

Mom's The Word

SARASOTA, FL - Within the four walls of the major league clubhouse, the concept of homosexuality fits about as comfortably as a pair of mittens on a porcupine. For the most part, men who love men and women who love women are not Gays or Lesbians, but "queers" and "dykes." Trip over a mitt and you're a "faggot." As for ideas of civil unions and Gay marriage - forget about it, reported Newsday, Tuesday, May 3.

"Baseball is very set in its ways," Cincinnati Reds outfielder Jacob Cruz said. "Always has been."

Within these confines, there is a man who seems to hover above it all. He is a 25-year-old righthanded relief pitcher with the Reds, a quiet Long Island kid with blazing brown eyes and a blazing 95-mph fastball. He is as open as he needs to be, not afraid to tell the truth about his family but aware that its implications might not sit perfectly with the 40 or so other young men who surrounded him recently in the Reds' spring training clubhouse.

"I'm a blue-state guy in a red-state sport," Joe Valentine said. "But that won't stop me from being proud of who I am."

Who is Joe Valentine?

He is a 1997 graduate of Deer Park High School.

He is a former All-American at Jefferson Davis Community College in Alabama.

He is a happily married North Babylon resident who wants to start a family.

He is a potential future closer for the Reds.

One more thing. Consider the following dialogue, which took place on a lazy spring training morning between a pitcher fighting to make the club and a baseball writer wrapping up another run-of-the-mill Grapefruit League interview.

Joe, can I give your parents a call?

"Sure."

OK, what are their names?

"Deb and Doreen."

That's right: Joe Valentine is the son of two Gay women.

He tells you this without an iota of emphasis, almost as if he were explaining the mechanics of a slider or giving directions to the nearest 7-Eleven. There is no additional explanation, no awkward pause for effect. Nothing.

"It's no different than having a mother and father," he said. "These are the two women who raised me, and they are wonderful people. It's just not a big deal to me. Why should it be?"

In an enlightened world, it shouldn't. But major league baseball is to enlightenment what Pauly Shore is to career longevity. It took until 1959 for every team to have at least one black player. There never has been a female umpire. And in the history of the league, no active player has ever come out of the closet to express his homosexuality.

"I've got nothing against those people," Washington Nationals relief pitcher T.J. Tucker said recently. "But I don't get why anyone would want to be like that."

Moments after Tucker's comment, a Nationals front office employee approached a reporter and asked him not to bring the subject of homosexuality into the clubhouse. "Makes the players uncomfortable," the employee said.

Years ago, then-Giants second baseman Jeff Kent was changing out of his uniform when he glanced at the nearby reporters and cracked, "There are no queers here, are there?" The comment barely raised an eyebrow.

Valentine is aware of the stigma. That is why his family asked that this story not be published until Valentine secured a spot on the major league roster.

"We've almost never been treated badly," said Deb Valentine, Joe's birth mother. "But we live in the real world, and you don't 100 percent know how people will react."

Here's the startling thing: Thus far in Joe Valentine's life, few have reacted.

Born in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve 1979, Joe is the biological son of Deb Valentine and a man she prefers not to discuss, a man Joe does not know. Deb declined to discuss the circumstances of the pregnancy, but when she delivered Joe at Sunrise Hospital, the person by her side was Doreen Price, her life partner since they first met in a bowling alley in 1975.

At the time, homosexuality was an unacceptable lifestyle in approximately 99 percent of America. Las Vegas was the 1 percent.

"Vegas was Vegas," Deb said. "Open-minded. Accepting. Embracing. Doreen was my coach in the hospital, and nobody there raised an eyebrow. Vegas was 10 times more liberal than New York is even today. Being Gay just wasn't a big deal."

The couple operated a hair salon in Las Vegas, and in 1982 moved to North Babylon, where they opened Hair Studio 231, which lasted four years. When Joe was just 16 months old, Doreen was throwing him a baseball. At 2, he fielded his first grounder with his nose.

"Blood all over," Doreen said. "But we wiped it off, and he was back looking for the baseball."

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Groundbreaking G/L Marriage Bill Advances In California

SACRAMENTO - A bill to legalize same-sex marriage in California has cleared an assembly committee despite arguments that it would violate a ban on same-sex marriage approved by state voters five years ago, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

The partisan 6-3 vote Tuesday, April 26, by the assembly judiciary committee marked the first test this year for the measure, which would amend the state family code to define marriage as between "two persons" instead of between a man and a woman.

Even with the bill's legality in dispute, the issue percolating in the courts, and its prospects for getting signed into law uncertain, supporters said it was important for lawmakers to back the extension of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. "It was not so long ago in California that you couldn't marry someone who was of a different ethnicity than yourself—that was tradition, that was the practice, that was the law, and it was wrong," said Democratic committee chairman Dave Jones. "It is equally wrong that we do not afford the right of marriage to all our citizens."

Opponents, however, claimed lawmakers had no business even hearing the bill because it undermines the electorate's will. In 2000, more than 61% of California voters passed Proposition 22, which said the state will recognize only marriages between a man and a woman as valid. The state constitution expressly prohibits the legislature from amending statutes enacted by voters. "The people of California knew exactly what they were doing," said Republican assemblyman Ray Haynes. "The only institutional relationship that will have legal significance in California is between a man and a woman."

But the bill's lead author, Gay assemblyman Mark Leno, claimed the measure does not run afoul of Proposition 22 because the initiative prevents California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere and does not apply to in-state Gay unions. He acknowledged, though, that a court would ultimately have to decide which interpretation is correct. "I agree this won't end the debate," said Leno, a Democrat. "But when we, as legislators, and when I, as a legislator, see injustice in our state, it is my job to correct it."

The question of whether Leno's bill contravenes Proposition 22 or even is needed may ultimately prove moot. Ruling in a pair of cases seeking to overturn California's ban on Gay marriage, a trial court judge in San Francisco said Proposition 22 unconstitutionally breaches the civil rights of Gays and Lesbians. That ruling is expected to be appealed.

Meanwhile, two other California lawmakers have introduced constitutional amendments that would elevate the state's existing definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman from statute

to the constitution. Those bills still face legislative committee hearings and would need to be passed by two thirds of lawmakers to be submitted to voters. The antiGay group Campaign for California Families on Tuesday vowed to gather the necessary signatures to circumvent the legislature and put a proposed constitutional marriage ban before voters next year.

Last year the judiciary committee passed legislation similar to the measure approved Tuesday, but Leno later pulled it from consideration because it did not have enough support in the full assembly. Both times, votes split along party lines, with Democrats in favor and Republicans in opposition. Leno said that with the backing of Democratic assembly speaker Fabian Nunez, who signed on as a coauthor this year, he expects the bill to make it to the desk of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The governor has indicated he is not inclined to sign it.

Apart from disagreement over its legality, the measure prompted debate on how Gays can be denied the right to marry in a nation that derives much of its identity from its stated dedication to equality. "Gay people are everywhere," testified Fresno resident Baltimore Gonzalez, who attended with his same-sex partner. "Voting 'No, we can't get married' is not going to make us go away.... Giving us equal rights will help us all live better."

The bill's opponents were just as steadfast. "Marriage between a man and a woman, what you might call a traditional family, is the basic building block of our society," said Republican assemblyman Tim Leslie. "To tamper with that causes grave concern and is a very dangerous thing to do."

Supreme Court To Hear Military Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Supreme Court will consider whether colleges can bar military recruiters from their campuses because of the Pentagon's ban on Gays and Lesbians, 365Gay.com reported.

Last November the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a 1994 federal law requiring law schools to give the military full access or else lose their funding.

The case involved 25 law schools who argued the statute infringed on the free-speech rights of the schools all of which had barred on-campus recruiting because of "don't ask, don't tell."

The schools formed a coalition called the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights to fight the law, known as the Solomon Amendment. Each of the colleges have nondiscrimination policies barring any recruiter - government or private - from campus if the organization unfairly bases hiring on

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UPDATE

Tucson Police Advisory Review Board Seeking Applications

TUCSON - The Citizen Police Advisory Review Board (tucsonaz.gov/cparb/) is seeking applications to fill three advisory, non-voting positions for a period not to exceed two years.

CPARB was formed by the Mayor & City Council in 1997 and helps promote a citizen-police partnership, and reviews and comments on police investigation of citizen complaints.

Advisory members must meet the following criteria: Must be a resident of the City of Tucson. Must never have been convicted of a felony. Must not currently be a peace officer. Must attend monthly meetings of CPARB. Must participate in Board activities including appropriate training

If you are interested in becoming an advisory member to CPARB please submit a letter of interest (not to exceed three pages) with the following information: Complete name, address and telephone number. Brief description of prior and current community involvement. A brief summary as to what the applicant hopes to accomplish by working with CPARB.

Letters of interest should be mailed or FAXED to: CPARB, c/o City Clerk's Office, Attn: Ms. Lois Postil, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210 or (520) 791-4017 - fax.

All letters of interest must be received or faxed no later than Friday, May 13, 2005. Call 791-4213, ext. 104, for additional information.

Position Open On GLBT Commission

TUCSON - A seat has opened up on the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues, due to the resignation of a Commission member, who represented Ward 5.

Tucson Ward 5 Councilmember Steve Leal is seeking an individual to appoint to fill the Ward 5 vacancy on the Commission, which meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Members appointed shall be residents of the metropolitan Tucson area. All members shall be knowledgeable about issues and concerns of importance to the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered) community.

Interested persons should submit a resume listing their community service and background to: Ward 5 Councilmember Steve Leal, 4300 S. Park, Tucson, Arizona, 85714. For more information, call (520) 791-4231.

ACF Update

TUCSON - The Arizona Coalition for Fairness (ACF) is a coalition of individuals and organizations joined together to demonstrate the power of Southern Arizona's GLBT and allied community to defeat the extreme and far-reaching anti-GLBT proposed amendments to the Federal and Arizona state constitutions.

GLBT Outreach - The Outreach to GLBT Community Committee met on April 25, and are actively recruiting ACF members to join us. The Outreach Committee will be discussing our goals as well as specific activities to plan and carry out in the near future. For more information, E-mail julieide@yahoo.com.

Faith Committee - The Faith Committee is a new addition to the ACF and we are hoping to add new members. The faith committee will be primarily working with faith communities in hopes of opening a dialogue about the GLBT community and the issues that face our communities. The Committee is looking for people of different faiths who would like to either speak publicly, help write bulletin inserts or newsletters, or would like to have their place of worship be involved in the ACF. For more information please contact Rev. Briget Nicholson at Briget@firsttuc Tucson.org.

