



In Reversal, Microsoft Backs Rights Bill

REDMOND - After two weeks of Gay community outrage, public relations headaches and employee rancor, Microsoft has reinstated its support for a Washington state Gay rights bill that it quietly bailed on last month, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer announced the company's renewed backing of the legislation in an e-mail to all U.S. employees on Friday, May 6.

"After looking at the question from all sides, I've concluded that diversity in the workplace is such an important issue for our business that it should be included in our legislative agenda," Ballmer wrote.

"Microsoft will continue to join other leading companies in supporting federal legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, adding sexual orientation to the existing law that already covers race, sex, national origin, religion, age and disability," he wrote. "Obviously, the Washington state legislative session has concluded for this year, but if legislation similar to HB 1515 is introduced in future sessions, we will support it."

The announcement came two weeks after it was revealed that Microsoft had taken a neutral stance on Gay rights legislation. Bill 1515, which would have banned discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in housing, employment and insurance, died by a single vote in the state Senate last month.

Before reversing its position Friday, Microsoft brass tried to downplay its meetings with the Rev. Ken Hutcherson, pastor of a Redmond, Wash., church, who reportedly threatened a national boycott because of the company's support of the bill. The oft-repeated company line — that Hutcherson had no influence, and that the company's neutral stance on the bill reflected its focus on fewer legislative priorities — did not appease the LGBT community or employees.

In Friday's e-mail, Ballmer admitted that the company had made a mistake, though he did not mention the pastor, nor did he indicate who was behind the decision to go neutral on a bill the company had strongly supported for years.

LGBT leaders expressed relief and gratitude at the announcement.

"We are proud that Microsoft did the right thing and has come down squarely on the side of fairness for all employees," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "It is clear from Mr. Ballmer's statement that it is a business imperative to value a diverse workforce and support public

policy that reinforces that principle."

"We congratulate Microsoft for changing their position," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task force. "For a corporation that size to do this so quickly is extremely admirable."

The withdrawal of support rankled many employees, Gay and straight, who blasted the company for going weak on its long-held commitment to LGBT equality. Internal dissent reached a peak earlier this week when a leader of Microsoft's Gay and Lesbian group, GLEAM, announced his resignation from the company.

In his resignation letter, Jeff Koertzen, an operations program manager and the secretary-treasurer of GLEAM, blasted Bradford L. Smith, Microsoft's senior vice president and general counsel, for not being honest about the company's position on the bill.

Koertzen told the PlanetOut Network that he was elated by Ballmer's e-mail, but that he still plans to leave the company, he said, "to pursue opportunities to unite my passions of technology and LGBT rights."

Koertzen said Ballmer's e-mail was a direct response from a GLEAM letter sent last week. "We demanded that, first, Ballmer must support anti-discrimination legislation anywhere in the country — not just 1515, and not just LGBT legislation. Second, we requested that he emphatically reaffirm diversity as the company's core value. Third, we wanted him to acknowledge that their reversal on 1515 was a mistake, and finally, tell employees. With the e-mail he did this all within our one-week deadline."

"I hope this has been a real education process for Microsoft," said Jim Key, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center (LAGLC). "They heard from shareholders, employees and customers and understood that diversity and equality are important not only in their workplace but in their legislative agenda."

The LAGLC, which had demanded that Microsoft return a corporate vision award for its forward-looking approach to LGBT issues, rescinded that demand Friday. "We once again believe they are worthy of the award," Key said.

Although the bill has no effect outside Washington state, Microsoft's renewed commitment to it will be heard throughout corporate America, according to Foreman.

"This decision is very important to our community because so many companies look to Microsoft for leadership," he said. "If they had not reversed, it would make our work much more difficult."

FDA Will Restrict Gay, Bi Sperm Donors

NEW YORK - To the dismay of Gay-rights activists, the Food and Drug Administration is about to implement new rules recommending that any man who has engaged in homosexual sex in the previous five years be barred from serving as an anonymous sperm donor, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The FDA has rejected calls to scrap the provision, insisting that Gay men collectively pose a higher-than-average risk of carrying the AIDS virus. Critics accuse the FDA of stigmatizing all Gay men rather than adopting a screening process that focuses on high-risk sexual behavior by any would-be donor, Gay or straight.

"Under these rules, a heterosexual man who had unprotected sex with HIV-positive prostitutes would be OK as a donor one year later, but a Gay man in a monogamous, safe-sex relationship is not OK unless he's been celibate for five years," said Leland Traiman, director of a clinic in Alameda, Calif., that seeks Gay sperm donors.

