



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Religious Beliefs At Center Of G/L Fight

TUCSON - The government hands out marriage licenses, but it's religion that is fueling opposition to same-sex marriage both nationally and locally, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Whether it's political lobbying by the Arizona-based Christian Alliance Defense Fund or religious teachings against homosexuality that are affecting public opinion, faith groups are influencing the ongoing debate over marriage.

Take Betty Bitgood, who chairs the Hope of Glory Ministries, a Tucson Christian group that aids the homeless. Bitgood, 67, says biblical Scripture is the basis of her political opposition to same-sex marriage.

"The Bible is very specific about that. Having sexual relations with a person of the same sex, it's a sin," said Bitgood, who attends Faith Community Church, 2551 W. Orange Grove Road.

Lending weight to those opposed to homosexual marriage, a majority of organized faith groups both locally and nationally still prohibit clergy from performing commitment ceremonies between two people of the same sex. Gays and Lesbians who want to have a traditional church wedding very often are not allowed.

"They believe marriage is only successful between a man and a woman, which is ridiculous," said Bertie Lozano, 46, who would have loved to have a Catholic Church wedding when she and her female partner of 10 years, also Catholic, signed Tucson's domestic partner registry in December. Instead, the couple went out to dinner to celebrate.

Many Christians like Patti Lien, a retired teacher who lives in Oro Valley and attends Community of Hope Lutheran Church, 3141 W. Ironwood Hills Drive, believe marriage should be limited to unions between a man and a woman.

"It goes back thousands of years," Lien said. "Our laws come from Judeo-Christian tradition."

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, the spiritual leader for some 350,000 Roman Catholics in Southern Arizona, says that Gay marriage is being miscast as a social justice issue.

Marriage, he said, is a "unique relationship established by God."

"It's a particular bond and commitment that's very fundamental to society," Kicanas said. "Marriage, not only by Christian belief, but by natural law, is limited to the special relationship between a man and a woman."

Such arguments may pass muster in the religious arena, but religion can't make civil law, says Ronald Bogard, a Tucson attorney who works on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues as a board member with the Arizona Human Rights Fund.

"This is a democracy, not a theocracy," said Bogard, adding he has never heard a persuasive legal argument against same-sex marriage. "You always get the religious argument, framed in Judeo-Christian tradition, talking about natural law and procreation, and what is the legal basis for that?" he asked. "Churches may be trying to influence public

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

Observer Archive Project Continues

TUCSON - More than \$500 has been raised so far for the Observer Archive Project, organizers said.

All proceeds from this effort will go for the creation of the Observer Archive at the Arizona State Library for all to see and view.

Over the past 28 years, The Observer has, week after week, observed, documented and advertised functions, activities and celebrations for all of us - individuals and groups - in the GLBT community. The Observer is the record of the history of GLBT Tucson. It is time to preserve this history somewhere other than on paper, and to preserve it so that anyone can retrieve it.

The Arizona State Library System has offered to archive our history, on-line, where anyone will be able to access any part of it, at any time. But this project does not come without cost. It will cost between \$3500 and \$5000 to create these archives.

The Observer Archive Project is requesting that you, your group or organization become an "archive supporter" by contributing any amount that is comfortable for you. No contribution is too small. Please help preserve the history of GLBT Tucson, and give that gift to all those who come after, by making a donation to this cause now. Please make checks payable to: The Observer Archive Project, PO Box 5002, Tucson, Arizona 85703.

There will be a fundraiser at IBT's on April 10 at 7:30 p.m., presenting "The Norman Tabernacle Choir: Show of Shows," an upbeat and fun evening of entertainment. The goal for that night is to raise as much as \$2000 toward this ongoing, historically important project. All "archive supporters" will be announced at this event.

Reports Of Anti-GLBT Violence Increase

WASHINGTON - Incidents of anti-Gay hate violence rose 24 percent in the last six months of 2003, following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down sodomy laws, according to data released this week by a national anti-violence project.

The data is "clear evidence of the backlash" against GLBT people as a result of heightened media attention following the Supreme Court decision and the controversy over same-sex marriage, according to a press release by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NCAVP), which tracks anti-Gay hate violence.

In some areas, the number of attacks rose even more dramatically, when compared with data from a year earlier. Incidents increased by 133 percent in Colorado, 120 percent in Chicago and 43 percent in New York. In San Francisco, which became ground zero in the struggle over same-sex marriage rights in February, incidents in the last half of 2003 rose 14 percent.

"This is a stunning increase," Denise de Percin, director of the Colorado Anti-Violence Program, told the Rocky Mountain News. "The polarized daily coverage of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues has raised the profile of our community and galvanized into action the people who hate us."

Given the current climate of scapegoating Gays and Lesbians, some people turn words of hate into action, said Jennifer Rakowski, associate director of San Francisco's Community United Against Violence. That action includes anti-Gay protests and signs, lawsuits to rescind marriage rights, political lobbying to pass anti-Gay legislation, and physical violence, she said.

The backlash shows no signs of abating. Rakowski told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that when she and her partner got married at City Hall in San Francisco on March 9, a protester held up a sign that said, "Gross."

In Multnomah County, Ore., which grants marriage rights to same-sex couples, county commissioners have reported receiving death threats. "I hope your whole family is killed. I hope with all my heart that you're gunned down and killed," said one caller in a phone message to commissioners.

On Saturday the only Gay bar in Newport, R.I., called Castaways, was vandalized by a man who smashed in the bar's windows with a baseball bat while yelling anti-Gay epithets.

"You can't pass this off as a random act of vandalism," Castaways' owner Lionel Pires told the Newport News.

"We were singled out, terrorized."

"Historically, at points in which we move forward toward civil rights and there is this broad, divisive public debate about Gay and Lesbian issues, it can lead to incidents like these," Rakowski said. "Some people take the words they hear about us and see them as a license to act out with violence."

NACVP plans to release a full report about 2003 incidents of anti-Gay violence in April.

GLBT Federal Workers Lose Job Protections

WASHINGTON - Gay and Lesbians in the entire federal workforce have had their job protections officially removed by the office of Special Counsel, 365Gay.com reported.

The new Special Counsel, Scott Bloch, says his interpretation of a 1978 law intended to protect employees and job applicants from adverse personnel actions is that Gay and Lesbian workers are not covered.

Bloch said that the while a Gay employee would have no recourse for being fired or demoted for being Gay, that same worker could not be fired for attending a Gay Pride event.

In his interpretation, Bloch is making a distinction between one's conduct as a Gay or Lesbian and one's status as a Gay or Lesbian.

"People confuse conduct and sexual orientation as the same thing, and I don't think they are," Bloch said in an interview with Federal Times, a publication for government employees.

Bloch said Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals cannot be covered as a protected class because they are not protected under the nation's civil rights laws.

"When you're interpreting a statute, you have to be very careful to interpret strictly according to how it's written and not get into loose interpretations," Bloch said. "Someone may have jumped to the conclusion that conduct equals sexual orientation, but they are essentially very different. One is a class... and one is behavior."

It is the first time that Bloch has explained his position on the issue of Gay workers despite pressure from unions and Federal Globe an organization that represents LGBT government workers after the OSC began removing references to sexual orientation-based discrimination from its complaint form, the OSC basic brochure, training slides and a two-page

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIFTEEN

UPDATE

Accused Walsted Murderer In Neo-Nazi Probe

TUCSON - Using sign language and notes written in German, five self-proclaimed white supremacists at the Pima County jail conspired to assault corrections officers and other inmates in an attempt to take over the jail, officials charged Wednesday March 18, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

Each inmate is charged with two counts of participating in a criminal syndicate, four counts of assisting a criminal syndicate and five counts of threats and intimidation to promote a criminal syndicate. Three of them are state prisoners transferred to the jail for court dates and appear to have brought a prison-gang influence to the jail, Capt. Greg Gearhart, Special Operations Commander said.

One of the five is David Higdon, 22 - who is in jail on first-degree murder and robbery charges in the June 2002 beating death of Philip Walsted, a 24-year-old Gay man - is one of five self-proclaimed white supremacists at the Pima County jail who conspired to assault corrections officers and other inmates in an attempt to take over the jail, officials charged, reported the Arizona Daily Star, March 18.

Higdon will stand trial in June for the murder of Philip Walsted.

Desert Voices Concert & Auction April 3

TUCSON - Come (Out!) As You Are, Desert Voices Annual Spring Choral Cabaret and Silent Auction, takes place on Saturday, April 3, at The Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th Avenue. Desert Voices, known for their queer (you know...funny!) looks at life through song, will be exploring Coming Out, a rite of passage unique to the GLBT community.

Starting with childhood, then exploring the dreams and wishes that blossomed in teen years and finishing with

a tribute to the beautiful, strong, men and women of the GLBT community today, the show will keep you laughing and sometimes keep you guessing. Director Chris Tackett adeptly uses soloists, small groups and the entire chorus throughout the show to set different moods and scenes and tell the tale of coming out.

A wide variety of musical styles and songs have been chosen for the show; everything from Barbershop to Opera to Do-Wop, snappy songs about Bisexuals, simple camp tunes that have been "Camped Up" by the group and a Sweet Honey In the Rock tune. As a special treat, local singer and songwriter, and Desert Voices accompanist, Namoli Brennet, will perform her marvelous song, "Boy In A Dress", from the CD by the same name. Songs are interwoven with some of the tales of the group's own coming out experiences.