Media Committee - The Media Committee is looking for a few good members who enjoy writing, reading the paper, or would like to learn more about the media. For more information on this committee please contact Vicki Gaubeca at vgaubeca@msn.com

Speakers Training - The first Speakers Bureau Training will take place May 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in speaking to various groups about the ACF, the amendment, and the GLBT communities we will be having a speakers training that will prepare you for that experience. All people are welcome to come and learn better public speaking skills as well as learn more about the issue our community will be facing. Ten 10 people are needed for the training and a cap of 20 people so please RSVP to Jess at jknutson@wingspan.org.

ACF's recently had an action event on Friday, April 15, "Tax Day Educational Action," with a great turn out of ACF members and got media

coverage for our "No Taxation with Discrimination," educational action by passing out over 600 flyers, contacting 3,000 potential voters!

For more information, call (520) 624-1779, ext. 22.

Navajo President Vetoes G/L Marriage Ban

WINDOW ROCK - A ban on same-sex marriage approved by the Navajo Tribal Council last month banning same-sex marriage has been vetoed by Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr., 365Gay.com reported.

The national reservation extends into three states: New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

The Tribal Council voted unanimously April 23 in favor of restricting a recognized union to that between a man and a woman, and prohibit plural marriages as well as marriages between close relatives.

Critics have said the measure was attempting to rewrite cultural history to parallel the clash across the United States between conservative Christians and Gay rights activists.

"Same-sex marriage is a non-issue on Navajo land," Shirley said as he vetoed the legislation. "So why waste time and resources on it? We have more important issues to address."

Shirley suggested, however, he would support the Council if it wanted to put the issue before voters in the form of a referendum.

He said, in a prepared statement, that he strongly supports and encourages family stability but criticized the Council for not doing enough about domestic violence, sexual assault and gangs on the reserve.

Shirley went on to note that the marriage ban contradicts Navajo teachings of nondiscrimination.

GoGo Boys Car Wash III

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus announces its third GO GO Boy Car Wash, an exciting event held at Woody's every other Saturday! Several hot boys from the U, some personal trainers, and local Go-Go boys are ganging up to raise moneys for Reviellie's 10-day tour to Brazil this summer.

The boys will provide a complete exterior car wash, tire shine, and "hand-job" with shammy's, spot-free. Woody's is also sponsoring a Burger and Beer Bust during the car wash hours, so show up hungry in a dirty car and be prepared to tip fine young men doing what men do best to community autos. Fabulous... This would be a great treat for mom, in anticipation of Mother's Day. Drive her down for a big, big surprise and have her drive away beaming!

Reveille leaves on the 26th of May for Sao Paulo, Brazil, so let's get out to Woody's this Saturday and support them while there's still time! Come on out, bring a friend and your friends car, buy a burger, drink a cold beer on a warm day, and check out hot boys in scantily clad bizness.

Go-Go Boy Car Wash and Beer Bust: Suggested donation of \$10+ Wash from 12-5, Bust from 11-4 Saturday, May 7th at Woody's 3710 N. Oracle. Don't Miss It!!

- ♥ Want to do something positive with your leisure time?
- ♥ Interested in helping people while learning about HIV/AIDS?



If so, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation wants you to consider becoming a volunteer!

Volunteer orientations are open to all those interested and are held once a month at our main office, located at 375 South Euclid Avenue.

Sign up today!

Contact Wendy Ascione at 628-7223 or wascione@SAAF.org



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Annual Report On Anti-GLBT Hate Violence Released

TUCSON - The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), of which the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project is a member, has released its annual report documenting violence against Gay men, Lesbians Bisexual people and Transgender individuals (GLBT) for 2004.

The NCAVP report is the most complete examination of such violence against GLBT people. Each year, the FBI publishes its own report on hate crimes, which includes anti-GLBT incidents, but it consistently contains information on far fewer cases than the NCAVP publication because it relies on law enforcement reports of such crimes rather than victim service organization data.

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) contributed data to the report in 2004. The AVP documented 59 incidents of anti-GLBT violence impacting 59 victims. Included in these reports were 5 assaults, 19 incidents of harassment, one case of police entrapment, 7 instances of unjustified arrest, 19 cases of discrimination, 6 cases of vandalism, and two robberies.

"We know anti-GLBT violence is under reported and we want to encourage people to call us about these incidents," commented Dr. Lori B. Girshick, Coordinator of the AVP. "We offer a 24-hour crisis line, victim advocacy and support, information and referral, and assistance with reporting to police, obtaining an injunction against harassment, and filing for victim compensation, among other services," continued Dr. Girshick.

The NCAVP report is based on data from eleven cities, states and regions across the country.

Overall, the NCAVP report

noted an 8% increase in reported incidents of anti-GLBT violence. Such incidents rose from 1,720 in 2003 to 1,792 in 2004. Included in the rise in incidents for the year, was an 11% increase in anti-GLBT murders, which rose from 18 in 2003 to 20 in 2004.

During 2004, the total number of victims rose 4%, from 2,042 in 2003 to 2,131 in 2004. Of the eleven locations included in the report, eight reported increases in incidents. According to the report, the number of anti-GLBT violence offenders rose also rose, by 7%, from 2,467 to 2,637.

According to NCAVP representatives, the data collected in 2004 confirms that a dramatic rise in anti-GLBT hate incidents noted by the organization in the second half of 2003 continued unabated, and perhaps even worsened in 2004.

PDF versions of the 2004 Report, its Executive Summary, and previous editions of NCAVP's reports on hate-motivated and domestic violence are available at www.ncavp.org.

To report hate violence, harassment, discrimination, domestic violence or sexual assault please call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project's 24-hour crisis line at (520) 624-0348 or outside of Tucson at (800) 553-9387.

Rainbow Build Meeting May 10

TUCSON - Please mark your calendars for the next Rainbow Build Coalition meeting at Wingspan, 300 East Sixth Street, May 10, 6 p.m.

Hear an update on the progress of the build, see pictures, be encouraged by the creative ideas in the coalition for fundraisers, and more! For more information, call (520) 624-1779.

'Kinsey' Gets GLAAD Hand

LOS ANGELES - Fox Searchlight's "Kinsey" and HBO's "Six Feet Under" nabbed top honors Saturday, April 30, at the 16th annual GLAAD Media Awards, which honor depictions of the Lesbian, Gay and Transgender community, reported Reuters and the Hollywood Reporter on the PlanetOut Network.

"Kinsey," which starred Liam Neeson as the ground-breaking sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, was GLAAD's pick for best wide-release feature during the Dec. 1, 2003-Dec. 31, 2004, eligibility period. The film's director, Bill Condon, received an honorary award for achievement.

The Los Angeles portion of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards unveiled winners in seven top categories during the Kodak Theatre ceremony. Other GLAAD awards were handed out March 28 at a ceremony in New York, while the remaining honors will be presented at an event scheduled for June 11 in San Francisco.

On Saturday, "Six Feet" star Frances Conroy was on hand to accept the GLAAD laurel for the ensemble drama, which is heading into its final season on HBO.

The nod for best individual episode of a TV series went to the WB Network's freshman drama "Jack & Bobby" for the episode "Lost Boys." Showtime's "Jack," about a young man who has to grapple with his parents' divorce just as he's decided to come out of the closet, won in the made-for-TV movie category.

The competition in the reality TV field ended in a tie between Bravo's "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and MTV's "The Real World: Philadelphia." Univision's newsmagazine "Aqui y Ahora" was recognized in the Spanish-language TV journalism category.

Official Calls Gay Presence A Shame

MESA - A Maricopa Community College board member says he won't apologize for calling the presence of Gay activists on campus "a shame," reported the Arizona Republic.

Jerry Walker confirmed Monday, May 2, a report in the Mesa Community College student newspaper, the Legend, that he asked student Nate Yazzie if a rainbow flag flying at a campus event belonged to a Gay group.

When Yazzie said yes, "I said it's a shame that they're out there," said Walker, 59, a retired 28-year Navy veteran elected in November.

Walker said he is concerned about groups promoting the "homosexual lifestyle" at taxpayer expense. The flag was at MCC's 40th-anniversary party April 12.

Walker, the only board member to vote against a tuition hike approved last month, said when he ran for the office he planned to be the "conservative voice."

"I don't believe that drug addiction should be pushed as normal or any other deviant lifestyle," he said.

Yazzie could not be reached Monday. The newspaper reported he complained to the dean of student services, but no action has been taken.

Rick DeGraw, the district's director of marketing, said the school has an ongoing effort to ensure board members are well-versed in a district policy that encourages differing views.

Walker said the campus should be a place open to all opinions.

"I believe anybody who curtails my right to have an opinion is wrong and anybody who advocates their position at taxpayer expense is wrong," he said.

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Microsoft LGBT Workers Unconvinced By Company's Rights Position

REDMOND - Microsoft's LGBT employees in an open letter to company Chairman Bill Gates and CEO Steve Ballmer say they are unconvinced that the computer giant was not influenced by a conservative Christian pastor to rescind endorsement of a Gay civil rights bill in Washington, 365Gay.com reported.

The legislation was defeated by a single vote in the Washington state Senate last month after the company quietly pulled its support for the measure. The bill had already passed the House.

The Microsoft move followed a meeting between the company and the leader of an evangelical church located a stone's throw from Microsoft's Redmond headquarters. The Rev. Ken Hutcherson allegedly threatened a national boycott of Microsoft if it did not disavow itself from the Gay rights bill that would have made discrimination against members of the LGBT community illegal.

When it came to light after the Senate vote, Microsoft's withdrawal of support caused a storm of protests from Washington's Gay community and resulted in an email from Ballmer to all employees saying that the company decided before the legislative session began that it should to narrow its focus on a shorter list of issues directly affecting the business.

The email did little to appease members of GLEAM, Microsoft's LGBT organization. Nor did assurances from Gates that the firm may rethink whether it will support legislation in the future.

"Next time this one comes around, we'll see," Gates told the Seattle Times. "We certainly have a lot of employees who sent us mail. Next time it comes around that'll be a major factor for us to take into consideration."

But GLEAM is demanding that Microsoft make its decision now.

"We are deeply concerned about the way the decision was made, the failure to anticipate its impact, and our inability to quickly repair the damage once it had become evident," the group said in its letter to Ballmer, made public on the weekend. "This shook our trust in executive management, and has left us feeling abandoned, depressed, and embarrassed for Microsoft."

GLEAM wants Ballmer to affirm Microsoft's support for Gay civil rights legislation, acknowledge this year's neutral stance was a mistake and reaffirm the company's commitment to diversity.

The group, in its letter also called on him to make this position known to all employees, hold a diversity-awareness event for employees and hold mandatory awareness workshops for management on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues.

At press time the company had not responded.

Meanwhile, US Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) also has trouble accepting Microsoft's account of the events which led to it pulling its support for the bill.

In a letter to the Microsoft general counsel Bradford L. Smith, Frank said he was "extremely disappointed by Microsoft's decision to discontinue its advocacy of basic fairness for those who are victimized by discrimination based on their sexual orientation."

