's work, and you'll still find useful information on upcoming events and activities in your area. Just as importantly, however, SLDN supporters will now be able to harness the power of the internet to communicate with Members of Congress, write letters to the editor of newspapers across the country, help raise funds to support SLDN's work and play an integral role in our work."

More than 20,000 veterans, activists and other supporters have already enrolled in the organization's

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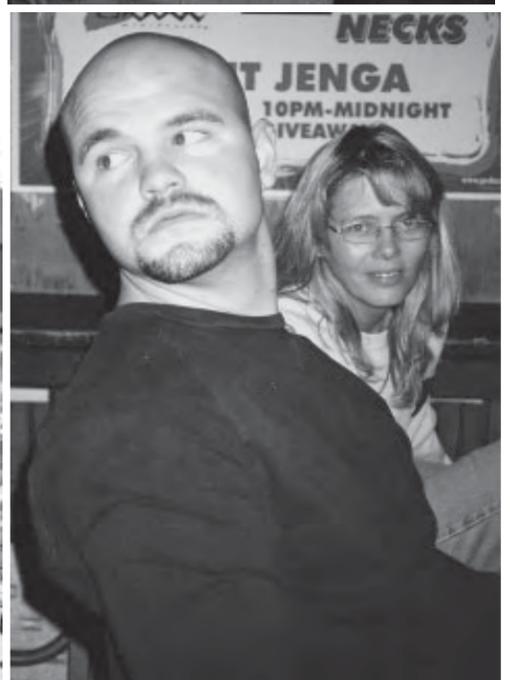
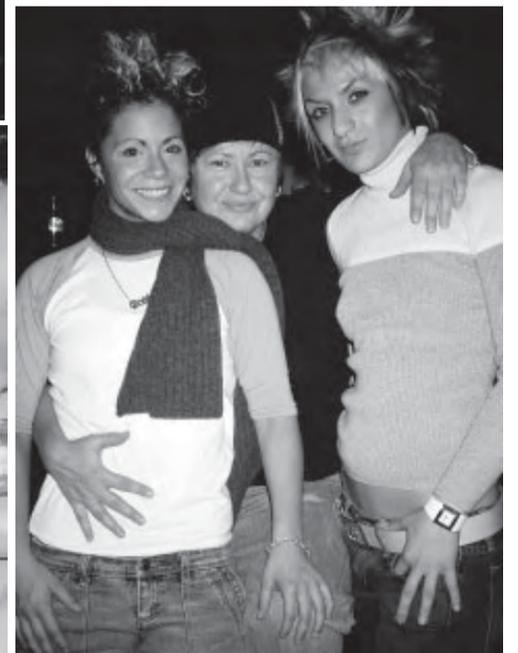
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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
Immoral Art

by Lee Thorn

Dr. Gunther von Hagen has an exhibit of 200 human corpses and parts of corpses that he has skinned, preserved and placed in artful poses, for example as a soccer player and a ballet dancer. Although his exhibit is widely regarded as art, Dr. von Hagen disclaims the title of artist: "...I am a doctor and an educator..." The show is called "Body Worlds 3: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies." It runs from now through May 28 at the Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington Street, Phoenix. Admission is \$22.

Why use real bodies when you could do exactly the same thing with plastic? Plastic anatomy models have been around forever, frequently with the added educational value of moving parts. My surmise is that this misuse of corpses is simply a gimmick. It's gross and kind of spooky and tinged with an aura of taboo. In short it's just the sort of spectacle that will separate a somewhat timid thrill seeker from his twenty-two bucks.

I find myself in the strange position — unprecedented for me — of calling an art exhibit immoral, an art exhibit that I haven't even seen and that I certainly don't intend to see. I can console myself to some degree by remembering that I've condemned other spectacles without having seen them. I'm categorically against bullfighting, cockfighting and pit bull fighting because I don't believe in torturing animals for the sake of entertainment. But calling any art immoral is new for me. It puts me among the ninnies who call art immoral for depicting nudity or sex or for promoting impure thoughts or for some other total foolishness.

It seems to me that our moral tradition includes treating dead bodies as something more than just stuff. Soldiers often risk their lives to recover the dead bodies of their comrades from battlefields. There doesn't seem to be any practical reason to take that risk. It gives the corpse a moral standing that the equivalent mass of chemicals doesn't have. I remember a news story about some medical students getting in trouble for jump roping with a corpse's intestines. Why? They weren't hurting anyone. If corpses were just stuff we wouldn't have elaborate funeral ceremonies built around them. We wouldn't devote large areas of prime real estate to the creation of cemeteries for them.