And if that wasn't enough, there's also a silent auction going on before and during the two intermissions of the show. The auction tables are as diverse and unique as the group itself. The list of items includes glass bowls, ceramic plates, a night on Kitt Peak, a night on the town, spa treatments, toy trains, music, symphony tickets and much, much more. Beverages, sweets and treats will be provided to auction browsers courtesy of IBT's, Something Sweet Dessert Lounge, Bentley's and Delectables.

For a complete list of auction items, or more information about this event, please go to the Desert Voices website. Tickets are \$15 (no discounts due to limited seating) and available at Antigone Books, 411 N 4th Ave, Desert Pride, 611 N. 4th Ave, or by calling (520)791-9662. The performance will be sign-language interpreted.

Reveille Rummage Sale April 17

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus (RGMC) wants to go through your closets, for their upcoming Rummage Sale.

Proceeds from this sale, to take place on Saturday, April 17, 7 a.m. to 3

IN MEMORIAM



JOSEPH YURKOVICH

Joseph, a.k.a. Knothole Joe, was found dead in his home on March 15.

Joe is survived by: his mother, Mrs. Joseph Yankovich; siblings Phyllis Abbott, Nonda Sherbo, Frank Yankovich, Kathy McClain, Mary Alice Logan and John Yurkovich.

Donations in lieu of flowers are being accepted at TIHAN, 492 N. Alvernon, Tucson, AZ 85711. (520) 299-6647.

p.m., in the parking lot of the Rincon Congregational Church, 122 N. Craycroft, will go towards RGMC's upcoming concert tour, their soon-to-be-released CD and a host of other projects the group has planned.

To donate an item, or for more information, call (520) 617-3100.

Lutherans Concerned Video On Access Tucson

TUCSON - The Tucson Chapter of Lutherans Concerned announced that ACCESS Tucson will be airing a video, "What Do You Say When Someone You Love Says: I am Gay?"

This 22-minute video, produced by the North America chapter of the organization features Bishop Paul Egerston, along with his wife Shirley, reveals their journey that they have taken to understand what it means to have a Gay son. ACCESS Tucson will air this video on Friday, March 26, April 2 and 9 at 7:00 p.m., and Tuesday, March 30, April 6 and 13, 1:00 p.m.

Lutherans Concerned is a ministry for persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations since 1974.

China Recognizes Transsexual's Marriage

BEIJING - In a first for China, a transsexual received a marriage certificate on Monday, March 15, reported Gay.com UK.

Zhang Lin, from Peng Township, Shuangliu County in Southwest China's Sichuan Province, obtained the certificate after being officially recognized by the state with a new ID card.

This was the first marriage certificate issued to a transsexual in China, the Yangcheng Evening News reported.

Zhang Lin, 37, and her husband, Yang Qicheng, planned to hold a marriage ceremony on May 1 with 500 guests.

Zhang had married a woman before her sex reassignment surgery and has a 12-year-old daughter from that marriage.



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COMMENTARY

By Rosie Jones

First, A Word About Me And My Sponsor.

When I tee off at the L.P.G.A. Tour's first major of the season, the Kraft Nabisco Championship in Rancho Mirage, Calif, I'll be wearing a new sponsor's logo on my hat and shirt. This is hardly news in the world of sports, where sponsorships and logos are entrenched in the profession, but I'm pretty sure my circumstances will generate some clubhouse chatter.

You see, my sponsor, Olivia, is one of the world's largest and most respected companies catering to Lesbian travelers, and this represents the first time a company like this has sponsored a professional athlete — a Gay professional athlete.

Before they signed me I was a passenger on an Olivia cruise, and over time I developed a relationship with the owners. When they came to me a few weeks ago with this wild idea, I took it seriously.

What professional athletes wouldn't want a lucrative relationship with a company they believed in — particularly one with a complementary social mission? I was not so naive as to think that this was the only factor in my decision-making process.

Inherent in this sponsorship is my coming out. It's a bit of a curiosity, because I've never been in the closet. For more than 25 years, I've been very comfortable with the fact that I'm Gay. I came out to my family when I was 19, and my friends and associates on the Tour are all aware that I

am Gay. I have never, until now, felt the need to discuss it in the news media. I have reached a point in my life, at age 44, when I have the financial stability and emotional and intellectual wherewithal to make this leap.

I know that coming out in today's politically supercharged environment surrounding Gay issues has the potential to spin into something I do not intend.

I have strong feelings about Gay and Lesbian rights: I vote; I have my beliefs. I support causes and I support people, Gay and straight, who have inspired me through the years. But first and foremost, I am a proud and blessed member of the L.P.G.A. and a professional athlete, not an activist.

One thing I love about golf is that it brings people together. A 250-yard drive down the middle of the fairway or a long putt for birdie doesn't have a political party, a race or a sexual orientation. For that moment, everything comes down to simple athletic ability, physics and the love of the game.

I've played and loved golf for more than three decades, and I've been in the L.P.G.A. for more than 20 years. It has given me a wonderful living and a demanding but stimulating schedule. I've had the opportunity to meet many remarkable people associated with golf.

I've talked to many of them about

this opportunity over the last couple of weeks. I called family, friends, other players, business associates, mentors and L.P.G.A. staff members. Clearly it was not a decision I took lightly. To my delight, they all made it clear that they thought this was a great opportunity, and they encouraged me to go for it.

Many of them reminded me that times have changed. I wouldn't have this opportunity as an athlete and our society wouldn't be as liberated as it is if it weren't for all the professional athletes and so many others who have had the courage to come out of the closet. It certainly made my decision easier knowing that others had gone down this road before me. And all of their lives have been enriched as a result.

It is tremendously important that I consider my fans and how they may respond to this new chapter in my life. The support and the loyalty of my fans far exceeds anything I might have earned on the course. I count this as one of the true blessings in my life. The last thing I want to do is upset this balance.

Although I am proud of my 13 championships and know that I have a tremendously competitive spirit that keeps me in the running most of the time, this decision involves exposing those fans to a new facet of my life. That can be daunting.

As any Gay person can tell you, coming out involves making yourself incredibly vulnerable. Every Gay person

knows other Gay people who have been rejected by family or friends. It seems that the relationships that remain are inevitably stronger and more open as a result. I'm optimistic that my fans will see me as the same competitive, hard-working Rosie I've always been and respect this new aspect of my life as I respect their diversity.

I'm sure some people will criticize me for coming out so late. To them, I say simply, I wasn't ready until now. If the Gay-rights movement is about anything, it should be about letting people come out on their own timetable and on their own terms.

I'm sure others will criticize me for coming out at all. I remind them that I'm the same person I was yesterday. This is just about me being myself, publicly. It is only one facet of a very diverse life. If they look around them, they will understand that society has evolved to the point where this is the right decision. For me.

To the rest of you, I say: "Fine, I'm Gay. Now let's go play golf."

[Rosie Jones, one of the best putters on the L.P.G.A. Tour, has 13 career victories. This article is reprinted from the March 21, 2004 edition of the New York Times.]



FRIDAY MARCH 26TH • 6-9PM

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SUNDAY APRIL 11TH - IBT'S EASTER PARTY FEATURING THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Thanks to all who helped make our TOGA Party such a success. Out of the ten contestants who entered, here are the three winners:
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Come on and Howl On Karaoke Tuesday



Majority of Arizonans Oppose G/L Marriage Amendment

PHOENIX - Most Arizonans may not want Gays to marry. But a new statewide survey says a majority oppose efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution to make it illegal, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

Gay marriages than they were a year ago.

For example, 34 percent of those asked said they favor same-sex marriages. But when the Social Research Laboratory at NAU asked the same question a year earlier, 42 percent supported the unions.

The Northern Arizona University poll released Thursday, March 18, also indicates increasing support for what might be considered alternatives to Gay marriage. These include "civil unions" as well as allowing same-sex couples to share health insurance from one partner's job and receive the other's Social Security benefits when the partner dies.

The showing that fewer than half of those asked want to change the U.S. Constitution is not deterring Sen. Mark Anderson, R-Mesa, sponsor of one of two measures asking Congress for such a change. Anderson said he believes opinions will change as there are more moves to permit Gays to marry.

But the survey of 410 Arizonans, done in late February and early March, also shows that a plurality of those asked do not believe that if someone marries a same-sex partner elsewhere, such as Massachusetts, that their union should be recognized here.

Sen. Ken Chevront, D-Phoenix, a foe of the constitutional amendment, said the decline in support for Gay marriage is not a surprise. He said news events have resulted in a barrage of attacks from conservatives that are bound to have an effect on public opinion.

The poll also suggests that Arizonans appear to be less accepting of

Protest Of Ex-Gay Conference Planned

TUCSON - On Saturday, March 27 a day-long conference called "More Than Words: Walking People Out of Homosexuality" will be held at the First Southern Baptist Church in Tucson.

dangers of boys who play with dolls; will speciously link homosexuality and pedophilia, as well as childhood experiences of domestic violence or sexual abuse as a "cause" for homosexuality.

"Make no mistake--the conference goals are to 'prevent,' 'treat,' and 'cure' Gay and Lesbian people. Though the language has become more sophisticated than "God Hates Fags," the tactic is still the same--exploiting the Bible to justify persecution of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people," stated Cathy Busha, Director of Programs at Wingspan, Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center. "Indeed, these inflammatory messages are 'more than words'--these words create a climate that fosters anti-LGBT discrimination and violence."