Traiman said adequate safety assurances can be provided by testing a sperm donor at the time of the initial donation, then freezing the sperm for a six-month quarantine and testing the donor again to be sure there is no new sign of HIV or other infectious diseases.

Although there is disagreement over whether the FDA guideline regarding Gay men will have the force of law, most doctors and clinics are expected to observe it.

The practical effect of the provision — part of a broader set of cell and tissue donation regulations that take effect May 25 — is hard to gauge. It is likely to affect some Lesbian couples who want a child and prefer to use a Gay man's sperm for artificial insemination.

But it is the provision's symbolic aspect that particularly troubles Gay-rights groups. Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal, has called it "policy based on bigotry."

"The part I find most offensive — and a little frightening — is that it isn't based on good science," Cathcart said. "There's a steadily increasing trend of heterosexual transmission of HIV, and yet the FDA still has this notion that you protect people by putting Gay men out of the pool."

In a letter to the FDA, Lambda Legal has suggested a screening procedure based on sexual behavior, not sexual orientation. Prospective donors — Gay or straight — would be rejected if they had engaged in unprotected sex in the previous 12 months with an HIV-positive person, an illegal drug user, or "an individual of unknown HIV status outside of a monogamous relationship."

But an FDA spokeswoman cited FDA documents suggesting that officials

felt the broader exclusion was prudent even if it affected Gay men who practice safe sex.

"The FDA is very much aware that strict exclusion policies eliminate some safe donors," said one document.

Many doctors and fertility clinics already have been rejecting Gay sperm donors, citing the pending FDA rules or existing regulations of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

"With an anonymous sperm donor, you can't be too careful," said a society spokeswoman, Eleanor Nicoll. "Our concern is for the health of the recipient, not to let more and more people be sperm donors."

However, some sperm banks, notably in California, have welcomed Gay donors. The director of one of them, Alice Ruby of the Oakland-based Sperm Bank of California, said her staff had developed procedures for identifying Gay men with an acceptably low risk of HIV.

Gay men are a major donor source at Traiman's Rainbow Flag sperm bank, and he said that practice would continue despite the new rules.

"We're going to continue to follow judicious, careful testing procedures for our clients that even experts within the FDA say is safe," said Traiman, referring to the six-month quarantine.

The FDA rules do not prohibit Gay men from serving as "directed" sperm donors. If a woman wishing to become pregnant knows a Gay man and asks that he provide sperm for artificial insemination, a clinic could provide that service even if the man had engaged in sex with other men within five years.

Spokane Mayor Takes Leave

SPOKANE - Republican Mayor Jim West has announced he will leave the mayor's office to defend himself against allegations of child molestation and claims that he offered city jobs to men he met in a Gay chat room, reported 365Gay.com.

In a series of articles that it began publishing last week, The Spokesman-Review reported allegations that West had abused two boys while he was a sheriff's deputy and Boy Scout leader in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The statute of limitations has expired on those old allegations and no criminal investigations were under way in connection with them, local law enforcement agencies said.

West late Monday said he is the victim of persecution and hysteria. But, as he was making his announcement The

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UPDATE

Tucson Has 21 Active GSA School Clubs

TUCSON - David Leimsieder said he's been pushed down the stairs at Catalina High Magnet School twice this year by students calling him a "fag."

But as he prepares to graduate in a few weeks, Leimsieder also has reason to be optimistic about how Gays are treated in Tucson-area schools, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

The number of Gay-Straight Alliance clubs, or GSAs, has soared in the past few years, from three in the late 1990s to 21 active chapters today.

Fifteen of the school-sanctioned GSAs have started up in just the last three years - despite the objections of some conservative politicians, activists and parents who feel the clubs promote an immoral lifestyle.

Leimsieder, who has worked to unite local GSAs with his Imagine Project, said the growth is at least partly due to greater acceptance in a society that now sees some of its celebrities no longer hiding their homosexuality.

"You're finding more openness within the community, and throughout the world," Leimsieder said Saturday, May 7, at a celebratory picnic at Freedom Park, 5000 E. 29th Street. "There's also been the need for more support. A lot of people can't go home and tell their parents, 'I'm Gay.'"

Samantha Ann MacMillan, 15, a Bisexual freshman at Canyon del Oro High School, said GSAs offer a "safe haven" for teens, all of whom are struggling for acceptance.

"I know very few adults who'd want to go back to their teen years," she said. "It's the hardest time of your life."