So what are we saying when we bestow a special status on corpses that raises them above just stuff? We

can shrug our treatment of corpses off as outdated tradition, but that hardly serves as an explanation of it. I'd argue that our practice of respecting corpses is a symbolic way of saying that we don't lose all our importance as humans by dying. Practically speaking, unless you're Einstein or Van Gogh, you do lose a lot of your importance by dying. But our reverence for corpses says that you don't lose all of it. And our acknowledgement of the continuing importance of the dead reflects reality. After all, they don't lose all their importance when we find ourselves continuing to think about them, or when we find ourselves continuing to simply remember them, or when we hypothesize about what they'd think about this or that current news item, or when we continue to love them.

So using corpses to put on a show, even a really impressive show, strikes me as a serious moral blunder, a big step in the wrong direction, a dehumanizing direction. As for the doctor's claim that it's educational, it could be just as educational in plastic. It could be even more educational: you could have moveable or even removeable parts. One journalist said that the black lungs of a smoker would surely have a big impact on kids who smoked. That might be true if the kids had been raised in the wild by wolves up until the time they saw the show, but, in that case, where would they have been getting their smokes?

I'm all for using corpses for medical training and for scientific research when their use in those areas represents the only practical way to proceed, but, even in those contexts, corpses should be treated with as much respect as possible. No soccer. No ballet. No jumping rope.

I should point out that the bodies used in this show were donated by their owners. We're talking consenting adults here. So I'm not talking about some screaming moral outrage. I'm making a pretty small moral point in the grand moral landscape. Our humanity seems so fragile at times that even small points might be worth making in its defense. And I certainly don't want to ban the show or anything like that just because it offends the hell out of me.

(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.)

View From The Rock

Most people in our community face rejection on a daily basis. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) people are not the most loved people in the world, if anything, GLBT are the most hated since: the media makes fun of, offensive jokes are told about; harassment in the workplace takes place; they're called names, such as "faggots" and "queers" resulting in some having to drop out of school due to harassment; they've been kicked out of the homes, disowned or have to run away due to abuse; been targets of police brutality, and in some countries, murdered for who they are.

Many churches reject GLBT people, saying that God hates us and because of all of these things, it is not surprising that most people in the GLBT community won't even step into a church since of all the rejection and hurt they may have endured that they can't bear to think that even our God

would turn away from them.

Psalm 27:10 tells us, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me." This is a promise to you that God will not turn away from you. Take a few minutes to focus on Him, and you will see that He is right there with you and hasn't turned away.

(Cornerstone Fellowship is committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all persons, regardless of race, culture, social standing, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Located at 2902 N. Geronimo in Tucson, Arizona, online at cornerstonefellowshiptucson.com, Cornerstone's Sunday worship services are held at the church at 10:30 a.m., and the church offers a 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible study at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. For more information call (520) 622-4626.)

Lesbian Couple Have Mexico's First Civil Union

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico - A Lesbian couple registered what officials called Mexico's first Gay civil union on Wednesday (Jan. 31) in the northern city of Saltillo, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com. The couple, Karina Almaguer and Karla Lopez, traveled to Saltillo from their home state of Tamaulipas to register as a "civil solidarity union" under a newly passed law that made Coahuila the first of Mexico's 31 states to grant recognition to such unions.

Television footage showed the couple smiling broadly and shaking hands with officials after the simple ceremony at a registrar's office. Coahuila State Assemblywoman Julieta Lopez Fuentes, who served as an official witness, said the law passed earlier this month allows people from other states to register such unions in Coahuila. "The object of this law is that unions of people of the same sex be legally regulated and recognized, so that they can have some security in their future," she said. Lopez

Fuentes said it was the first Gay civil union in Mexico.

In Nov. 2006, Mexico City - which as a semi-independent capital zone has some of the same powers as states - passed a similar measure, the first in the nation's history, but that law will not go into effect until mid-March. Such laws, which provide Gay couples with numerous social benefits similar to those of married couples, have been sharply criticized by the Roman Catholic Church and the conservative National Action Party of President Felipe Calderon. While homosexuality is still taboo in many rural parts of Latin America, the region's urban areas are becoming more socially liberal. Mexico City and Coahuila join the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires and the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul in legalizing same-sex civil unions. At the national level, lawmakers in Costa Rica and Colombia have debated, but not passed, similar measures.