Protest organizers are asking the community to join them from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 27 at the First Southern Baptist Church (445 E Speedway, corner of Speedway and 4th Ave) in Tucson, for a peaceful, silent action against the day-long conference called "More Than Words: Walking People Out of Homosexuality." Protestors, organizers said, will peacefully line the public sidewalk along Speedway Avenue--outside of church property--holding LGBT-affirming signs. Our goal is to have a visible, positive, silent presence of LGBT and allied people who do not want to change themselves, but instead transform society.

The Arizona Freedom to Marry Task Force (a program of the Arizona Human Rights Fund in collaboration with Wingspan) is planning a peaceful, silent action the morning of the conference.

You can drop by Wingspan (300 E. 6th St) between Monday, March 22 to Friday, March 26 (Wingspan open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.) to make a sign. We will provide the supplies and sign slogan ideas. If you are unable to attend the action but would like to help, please drop off white poster board at Wingspan that will be used for sign-making.

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XOXO

San Francisco Same-Sex Marriage Stats Released

SAN FRANCISCO - They traveled from 45 states and eight foreign countries. However, the overwhelming majority of the 4,037 same-sex couples who obtained marriage licenses in San Francisco before the California supreme court shut down the city's Gay wedding march didn't need to cross state lines, according to an analysis released on Wednesday, March 17, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

The research by county assessor Mabel Teng's office also showed that 91.4% of the couples came from California. "It confirms to us that California benefited the most from the service we provided," said Teng, who personally officiated at the nuptials of more than 300 couples and whose office records marriages. Eighty-two couples who took out licenses either chose not to go through with their weddings or did not return to City Hall in time to register their licenses, a critical final step, Teng said. That brings the total number of known couples who completed the process before the court intervened down to 3,955.

The analysis was based on the limited biographical information couples provided when they applied for their marriage licenses. One of the more interesting findings was that more Lesbians tied the knot than Gay men; of the 4,037 licenses issued, 2,311, or 57%, were granted to women, authorities concluded by reviewing the first names of the applicants. While the vast majority, or 3,690, of the same-sex couples who obtained licenses in

San Francisco were California residents, people from Washington State and Oregon, which each sent 32 couples to San Francisco, were the next most-represented among those who sought to get married after the city began issuing licenses to same-sex couples on February 12. The states of Nevada, New York, and Florida, respectively, had 24, 20, and 16 couples who got hitched before the high court handed down its injunction on March 11. Couples from Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and Thailand accounted for the 17 licenses requested by residents of foreign nations.

More than half of the brides and grooms, or 55.4%, were between the ages of 36 and 50, while 25.8% were in the 18-35 age group, and another 17.4% were in the 51-65 age group. During the four weeks San Francisco officials spent challenging California's ban on same-sex marriage by actively sanctioning such unions, 103 opposite-sex couples also received marriage licenses, county clerk Nancy Alfaro said. At least 3,300 same-sex couples had booked appointments for marriage licenses that had to be canceled after the court ordered San Francisco to stop. The couples were all notified by e-mail or telephone that they would have to book another slot if and when officials get the green light to resume; justices have said they will hold a hearing in May or June on whether the mayor had the authority to issue his directive in contravention of state law.

Parents Fuming Over Book About Two Princes

WILMINGTON - The parents of a North Carolina first-grader are fuming over a book their daughter brought home from the school library: a children's story about a prince whose true love turns out to be another prince.

Michael Hartsell said he and his wife, Tonya, couldn't believe it when Prince Bertie, the leading character in King & King, waves off a bevy of eligible princesses before falling for Prince Lee. The book ends with the princes marrying and sharing a kiss. "I was flabbergasted," Hartsell said. "My child is not old enough to understand something like that, especially when it is not in our beliefs."

The 32-page book by Linda De Haan and Stern Nijland was published in March 2002 by Tricycle Press, the children's division of Ten Speed Press of Berkeley, Calif. A follow-up, King & King & Family, was recently published. The publisher's Web site lists the books as intended for readers ages 6 and up. Barbara Hawley, librarian and media coordinator at Freeman Elementary School, said the book has been on the library's shelves since early last year. "What might be inappropriate for one family, in another family is a totally acceptable thing," said Elizabeth Miars, Freeman's principal. Hawley said she couldn't comment on the book because she hadn't seen it. She declined to say whether she knowingly selected a book on Gay marriage.

The Hartsells said they are keeping the book until they get assurances it won't be circulated. But Hawley said all county schools have a committee that reviews books after their appropriateness is questioned, and the Hartsells must make a written complaint and return the book for review. The Hartsells said they intend to

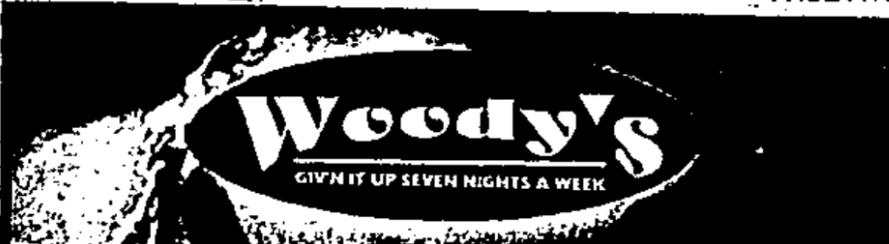
file such a complaint and are considering transferring their daughter to another school.

Lesbian Army Veteran Rejected For VA Home Loan

RACINE - She can serve her country, but she can't get a loan with her Lesbian partner. That news has upset Marilyn Riedel, 61, a disabled Army veteran in Racine, Wis., enough to go public after she and her partner were rejected for a home loan by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

As the Gay marriage debate rages nationwide and in Wisconsin, Riedel said she is hurt that she can't get a loan with her partner of more than eight years, Connie Guardino, 58. "It's a nonviolent revolution that's going on," Riedel said. The former Army captain is classified as 100% disabled and has trouble moving, drinking, and eating. It's difficult for her to talk because her worsening Parkinson's disease makes her tongue quiver. When she was a captain in the 1960s, 130 soldiers served under her as they helped operate a communications center near Camp David. But she said she struggled to hide her sexual orientation.

Now she is relieved to have someone to look after her, but she wishes she could qualify for a low-interest veterans loan. Her income is too low to qualify on her own, and the state won't allow anyone but a spouse to be a coapplicant. "A spouse is an individual who enters a valid marriage contract. Unless the law is changed, there is no way that we can change that," said Andrew Schuster, spokesman for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. "We go directly by the statutes. We don't have any authority to vary that."



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Pulse Is Up And Running

By Jerry Diaz

Those of you whose curiosity has been raised just a little by the ads and posters seen throughout the GLBT community do not have to wait any more!

Wingspan, in cooperation with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAD), is pleased to bring you Pulse. Our launch began with a media campaign to get you interested, so now its time to let you all know the details.

Gay Men's Health Project (GMHP) a few months ago launched the event known as "Anthem". Pulse is taking the progress of that event and are now going clubbing to reach those who partake in Southern Arizona's largest growing party population.

Within the groups of those who partake in the nightly bar hopping and dancing ritual, are those who want just a little more. They go to events like raves, after hour parties and dance the night away to the hottest sounds of Techno and House music's local DJs.

Along with that lifestyle, come the substances that are sometimes used to enhance the moment, and the contact with others that it usually brings. This is where Pulse comes into play at its most beneficial.

The new club participant has a larger menu of substances to choose from, but most party goers usually stick to a small group including Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine, Poppers, and Cocaine. Though most have been around for some time, they seem to be more and more popular with the crowds on the dance floors of after-hours parties.

The scale of dangers associated with the use of these substances is as wide as the choices. Aside from the legal ramifications, the health risks can be just as deadly as any court appointed sentence. Within the GLBT community, we also have the HIV positive population to consider when dealing with these dangers.

Pulse is on the scene, hosting events, recruiting community leaders and holding forums to educate and assist those who are involved in the club scene and have been introduced to those substances. Our goal is not so much abstinence, as it is options, and with it a good time can still be had by all involved.

You will notice the Pulse team at local establishments, partying with those who frequent the club scene. Events will be posted in local newspapers, we even have our own website: www.pulsetucson.org which will keep you updated with the latest party information also including drug interactions with club drugs and HIV medications, as well as what happens when you mix other drugs with each other.

The overall goal of Pulse is simply to bring to the GLBT community an avenue of education and intervention for the newly born club scene, thus keeping cases in health and law enforcement down within that segment of the community.

So take time to say hi when you see one of us at the club, and if you have any questions, visit the website and feel free to ask whatever is on your mind. We hope to make this new project a staple within the community and assist other agencies to launch similar programs everywhere.

Tennessee County Overturns Ban On Homosexuals

CHATTANOOGA - After nationwide public outcry, the Tennessee county known for the 1925 Scopes "Monkey Trial" reversed its efforts to ban homosexuality on Thursday, March 18, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

Two days earlier, Rhea County commissioners had voted 8-0 to request an amendment to Tennessee's criminal code so homosexuals could be charged with crimes against nature.

What followed was a "wildfire" reaction, according to Rhea County Attorney Gary Fritts. "I've never seen nothing like this," he told the Associated Press (AP).