"I want to be clear that I am unhappy with the fact of backing away from your support for fair treatment for Gay and Lesbian people without being certain as to the reason," Frank wrote. "But I have to add that, having read [that] you denied that right-wing pressure was a factor, I am unconvinced. It is generally my experience that when highly intelligent people such as yourself say things which are implausible, some other reason must be involved."

Anti-Gay Rocker Returns To Baseball

NEW YORK - John Rocker, the one time Atlanta Braves pitcher who angered Gays with a homophobic diatribe six years ago, has returned to baseball, 365Gay.com reported.

No longer in the majors, and no longer slamming Gays and New Yorkers, Rocker is playing for the Long Island Ducks of the independent Atlantic League.

In 1999, in a Sports Illustrated interview Rocker attacked Gays, immigrants, people with AIDS, and New Yorkers.

In the interview he said that he would prefer retirement to playing for a New York team.

Following the interview Gays joined other New Yorkers in booing him off the field when the Braves played the Mets.

As a result of the uproar over his remarks Rocker was hauled into the Commissioners office, fined and suspended for five months from major league baseball. Since that time his career has gone into a tailspin.

He missed nearly two years after undergoing surgery for a torn rotator cuff. But now it is kinder gentler Rocker who is back in the game.

Ducks owner and league CEO Frank Boulton believes Rocker deserves a chance for a comeback.

"You can't airbrush away his past, but I think he's a very courageous guy for wanting to come here, instead of someplace like Sioux City or something like that," Boulton said.

There are no out Gays in Major League baseball - or in NFL, NHL and NBA.

Billy Bean, who was an outfielder for teams including the Detroit Tigers and San Diego Padres from 1987 to 1995 only came out after he quit the sport.

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Tucson LGBT Community Alert On Hate Crimes

TUCSON - In the last few days the staff with Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP), has received notification of a number of hate motivated crimes happening in Tucson.

Wingspan and the AVP will like to encourage people who witness or who are victims or such attacks to please call the police and report the crime. If you don't want to report it to the police, please call the AVP 24-hour crisis line (520) 624-0348 or (800) 553-9387. The services are free and confidential. All of AVP's advocates are professionals that have been trained to assist all callers. AVP works in collaboration with other agencies and organizations to provide safe and adequate services to all of our clients. Remember, a trained and supportive advocate is just a phone call away!

Please remember that hate motivated crimes can range from verbal harassment, hate mail, property damage, vandalism, assault and even murder, and anyone of us can be a target. The victims are never at fault for the attacks committed against them.

Keep in mind the following safety tips:

Trust your gut! If you feel unsafe or threatened, trust your instincts and remove yourself from the situation as soon as you can.

Keep in mind your personal

safety! Particularly when making the decision to allow someone you barely know into your home or car. Allowing a stranger into either of these places can make you vulnerable to robbery, assault, even murder.

Don't accept drinks from strangers or drinks that you didn't order! When you are out socializing with friends, keep in mind not to accept drinks from individuals that you just met. If someone offers to buy you a drink, walk to the bar with them and pick your drink directly from the bartender.

Nothing is free in life! Beware of strangers who want to give you "free" drinks. Drugs and other substances that can impair your judgment can be put into drinks, allowing strangers to take advantage of your inability to defend yourself. Also keep track of how much alcohol you consume throughout the evening. Knowing your limit can help you determine when it's time to stop.

When leaving the bar make sure that you tell someone! If you happen to meet a nice person while out at the bar, make sure that you introduce them to your friends or bar staff. Remember to ask their names (including last names), where do they work, where do they live, and their phone number. While introducing this person to others, make sure to mention as much information as you can about them to your friends. In particular, if you make the decision to leave the bar with them, tell someone about it!

Health Group Denounces Reinstatement Of 'Ex-Gay' Advocate

NEW YORK - The Mautner Project, a National Lesbian Health Organization, Friday said it was shocking that Dr. Warren Throckmorton had been reappointed to the advisory board of Magellan Health Services, 365Gay.com reported.

Throckmorton is a leading advocate the so-called ex-Gay movement and believes that one's sexuality can be altered by psychology and faith.

Throckmorton was asked to leave Magellan's National Professional Advisory Council in February over complaints about his advocacy for so-called Gay-straight conversion.

Magellan Health Services is the largest mental health management company in the country and has contracts with Independence Blue Cross and Aetna Inc.

Magellan, allegedly after pressure from conservative Christian groups, invited Throckmorton to rejoin the National Professional Advisory Council and he has accepted. (story)

"Professional mental and behavioral health associations such as the American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association have consistently discredited 'reparative therapy,' the kind of therapy promoted by Throckmorton," said Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project.

"In our 15 years of providing support and service to Lesbians in crisis, the Mautner Project has experienced firsthand the damage and trauma caused by reparative therapies such as the kind Throckmorton promotes.

But, Throckmorton disputes DeBold's assertions.

"I am not a reparative therapist,"

Throckmorton told 365Gay.com.

"I do however believe sexual feelings can be quite flexible for an undetermined number of people. Research into this issue has not discredited the concept of change in sexual attractions."

DeBold and most psychiatrists disagree.

"As the nation's largest mental health provider, Magellan's announcement of Throckmorton's reappointment should raise a red flag about the provider's agenda and future effectiveness in serving the mental health community," DeBold said.

The Mautner Project is calling on Magellan to terminate its relationship with Throckmorton.

"We challenge Magellan to staff their National Advisory Council with health professionals who are qualified and unbiased in their views about providing quality behavioral health services to LGBT as well as non-Gay individuals."



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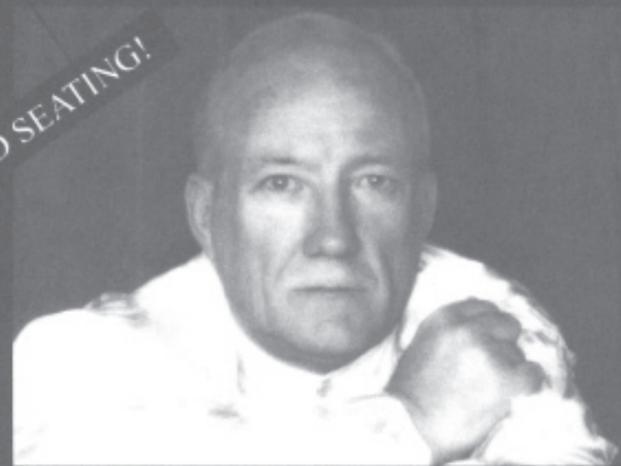
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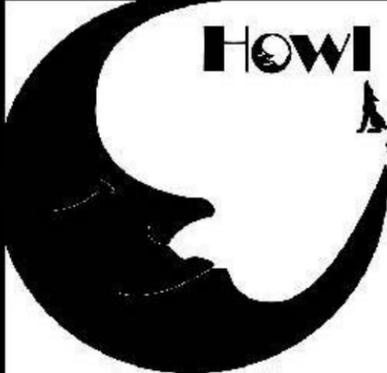
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Mom's The Word

Continued from Page One

At age 5, Joe signed up for Little League, and by 8 he was one of the best athletes around. His gift was a strong right arm. His Little League coach for two seasons? Doreen, who had played competitive softball.

"Joe could always throw," she said. "I mean, he had a real powerful arm. And he kept working and working to get better. I think we knew he was a special kind of baseball player."

Remarkably - and against all hardball logic - Valentine rarely pitched. He was a catcher whose greatest joy came from nailing a hapless runner trying to swipe second. Young Joe loved everything about squatting behind the plate. The power of calling a game. The dirt crumbling between his fingers. The pop-pop of rawhide meeting leather. The collisions at home.

"I wanted to be in the middle of the action," he said. "Not making random appearances here and there."

By the time he arrived at Deer Park as a sophomore in 1994 (Joe attended St. Anthony's in Huntington as a freshman), Valentine was one of the better young ballplayers on Long Island.

"He was exceptional," Deer Park coach Carmine Argenziano said. "Even when we had pitchers who had poor moves and couldn't hold anyone on, no one would run on Joe. He was a weapon back there."

In fact, Argenziano once said, "He used to throw it back to our pitchers harder than they threw it to him. It was scary."

Meanwhile, Deb and Doreen attended every Deer Park game. People in the stands assumed Deb was Joe's "mom" and Doreen his "aunt," and none of the three would argue.

"If it eases what people need to believe," Doreen said, "so be it."

Joe swears he never has been embarrassed by his family. It is all he has ever known. But the unpredictability of facial expressions that greet "These are my mothers" is, well, awkward.

Making things easier, the two women never held hands, kissed or hugged at the games. Partially to avoid controversy, but also because it's not who they are.

"We went to watch baseball," Doreen said. "We're not trying to make statements."

By the end of his senior year, most of his teammates and their parents knew Joe was the product of a Gay relationship. Heck, the kids used to hang out at Joe's house.

"One day I heard a teacher talking about Joe, and that he had two mothers," Argenziano said. "I was shocked, truly shocked. But you know what? I also didn't care. Those two women did a helluva job raising one fine man. A helluva job."

College recruiters began showing up during Valentine's senior season in 1997. Not bigtime schools like Arizona State and Miami, but local colleges willing to overlook his so-so hitting ability.

After batting .370 as a senior and making his second All-County team, Valentine played for the Bayside Yankees, a summer-league team that has produced more than 20 major league players. During Valentine's first summer with Bayside, coach Marc Cuseta often

was frustrated by his catcher's refusal to take the mound.

"You know how high school kids are," Cuseta said. "They wanna be the star, bat third and be in the lineup every day. Joe was no different."

But when it finally became clear to Valentine that his future as a catcher was limited because of his hitting, he relented. In the summer of 1998, Bayside turned him into its closer, and after several weeks of just throwing mid-90s fastballs and hoping they sailed over the plate, Valentine picked up the slider that's now his major-league "out" pitch.

Valentine accepted a scholarship to Dowling College but grew frustrated with the program and left during his first semester. Eventually, Cuseta called an old pal, Keith Griffin, the baseball coach at Jefferson Davis CC in Brewton, Ala., and told him about an under-the-radar pitcher with an infinite upside.

Joe Valentine was moving to the heart of the Bible Belt.

With his Gay parents.

They expected the worst. When Deb and Doreen followed Joe south and settled into an apartment in nearby Pensacola, Fla., they envisioned one hostile face after another. This was Alabama, after all, onetime home of church bombings and tree lynchings. Perhaps if they played it cool, nobody would notice. But inevitably, someone would get the picture, that Joe's "aunt" (wink-wink) wasn't his aunt.

It didn't take long.

"I remember people finding out and thinking it was something to joke about," Valentine said. "They'd say, 'Oh, so you must be Gay, huh?'"

"What?" Valentine would reply.