Israel Logs First Same-Sex Marriage

JERUSALEM, Israel - Jerusalem Interior Ministry's officers have recorded the country's first Gay marriage following a court order to recognize same-sex unions from abroad, reported Gay.com UK. Taking advantage of the Nov. 2006, court ruling, Avi and Binyamin Rose married in Canada, obtained a license in Toronto in June, and have returned to Jerusalem a married couple.

On Nov. 29, 2006 the High Court of Justice ruled that the Israeli government must register same-sex marriages of those wed in countries where it is

legal. The registration, however, serves to collect statistics and does not require the marriage to receive official recognition of marriage rights. Marriage in Israeli law can only be conducted by a rabbi. Same-sex marriage in the country faces an uphill battle, with Israel's religious authorities monopoly over marriage and divorce. Nonetheless, the happy couple were delighted to be the first to break in the new law.

"It was wonderful to get married at the city hall in Toronto, but it was far more important for the State of Israel to recognize us as a couple," Avi

Rose told the Jerusalem Post. Said Avi, who works with Young Judea youth movement: "We did the civil ceremony in the hopes that we would eventually be able to make legal what we felt inside. We wanted the government of Israel to recognize that we are a couple. It was no more of a statement than (coming from) a 'regular' couple, but we are both committed Zionists and are hopeful that our union will bring more progress on this issue. . . . The protests last year over the Gay Pride Parade in Jerusalem really spooked us, and many of our friends here chose to leave the city. But we are very committed to building our lives

in Jerusalem and the Interior Ministry provided us with a very positive experience today." Binyamin, a therapist, explained that the clerks "were a little confused by our application but they made the necessary changes to the forms and they came through beautifully for us."

Moshe Negbi, a legal expert, said the court's decision is mostly symbolic because same-sex couples in Israel already have many of the rights of straight partnerships. The significant changes are that they will now get the same tax breaks as a married couple and be able to adopt children, Negbi said.

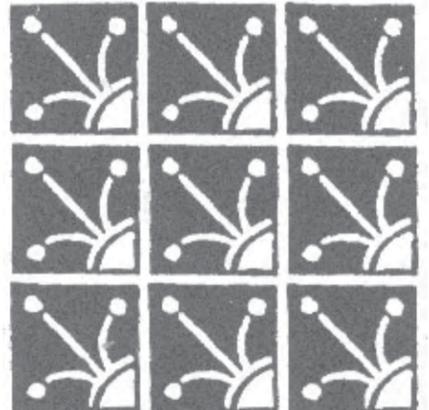
Nepali Becomes Both Man And Woman

KATHMANDU, Nepal - The authorities in Nepal have granted a man who dresses and behaves as a woman both male and female citizenship, bbc.com reported. The unprecedented legal status was given to 40-year-old Chanda Musalman.

Conservative and religious Nepal, like many Asian countries, has a sizeable community of people who are born male but behave as women. It is unclear how this unique legal status will play out in practice - for instance, how it will affect Chanda's marriage rights. With elections approaching, government teams are currently touring the country issuing certificates of citizenship. One team came to Chanda's village in western Nepal. Chanda, who has had no sex-change surgery, asked the officials to erase the words male and female, listed under gender. They obliged, and ascribed Chanda's gender as "both."