The indignation was palpable in a letter to the editor published Wednesday in a local newspaper, The Chattanooga.

"What an embarrassment to watch on CNN the twang-talking, tobacco-spitting, Bible-desecrating, hate crime offenders prance their medieval age beliefs, leaving the rest of the world confirmed on previous assumptions of what an often backwoods, cow-tipping, discriminating state Tennessee is said to be," wrote Lucy Bach of Chattanooga.

Rhea County commissioners met again on Thursday night, taking three minutes to overturn their controversial vote.

Fritts told reporters the commissioners were advised they could not ban homosexuals after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Texas' sodomy laws in 2003.

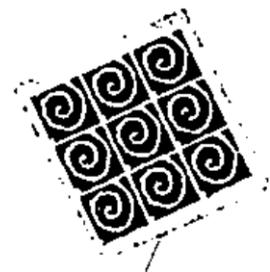
But Fritts described what happened as a misunderstanding. "[The county commissioners] wanted to send a message to our representative and senator that Rhea County supports the ban on same-sex marriage," he told the AP.

The county's conservative reputation is rooted as far back as 1925, when a court in Rhea County famously convicted high school teacher John T. Scopes for teaching evolution. A higher court reversed the verdict on a technicality, and the trial became the subject of the play and movie "Inherit the Wind."

But that conservatism may one day be just a part of history, according to Matt Nevels, president of the Chattanooga chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"What the county commissioners did has opened up a conversation and has gotten people to talk about it. Some Gay people in Rhea County came out. And because of that, there's a possibility we maybe able to open a PFLAG chapter in Rhea County and change some minds," Nevels told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

"You get lemons," Nevels added, "and you make lemonade."



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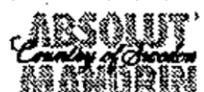
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POLITICS 2004

by Mark R. Kerr

'Unequal Justice Under The Law'

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity..." is the beginning of the preamble to the Constitution of the United States (U.S.) of America, something the Republican Party doesn't believe or support, as well as several constitutional amendments, in lieu of their actions again Monday, March 22.

invalidate laws and policies dealing with issues such as discrimination and adoption/parenting rights to name two of the many that have been achieved through the only avenue Gays and Lesbians really have in this country, the judicial branch, and everything possible must be done to protect those rights stated in the U.S. Constitution so that "equal justice under the law", as stated on the front of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington D.C., remains such.

ASU To Extend Anti-Discrimination Policy

During a press conference on March 22, Colorado Senator Wayne Allard (Rep.), and Marilyn Musgrave, a Republican Member of the U.S. House from Colorado announced that they had drafted new "softer" language for their proposed Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA).

TEMPE - Arizona State University President Michael Crow, March 18, approved proposed revisions to the university's nondiscrimination policy that add protections to the campus' Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and intersex community.

Congressional Republicans expressed their support, a hearing was held March 23 by Texas Republican Senator John Cornyn while Democrats stated their opposition to the amendment, to the hearings and same-sex marriage.

In an afternoon meeting with Provost Milton Glick, Dr. Crow signed off on the proposal to add "gender identity" to the policy with the following definition: "Refers to an individual's personal sense of masculinity or femininity, includes external characteristics and behaviors such as dress, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions." The policy goes into effect immediately, and covers employment issues and student services.

In a statement, Cheryl Jacques, President and Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign summed the situation up best, "This is an attempt to change the Constitution from a vessel for freedom to a tool of discrimination. For more than 200 years, the Constitution has been amended to expand individual rights, not restrict them. No matter how you word it, this amendment discriminates against millions of Americans."

By approving the amendment to the policy, Arizona State University became the fourth public university in the nation to offer such protections, according to information from Gender Public Advocacy Coalition and the Transgender Law & Policy Institute. It is the 12th university, public or private, to offer protections based on both gender identity and gender expression.

So for this upcoming November, federal election, vote Republican and get "unequal justice under the law," since the FMA would invalidate the Massachusetts marriage case, as well as the the Vermont court case that created "Civil Unions," and would deny Gays and Lesbians their First and Ninth Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution.

"I am thrilled that President Crow has taken this important step to ensure that ASU has an all-inclusive campus climate," said Sam Holdren, facilitator for the campus' LGBTQ Coalition. "Now, students, staff and faculty can feel more secure in their work, classroom, living and social environments on campus, regardless of their gender identity or gender expression."

"Congress shall make no law abridging the right of the people to petition the Government for a redress of grievances," states the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The LGBTQ Coalition is a student umbrella organization serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, queer and ally community on campus. Currently, nine independent student organizations create the voting membership of the coalition. The coalition is housed under the Multicultural Student Center, along with five other coalitions: American Indian Council, Black and African Coalition, El Concilio, Asian/Asian Pacific American Student Coalition, and Women's Coalition.

"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights," the Ninth Amendment begins, "shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

This nation's government, as well as the governments of the 50 states and territories that comprise this country are made up of three branches, the executive, legislative and judicial and if the FMA is adopted, Gays and Lesbians would be denied access through the judicial branch of government and could be interpreted to

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The Sun wends into robust Aries and makes a sterling aspect to rowdy Mars. Prepare for an intensity of purpose, a sense of control and a yearning for accomplishment. We are infused with spit and fire. Just avoid light sockets.

ARIES

MARCH 21 - APRIL 20

How hot is hot? Proud Rams singe the scenery when the Sun catapults you into center stage. You have oodles of confidence and are poised to make a fabulous first impression. It is time to begin new projects and become the master of your domain. And, when Mars moves into position, your every sentence is charged with authority and energy. Is that a gust of hot air or a tornado??

TAURUS

APRIL 21 - MAY 21

Queer Bulls can adjust their turban and funnel all intuitive thoughts into action when the Sun enters Aries. The next four weeks can bring a series of interesting revelations if you listen to your inner voice. Go with the cosmic

HOROSCOPES
© 2004 Madam Lichtenstein

flow, Miss Cleo, especially when Mars ratchets up some impressive potential income from all this psychic stuff. Buddy can you spare a divine?

GEMINI

MAY 22 - JUNE 21

Sun in Aries stokes friendships and increases the potential for valuable social connections. This is no time to be shy, pink Twin. If you have been ambivalent about joining a particularly selective group, Mars and the Sun give you a benevolent push to become part of their inner sanctum. You may even find yourself creating the group dynamic. Show 'em how it's done baby!

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23

Professional aspirations get a welcomed jolt from Sun in Aries. Gay Crabs feel the urge to stir up issues with authority figures but

consider a modification of this aggressive strategy. Mars sez plot and plan before you pounce. You can get your way without being obviously pushy. The subtle approach will be a far more effective way of getting the extreme results you seek.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23

Proud Lions are more comfortable bossing folks around while in the comfort of familiar surroundings but now the planets send you packing. The Sun in pioneering Aries sends you boldly forth to explore and experience. Hit the road. Study, travel and adopt a global cause. You have nothing to lose except your myopic self absorption and a duffel bag of yesterday's ideas.

VIRGO

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23

The heated Sun in Aries accelerates sex

into overdrive so expect a drag race of love. Physical intimacy is especially mind blowing (hey, whatever gets you going...). And where does all this action take place? Blame Mars if your corporate ascent is littered with the remains of your ill-advised conquests. My advice; destroy the love emails before they come back to haunt you.

LIBRA

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23

Gay Libras can strengthen partnerships when the intense Sun in Aries pushes their buttons. Delve into what will and will not make you happy in a relationship and see if who you have is who you want and who you deserve. If so, go for the gusto and show that special someone what special really means. If not, Mars plans a safari to bag the quarry of your choice. The hunt is on.

SCORPIO

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

It may not sound particularly exciting, but Sun in Aries makes your job seem almost exhilarating. Proud Scorps map out the perfect strategy that can launch any project in the right direction. But a word of warning cousin; take health and exercise regimes seriously. You want to be in tip top shape when sexy Mars tempts your sweet tooth. How much sugar can you eat, sugar?

SAGITTARIUS

NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22

Prepare for a rush of invitations dear queer Archer, the Sun in zesty Aries brings more action than your social calendar has seen in a while. The possibilities are endless. It is a time to see and be seen, especially when Mars enters flirtatious Gemini and makes you especially desirable and alluring. Oh hurry before the pink smoke clears and they see you in your old underwear.

CAPRICORN

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20

Mars increases the tension on the job and you may be worn down to a nubby stub trying to get everything done. If the Sun in Aries has its way, you will recharge by whiling away your precious weekends zoning out in front of the tube with a tub of popcorn. Resist the temptation and get a bit of action going by planning a few intimate get togethers through the month. Tub with a friend.

AQUARIUS

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19

Words pack a punch so let it all hang Out while Sun in Aries fans your flame. Aquarians possess sharp minds and now you are on point with some fabulous ideas. Spread your opinions around, pal. But before you slip your lip, Mars has some other plans. You can be easily tempted to squander your best ideas on questionable pastimes and trashy company. That is, if you are lucky!