"Well, you must be Gay," one person said. "But how come you don't act all foo-foey? You're not elegant. You're just a regular guy."

"What the hell is 'foo-foey?'" Valentine says now. "People can be so incredibly narrow-minded. But I'm not someone who starts fights over this stuff. I'm a patient guy."

Deb and Doreen attended every Jefferson Davis game that season, becoming unofficial team mothers as their son compiled an 8-1 record and was named to the NJCAA All-Region XXII team. They'd invite Joe's teammates out for lunch and dinner. Sometimes even cook. Gay? Straight? Most of the players were just happy to be looked after.

"If you're a good boy, I don't care if you're from Mars," Griffin said. "And Joe was as good a boy as I've ever had around. He's hard-working, he's very competitive and he's got a big heart. I'll tell you, very few seemed to care that his parents were Gay. They were wonderful people. And Joe - he's a man's man."

Valentine's decision to attend Jefferson Davis was a good one. In June 1999, he was selected by the Chicago White Sox in the 26th round of the amateur draft.

Throughout his six-year, four-organization professional baseball career, Joe Valentine rarely has volunteered information about his parents. Again, it's not that he's embarrassed. But why risk starting trouble?

Every so often, however, when he's comfortable, Valentine lets his guard down.

Continued on Page Seven

Methodists Reverse, Restore Lesbian Pastor

PHILADELPHIA - A United Methodist Church panel overruled a decision made last December that defrocked Lesbian minister Irene "Beth" Stroud for talking about being in a covenant relationship with her partner, Chris Paige, in one of her sermons, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The panel voted 8-1 in favor of Stroud. The Philadelphia minister came out in a sermon in 2003. Many members of her congregation had already known that she was Gay, but when she talked about it in public it became a matter open to church law. According to the United Methodist doctrine, Gay people can become ministers, as long as they remain celibate. Stroud's ongoing relationship violated that rule.

The church defrocked Stroud, suggesting that she knew what church rule was about Gay relationships and knowingly violated it. In this latest step, the church panel overturned that ruling, claiming that church law with regard to this matter was vague.

The panel asked the General Conference, the church's principal legislative body, to clarify the meaning of "practicing homosexual" and "status," which were church law terms used to defrock Stroud. Until the conference defines these terms, the panel said, such a decision violates Stroud's due process rights.

Since being defrocked Stroud has worked as a lay minister with her church, First United Methodist of Germantown. In a press conference after the panel's decision was announced, she said she was pleased with the decision, but she also

added that she will stay in that lay position until the legal process is finally finished.

"Ordination is a sacred trust," she said. "It is not something that I can put on and take off again like a suit of clothes."

It's unclear when exactly that legal process will be over. The General Conference is not scheduled to meet again until 2008.

Soulforce, a national nonprofit dedicated to ending what it calls the religious oppression of Gay people, protested outside the defrocking trial in December. Today, Laura Montgomery Rutt, Soulforce media coordinator, said she was pleased with this latest decision, but the group strongly admonished the church's prior actions.

"The United Methodist Church has a long way to go on this issue," Montgomery Rutt said. "The church needs to stop putting LGBT people on trial, because the very act of the trial is a kind of spiritual violence — it is an insult to the dignity and worth of these ministers."

Stroud is not the first Gay minister to face church punishment. In 1987 the Rev. Rose Mary Denman, a Lesbian minister in New Hampshire, was defrocked. She did not appeal her decision. In March 2004 the Rev. Karen Damman, a Lesbian minister in Washington, faced defrocking but was acquitted by jurors who argued the Book of Discipline did not specifically list same-sex love as a "chargeable offense" for ministers. The Judicial Council later changed the language in the Book of Discipline to make non-celibacy for Gay clergy a chargeable offense. Stroud's case was the first test of that ruling.

Supreme Court To Hear Military Case

Continued from Page One

race, gender or sexual orientation.

The Forum argued that not only were the college's rights to free speech abridged by the law, but the Solomon Amendment also violates US law.

"The Solomon Amendment forces the law school to violate its own policy and actively support military recruiters who come onto campus to engage in the very discriminatory hiring practices that the law school condemns," wrote lawyers for the Forum in their brief to the court.

The Bush administration con-

tended in its court filings that equal access to campuses for recruiting is necessary to fill the military's legal ranks "in a time of war." It said the law does not violate free speech rights because schools are free to protest so long as they are willing to forgo federal research dollars, which amount to hundreds of millions at some schools.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives urged the White House to appeal the lower court ruling.

In the decision to hear the case the court said that arguments would be heard in the court's next term beginning in October.

Mom's The Word

Continued from Page Six

Three years ago, while playing for the Double-A Birmingham Barons, Valentine roomed with Gary Majewski, a righthanded pitcher from Houston. One night they were watching TV, shooting the breeze. "I don't remember how we got on the subject," said Majewski, now with the Nationals. "He just sort of told me. I was like, 'Um, OK.' Joe is a cool dude."

And Valentine can play. After bouncing from the White Sox to the Tigers to the White Sox to the A's to the Reds, he made his big league debut with Cincinnati in 2003. He pitched in 24 games last season, going 2-3 with four saves and a 5.22 ERA. He initially struggled in spring training this year but made the Reds out of camp. Valentine pitched the eighth inning of a 6-1 victory over the Mets on Thursday, striking out two, and pitched a scoreless seventh against Houston last night, retiring Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell and Morgan Ensberg on grounders.

Deb and Doreen, who are retired and live in North Port, Fla., plan on seeing Joe pitch as often as possible. And when they show up in the family area after

games, surrounded by the brigade of wives and husbands and kids, their son will, as always, proudly greet them with a hug. They are his loved ones. His moms.

"I don't see myself as an activist for Gay rights, although I will speak up if I need to," Valentine said. "I think people need to judge others for who they are. Not by any prejudiced ideas or thoughts. I'm a baseball player who was raised by two wonderful, loving mothers. How can anyone criticize that?"

The Joe Valentine File - Born Dec. 24, 1979 in Las Vegas ... was a catcher at Deer Park High School, from where he graduated in 1997 ... drafted by the White Sox in 1999 ... after second stint with Chicago, was traded with Keith Foulke to Oakland for Billy Koch (West Babylon) ... traded from Oakland to Cincinnati on July 30, 2003 ... allowed a run and two hits in MLB debut Aug. 24, 2003 ... career record through Friday: 2-3, 5.65 ERA, has converted all four save chances.



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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

'Orwell Was Right, Welcome To 1984'

Just in the past week, more U.S. soldiers and Iraqis perish in Mesopotamia where the U.S. is supposedly winning, according to Dubya, who said this during his April 28 television event.

Congressional Republicans, in their recently approved budget, give the rich more tax breaks while the nation's average salary can't keep up with inflation. As Dubya blathered, people who make \$20,000 a year are "well off."

With all those tax breaks given to the rich and corporations like the oil industry, totalling \$106-billion, the Congressional Republicans in their budget, that was approved by a 214-211 margin in the House, and 52-47 in the Senate with no Democrats voting in favor, cut spending for federal programs (health and AIDS programs included) by \$35-billion, with Medicaid taking a hit by getting their funding slashed by \$10-billion for deficit reduction, now only bringing the deficit into the "red" by \$382 billion dollars!

As gas prices continue to rise to new highs and again thanks to the Congressional Republicans again, from their recently adopted budget, they allow oil companies profits to skyrocket and reward them with even more tax breaks while Dubya can't waive "a magic wand" to solve the gas crisis but holds hands with the Saudi King, gushing over flowers while the nation suffers.

Senate Republicans, led by the cat-killer, Tennessee Senator Bill Frist, get ready to use the nuclear option on the Senate rule quashing free speech, not allowing those with an opinion that happens to be against their agenda to speak, ending the checks and balances in the three branches of government and the separation of church and state created by the Founding Fathers and taking another step closer to that theocracy they dream for.

Dubya's "solution" for Social Security, as stated at his television event, with the assistance of cheat-sheets and an earpiece, was to create a regressive system by drastically cutting benefits (29% to 40%) for those who need it, emphasizing private accounts and "sound investing in Treasury Bills," despite calling these same items "worthless IOU's," at a scripted stop in West Virginia during his bamboozlapooza tour.

Congressional Republicans, led by U.S. Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, are trying to pass the "Real I.D. Act," an anti-immigration bill that would mandate all citizens to carry a national identification card.

Army officers set up to investigate the torture and abuse at Abu Gharib issue a white wash finding, clearing the Army and the officers in charge, like Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the prison commander who signed the orders allowing the torture of prisoners at Abu Gharib.

James Dobson of Focus on the Family, proclaimed that the Supreme Court has caused more harm than what the Nazi's did during the Holocaust.

Pat Robertson, known for his hemorrhoid cure and earthquakes, reaffirmed that only Jews or Christians should serve in Cabinet and then attempted to tie Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to communism. During his interview on a Sunday morning news show Robertson added that he also thought liberals are a bigger threat to our country than Hitler, Stalin, or Al-Qaeda.

A 13-year-old girl, from an

abused family that was placed in Florida's foster care system is fighting Republican Governor Jeb Bush for her choice to abort her pregnancy.

Arizona's Legislature is more transfixed on providing fireworks in a state known for brush fires, as well as guns in bars than providing funding for health care and education, naming two of many areas.

So what was the nation transfixed on when all this transpire, thanks to the corporate-controlled media?

A Georgia woman, who was to be have been hitched, claimed to have been abducted by a Hispanic man, turning up in Albuquerque, stating she had a case of cold feet and that the kidnapping story was false, costing \$60,000 for the police to conduct a search under false pretenses, and Laura Bush at the White House press corps dinner, showing her ability to read a script that had a joke about Dubya milking a male horse while maintaining her zombie-like demeanor.

Orwell was right, welcome to 1984.

In Their Own Words

Our President announces (after-the-fact) the doctrine of pre-emptive war.

He and his administration now tell us that we are involved in a perpetual war; but that the prisoners we have taken in the course of that conflict are not prisoners of war and have no right to counsel or other constitutional protections.

Confusing, isn't it?

- Victor S. Navasky - Publisher and Editorial Director "The Nation" ...

"We deal in illusions, man. None of it is true. But you people sit there day after day, night after night, all ages, colors, creeds. We're all you know. You're beginning to believe the illusions we're spinning here. You're beginning to think that the tube is reality and that your own lives are unreal. You do whatever the tube tells you. You dress like the tube. You eat like the tube. You raise your children like the tube. You even think like the tube. This is mass madness — you maniacs! In God's name you people are the real thing, we are the illusion.

"So turn off your television sets. Turn them off now. Turn them off right now. Turn them off and leave them off. Turn them off right in the middle of the sentence I am speaking to you now. Turn them off!"