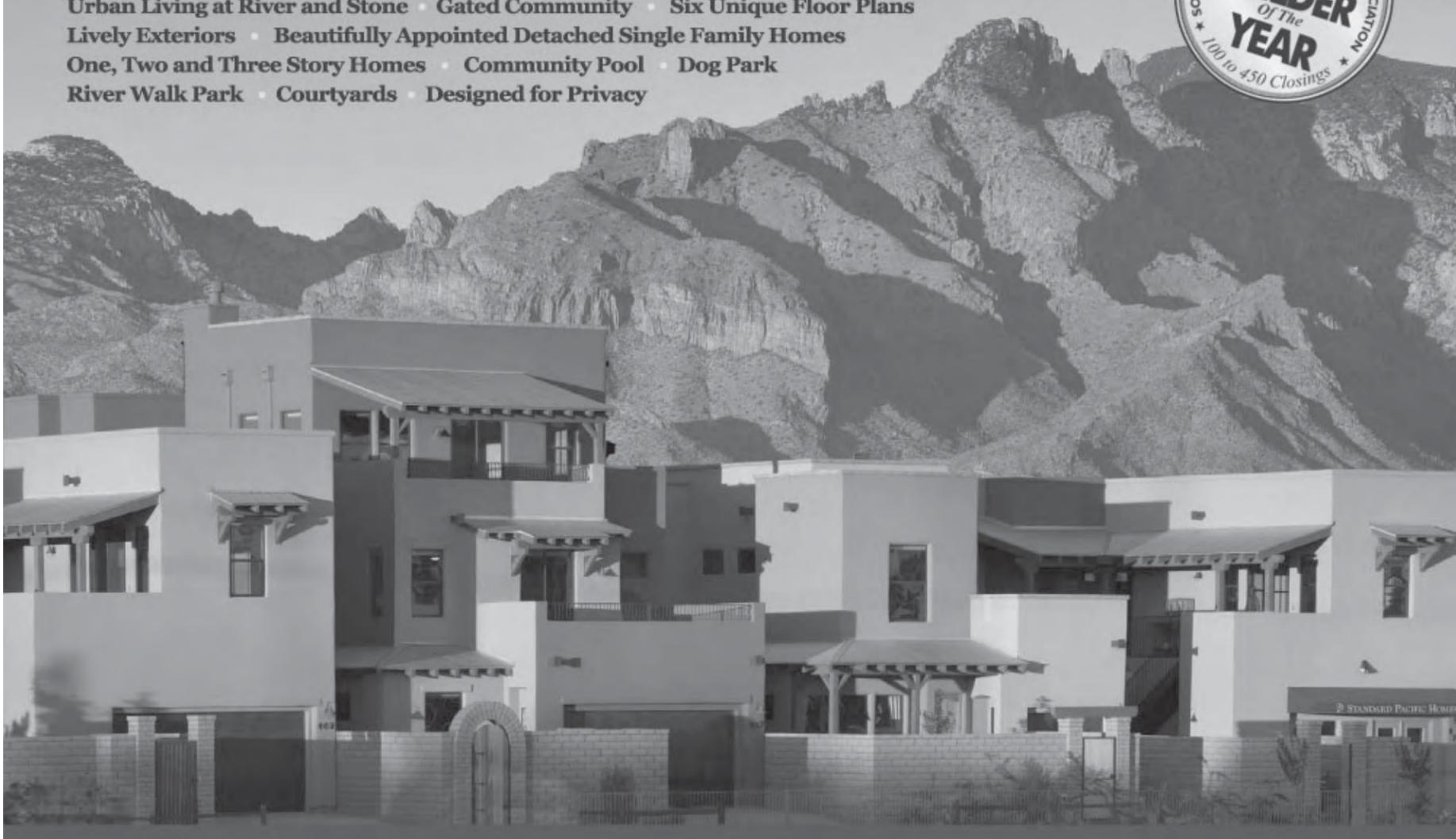
A local campaign group, the Blue Diamond Society, has thanked

the government for the move, which it described as a victory for sexual and gender minorities. In the past the group has accused both the police and the Maoists of harassing Transgendered people in the streets of Kathmandu. It is now lobbying to get the rights of sexual minorities explicitly protected in the new constitution, to be drawn up after the elections.



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Non Bar Calendar

Wednesday, February 7th
 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 specific host.

Thursday, February 8th
 #1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, February 9th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts 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 Lloyd at 792-8537. 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 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, February 10th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

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

Sunday, February 11th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, February 12th
 #2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Karol for poker! Call for info at 744-9017. Karol will start you out with a stake of chips, and then the rest is up to you and Mister Luck!

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

Tuesday, February 13th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. An evening of Bridge with Willie. Please call 297-8756

Wednesday, February 14th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Marvin. 745-0304. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, February 15th
 #1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. No host Coffee Night at Rainbow Planet on fabulous 4th Avenue.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

#3 CALL LLOYD TO RESERVE FOR PIZZA NIGHT BY NOON TOMMORROW...792-8537.

Friday, February 16th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Pizza Night! Call Lloyd for directions at 792-8537! Did you phone in your reservation earlier this month to help plan ordering and preparation? Excellent! Get ready for great company, plus delicious salad, yummy desert, and 4 choices of pizza for only \$5.