PISCES

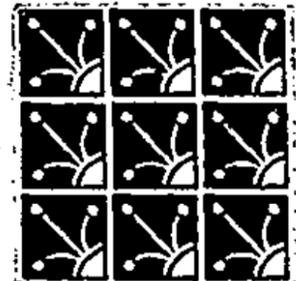
FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20

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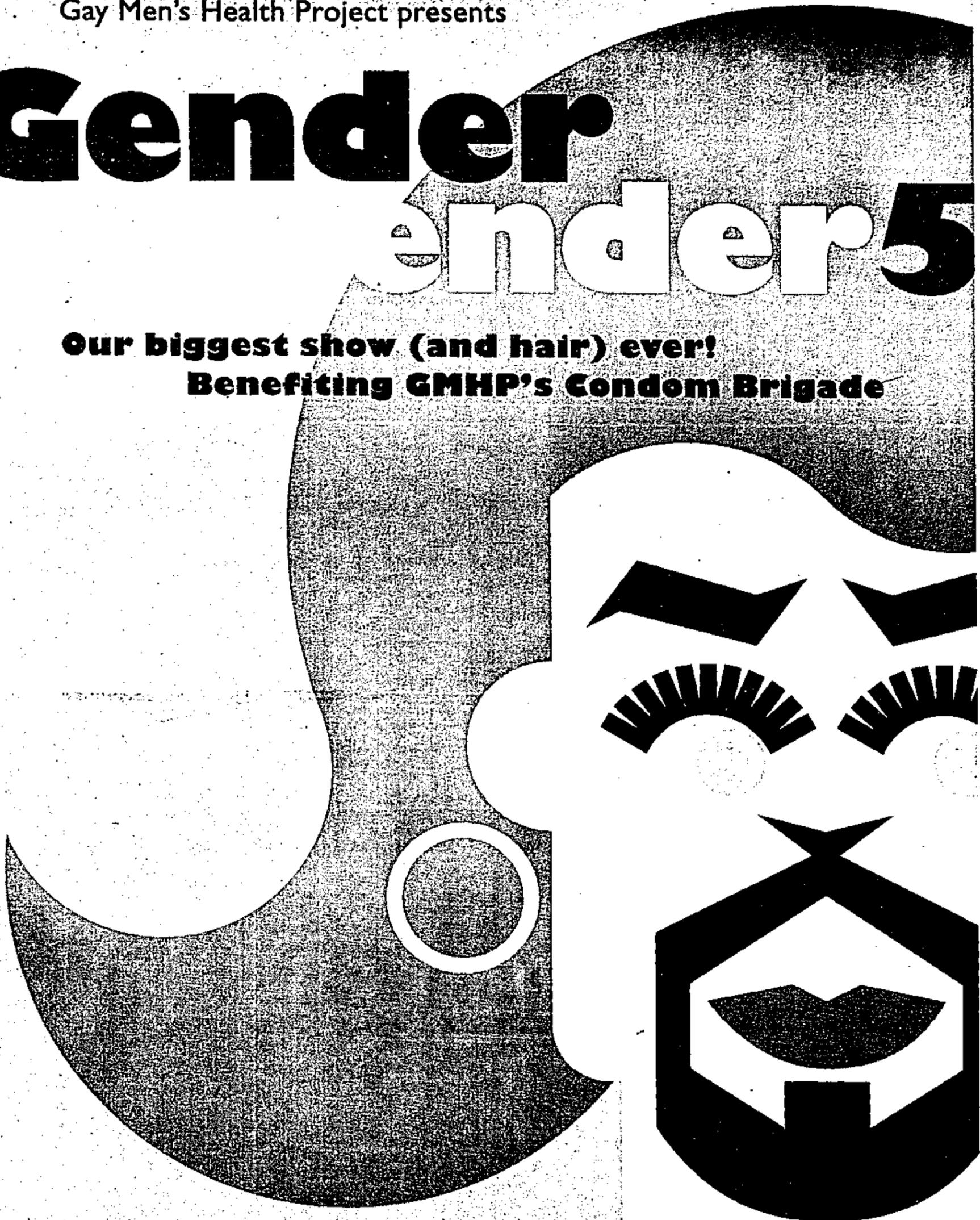
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Lesbian Pastor Acquitted By Methodist Jury

SEATTLE - The acquittal of a Lesbian United Methodist Church minister in Washington state heartened Gay rights advocates, but also raised concerns that it may galvanize anti-Gay factions within the denomination, only weeks ahead of the church's General Conference, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

On Saturday, March 20, a jury made up of United Methodist clergy found Rev. Karen Dammann did not violate church law.

Dammann, 47, is on leave as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Ellensburg, 95 miles east of Seattle. She had been put on trial because she chose not to hide her relationship with Meredith Savage, her partner of nine years.

The church's Book of Discipline bans ordaining "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals."

"We, the trial court, do not find the evidence presented by church counsel to be clear and convincing that Karen Dammann has engaged in any 'practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings,'" the 13-person jury said in a statement.

"We're ecstatic that the jury came to the right decision," said Laura Montgomery Rutt, spokesperson for Soulforce, an interfaith movement committed to ending religious policies and teachings that are biased against GLBT people.

Members of Soulforce demonstrated in support for Dammann when the trial began last week in Bothell, Wash. Dozens of them were arrested.

Although the Methodist's Book of Discipline states that "homosexuals are people of sacred worth," the church had

argued that it also "regards the practice of homosexuality as incompatible with Christian teachings."

Rutt told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network that this seemingly contradictory stance on homosexuality needs to be addressed within the United Methodist Church, the nation's third-largest denomination with 8.5 million U.S. members.

This issue is sure to come up at the church's General Conference, which begins April 27 in Pittsburgh. The conference, held once every four years, is the denomination's top lawmaking body.

Rutt predicted conservatives at the General Conference will be "up in arms" about the verdict.

Some conservative Methodists have already voiced their dismay.

"I believe the vast majority of United Methodists are in grief and shock today. I'm personally heartbroken," Patricia Miller told the Associated Press. Miller is executive director of the Confessing Movement, a conservative movement within the church that claims more than 600,000 members.

Other Christian denominations have clashed over homosexuality in recent years. When the Episcopal Church confirmed an openly Gay bishop last year, several conservative parishes threatened to break ties with the denomination.

Rutt said tolerant church members would defend the Dammann verdict at the General Conference, based on church principles.

"Jesus accepted the outcasts," she said, "and the GLBT community is definitely an outcast."

New Wording Proposed For FMA

WASHINGTON, DC - In an effort to get more support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, the bill's author and lead Senate sponsor introduced new language Monday, March 22, for the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) which, they say, allows for civil unions, reported the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com network.

a lobbyist for the ACLU.

Similarly, the new language would also affect the ruling in Massachusetts, where the state's highest court declared same-sex couples deserve the same rights as heterosexual married couples.

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, dismissed the new language in a prepared statement: "This is an attempt to change the Constitution from a vessel for freedom to a tool of discrimination."

Dave Noble, executive director for the National Stonewall Democrats, described the retooled FMA as "a pathetic and desperate attempt to find any language possible to pass this amendment."

"They ran into problems with their first language with people on the right and the left, and they're running into problems now," Noble told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

Democratic critics have already responded by seeking an indefinite delay in a hearing on the language set for Tuesday.

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero charged the bill's sponsors are "trying to figure out the most politically palatable way to write discrimination into the Constitution. There is no way to do so. You can't disguise discrimination. Their strategy has changed; their motives have not."

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

The latest version differs from the original by deleting the phrase, "nor state or federal law" in the second sentence.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo., first introduced the bill in the House last May; Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., is the bill's lead sponsor in the Senate.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the alteration allows civil unions passed by a state or federal lawmaking body to stand, but still imperils any attempt by the courts to have same-sex unions recognized.

So, paradoxically, the civil unions in Vermont would be legal, but the court decision that forced Vermont lawmakers to pass the unions in the first place would be invalidated, explained Christopher Anders,

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

by Lee Thorn

Gay Marriage

A straight friend called me a couple weeks ago to ask what I thought of Gay marriage. I told him I thought Gays should have equal rights with straights. He said, "Well, if you put it that way."

I do put it that way because talking about Gay marriage kind of sounds like the government can parcel out civil rights to us on an almost whimsical basis. If we're going to talk about Gay marriage, how about Gay freedom of speech, Gay freedom of association, Gay freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures?

In a country where middle-class retirees are dropping dead because they can't afford their prescription drugs, I'm surprised that the issue of Gay marriage is getting so much media play. And, for all the attention it does get, I'm doubly surprised that some salient aspects of the issue almost never get mentioned.

The civil union solution that's so highly touted by some straight people falls drastically short of providing the legal protections that marriage provides. The only way to close the enormous gap would be for the federal government to explicitly make civil union the legal equivalent of marriage in all jurisdictions.

The typical objections to Gay marriage are almost never challenged on their logic. They say that if you allow Gays to marry there will be no way from stopping incestuous marriages or group marriages. The underlying premise of this argument is, "Any change in an institution validates all subsequent changes in that institution." Making the underlying logic explicit is enough to reveal the absurdity of the position. At least I hope it is.

Another major objection, that Gay marriage would "weaken" the institution, is almost never pressed for specifics. Is some straight man going to tell his girlfriend, "I'd really like to marry you but, now that Gay people are being allowed to marry, the idea of a lifelong monogamous relationship between you and me just seems kind of pointless"?

A huge point that the civil union advocates seem to miss is that some Gay people who want to get married are religious people who are interested in marriage in part for its religious significance. That is to say that they want to make a deal with their partner and with God that commits them to a relationship not defined by convenience but designed "for better or worse unto death."