- Howard Beale, as played by the late Peter Finch, during his live studio broadcast of the Network News Hour - Network

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Lesbian Actress, At Conference, Shares Her Struggle

BROOKLINE - Heather Matarazzo hated high school. The 22-year-old actress, best known for her movie roles in "Welcome to the Dollhouse" and "Saved," said she has known since second grade that she was attracted to other girls. But shame forced the actress into years of silence and self-destruction. She abused drugs and alcohol. She ran away from home, the Boston Globe reported.

Matarazzo described her experiences to more than 500 teachers, students, and parents who attended the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Boston's 15th annual conference at Brookline High School. As the keynote speaker, Matarazzo drew tears and applause when she described her struggle to gain acceptance of her sexuality.

"It was such a burden, because I had to pretend to be this person that I wasn't," Matarazzo told the audience.

Dozens of students surrounded the actress after her speech, wanting to share their own struggles, to thank her for being an inspiration, to get her autograph. Wearing jeans, a white T-shirt, and Birkenstocks, Matarazzo hugged them one by one.

The goal of the conference was "to give hope to the young people, build self-esteem, and empower people to change their schools," said Adam Glick, a therapist at a special-education high school in Brookline who organized the event.

In workshops, students and educators learned how to respond to homophobic slurs. Teachers practiced how to respond to young children who ask about the meanings of "Gay," "Bisexual," and "Lesbian." Conference participants learned about preserving equal marriage rights for same-sex partners. They learned how Gay-straight alliances design presentations to educate teachers.

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual

students are significantly more likely than their straight peers to abuse drugs and alcohol, according to a 2001 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the state Department of Education. Gay youth are also four times more likely to have attempted suicide and twice as likely to have been threatened with a weapon at school.

"We're making a lot of gains, but there's a lot of backlash that comes with it," said Eva Rosenberg, president of the Gay Straight Alliance at Lexington High School and a board member of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. "We have to be ready to fight the fight."

In Lexington, the father of an elementary school student objected to a book his 5-year-old son brought home about families, including same-sex couples raising children. The father was arrested for trespassing when he refused to leave a school after meeting with the principal.

Lesley Strang, a second-grade teacher at the Atrium School, a private school in Watertown, led a workshop on how to talk to young children about Gay and Lesbian issues. She said she had spent the last five years teaching students to respect all kinds of families. She always sends home a transcript of her discussions with students, to let parents know what was said.

"Family communication is the most important part in doing this work," Strang said. "The unknown is so scary, and you want to protect your children."

In previous network conferences, protesters have demonstrated outside, and some have managed to disrupt workshops, student organizers said. No protesters were seen outside the conference yesterday afternoon.

Matarazzo advised her audience to "kill protesters with love."

Jiovani Robles and Valdir DePina, eighth-graders at the Academy of the

Pacific Rim, a charter school in Hyde Park, attended the conference to support their Gay teachers. Robles said he had not known until hearing Matarazzo's speech that Gay youth struggled so much for

acceptance. He said his Catholic parents had taught him to respect everyone. But the boys said the conference opened their eyes to how much work still needs to be done to teach tolerance in schools.

Oregon Governor Says He Will Fight For G/L Couples

SALEM - Oregon governor Ted Kulongoski told representatives from Oregon's businesses on Wednesday, April 27, that he's prepared to fight "for as long as it takes" to pass legislation that will provide and protect rights for Gays and Lesbians, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

He also criticized the legislature for not yet acting to ensure that Gay rights legislation is passed this session.

Kulongoski spoke at the annual fund-raiser lunch for Basic Rights Oregon, a nonprofit group that works on Gay rights issues. Many among the 500 people at the lunch represent Oregon businesses, including Nike, Powell's Books, and Portland General Electric. Kulongoski told them that all committed couples need to be respected equally, and he called on lawmakers who say they support such equality to start working on legislation. "Now is the time for the legislature to stop clapping and start acting," he said.

Kulongoski wants lawmakers to pass a senate bill he introduced that would grant the rights of marriage to Gay and Lesbian couples through civil unions and would make discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal. He said it would be "morally unacceptable" not to pass the bill and said the legislation is needed because sexual discrimination still exists in Oregon.

While those at the event praised Kulongoski, Tim Nashif of the Defense of Marriage Coalition criticized Kulongoski's senate bill as an attempt to "basically gut

marriage." Nashif's group supports "reciprocal benefits," which would grant selected rights to all sorts of family groups, including two brothers living together or two friends. A bill will be introduced soon to provide for reciprocal benefits. Nashif said the group is opposed to Kulongoski's bill because it grants all the rights of marriage to Gay couples and also give Gays "minority status." "We don't believe that's what Oregonians want," Nashif said.

Kulongoski, however, said the recent state supreme court ruling that nullified 3,000 marriage licenses issued to Gay and Lesbian couples by Oregon's Multnomah County "clearly left the door open for the legislature to create civil unions.... This is an opportunity they must not miss." Kulongoski's remarks were met with applause and a standing ovation. "It feels good to be in a state where the governor has taken that kind of leadership," said Gregg Arntson, a spokesman for Portland General Electric who attended the event. The governor was also praised by Basic Rights Oregon for his long-running support of Gay rights. "Nowhere else has a governor stepped up to take leadership in a way that this governor has," said Roey Thorpe, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon.



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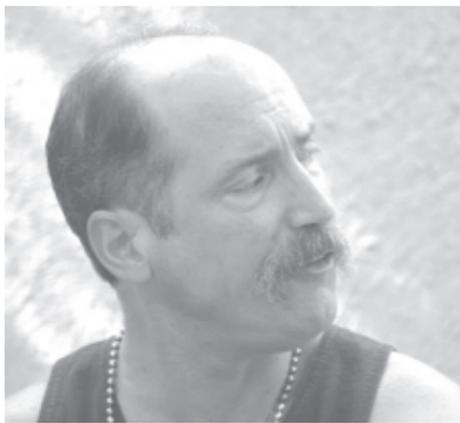
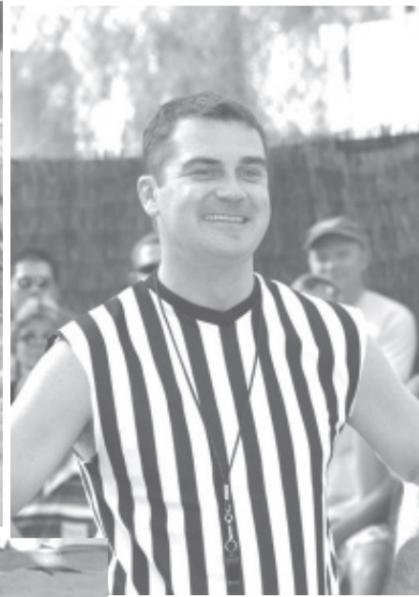
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End Of Filibuster Would Open Door For Anti-Gay Judges

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senate majority leader Bill Frist on Tuesday, April 26, rejected compromise offers that would allow minority Democrats to continue to block judicial nominees, saying all of President Bush's past and future court choices deserve confirmation votes from the GOP-controlled Senate, Advocate.com reported.

"At the end of the day, one will be left standing...the Constitution, which allows up-or-down votes, or the filibuster," Frist said.

Democrats blocked 10 of Bush's appellate court choices through filibuster threats, which means those nominees would have to get 60 votes before they could be confirmed to lifetime seats on the nation's second highest court. They have threatened to block again the seven that Bush renominated this year as well as future ones they consider outside of the mainstream.

Republicans in turn have threatened to use their majority to change senatorial rules to require a simple majority vote for confirmation, in part because they fear a Democratic blockade could affect a Supreme Court vacancy if a high court seat opens in Bush's second term. To avoid that showdown, Senate minority leader Harry Reid said Tuesday he had offered Frist a compromise. The Nevada Democrat refused to give full details but said part of that compromise would require Republicans to back away from attempting to ban judicial filibusters.

But Frist, earlier in the day, said he would not accept any deal that keeps his Republican majority from confirming judicial nominees that the Senate Judiciary Committee has approved. Frist also would not discuss specifics but said he would not advocate the withdrawal of any judicial nominee and would continue to insist they all get confirmation votes.

Below is a list of President Bush's seven blocked judicial nominees and the courts on which he would have them serve. All were nominated in Bush's first term, rejected, and then renominated this year:

William H. Pryor Jr., for the 11th circuit court of appeals in Atlanta. Bush gave the former Alabama attorney general a temporary recess appointment in 2004 and renominated him for a lifetime seat on the court. Awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Democratic senators have objected to his comments and writings on abortion and homosexuality, which included a Supreme Court brief in a Texas sodomy case that likened Gay sex acts to "prostitution, adultery, necrophilia, bestiality, possession of child pornography, and even incest and pedophilia."

Janice Rogers Brown, for the U.S. circuit court of appeals for the District of Columbia. Approved by the Judiciary Committee, awaiting vote by full Senate. Democrats say the California supreme court justice is a conservative judicial activist who ignores the law in favor of her own political views. Among her many extremely conservative positions, she has voted against the rights of Gays in the state.

Priscilla Owen, for the fifth U.S. circuit court of Appeals in New Orleans. Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, waiting on Senate vote. Democrats say the Texas supreme court justice is an ultraconservative activist and fault her rulings against consumers,

working people, and minors who want abortions. She was one of Bush's first judicial nominees after he won the White House.

William G. Myers III, for the ninth U.S. circuit court of appeals in San Francisco. Approved by the Judiciary Committee, awaiting vote by full Senate. Democrats say the former Interior Department solicitor has an anti-environmental agenda and opposed environmental protections while at the Interior Department and as a private lawyer and lobbyist for cattle and mining interests.

Henry Saad, for the sixth U.S. circuit court of appeals in Cincinnati. Renominated. Democratic senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan have said they would not approve new nominations to the sixth circuit because President Clinton's nominees to that court were never given a confirmation hearing by the Republican-controlled Senate. Levin and Stabenow want Bush to renominate Clinton's sixth circuit court nominees.

Richard Griffin, for the sixth U.S. circuit court of appeals in Cincinnati. Renominated. Opposed by Levin and Stabenow because Clinton's nominees to that court were never given a confirmation hearing by Republicans.

David McKeague, for the sixth U.S. circuit court of appeals in Cincinnati. Opposed by Levin and Stabenow because Clinton's nominees to that court never got a confirmation hearing by Republicans.

G/L Rights Supporters Mark Anniversary

PHILADELPHIA - In the summer of 1965, a group of 40 protesters marched in front of Independence Hall and denounced public policies that labeled Gays as mentally ill and a national security risk, the Associated Press reported on the PlanetOut Network.

Forty years later, hundreds of Gay rights supporters crowded into a nearby historic church for an interfaith service celebrating what some have called the nation's first Gay rights demonstration.