Valentine's Social sponsored by TIHAN and COPE at the El Pueblo Activity Center, 101 W. Irvington Road, Bldg. #6. 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. RSVP: Glenn Wisch/COPE, 798-1772 ext. 33

Saturday, February 17th
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 8:30a.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. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Steve at 644-2076 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, February 18th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Thom and/or Ken host Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

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

Monday, February 19th
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Eastside Gay Men's Book Club! Dinner and discussion on an agreed-upon work of gay fiction. Contact Stephen at 546-4047 or e-mail: sjreidy@raytheon.com.

#2Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Newsletter Night! Join Arlan and crew to help get the MSN newsletter in the mail, plus find out next month's events. This month the movie is A TOUCH OF PINK. Munchies and soft drinks provided.

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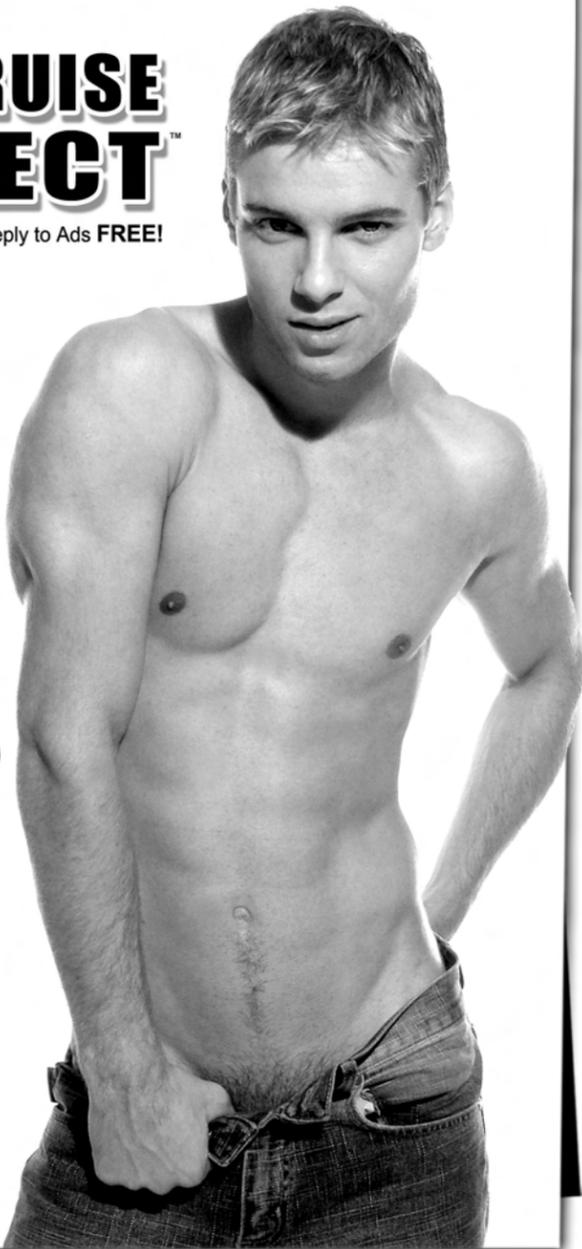
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Court Denies Benefits For Partners Of G/L Public Employees

LANSING, Michigan - Public universities and state and local governments can't provide health insurance to the partners of Gay and Lesbian employees without violating the state constitution, the Michigan court of appeals ruled Friday (Feb. 2), the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

A three-judge panel said a 2004 voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage also applies to same-sex domestic-partner benefits. "The marriage amendment's plain language prohibits public employers from recognizing same-sex unions for any purpose," the court wrote. The decision reverses a 2005 ruling from a county judge who said universities and government agencies could provide the benefits. A constitutional amendment passed by Michigan voters in November 2004 made the union between a man and a woman the only agreement recognized as a marriage "or similar union for any purpose." Those six words led to the court fight over benefits for Gay couples. Gay couples and others had argued that the public intended to ban same-sex marriage but not block benefits for

unmarried opposite-sex or same-sex domestic partners.

The appeals court agreed with the Michigan attorney general, Republican Mike Cox, who said in a March 2005 opinion that domestic-partner benefits for same-sex couples are not allowed in a state that does not recognize same-sex unions. The legal challenge was mounted by 21 Gay couples who work for the city of Kalamazoo, several state universities, and the state government. "The protection of the institution of marriage is a long-standing public policy and tradition in the law of Michigan," judges Kurtis Wilder, Joel Hoekstra, and Brian Zahra noted in the unanimous ruling.