In all the mincing of fine legal arguments I've been hearing, I haven't heard the big fat obvious legal point: by denying the validity of Gay marriage the government is doing exactly what the Constitution's establishment clause forbids it from doing. Many mainstream denominations currently marry Gay people. Many others do not. If the government says that the marriages of denominations that don't marry Gay people are more valid than the marriages of denominations that do, the state is thereby establishing some denominations in a more favorable position than others.

The establishment of favored denominations is one of the things our Revolutionary War was fought to prevent. England has the Church of England. We're not supposed to have a privileged church or group of churches.

Then there's Gay people kissing each other on daytime television. I can remember when that was supposed to cause the collapse of the Republic. I've never seen so many Gay kisses on TV in broad daylight and it hasn't even caused a minor earthquake. Somebody's been lying to us!

And can I be the only one in the country who's noticed how well we clean up? I mean these Gay couples getting married look nice, not the least bit threatening. And they sound nice, especially when they're talking about love and commitment. When they're contrasted with the unkempt hatemongers waving their hate signs and foaming at the mouth, Gay people look better than ever.

To those who keep asking what the majority of Americans think about Gay marriage I'd point out that slavery wasn't ended in this country by a vote. Laws against inter-racial marriage weren't voted out either. Under our theory of government, human beings have rights just by virtue of their being human, rights that votes can't touch.

[Thorn welcomes comments, suggestions for future columns, and tips on local skulduggery that ought to be exposed. Write to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754.]

New Test Developed For Breast Cancer

PARIS - A new diagnostic tool for breast cancer that will allow doctors to look at the genetic makeup of tumors to personalize treatment could be available later this year, researchers said on Wednesday, March 17.

Alane Koki, chief scientific officer of the French biotechnology company Ipsogen, told a conference the test will provide genetic information about the tumor to help doctors select the best treatment for the patient. "Understanding differences in gene expression can help both patients and clinicians to decide what treatment would be most effective and appropriate with a personalized approach," Koki told the Fourth European Breast Cancer Conference.

The Breast Cancer Profile Chip uses microarray technology to look at the genetic signature of the tumor. Microarray enables scientists to analyze the expression of many genes at the same time. The technology has been used mainly in research, but Koki said the BCPC, which is being tested and should be ready by the summer, will be available to pathology laboratories. "The BCPC will simultaneously measure expression of more than 900 important genes to augment conventional methods to clinically assess breast cancer," said Koki. The company is also planning clinical trials of the test to determine how it can optimize the treatment of breast cancer, which accounts for about a quarter of all cancers in European women.

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Religious Beliefs At Center Of G/L Fight

Continued from Page One

opinion, but there is a Constitution and it is there to protect minorities."

Homosexual marriage is a divisive subject among United Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Episcopalians. United Methodist clergy who are caught performing same-sex commitment ceremonies currently face losing their ordination.

"Christians who may be open and accepting of Gays and Lesbians in the church don't feel comfortable taking the extra step with Gay marriage," said Tom Ford, president of the Tucson chapter of Lutherans Concerned, a group within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) that advocates for full inclusion of Gays and Lesbians. "I'd have to say for right now, for the vast majority of people within the church this is just a little bit too much for them. There are pockets of support, but it's not that widespread."

Local places of worship that do allow holy unions between same-sex partners report no surge in requests for same-sex ceremonies. The reasons, clergy say, are that some Gay and Lesbian couples are waiting until they have full legal rights to marry in Arizona. Others are opting for nonreligious weddings, and others are rejecting the institution of marriage altogether, though they do want equal civil benefits.

"The term 'marriage' has been misused and ill-defined through centuries. The Gay community does want equal rights, but not necessarily marriage in the traditional sense," said the Rev. Gale Rawson, pastor of the Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church, 3269 N. Mountain Ave., which reports a steady number of about 20 same-sex holy unions per year - a number Rawson does not expect will increase this year.

The Metropolitan Community Church denomination is a worldwide fellowship of Christian churches with special outreach to the Gay and Lesbian population.

When Tucson became the first Arizona city to open up a domestic partnership registry in December, 75 same-sex couples flocked to City Hall in a big group to sign up and held a party outside the clerk's office.

Adding to religious arguments against same-sex marriage are those who say homosexuals don't have to act on their urges. This weekend, for example, First Southern Baptist Church, 445 E. Speedway, will hold a conference led by a controversial pastor who says he overcame his attraction to men and is now happily married.

An argument can be made that biologically and sociologically it's better for society if people are heterosexual, said Pastor Ron Hart of First Southern Baptist Church.

"We believe homosexuality is more of a learned behavior or a lifestyle," Hart said. "I'm sure some people have a propensity to that based on genetics or behavioral problems, and we all have latent tendencies and propensities toward sin. Christ and the Bible help us overcome them."

Hart's view is far different from that of the Rev. Robin Hoover, pastor of First Christian Church, 740 E. Speedway, which is in the Disciples of Christ

denomination. Hoover believes in full inclusion for Gays and Lesbians.

"The churches have been silly about this. There is not one major social movement that has not first been articulated in the church except for some of the issues around human sexuality," he said. "We've really been theologically lazy. We forgot to do any theological work on marriage."

Proponents of Gay marriage say it's only a matter of time before same-sex marriage is legal in the United States, as it is in Canada and several other countries. But the opponents, like Lien, have faith that tradition will prevail.

"Sometimes it takes the American people a long time to kind of mobilize themselves. We've been taught to be so tolerant, but I think there is going to be a point in time when people say, 'You are not going to rob me of what is the law, tradition and true,'" said Lien, the retired Oro Valley teacher. "I have great hopes for America."

GLBT Federal Workers Lose Job Protections

Continued from Page One

flier entitled "Your Rights as a Federal Employee."

Bloch's position is a marked departure from how the previous special counsel, Elaine Kaplan, enforced the law. "The legal position that he is taking, that there is some distinction between discrimination based on sexual orientation and discrimination based on conduct, is absurd," Kaplan told Federal Times.

Bloch indicated that he may amend his position. He said he is initiating a review of the issue and plans to meet with the Office of Personnel Management and congressional staff to hear their opinions before making a final decision on how his office will handle complaints alleging sexual orientation discrimination. The review will not get completely under way until next month, when Bloch's senior legal adviser begins work, he said.

Bloch was appointed by President Bush to a five year term beginning in January.

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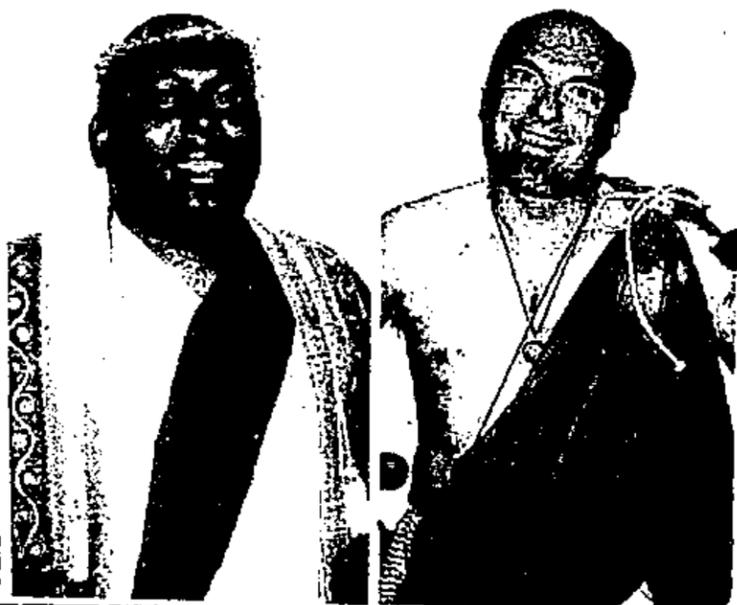
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Study Shows Most Americans Think AIDS Is Top Health Priority

ROCHESTER - A national survey of both Gay and straight adults shows that more than half believe federal research on Lesbian and Gay health issues is very important, according to officials at Wittek-Combs and Harris Interactive, which conducted the survey. AIDS also was listed as a major health concern by all of the survey respondents.

The survey asked respondents to choose three top national health care priorities from a list of 22 health issues. Half of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered respondents listed AIDS as a top health care priority, followed by fitness and exercise and heart disease. Heterosexual respondents listed AIDS as their number 2 choice, following heart disease and just ahead of obesity. Sexually transmitted diseases were named a top health care priority by just 10% of Gay survey respondents and 12% of straight respondents.

Only 19% of Gay survey respondents ranked breast cancer as a top health care priority even though the disease is more common among Lesbians than heterosexual women; 21% of straight survey respondents ranked breast cancer as one of the top three health priorities. Last year's survey also showed that 24% of Gay adults said they had deliberately withheld information about their sexual practices from their health care providers, but that number fell to 21% in this year's survey.

"The fact that LGBT people acknowledge that they withhold information that may help their doctors

provide better-quality medical treatment is a serious--and potentially life-threatening--problem," said Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project for Lesbian Health. "Eliminating the barriers to open communication between health care providers and their LGBT patients is essential to reducing mortality and morbidity among this medically underserved community."

Survey respondents also largely favored federal research into health issues that affect Gays and Lesbians. Fifty-seven percent of heterosexual survey respondents said it was important for the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on such health issues, while 87% of Gay respondents said so. The survey of 2,204 adults was conducted online February 16-20. About 6% of the survey respondents self-identified as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgendered.