Sunday's (May 1) service at Christ Church included a sermon by the Episcopal Church's first openly Gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson, who called for an end to discrimination against homosexuals.

"We hear God's voice and it says you are my beloved," said Robinson, who was consecrated as bishop of the New Hampshire Diocese in 2003.

A Methodist minister who had been defrocked for being in a Lesbian relationship — before later being reinstated — shared Robinson's message of acceptance.

"Other faith traditions out there have tried to shut us down and tell us we're not worthy," the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud told the crowd. "I pray for a day when no one will experience discrimination."

Outside, about 25 protesters, including members of the conservative Christian group Repent America, protested the daylong festivities. Earlier, police estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 Gay rights supporters converged on Independence Hall to mark the rally.

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Welcome May this week, kids. It means that sultry summer is not too far away. Let's follow the travels of Mercury from Aries, then Taurus and finally Gemini. We can't seem to keep our minds on any one thing! Let your thoughts roam free along with your hands.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
If your life path takes a bit of a detour, chalk it up to the fact that you are apt to change your mind as often as your underwear. Every idea, no matter how awful, seems full of promise and potential. Be a bit picky Gay Ram and share your goodies. It's all about you and your money through May. Patch things up after the 21st when you are flush and feel more generous.

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls take on more than they can chew at work through May. These responsibilities become almost overwhelming and you won't accomplish as much as you expect considering the effort. Why not relax and just contemplate your navel through mid-month? Try some yoga or meditation to reduce stress. If that doesn't work, try that cheap thing by the bar.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Wilde parties have a tendency to go completely out of control through May. Muster your great reserves of energy and fully take advantage of the boatloads of bonhomie at your disposal. And how fickle will you be? Pink Twins can content themselves with knowing that deep down they are good, kind and giving. Hmmm... How deep down do you have to go to find that out?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
If you thought about rolling up the sidewalk and cocooning at home, think again Gay Crab. You may just find that May is the month to escape from all confinements and commitments. Compadres beckon and have a few tricks up their sleeves. Go hot pink with merry Mercury through the 29th and find ways to expand your social sphere. Also find a few new bars as well.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions ache for recognition and their commensurate rewards. Keep thinking about it through May as Mercury helps you plot and plan. But don't ask for it just yet. Any fiery communication will not reach the intended target nor will it have the intended effect. Compromise. In selling out you may find yourself the opportunity to buy, buy, buy!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
The urge to splurge is more costly than you expect through May. Queer Virgins are not properly concentrating on the bottom line. That is okay. There are more important things to think about that have longer lasting impact. Instead of buying high and selling low, focus your thoughts on self improvement and higher education. Mercury offers you a B.S. and that's no BS.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Bursting on the scene is one way to put it. Busting out is another way. Gay Libras are into see and being seen this May. There is no holding them back from making fools of themselves ... in very endearing ways, I might add. Avoid embarrassment by thinking first and preparing for your moment in the sun, if you can. If not, thank goodness you have a good sense of humor!

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Mercury has you initially thinking about perfecting your bod and then on finding someone to share it with. Don't let May slip by without doing a little self improvement. Meanwhile, no secrets are safe with you. Proud Scorps will let the proverbial cat out of the bag at any opportunity. And yet all goes well; Cats and people are often happiest Out of the bag anyway.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
What is it about friends this May that has them coming out of the woodwork and upending all your carefully constructed plans? Your mind is on work and you may not feel like bopping around with a bunch of hangers on. But hold onto your moment of bop a little longer. By the end of the month, Mercury moves on and you pine for a close companion. The more the merrier!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Pink Caps are apt to be slightly unfocused this May as Mercury glides through Aries, Taurus and Gemini. Ultimately you'll hone in on the job, but don't get too big for your britches at least at work. If your head gets too big for your office you may be moved to an open cubicle. Don't let the hungry sharks smell your panic or goat will be served in the corporate dining room.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
While your thoughts are centered on your home and family, there is something pushing you to expand beyond your usual boundaries. Aqueerians are tempted to bite off more than they can chew but should keep their eager nips to themselves now. Focus is key throughout May. By the 29th you will gladly focus on more entertaining pastimes. No names please!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
How much is too much? Who knows but you may reach the limits of your consumption this May. Guppies go to extremes and can eventually be washed ashore and left to dry out and obsessively relive their actions. Why fight fate? Enjoy your assorted flotsam and jetsam while they last. Mercury stokes your home fires after the 29th to not only dry things Out but to toast them.



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Wow! Could it have been a more perfect day for JELL-O! Slight cloud covering, mid-80's temperature and people looking for a good time! What a fun, outrageous event...and what amazing support from this community!

The 18th Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza raised \$32,000 for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation – I think Reno would be so proud. Other than one year when we received an unexpected matching gift of \$20,000, this year's total is the most we have ever raised at a Jell-O Wrestling event. So again this year, we have set a Jell-O Wrestling fundraising record!

We have many, many people to thank. Putting on an event like this is a team effort in so many ways. The crowd in attendance was incredibly supportive and enthusiastic, and once again everyone did open their hearts and gave and affected by HIV/AIDS in our community. It is in large part due to community fundraising efforts like the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza that SAAF is able to continue to provide its critical programs and services for our community.

We owe a huge thank you to Dave Huff and Frank Schepis and the staff of Woody's for hosting this famous event. Their generosity and commitment to this cause are truly outstanding. Woody's is a great bar; you should hang out there more often!

We were thrilled to have the legendary Gilda Fatale back for this year's event, along with the amazing Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone. They were extraordinary hostesses, keeping the crowd entertained and keeping the fun flowing right up until the end. We

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thank them for the gift of their time, and for their ongoing dedication to people living with HIV/AIDS.

This year's wrestler teams were hugely entertaining. René Lachance and local jazz artist Susan Artemis as "Crazed Fan and Jazz Chanteuse," began the series of matches. Other themed matches included: Prince Charles and Camilla, Pimps and Hos, The Ultimate Jell-o Match, Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf, Wonder Woman versus Cat Woman, Mano vs. Mano, ScoobyDoo's Velma and Daphne, and Prison Guard and the Prisoner. This was a very dedicated group of people who really put their hearts into the event. We all benefited from the spirit they added to the afternoon.

A big thanks goes to Joe Roos who returned this year as the referee to keep all the wrestlers safe and happy. And Bob Fischella who was our trusty "hoser-off-er" again this year! We thank Robin Stancliff for donating her photographic services to make sure we have a visual record of all of the fun we had.

Our resident Jell-O making experts again whipped together the 300 gallons of gelatin – this year in a sultry shade of pink. Thank you to Dave Locke and his team of volunteers who, as always, made the Jell-O with awesome precision and efficiency. Thanks also go to La Cocina Restaurant, Tolteca Tlacuilo, and Wilde Rose Coffee Co. for donating the Jell-O.

As many of you know, the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza was among the events

whose support from the City of Tucson was cut last year. We were disappointed to lose this support, but in its place, we were able again this year to gather more community support! We were honored this year to receive event sponsorship contributions from Centra Realty, Tim Brown of Farmers Insurance, Arizona Chicken Café, Smirnoff, Ethan Allen Home Furnishings, Fascinations, GE Investigations, LLC, and Dean Groth who underwrote the Top Fundraising Wrestler prize.

The Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza has become a landmark in the community and would not exist without the dedication of the long-time committee of Eddie Gallego, Willie Gradillas, Dave Huff, Harry Lewis, Dave Locke, Natalie Perry, Frank Schepis, Helga Wochehl and Peter Sitig. New members joined the committee this year to help the event succeed. They are: Julie Burguiere, Chris Davis, Sally Anne Hayes, Heather Miller, Gary Rhine, and Lee Rosenberg. The Jell-O magic could not happen without them and we are so grateful to them.

The Gay Men's Health Project hosted a tasty barbeque—thank you to all of them for working the hot grill all day long. GMHP was able to raise \$680 through this effort for this specific SAAF program. GMHP also participated in making and serving up the tasty Jell-O treats to the crowd, raising another \$642! Again thanks for all your help!

We had a wonderful range of items to auction this year, and we want to express our appreciation for the businesses and individuals who donated so

generously. We hope our community will help us thank them for their contributions by patronizing these businesses that donate such gifts; without them we simply could not be successful.

As always, we had a great group of loyal volunteers on the scene to help everything run smoothly. SAAF could not host such a great event without their help. Thanks to the staff and board of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation as well for their dedication. Special recognition goes to Angela Putman for her assistance with publicity materials, including a remarkable website. And of course, thanks to The Observer!

We also want to mention that there is just a hand full of Jell-O 2005 t-shirts still available. If you haven't bought yours yet, hurry before they run out. These shirts are a wonderful way to commemorate and remember this incredible event. Contact SAAF, (520) 628-7223 or by email at events@saaf.org to get one while they last!

To everyone who made this day so successful and enjoyable, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to you. It is with your love and support that great things happen to create and sustain a healthier community.

Sincerely, Anne Maley
Executive Director - SAAF

EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank those that helped make the Jello for the 18th annual Reno Gannon Jello Benefit for SAAF. Every year, we seem to have the same people that give up their time to make this event happen.

I would like to thank Dave & Frank for allowing us to make the Jello at
Continued on Page Fifteen

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GMHP

Dear Dr. X,

You give lots of advice, and it always seems to be pretty cool. Can you help me? I've been with my boyfriend for over two years now, and since we met, he has gained over 40 pounds. I still love him and all, but I don't get turned on thinking about sex with him anymore. I don't want him to think I don't love him, but sex is just terrible now. I don't know how to tell him that it's his weight that's the problem without sounding shallow. Am I shallow?

Signed, Saucer

Dear Saucer,

Cute name! I saw that episode of Mork and Mindy too! Thanks for your letter. First let me say that I try not to actually give advice on what people should do. My style is more like giving some different ways of thinking about things, or supplying more facts, and letting folks make up their own minds. It seems to work pretty well, and doesn't make people feel like they are being told what to do. Plus, who am I to tell you what to do anyway? Ha! Just kidding! Listen up.

Your letter did not say if this 40 pounds was muscle, fat, new jewelry, or a combination thereof. For the purposes of this column, we will assume that you are talking about gaining 40 pounds of body fat.

Anyway, do I think you're



shallow-no, not at all. I would indeed think so if you said that you did not love him anymore because of the weight. That would definitely make you an ass. Also, you're searching for a way to express your concerns without hurting his feelings, which shallow, superficial guys would never bother to do. Unfortunately, you cannot control your attraction to a certain size of guy anymore than you can control the fact that you like men and not women. It is just who you are. You won't change it either; no matter how hard you try.

Let me put it this way. I have a friend who is only attracted to young, thin guys with no body hair. Many people find him to be shallow and superficial because he can't get into bigger guys. Conversely, though, I seem to only get turned on by bigger, meatier guys with bellies and hairy butts. It's just who I am. No one calls me shallow, though, for not liking the smaller, thinner guys. What is the difference?