Jeffrey Montgomery, executive director of the Triangle Foundation, a leading Gay and Lesbian advocacy group in Michigan, said the legal sanctity of marriage was not in question. "This ruling will result in families being robbed of their health care and other basic necessities that are fundamental to protecting their

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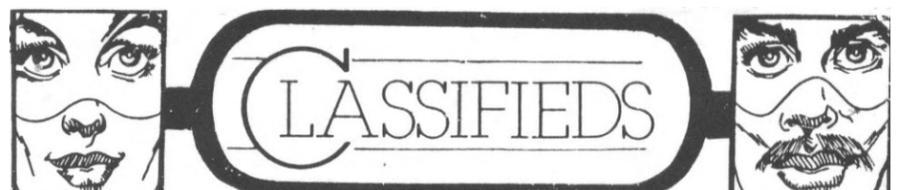
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Tuesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Wednesday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Thursday	4:00 – 6:30 P.M.
Friday	12:30 – 3:30 P.M.



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; \$2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latin Music with live DJ at 9:30pm. Get ready!!! L Word Season 4 begins Jan. 7th at 8pm!

COLORS - Open 11m - 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 performed by Dickie Steed during Brunch (11:30-2:30)

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5:00pm. Happy Hour 5-7pm \$1.75 well, domestic bottles and draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10am. \$2.50 Smirnoff Vodkas all day. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 4:00, and 7:00 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved.

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. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm.

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink what you want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Poke-Her Monday! Free card lessons 5pm. Free Texas Hold-em Tourney at 6pm; Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing & Free Food

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen closed. \$3 taco & tostada bar 4-8 pm. GLBT Movie Nite with shows at 6 & 8 pm,. Free pool all day.

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 Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Monthly Wine Tasting on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30pm. Please RSVP by the first Monday of the Month. Wine bottles will be for sale after the tasting at a special discounted price.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Karaoke 8pm-12am.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4-9pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:30 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. Tequila Nite with \$2.50 well tequila & margaritas, 75¢ off call tequilas.

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 Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) 80s Nite with Alex 8-close

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink what You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 18 to Party, 21 to Drink! 18 & Over Night w/DJ Shorty at 9:30pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Movie Night. First show 6pm, Second show 8pm with movie theatre popcorn and hot dogs.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Free Pool all day and night. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament at 6:30 pm for Women Only and open tournaments at 7 and 10. Play for points & prizes - no cash involved. Great way to learn the game or sharpen your skills.

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

WEDNESDAY CALENDAR CONTINUED

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (Excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party with Alex and Blake 9-close - \$1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show starts at 9:30pm with Tori Steele, Janee Starr, Diana Flair and weekly special guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by a new Surprise guest DJ!

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Stand-up Comedy Night - open mike 8-10p.m. Register 7pm. Prizes for winners.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. Karaoke with Rosemary at 8:30pm. \$2.50 Mexican Beers all night, \$1.00 Jello shots.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; \$1 PBRs Longnecks and \$2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Shorty at 9:30pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night!

COLORS - Open 4pm-1am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis and Craig Faltin. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. 21 and over.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft. Two for One 9pm - 12am. With midnight specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 4 - 9 pm. \$4.50 Fried Chicken dinner with fries and slaw. Free Two-Step lessons with Amanda every other Friday. Call 293-7339 for schedule. DJ Pat plays the best of contemporary and classic country 8:30 to close. Kitchen open 9 pm - midnight serving late night munchies menu.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Rayman spinning club music inside. 9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am.50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - \$1 Draught Beers until 10pm & \$4 Finlandia Vodka Red Bull drinks until 11pm; Dance Party with DJ Shorty at 9:30 mixing it up and playing what you want to hear!

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3 Skyy cocktails, \$2.50 Domestic and Well. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. "Pacific Breeze" performs 7-10pm.

HOLLYWOOD - Open 5pm. Happy Hour 5pm to 7pm. \$1.75 well, domestic bottles, draft.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11:00am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Kitchen open 11am-9pm. \$2.50 Capt. Morgan or Mailbu. Cheeseburger & Fries Special for \$4.50 all day. Best burgers around. Learn to play Texas Hold-Em Poker Lessons at noon with a friendly game to follow - no money involved. DJ playing dance mix or check our ad for special events. Kitchen open 9pm to midnight serving late night munchies menu.