Leimsieder and MacMillan said about two-thirds of the people in local GSAs aren't Gay themselves - they're "straight allies." Both students went public with their homosexuality when they were 14 and said they'd like to see GSAs in middle schools.

"We're not trying to pressure anyone. We're not trying to recruit people for the Gay community," Leimsieder said. "We're just trying to be there to support those who know who they are."

Phil Moul, a 51-year-old Raytheon engineer, said he wished his own high school in York County, Pa., had had a GSA.

"It would have helped to explain what sexuality is about and how it wasn't wrong to have an attraction to someone of the same sex," said Moul, co-chairman of the Tucson chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

The network sponsors an annual "Day of Silence" to heighten awareness of the bullying faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth. An estimated 450,000 students nationwide took part April 13.

Biennial surveys conducted by the network since 1999 have found name-calling and violence related to sexual orientation are common in American schools. In the 2003 survey of 887 Gay and Lesbian students, 84 percent reported being verbally harassed and 39 percent said they'd been physically abused because of their sexual orientation.

Senior Pot Luck May 14

TUCSON - Wingspan's Senior Pride Committee's first potluck was a huge success, so much so that the Committee will be holding a monthly potluck, starting Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the First UCC, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

Senior Pride is a group of, and for LGBT folks ages 55 and up, but family and friends under 55 are welcome. Please join them to meet new interesting people, and share a wonderful meal.

For more information please call Kendall, (520) 624-1779 ext. 15, or E-mail: ktankersley@wingspan.org.

Desert Coyotes Bowling May 25

TUCSON - The Tucson Desert Coyotes Bowling League will be starting its summer league session on May 25 - August 3. Have fun and meet new friends in this all level league, beginners to advanced. Everyone is welcome in this mixed, GLBT and friendly league.

The league will bowl at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights, with a first time meeting at 6 p.m. on May 25, at Santa Cruz Lanes located at 3665 S.16th Avenue, Easy access from I-10 East to I-19 South, take Ajo exit, turn left East and then left again on S. 16th up to Santa Cruz Lanes.

Weekly cost is \$12.00, plus shoe rental if needed. There is also a yearly sanction fee of \$16.00 for men and \$12.75 for women, which goes to the national bowling organizations, unless

IN MEMORIAM



Jeffery Van Chapman
11/28/61 - 10/8/04
Cremains dispersal 4/30/05

Born in Vardaman, MS, Jeff passed away in Tucson at home after a brief illness. He is survived by his partner of over 17 years, Rick Adams, his parents, William and Clara, his sister, Vicki, and a multitude of friends in both Houston, TX and Tucson, AZ. Jeff worked as a bartender at the Yard Dog Saloon, and more recently at Kent's Tools. As his alter-ego, Contessa Vanessa Digressa, Jeff participated in numerous fundraisers in both Houston and Tucson. According to his wishes, his ashes were scattered in Sedona, AZ. His infectious laugh, his easygoing attitude, and his love of life will be missed.

I give you this one thought to keep -
I am with you still - I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still - in each new dawn.
— Native American Prayer

you've already paid in the past year.

Teams consist of three person teams, male and/or female. If you're not already on a team, don't worry, they will have spaces available for individual bowlers to join teams. For more information, please contact Russ at (520) 991-8795, Paul, 319-0890, or Marge 404-3591 or Santa Cruz Lanes at 622-2186. Hope to see you there!

Celebration Of Gloria Anzaldúa And June Jordan

TUCSON Please join us at Wingspan, 300 E. Sixth St., Saturday, May 14, 5 - 6 p.m., as they create an altar for Gloria Anzaldúa and June Jordan. Bring your favorite poems, quotes, pictures, flowers, candles, and other offerings for the altar.

If you are not familiar with Gloria Anzaldúa or June Jordan, please stop by between May 15 and June 14th to visit the altar and learn more about these two, powerful queer women of color. Both women's writings and lives have fueled the passion and courage of many poets and writers, activists, people of color, women, and revolutionaries.

On Tuesday, June 14, 6 - 7 p.m., at Wingspan, a gathering will take place to take down the altar, while sharing our favorite quotes, readings, and memories of Gloria Anzaldúa and June Jordan.

This celebration is a gathering for those who love the work of Gloria Anzaldúa and June Jordan, as well as those who want to learn more. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend both free events.

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



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

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



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"We are all participants in same-gender relationships," Rev. Gil Caldwell, a 72 year-old straight grandfather from Mississippi.