Anyway, let's answer you question of how to talk about it. You might try to approach the subject by letting him know that you have noticed the gain, and that you are worried about how the

increased weight is affecting his overall health. That kind of weight gain in such a short time can have adverse affects in several areas. Because you are in love with him, his health is important to you.

Also, you might try letting him know that you have noticed the change in weight, and are concerned about it being a possible sign of unhappiness, unease, or depression. Let him know that you are concerned about him, and love him, and that you are there to help him. After either of these has begun the conversation, you will find the right time to talk about how the weight is affecting you sex life. Remember to be gentle and loving, but honest.

Remember not to have expectations of how your partner will answer your concerns. Be open to what he has to share with you, and try not to be judgmental about his responses. Be prepared, too, for the possibility that he may need some time to process some of the concerns you have raised, and may not be ready to talk right away. He may not have given much thought to the reasons for the weight gain. Remind him that your romantic feelings for him have not changed, and that you are

still in love with him. Above all, be honest. If you never talk about issues, and honestly, then they won't get resolved. They will only get worse. This is a great opportunity for you to learn a lot about your partner, yourself, and your relationship. Use it.

And finally, I applaud you efforts to try to find a way to talk about this without hurting him. Many guys would just say: "Damn, you're getting fat! You need to go to the gym if you plan of getting any from me." Put down 10 points on your official Dr. X scorecard!

[Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]



Continued from Page Fourteen

Woody's as well as all the support we needed. Also, from Woody's I would like to thank Robert and Frank for chipping in while we were short and needed some help.

Of course, none of this would be possible without my long-time Jello making team of Steven Mares, Mike Gomez, Willie Gradillas, Gary Adams and Eddie Gradillas. Even though I was not able to do as much as possible due to an injury of my foot, they took the ball and continued to roll with it until all was completed.

If you see these people out in the community, please give them a warm thank you. Without the Jello makers, there would be no event.

With Gratitude,
Dave Locke

G/L Rights Supporters Mark Anniversary

Continued from Page Eleven

The 1965 demonstration came four years before the Stonewall Riots in New York City, considered by many to have launched the equal rights movement for Gays.

"They were brave. They were defiant and they launched our civil rights movement," said Michael Williams, who heads Philadelphia's Minority Business Enterprise Council.

Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Philadelphia-based Equality Forum, had hoped to unveil a state-approved historical marker Sunday naming Independence Hall as the birthplace of Gay rights, a designation disputed by some historians. But the group's spokesman, Dan Wagner, said the marker, will not be ready until June.

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

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5th Stop:
IBT's
616 N. 4th Ave
Wednesday May 18, 2005
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

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

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Deadwood

by Lee Thorn

HBO continues to give us dramatic series that are better than anyone has a right to expect, programs that intrigue serious students of drama by significantly breaking new ground.

First, or at least first to my unsystematic notice, there was *The Sopranos*, a series that used the soap opera genre as a vehicle for exploring the mafia. It was a brilliant conjunction of ideas — soap family, mob family — that was given context and continuity by the hero/villain's home life. And, when his family was rent by separation, the dramatic coherence of the series evaporated and a boring random thuggishness ensued.

The Sopranos did wonderful things with humor, with seeing how close it could be to the violence and how broad it could be without destroying the dramatic thrust of the show.

They did a memorable *Dragnet* parody that featured a "custom pizza." The writers always walked a fascinating comedy/drama tightrope of their own evolving invention.

Then there was *The Wire*, a show that took the cop genre to places it had never been. Like *The Sopranos*, it played with the limits of its form and was packed with ideas. For my money its first year was miles ahead of the seasons that followed.

And now HBO strikes again with *Deadwood*, a Western beyond the traditional Western, a soap opera in which the family as dramatic anchor is replaced by "the camp," a big rough mining town. Unlike *The Sopranos* and *The Wire*, *Deadwood* focuses on highly artificial and rarely beautiful uses of language. While the earlier shows were at pains to create believable versions of natural speech, almost nobody in real life talks like almost everybody in *Deadwood* does.

These confections of speech which are the focal point of the series initially caused me to dismiss the whole enterprise as too gimmicky, but now I'm hooked.

Most of the *Deadwood* characters are possessed of enormous vocabularies. Most of the speeches are pieces of brilliant language, brilliant in their economy and precision, brilliant in the balance of their sentences, and just plain beautiful to hear.

While it's true that people don't talk like that in real life, just as they don't talk like the characters in plays by

Shakespeare, there are some groups of people who sometimes attempt to. They are folks who shape language for a living — writers, politicians, lawyers.

And, like most *Deadwood* residents, these folks are not, in their private conversations, inhibited by middle-class strictures against vulgarity. They're free to "talk dirty."

So why should we tolerate the nonsense of all these ordinary characters having this extraordinary command of English? It's not realistic. It's about as far from realistic as you can get.

On top of that, there seems to be a jarring clash between the unreality of the splendid spoken language and the downright base and grubby reality of the economic motives that drive the camp. All these fancy talkers would steal the pennies off a dead man's eyes. Why should we sit still for this incongruity?

And the moral character of the characters adds a whole new and confusing dimension.

We have a perfectly practical businessman whose business seems to require him to kill someone from time to time, a task he does efficiently but without apparent pleasure. There's a conventional hero whose innate goodness seems at times to threaten his common sense as well as the general welfare of the camp. We've got a villain who seems to enjoy evil for its own sake but who also has a kinder gentler side.

The complexity of the dialogue often reminds me of baroque architecture. Within this voluptuous torrent of words, a few phrases of simple eloquence can stand out as powerful poetry. Trusting to memory and risking that I won't get it exactly right, I give one pure gem as example: "The world ends when you're dead. Until then you got more punishment in store. Stand it like a man, and give some of it back."

In the tradition of Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov, Beckett, Ionesco, HBO is giving us a continuation of the theatre of ideas. It's not the only drama there is. I hold no brief against romps, spoofs, goofs or shoot 'em ups. I just love *Deadwood*.

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

NON-BAR CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 7
Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, MAY 9
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, MAY 14
#1-Tucson Prime Timers, Breakfast - 9:00 a.m., The Good Egg, 4775 E. Grant Rd.
#2-Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks - 5:00 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, MAY 16
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18
Tucson Prime Timers, Luncheon - 1:00 p.m., La Parilla Suiza, 2720 N. Oracle Rd.

SATURDAY, MAY 21
#1 - Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch/Business Meeting - Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.
#2 - Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks- 5:00 p.m. Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

MONDAY, MAY 23
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch - 1 p.m., China A, River at Stone Ave.

SATURDAY, MAY 28
Tucson Prime Timers, Food & Drinks - 5 p.m., Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle Rd.

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

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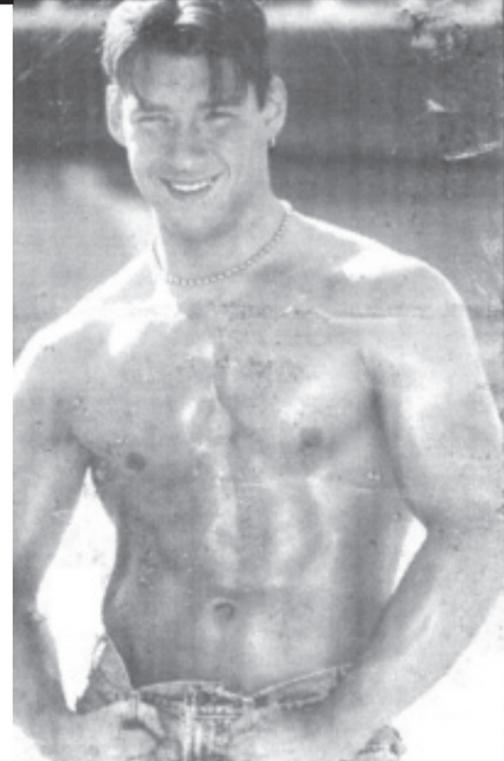
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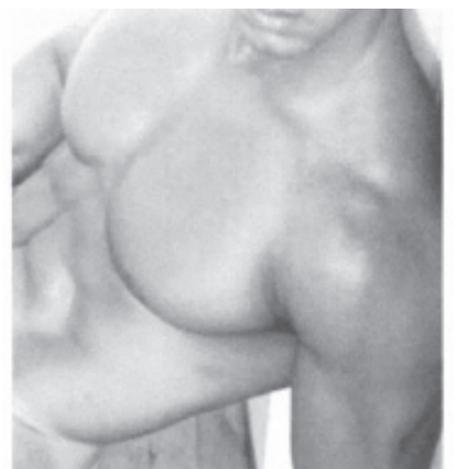
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am. Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Lunch menu served 11am-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am - 1pm, \$4.00 - Scrambled eggs, hash brown, biscuit & sausage gravy and your choice of Bloody Mary, coffee, juice or milk. Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney at 4 and 7pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points. Great chance to learn the hottest game around

IBT's - Open Noon. \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or mimosas. til 4pm 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-8 Benefit BBQ for community organizations 7:30-2Am Dance with David Z. All drink specials not available during special events

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. Patio Bar open 5-close. Pick-up Beach Volleyball games 5-7. \$2.50 sirloin burger w/salad 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open Sundays 10am - 1am. Bloody Marys or Screwdrivers \$1.75 from 10am - 3pm.

monday

COLORS - Closed on Mondays.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Monday Munchies 3 - 8 pm with reduced prices on appetizers - best deal in town! Free Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Sign-up begins one hour before playing time. No Cash - Play for Prizes and Points.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Audio Anomoly 9pm-2am with DJ Trinidad, 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Sky Martinis 4-8. Free Hot Dogs.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. 1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner & Concert" shown on our 52" projection System.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Bartender Calls rink specials..

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance with DJ Q. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetish- leather nite w/Gary and Chris 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 Beer Bust 3-7pm.

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Karaoke from 9pm with Johnny DJ & Dan..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 to midnight.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Tricked Out Thursday with your Bartenders in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Cocksucker shots 10pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$5.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2.25 well & domestic. Full menu served 4-11pm. 10pm "Guys & Dolls" Hosted by Lucinda Holliday in a 2 girl cabaret show with a different guest each week. Reservations suggested.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. Line Dance Lessons 7:30 to 8:30 pm. DJ Pat plays your favorite country dance songs 8:30 to midnight then a mix of dance & country 'til close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, Live Jazz on the Patio with Susan 6pm-9pm, Hot Dance with David Z from 9pm-2am, All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 3-4pm. Call Martinis \$3 from 3-4pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Gin until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Reservations suggested. Karaoke 10pm-close with Johnny DJ & Dan.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$3.00 Burger & Fries all day. DJ playing your favorite country songs 8:30 - midnight, then "anything goes" requests until close. Kitchen open 10 pm - 2 am for late night munchies.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm, 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Starr, Circuit Saturday's with DJ Q spinning Hot Club Music. All drink specials not available during special events.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Special Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5, Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza 6-9pm.

YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. 75¢ glass, \$2.25 pitcher. 50¢ off any Rum 1pm to 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel Open 9pm.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 7

UA Presents The Flying Karamazov Brothers and The Bobs for two performances, one at 2pm and the other 8pm at UA Centennial Hall. For tickets 621-3341.

MAY 7 THRU JUNE 12

Live Theatre Workshop presents "Baby With The Bathwater" by Christopher Durang. 5317 E. Speedway. Thursdays thru Saturdays 7:30pm; Sundays 3pm. Tickets \$13 - \$15. Call 327-4242.

MAY 16 THRU JUNE 5

Invisible Theatre presents "Meshuggah-Nuns!", the Ecumenical Nonsense Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin. The 5th in a series of six "Nonsense" shows. This one finds the Little Sisters of Hoboken out to sea on a "faith of all Nations" Cruise. After a terrible storm, every cast member of the ship's production of Fiddler on the Roof succumbs to sea sickness

Invisible Theatre is located at 1400 N. First Avenue at Drachman. Tickets are available at the Box office by calling 520-882-9721 or by stopping by the theater, Tuesday through Friday, 10 am - 4pm. Visa, Master Card and American Express are accepted. Play dates and times vary. Call the box office for more information.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, MAY 5 - CINCO DE MAYO

COLORS - Cinco de Mayo party with \$1 Margaritas, \$1.50 Corona. 1/2 price Mini Chimis, Mini Tacos & Jalapeño Poppers. Free Salsa lessons.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Cinco de Mayo specials include \$2 Well Margaritas and Mexican Beers plus price specials on several Mexican dishes of your choice.

VENTURE-N - Cinco de Mayo here with a Taco Bar by Taco Bell Charles, 6-8 p.m. Piñata Break 7:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Cinco de Mayo Margaritas and Corona specials all day. Deb's Taco Bar 11am-1pm. Mexican Dinner at 6:00 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

COLORS - Sowtime 10 p.m. Luciinda's special guest this week is Barbara Seville

VENTURE-N - Cinco de Mayo Mexican Happy Hour Buffet 6-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

IBT'S - Something new every Saturday, Teriaki Beef Kabobs with Beans and Salad for only \$3 from 5-8 p.m. on the patio with Karaoke and One Dollar 16oz Bud or Bud Light draught beers.

VENTURE-N - Cinco de Mayo continues with a Beer Bust and Michael's Enchiladas 3-7 p.m.

WOODY'S - Go-Go Boy Car Wash/BBQ/Beer Bust fundraiser for Reveille Gay Men;'s Chorus. Noon to 5:00 p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Breakfast by Ray 10 a.m. 'Welcome Phoenix Dart Players' - Yard Dog vs Johnny Mc's - Dart Tourney 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

VENTURE-N - Spaghetti Nite. \$2 - Ayce - 6-8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 12

YARD DOG SALOON - Budweiser Promo Party.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

WOODY'S - Is your birthday in May? Sign up for your Birthday Party at Woody's today. Cake - Champagne and Balloons.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

WOODY'S - Michael White Benefit Concert "One Voice" for Reveille Gay Men's Chorus. 7:30 p.m. \$20.

YARD DOG SALOON - Luau IV. Watch for details.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUED

MAY 20

Jerry Seinfeld at Tucson Music Hall. Two performances, 7pm and 9:30pm. Call for tickets 321-1000 or Ticketmaster outlets and TCC Ticket Office.

MAY 21 & 22

Ballet Tucson present "Sleeping Beauty" at Centennial Hall on the UofA Campus. For tickets call the box office 621-3341. Performances are 7:30 Saturday and 2pm Sunday.

AVA AMPHITHEATER AT CASINO DEL SOL COMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 838-6700 - I-10 Exit Valencia West)

MAY 21 - Seal

JUNE 16 - Reba with Brad Paisley and Terri Clark

JUNE 27 - Tom Jones

JULY 13 - Julia Iglesias

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS: (Box office 393-2799 - I-19 & Pima Mine Road, Exit 80 - 7 minutes south of Tucson)

MAY 21 - Rick Springfield

JUNE 4 - The Temptations

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 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 info.

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 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 529-2269, 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 (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave msg. TucsonSources@aol.com

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

TNTucsonMEN, a nudist Gay men's club. We are a social and recreational group. By the way the TN means Totally Naked! Drop us an e-mail at TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com

INNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

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

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/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 16 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

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.

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 info call Scott at 299-6647.

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

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

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

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

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

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

GRACE GROUP - CATHOLIC GAY/LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP meets every 2nd and 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madonna Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1436 N. Campbell across from University Hospital. For more info. Call Anabeli at 325-0892

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / 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). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Desert Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Desert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)867-0083 for more info.

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

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

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

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

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 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 info.

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

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

ABUSIVE 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)

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

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

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 Magpie's Pizza on 4th Avenue to discuss the Gay-themed book read by members the previous month.

THE MAN TO 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.

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

NEW TUCSON SOBRIETY SUPPORT GROUP. Secular Organizations for Sobriety - Sundays 8:00 - 9:30 p.m. at 739 N. 4th Avenue. Contacts Rick R. 520-792-2604 or Gary S. 520-323-1969. More information at www.secularhumanism.org/sos/ This group is an alternative to 12-step programs.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older). 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks, pretensions? TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

DESERT PRIDE - Your store for Gay Pride and more!

611 N. Fourth Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (Across from IBT's, Next to Magpies. Come See Us!) (520)388-9829

Continental Airlines Extends Travel Perks To G/L Retirees

HOUSTON - As the state of Texas considers an amendment to its constitution to ban same-sex marriage, Houston-based Continental Airlines has announced that it will give the same-sex partners of its retired workers the same perks already available to heterosexual couples, reported 365Gay.com.

Effective May 1, the travel benefits available to employees will be expanded to include the Gay partners of retirees. Continental already offers travel benefits to employees, allowing them to designate a travel companion, which can include same-sex domestic partner.

And benefits like health insurance have been available at Continental for domestic partners of employees for several years.

But the travel perks, which includes six travel passes that allow a former employee and a spouse to travel together were denied to Gays.

Last year David Lee discovered that the hard way. The retired flight attendant married his longtime partner David Vaillancourt last April in Canada.

When he applied for travel passes for Vaillancourt he was turned down.

Lee was ecstatic when he learned of the rule change.

"Continental has chosen to do the right thing by expanding this to retirees," Lee told the Houston Chronicle.

"Full equality for Gays and Lesbians is inevitable. Better late than never," said Lee, who retired in 1989.

There is one hitch, however, to Continental's rule change. The marriage, civil union, or registered domestic partner must be legal. That would mean, retirees would either have to be married in Massachusetts or Canada, or have a civil union in Vermont or Connecticut, or be in a registered domestic partnership.

Queer Films Win At NYC's Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK - Desperate Housewives' star Felicity Huffman won the best actress award at the Tribeca Film Festival Saturday, April 30, for "Transamerica," in which she plays a preoperative transsexual woman, 365Gay.com reported.

Huffman was not on hand. Her award was accepted by her husband, the film's executive producer and actor, William H. Macy.

Macy said Huffman did extensive research for her role and "felt the weight of responsibility to get it right." The transsexuals she met were "the bravest people she's ever known," he said.

"Transamerica" is the story of Bree, a woman who was born in a man's body. When she learns she has a son she goes on a cross-country journey.

COLORADO SPRINGS - Close to 1,000 people demonstrated in front of the Focus on the Family (FOF) offices on Sunday, May 1, reported 365Gay.com reported.

FOF, and its leader, the outspoken James Dobson, have been instrumental in fighting LGBT civil rights and same-sex marriage across the country.

Sunday's protest was organized by Soulforce, a national interfaith

organization that supports Gay rights.

The demonstrators held rainbow flags, multicolored balloons and signs reading "God Loves Justice" and "Love Thy Neighbor."

An American Indian group played drums and protesters sang "We Shall Overcome."

"We are here to say, Jim, we love you enough to stop you from doing the damage you are doing to families across the nation," said Mel White, Soulforce executive director.

Dobson was not at the headquarters Sunday. He is traveling on the East Coast this week and was expected to be in Washington, D.C., for the National Day of Prayer events on Thursday.

Inside FOF headquarters Thomas Minnery, the group's director of public policy, dismissed the demonstration and denied that FOF delivers a message of hate.

Minnery said the group's opposition to homosexuality is purely biblical.

"There are thousands of people who have left homosexuality, including some on our staff. To say that one is born that way obviously flies in the face of facts," Minnery said.

The drama profiles her bid to get her therapist to give her a final OK so she can complete sex reassignment surgery and her desperate attempt to escape the idea that she fathered a son.

On "Desperate Housewives" Huffman plays Lynette Scavo.

Dutch performer Cees Geel won the best actor award for the film "Simon". The film centers around male friendship, Gay marriage and illness.

The Tribeca festival was co-founded by Robert De Niro in 2002 as a boost for downtown Manhattan following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Among the judges this year were Sheryl Crow, Whoopi Goldberg and Michael Imperioli.

Everyone in Tucson is wagging their tails about the Humane Society of Southern Arizona's

7th Annual

Puttin' on the Dog!

Friday, May 6, 2005

6 - 9 p.m.

Tucson Country Club
2950 N. Camino Principal

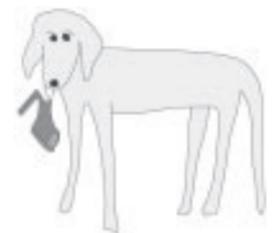
- ☞ Fashion Show emceed by Dana Cooper and Bob Elliot, featuring Local Celebrities modeling with their Favorite Canine Companions
- ☞ Fantastic Live and Silent Auctions
- ☞ Complimentary Hearty Hors d'oeuvres and Beverages
- ☞ Live Entertainment

Relax ☞ while you view Tucson's most sought-after celebrities, dressed to the K-9's, sporting fashions by Franklin's Men's Store, Maya Palace, and Pour Moi; hair and makeup by Avalon Salon.

Enjoy ☞ great food and desserts from Tucson Originals and beverages from Metro Restaurants, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Golden Eagle Distributors and New Life Health Center; uplifting music from Steel del Sol; fine decór by Decór Solutions, and stunning floral arrangements from Sav-On Flowers.

Reservations ☞ only \$65 per person; all proceeds benefit the homeless animals of the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

Media Partner ☞ Tucson Lifestyle



☞ For more information or to make reservations, contact Suzi Handel at 321-3704 ext. 188, or go to the HSSA website at www.humane-so-arizona.org