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-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, Feb. 3

Howl At The Moon - Texas Hold-Em Poker lessons at noon (that's right, partner, I said High Noon). A friendly game for the students will follow the lessons so you can try out your new skills.

Saturday, Feb. 3

Howl At The Moon - Benefit drag show to help send Somora DeHuni to Miss Gay Arizona. Show starts at 9:30 pm, \$5.00 cover.

Sunday, Feb. 4

Howl At The Moon - Super Bowl Party here! Munch on free dogs, chili, and chips as you cheer on the Bears or Colts. \$2.50 domestic longnecks and pints during the game, shot specials all night.

VENTURE-N - Mark, Michael and Brian are hosting thew Super Bowl Party here. The fun starts at 4:00 p.m.

YARD DOG - Superbowl Party at 4:00 p.m. Hot food and snacks.

Saturday, Feb. 10

Howl At The Moon - Too Much Information is here playing classic rock, blues, and dance favorites. This is a great band—don't miss them. 9pm. \$5.00 cover

Saturday, Feb. 17

Howl At The Moon - It's Touché's birthday! Join in the celebration—TexMex band starting at 9 pm. No cover.

Saturday, Feb. 24

Howl At The Moon - IDOLS celebrity impersonators show starting at 10 pm. Madonna, Michael Jackson, Reba, Cher, and more. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. \$5.00 cover.

Sunday, Feb. 25

Howl At The Moon - It's Oscar Night! Predict the winners with Buzztime network. Play movie trivia before the show. Make a night of it! \$2.00 champagne, \$2.50 mimosas, and \$3.00 house wines.

Saturday, Mar. 3

Howl At The Moon - NCC Entertainer of the Year Pageant Show. Special guest performances as well as the contestants vying for the title. 9pm. \$5.00 cover.

Saturday, Mar. 17

Howl At The Moon - Royalty Show! All nine performers will be former Miss Gay Tucson title holders. This will be one hell of a show—plan now to attend! \$5.00 cover



NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS - (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon. You will experience fun, food, and friends, because we're family caring about people. Please come and join us!

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@gpplcc.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 Street. 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, contact **TEAM ARIZONA** at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and

Pride Weekend. 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.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyan@theriver.com and request guidelines.

OUTLOUD! Tucson's premiere Local Lesbian and Gay Radio Show, broadcast every Sunday from 7-8 pm on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

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 Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 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 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. 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.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.com. See you on the trails.

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, AZ. (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.

BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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Teen Girls Charged In Youth Gay Bashing

DES MOINES, Iowa - Two 19 year old girls have been arrested in the beating and stabbing of a 16 year old Gay teenager, reported 365Gay.com. The pair, identified as Jassimen Dobbins and Angela Wade are charged with first-degree burglary and third-degree arson.

The Des Moines prosecutor's office says it is treating the attack on the 16 year old - who has not been named because he is a minor - as a hate crime and additional charges may be laid. The girls were apprehended following a brief foot chase on Friday (Feb. 2). Police say that the victim was accosted on the street in December. He was hit over the head with a bottle and then stabbed with what is believed to have been a fork. The girls then allegedly stole \$5 from him along with an ATM card and his driver's license

before setting fire to a bag he was carrying. During the assault the girls yelled homophobic slurs at the victim.

Police say the pair admitted knowing the youth was Gay but investigators do not yet know how the girls knew the victim. Each of the girls is being held \$42,250 bond. The attack highlighted the problem of teen bullying in the state. The Iowa Senate passed an anti-bullying bill. The legislation goes to the House next week. The measure would cover students on the basis of race, disability and sexuality. It would require schools to report harassment incidents to the state and indicate what the school did in response. Gay rights groups have been pressing for enactment of the legislation for more than two years. Gov. Chet Culver has said he will sign the legislation if it reaches his desk.

LGBT-Friendly Retirement Home Waiting On Final Approval

BOSTON - The city's Redevelopment Authority has approved construction on one of the first LGBT-friendly retirement homes in the nation. However, the development, called Stonewall at Audubon, is still awaiting the OK from the city's zoning board of appeal before it can proceed, reports The Boston Globe on advocate.com. The project was recently approved by the residents of the neighborhood after residents clashed with developers over the building's height. Jack Creighton, president of the Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association, assured the Globe that any qualms with construction had nothing to do with the sexual orientation of Stonewall's potential residents.