Coming into Colorado Springs for Soulforce's action against Focus on the Family, Sunday, May 1, my quiet cab ride was disturbed by two signs that I had landed in a red state. The first was an impassioned plea on the radio from James Dobson encouraging Colorado voters to contact Senator Ken Salazar to tell him to end his support of the Democratic filibuster of Bush's judicial nominees. The second was driving past the New Life Church, a massive shopping center house of worship with a giant neon sign out front proclaiming JESUS. I got that familiar sinking feeling as someone from a flyover state who is constantly trying to defend my heritage to East and West coasters: I guess we are really that bad after all.

The next day dawned with the flanks of the Front Range hidden under cover of snow and clouds. It was a freezing May first, surely not a good sign for turning out numbers to what was billed as a "May Day family picnic" in front of the Focus headquarters. But as the time for the rally approached, clutches of people descended on the scene. Square-state stereotypes fell away as hundreds of Colorado residents, fed up with the self-appointed spokespeople of family values, showed up to the rally to dance, eat, and shiver for freedom. The usual crowd of lefties was there - Young Democrats, neo-and proto - hippies, anti-war protesters. There was a pride parade contingent of spiky-haired Lesbians and leather and glitter Gay boys. But then three charter buses pulled up, and church groups started filing out: straight couples with children, grandparents with P-FLAG pins, clergy in collars. They set up card tables with hot chocolate and snacks, and it actually started to look like a church picnic.

At the press conference, I denounced Focus' "Love Won Out" ex-Gay programs on behalf of the Religious

COMMENTARY . . . by Richard Lindsay

On The Front Range Of The Cultural War

Leadership Roundtable and the Task Force. One of the most powerful speakers at the press conference and the rally included Reverend Gil Caldwell, an African American United Methodist pastor who was part of the 1964 Freedom Summer, in Mississippi. He stood in front of the crowd and proclaimed, "We are all participants in same-gender relationships." It was a statement that, if I had made it, would have meant nothing, but coming from a 72 year-old straight grandfather, it meant everything. The most emotional speech came from Mary Lou and Bob Wallner. Mary Lou, a former fundamentalist Christian, lost her Lesbian daughter to suicide in 1997. Next to her pleas for Christians to repent from their deadly homophobia, Focus' statements in the local papers the next morning that they love Gays but the Bible rejects homosexuality came off as especially coarse. By the time we started marching around the Focus headquarters, the popular liberal church song, "We Are Marching in the Light of God," had morphed into, "We Are Freezing in the Light of God." It was a long hike; Focus has a massive headquarters. As we rounded the final stretch of the march, we looked into windows at their in-house publishing department, a warehouse of books and pamphlets dripping with vitriol.

On Monday morning, 23 year-old Soulforce staffer Jake Reitan and his parents, Randi and Philip Reitan, marched up to the Focus headquarters to deliver a letter to James Dobson. The letter was one of a thousand, "Dear Dr. Dobson" letters Soulforce collected which described the pain Dobson's activities

have caused in the lives of families. On Mondays, the Focus headquarters are usually open to the public, but because of the protest they had closed their doors and even covered the sign in the driveway with a tarp. After the Reitans read their letter, this small clan of hotdish Minnesota Lutherans right off A Prairie Home Companion deliberately trespassed onto Focus property. They were cuffed in plastic binders and led off to a waiting police van while about 250 Soulforce protesters sang "Amazing Grace."

The Focus leadership had continually denied requests to meet with Soulforce, claiming schedule conflicts and travel plans. Yet somehow, several of their vice presidents and spokespeople appeared in all the media stories on the event, even though they weren't, technically, there. The siege mentality of the religious right was truly apparent as they huddled behind their shuttered doors issuing useless press statements against this small contingent of peaceful protesters. And perhaps they were right to dig in: if all it takes is a bunch of liberal grandmas and hippy college students to shut down a multi-million dollar operation for a day, maybe they aren't as strong as we thought.

As I participated in the activities over the weekend, I kept thinking about Jesus' words to his disciples that they must be, "innocent as doves and as shrewd as snakes." It seems Soulforce has put the pieces together for being both prophetic and strategic. But the other thing that struck me is just how vital this work is. As Soulforce founder Mel White spoke at the Rally about conducting funeral services

for young Gay Christians who had taken their lives, it became apparent there is a toxic culture that has grown up around American religion. Whatever we may do in our various denominations and religions as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and supporting people of faith, we must remember that we are working to save lives.

[Richard Lindsay is the spokesperson of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable.]