Saudi Arabia Blocks Gay Web Sites

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia's government has blocked access to Web sites giving GLBT-related information to people within the country once again, despite agreeing to free up its censorship last year, Gay.com UK reported.

The government, which oversees one of the most oppressive regimes in the world, had received complaints when it blocked Gaymiddleeast.com (GME), a site devoted to Lesbian and Gay people in the region, in June last year.

After complaints, the government agreed to allow people within the country to view the Web site in July. They released no statement at the time, but users found they could access the site after a month of objecting.

However, it emerged Friday that the government has not only blocked GME, but also other international Gay Web sites, including Gay.com. The GME says it does not know when these sites were blocked by the government.

GME claims the censorship is in breach of international human rights laws and is part of the ongoing attack on people in the country who do not fit in with the regime.

"It saddens us that this event is taking place just as GME reported that his majesty the King of Saudi Arabia has allowed for the first time the establishment of a Human Rights Commission inside Saudi Arabia," A. Getenio, manager of GME, said in a statement.

"It seems that Saudi Arabian human rights in general has had a very bad week, considering the imprisonment of numerous Saudi intellectuals who spoke publicly of the possibility of Saudi Arabia making the transition to a Constitutional Monarchy and the imprisonment of a reporter immediately after his [report] on the same subject on El Gezira," he added.

GME is now calling on the government to lift the block on the Web sites once again.

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Special Bar Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

IBTS - 9:00 P.M. The DivaLicious Show hosted by Lucinda Holliday and starring Mr. Kenneth Blake, Janee Starr and Teri Steele.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

IBTS - Susan Artemis 5th Anniversary Party on the Patio. Susan will be accompanied by a trio of her musician friends for this special event. Don't miss it!

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

IBTS - The FuFu Revue 8:00 p.m. hosted by Bunny FuFu and starring Lady Ashley, Diana Flair and Venecia.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

IBTS - IBTs - Party line-up includes Troy's Recovery Bar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$1.75 Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers or Mimosas. Karaoke Party with Michael D. on the patio from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Benefit Bar-B-Que / Beer Bust from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. This weeks proceeds go to TIHAN. 8:0 P.M. Sissy Bingo with Aja Simone and Lucinda Holliday. 9:00 p.m. Listen and/or dance to the music of Guest Circuit DJ Jeremy Martoano.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

WOODY'S - Gay Men's Health Project Gender-Bender 5 Show. GMHP's biggest show (and hair) ever, benefitting GMHP's Condom Brigade. Come see faces of old friends you've known for years transformed into new faces you'll love forever! Hosted by Aubergine Brocade, Scottasia Dahlink, Lucinda Holliday and Miss Pixi Stoox. 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

IBTS - Lucinda Holliday Solo. Showtime 9:00 p.m. See Tucson's Queen of Comedy go it alone for your entertainment.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

IBTS - The return of "The Norman Tabernacle Choir" and a special show of shows featuring lots of performers current and past, entertaining in a benefit for the Observer Archives Project.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

IBTS Annual Easter Party featuring the Easter Egg Hunt and other activities watch for details.

Non-Bar Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard at 579-7291.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 1:00 PM. Dakota Café, 6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 P.M. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

7:00 TO 9:30 p.m. The Men's Relationship Group meets that includes a video on tantra. A great way to meet new men and learn about the ancient art of tantric sexuality. Have some clean fun. Fee. Call Marc at 881-4582 to reserve a place.

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 29

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For more information, please contact Ray at 247-2716.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 P.M. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

7:30 p.m. Catalina Chamber Orchestra and Pima Community College Chorale present world premiere performance of "THE WATERS OF BABYLON," music and lyrics by local composer, Richard Faith. Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday at the PCC Center for the Arts, Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W. Anklam Rd. Admission \$15.00 General Public; \$10 Seniors/PCC Affiliates; \$8

Students. Group rates available. Info: 206-6986, thearts@pima.edu The Catalina Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Enrique Lasansky and the Pima Community College, under the direction of Benjamin Sorenson, have joined together to premiere "The Waters Of Babylon," original composition by retired University of Arizona Professor of Music, Richard Faith. The Waters of Babylon is a biblical piece based on the story of the Jews who had to flee Jerusalem after the destruction of the Temple. "The Waters of Babylon" is written for chamber orchestra and vocals, with a baritone solo performed by Benjamin Sorenson. Additional works by Mozart and Stilman will also be presented.

Desert Voices Spring Concert and Silent Auction "Come (Out) As You Are!" at the Muse Community Arts Center, 516 N. 5th St. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Antigone's, Desert Pride or online at DoTucson.com or (520)791-9662.

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 8:30 a.m. Join Jack for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Jack at 881-5733.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join us for our monthly Potluck and Social Gathering where we invite you to have dinner and get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. For directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

3:00 p.m. Catalina Chamber Orchestra and Pima Community College Chorale present world premiere performance of "THE WATERS OF BABYLON," music and lyrics by local composer, Richard Faith. Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday at the PCC Center for the Arts, Proscenium Theatre, 2202 W. Anklam Rd. See April 3 for more info.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for an evening out at Rainbow Planet. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. For more information, please contact Ray at 247-2716.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

#1. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 6:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Daniel & David for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call David or Daniel at 579-9763.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 p.m., Chad's Steakhouse & Saloon, 3001 N. Swan Rd. (NW corner of Ft. Lowell).

Tucson Prime Timers Video Night - 7:00 P.M. Non pornographic movies with Gay themes are shown. Phone: 740-0620

Arts & Entertainment

NOW PLAYING THRU MARCH 28

Invisible Theatre presents "Spinning Into Butter" Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. 1400 N. First Avenue (at Drachman). \$20 - \$22 per person. Call 882-9721 for reservations and information. Set in a small college campus in Vermont, "Spinning Into Butter" explores the dangers of both racism and political correctness in America today.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

UA Presents Israel's leading modern dance ensemble - Batsheva Dance Company of Israel in 'Deca dance'. An experimental ensemble, rooted in the technique of Martha Graham, then enhanced by the genius of its artistic director, Israeli dancer/choreographer Ohad Naharin. Centennial Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 621-3341.

MARCH 26 THRU APRIL 17

Live Theatre Workshop Late Night Series presents "Stop Kiss" by Diana Son. "Callie, a New York traffic reporter, meets Sara, a third grade teacher from the Midwest. As they get to know each other, their shared experiences and sense of humor create a growing bond. The tragic consequences of their kiss - the center of this powerful drama - serve as both an indictment of hatred and a moving study of the perils inherent in living life fully" (Overlook Press). This show runs on Friday and Saturday nights only at 10:30 p.m. Tickets only \$10 & \$8. Call 327-4242 for ticket reservations. Live Theatre Workshop 5317 E. Speedway Blvd.

MARCH 27 THRU MAY 2

Live Theatre Workshop presents one of Neil Simon's most beloved plays, "Barefoot In The Park". Show times are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. Tickets range from \$14 - \$12. For reservations call 3327-4242. The theater is located at 5317 E. Speedway Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Arizona Friends of Chamber Music present the fifth concert in their 56th season. "Divertimento" with oboist Gerard Reuter will perform at 8:00 p.m. at the Leo Rich Theater at the Tucson Convention Center. General admission tickets are \$20. Student tickets are \$8. For more information call the AFCM at 577-3769, or visit their web site at www.ArizonaChamberMusic.org for further information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

UA Presents Mandy Patinkin in concert with Paul Ford on piano. "Celebrating Sondheim. An impressive marriage of some of the most complex, perceptive, yet emotionally revealing songs written for the theater, presented by one of the theater's best singers.

Daily Bar Calendar

Sunday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Smirnoff Sunday-\$2 Smirnoff drinks (Bloody Mary, Screwdriver, Greyhound, Sea Breeze, etc.). Country Dance 3-8pm. Disco tea dance 9-close

IBTs - Open Noon \$1.75 Bloody's, Screws or Mimosas. Sangria Party \$2.50 from 4-1. Benefit B-B-Q and Beer Bust for community organizations 5:30-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 4:30-7:30. 8:30 shows or special events or Hi energy dancing w/DJ T.C. Wildman. 9-close. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Free Pool all day. Pool Tournament with Chad 5-7pm. Surf & Turf w/baked potato & salad \$8.90

VENTURE-N - Open 10am: Patio open 3pm. \$1.75 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$2 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Sunday Brunch 11:30 - 2:30. Eggs and meat du jour plus BMs, Mims or Screws \$5. \$1.50 Bloody Marys, screwdrivers, Mimosas; Happy Hour 11am-8pm \$2 well or domestic beer. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirlion burger w/salad 5-8pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 1pm. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm-7pm. Dinner and live jazz 5-8pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Monday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Special from 7 to close \$2 well run, 50¢ off call rums. Rockin' to Oldies Night

IBTs - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Theme Dance Nite with Johnny DJ. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Free Pool all day. \$3 small pitchers. Pajama Party w/Sabrina in Linerie

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Monday Nite Football. Free Hot Dogs. WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch until 7pm. Kennel open 5pm.

Tuesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. \$2 well lequitas. 50¢ off call lequitas. Karaoke 7:30-11pm with Calabaza Cabeza Karaoke.