"This was a development

project like any other, and we wanted it to fit in like any other," Creighton said. He further told the Globe that condo owners in the area saw the proposed height of the building as "way out of scale" and merely wanted it to follow the neighborhood's zoning law. With the residents and developers finally agreeing on the building's height at 75 feet, all that is needed now is the zoning board's approval, which Creighton believes will happen.

Buyers like Joy Malchodi have already paid a deposit and are eagerly waiting for move-in day. "I have friends in New York and all over the country who are interested," Malchodi told the Globe. "We baby boomers have to make a decision where to live as we get older, and we want to be surrounded by culture and liberal, accepting people."

Man Sues Taco Bell for Discrimination

MERRILLVILLE, Indiana - Charles E. Dayton filed a civil complaint on Wednesday (Jan. 31) against Taco Bell and two former employees, claiming he was discriminated against because of his sexual orientation and challenged to a fight, reports the Merrillville, Ind., Post-Tribune on advocate.com. Dayton says he went to the drive-through of the restaurant in Dec. 2005 and was refused service by Taco Bell employee Amber Barnes. He claims Barnes said, "I hope you get AIDS and die," used an antiGay slur, and challenged him to a fight.

Dayton called the Taco Bell customer service line the following day and was told the district manager would be made aware of the situation and call him within a few days, but Taco Bell

never contacted him. Later on Sept. 22, Dayton went through the drive-through and says he noticed Barnes pointing in his direction. He claims another employee, Joseph Shinkle, punched him through his open window and called him a name. Dayton then filed a police report, and Shinkle admitted to hitting Dayton, claiming he'd been provoked. Police charged Shinkle with a misdemeanor charge of battery, and a warrant was issued for his arrest on November 21 after he failed to appear in court twice.

Dayton's attorney, Todd M. Conover, says Taco Bell owes his client an apology and that they may file a hate-crime charge with the U.S. Attorney's office.

New HPV Vaccine May Also Benefit Men

NEW YORK CITY - The vaccine for the human papillomavirus could help prevent not only cervical cancer, but also anal cancer, reports The New York Times on advocate.com. Both cancers are caused by the same strains of HPV.

Anal cancer is most common in men who have histories of receptive anal intercourse, but it can affect anyone. There is an annual rate of about 35 cases per 100,000, but that figure nearly doubles for those living with HIV. "The cervix is similar biologically to the anus, so there's plenty of hope that it will work there also," Joel Palefsky, a professor of

medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, told the Times.

The vaccine became available last summer after the Food and Drug Administration approved it for girls and women from ages 9 to 26. Studies showed that the vaccine is highly effective against four of the dozens of HPV strains, including the ones responsible for most cases of genital and anal warts, and cervical and anal cancer. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States, infecting 6.2 million people every year. The rate of anal cancer for Gay men is

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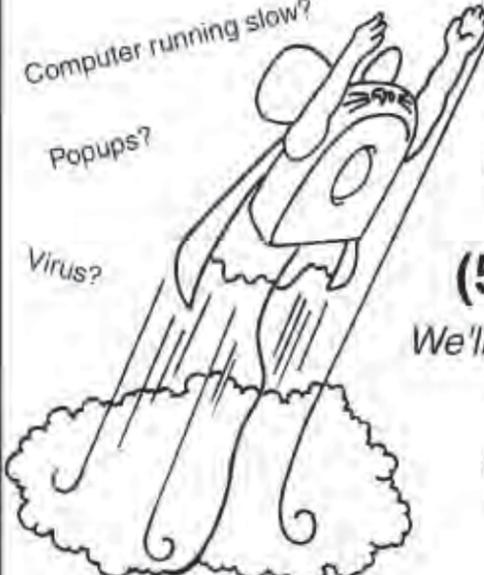
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similar to rates of cervical cancer before the use of the Pap smear, a test used to detect precancerous cells. Many Gay men are unaware that they have an increased risk of anal cancer. Pharmaceutical giant Merck has made a vaccine called Gardasil that has

been approved by regulators in Australia and the European Union for boys ages 9-15. Data shows it caused an immune response in boys, but its ability to prevent infection in sexually active men has not been demonstrated.