IBTs - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm. Bare Chest Nite-Bare it and get happy hour prices from 9 to close. Progressive/Retro '80s dance with DJ Q. 9 to close

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. In House Karaoke. VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic til 7pm. Bartender Calls It drink specials.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Tequila until 7pm. Kennel open at 5pm.

Wednesday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Special prices on draft beers from 7-close. Free pool all night. Country music dancing 7-close

IBTs - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/Lucinda Holliday and guests. HNRG Dancing with DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Karaoke w/Kimberly 8pm-Midnight. Shrimp Fry \$5.99

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 12-4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear-fetish-leather nite w/Gary and Chns along with GMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer. (Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Vodka until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Thursday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. \$2 Mexican beers all night. Chef's Special Tacos. 80s, 90s & Salsa 7pm-close

IBTs - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm, Hi NRG video dancing with Johnny DJ 9-1 All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Latino Night. VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

Draft Special 12-4pm. Pool Toumey 7pm. \$3 entry (Pol Matched) Special prices for players.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Bourbon til 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Friday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3pm. Happy Hour 3-7, \$2 well, domestic pints & longnecks. Kitchen open 3-8pm. Beginner country dance lessons 7:30-8:30. Current and Classic Country from 8:30 to close. Reverse Happy Hour 11:30 - close with 50¢ off all drinks.

IBTs - Open Noon. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Live Jazz on the patio with the Susan 8-9pm. Patio Bar 5-1pm. GoGo Boys and Dance Party with DJ T.C. Wildman 9 to 1. All drink specials not available during

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open Noon. Fish Fry \$5.99 all you can eat. Shrimp Fry \$5.99. R&B/Hip Hop/Super Disco 8:30 - close with DJ Shory.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Draft Special 1-4pm. DJ 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Open Noon. \$2 well or domestic beer til 7pm. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 4-8pm. Call Martini's \$3 from 4-8pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Kennel open daily at 5pm.

Saturday

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 10:30 am. Kitchen open 11am-6pm. Pool Tournament 3pm (sign-up begins at 2). \$3 entry fee (pool matched). Current & Classic Country from 8:30 to close. DJ calls shot specials. Reverse Happy Hour 11:30-close with 50¢ off all drinks.

IBTs - 10am-5pm \$4 Martinis and Daquiris. Happy Hours Noon-7pm. Dance Party 9-1 w/DJ-Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

NOVEMBER BAR & GRILL - Open 1pm. Steak Dinner with Fries and Salad \$5.99 5-8 p.m. Super Disco Dance Music 8:30 p.m. to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.

WOODY'S - Open 11am \$2 well or domestic beer. Til 7pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Kennel open 5pm

NOTICES

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 515-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

TUCSON GLBT AL-ANON GROUP meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 p.m. 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 887-3743, 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 Mon. - Fri.

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, 300 E. 6th 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 (GPGCLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclcc.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

GAY COWBOY CLUB - Nationwide Personal Ads. Admirers welcome too. Send stamp for information: Mavericks, Box 9543, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ATTENTION ALL NUDISTS - Tucson Tanners is a nudist group open to all - Nude activities scheduled both indoor and outdoors. Not "Gay Only", but Gays are welcome and invited to join. For further information send SASE to: Tucson Tanners, P.O. Box 84-G, Cortaro, AZ 85652.

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 519-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/pollucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

LAMBDA CAR CLUB, a social organization of Gays and Lesbians who share interest, information and fellowship involving all cars and trucks. New Southern Arizona Region now in Tucson. Call the Hotline at 888-5541

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian Chorus. Want to join? E-mail: www.desertvoices.org or call 791-9662.

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

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE .25 PER WORD \$5.00 MINIMUM

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE MAILED, NO PHONE ADS

EMPLOYMENT

NOTICES

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games 2002, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

COMMUNITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CBA), Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info.

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Tuesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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 Jerry at 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

THEATER / DINNER / ETC! Non-Smoking Lesbian Network meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. If you'd like to meet women 35+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment 888-8010 before 10:00 p.m. The group dines out and attends shows or movies. Now in their 16th year! (2nd in Tucson).

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). Meetings on the 1st Monday, 7pm. Desert Grub (MTF) Meets 2nd Monday at 7pm. Desert Doys meets 3rd Tuesday at 7pm. of every month. All meetings take place at Wingspan, 300 E. 6th St. Call 624-1779 for more info. SAGAE-mail@aol.com http://members.aol.com/sagatmail

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)745-9039 (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, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-4800.

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

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

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)742-7893 or go to our web site http://www.tgssoftball.org

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6209 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 W Golf Links Road, PMD 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

ADUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: Confidential individual or group support for Gay, Bisexual or Trans men who are victims/survivors of domestic violence. For more information call 624-0348 (24-hour line)

NOTICES

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 Care Teams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson. Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 323-0892

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

AZdykes is a new email list for Lesbians living in Arizona. For information mail tyann@theiver.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.

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

TGNetArizona: The central source for news and information for, by and about the TS, TG, and Gender-varient communities of Arizona. Website URL: http://www.tgnetarizona.org

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

LIKE TO READ? The Guys Book Club (TGBC) invites new members to join them. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Maggie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

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

GLBT Buddhist meditation group meets Sundays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Wingspan annex space, 739 N. 4th Ave. Please be willing to sit for two twenty minute sessions in silence. All are welcome.

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 3pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs, 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: http://www.saaaf.org. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

PERSONALS

29yo GWM, BRO/BR, VERY FRIENDLY, SEXY, HOT EURO BOY. Seeking serious boyfriend for relationship - maybe more. GWM, GHM from 2yo to 32yo. From above 32yo, I'll not answer. Call (520)370-7162 anytime. 1027

GWM, seeking motivated work out partner in NW home gym with shower. Aerobic and anaerobic. Call Mike at 370-5929. 1027

HOUSING/FOR RENT

3BR, 2BA, AC, W/D, large yard, lease; near Medical School, available May 15; 2339 E. Mabel, \$1200/mo. Call 743-9280, leave message. 1028

NEWLY REMODELED 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH APARTMENT. \$550/mo. Large private patio, pool, laundry, carport. Vista Del Monte, 265 E. Water St. (Tucson Blvd. & Grant area). 850-8843. No pets. 1027

ROOMMATES

GWM, 29yo, wanted friendly people GHM/GWM to 32yo Only serious people. 1br/1ba, pool, spa, laundry, balcony, patio, security. \$420/mo - 1/2 \$210 per month, + 1/2 electric. Call (520)370-7162 anytime. 1027

BAR BACK Needed for Friday and Saturday nights. Fill out application at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Road. 1030

COOK NEEDED FOR 24-30 HRS/WEEK Fill out application at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Rd. 1030

NOW HIRING! * Night Auditor * Front Desk * Maintenance * Cook * Excellent wages, benefits, bonuses. Apply in person. Best Western Royal Sun, corner of Stone Avenue and Speedway Blvd. 1028

SERVICES

HELLO TUCSON! 26 y.o. Grad Student, attractive, experienced hands on for full stress release. Please call Joe at 235-0037 1028

END BACK PAIN. The back solution, massage and bodywork. 15 years experience. Tension Erasure - Stress Reduction - Relax for Health. Abe 294-4810 1024

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway and Swan area. IN and OUT CALLS. 7 days. \$30/hour, 548-8314 1022

SACRED HEALING TOUCH. Be smoothed, touched and nurtured by strong, yet gentle hands. In & Out, Days & Evenings, sometimes at a moment's notice. Call Glen, CMT 907-2551 for the touch you so richly deserve. Experienced, intuitive, athletic and kind. 1020....

FULL BODY SWEDISH MASSAGE FOR MEN. Best rates in Tucson! Speedway/Swan area. IN and OUT calls. 7 days. \$30/hour. 548-8314. 1023

COMPUTERS EXTRAORDINAIRE: Your old system giving you trouble? Upgrade it for a reasonable price, or allow us to tailor make a system just for you. For home or business, we come to you with friendly, quality installation, instruction and service. Call Carl today @ 977-2572 and get a free quote! 1028

EXPERIENCE A BASIC THAI, DEEP TISSUE OR RELAXING MASSAGE by a trained, caring male. In-home, hotel or resort. Often at a moment's notice. (520) 730-7966. 1035

TENSE? STRESSED OUT? Relax for an hour with a full body rub by Frank. Private studio, off-street parking. 548-7019 days, evenings. 1028

HAVE A SWEET TANTRIC MASSAGE. It is FANTASTIC! 22 years of quality professional experience. Call Marc - 881-4582 from 1 to 9 p.m. Licensed. 1024

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The Hidden Holocaust: The Nazi Persecution Of Homosexuals

TUCSON - Writer and historian Dr. David Shneer, editor of Queer Jews and Director of the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver, will speak at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone Avenue on Wednesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m.

His talk, "The Hidden Holocaust: The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals" is presented by the GLBT Services Committee of the Tucson-Pima Public Library and the Friends of the Tucson-Pima Public Library. A reception co-sponsored by the Historic Stone Avenue Temple will be held at 564 S. Stone immediately following the presentation.

This event is part of the community calendar of events related to a traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933 - 1945, which, through the collaboration of over two dozen local organizations, will be on display from April 25 through May 16 at the Jewish Community Center at 3800 E. River Rd, and is current on display at the Burton Bar Central Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue in Phoenix.

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