Study Suggests Pep Blocks Virtually All HIV Infections

AMSTERDAM - A new study by researchers in Amsterdam shows that virtually all adults given anti-HIV drugs to prevent HIV infection after possibly being exposed to the virus are able to remain free of HIV, AIDSmap.com reports on Advocate.com.

All but one of the study subjects given a monthlong course of antiretroviral drugs remained HIV-negative six months after completing postexposure prophylaxis. The only man who seroconverted reported engaging in unprotected sex and again exposing himself to the virus after finishing a course of anti-HIV drugs, the researchers report in the April 9 edition of the British Medical Journal.

The study tracked 225 people who were given anti-HIV drugs to ward off HIV infection, 53 of whom had been exposed to the virus through unprotected sex. In addition to antiretroviral drugs, all study subjects were given risk-reduction counseling to avoid future exposures to the virus. All of the study subjects remained free of HIV infection three months after PEP, but at the six-month mark, one man had seroconverted. He told researchers he had engaged in unprotected sex after completing his drug regimen, thereby reexposing himself to the virus. None of the study subjects

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UPDATE

Arizona Marriage Initiative Coalition Meeting May 17

CASA GRANDE - A meeting of the LGBT community and allies to defeat the 2006 Arizona Marriage Initiative will take place Tuesday, May 17, 7 to 9 p.m., United Methodist Church, 1515 N. Trekeil Road in Casa Grande. (I-10 south to 287, Exit on 287 and head West, then North on Trekeil Road.)

Late last year it became apparent that the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP) intended to launch a statewide ballot initiative to amend the Arizona constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage. In addition, they plan to amend the constitution to prohibit any sort of recognition or rights similar to marriage such as civil unions or domestic partnerships.

The Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF) contracted Lake Snell Perry Mermin & Associates to do a poll of Arizona voters to see where they stood on marriage equality and domestic partnerships. This polling data verified much of what had already been assumed, namely, that a majority of Arizonans believe that same-gendered couples shouldn't be denied basic rights, yet they are uncomfortable with same-sex marriage.

If approved, this proposed initiative would, permanently change the Arizona constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage and:

Prohibit local governments from offering domestic partner benefits. Currently the Cities of Tucson, Phoenix, Tempe, Scottsdale, Pima County, as well as Pima Community College offer DP Benefits.

Prohibit cities and towns from offering domestic partnership registries. Prohibit private businesses from providing domestic partner benefits to their employees and even to prohibit private contracts between partners.

The provisions of the proposed amendment banning domestic partner arrangements and benefits would also impact straight couples as well as same-sex couples.

Opponents of the initiative must educate and mobilize the voters now. To be successful, the LGBT and allied community must take the lead on framing the debate. We must engage the LGBT community and its supporters in educating and mobilizing people within their communities and we must craft a message that will energize others who oppose such blatant discrimination. Opponents say that's where you can help.

A coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ensuring that this discrimination is not permanently enshrined in Arizona's constitution has come together but the coalition would be grateful if you were to consider adding your important voice to the public debate.

Throughout the course of this campaign, there will be many ways that you can help the effort show our fellow Arizonans that this amendment is bad public policy. The following are just a few of the ways you can show your support:

Be willing to voice your opposition to reporters. Encourage other groups and organizations and individuals, including your members and constituents, to oppose the amendment. Help spread the word about upcoming rallies and events

If you are unable to attend that meeting but would still like to be involved, contact Greg Polzin at gregp@ahrf.org - (602)650-0900 or Dennis Burke at (602) 908-4067.

Reveille To Be First Gay Chorus In Brazil

TUCSON - Reveille Gay Men's Chorus, Tucson's pre-eminent Gay chorus will be making history soon as the first Gay chorus to ever perform in Brazil.

Reveille, founded in 1995 is a chorus made up Gay and Gay supportive men whose mission is to change hearts and minds with music. The 30 man chorus will be leaving May 26th on a four city tour of Brazil. Along with artistic director and conductor Linus Lerner, musicians, partners and support staff, Reveille will kick off the Gay pride festivities in Sao Paulo with a concert on the 27th.

The Gay pride parade celebration there, which last year attracted over 1.1 million people according to the Associated Press and this year is expected to draw 1.8 people, is easily the largest Gay pride parade in the world.

"We will not be marching in the parade but our concert the night before will mark the beginning of the festivities," said Lerner, a Brazilian native who has led the chorus for 2 and 1/2 years. "It is a very exciting thing that no other Gay chorus in the United States has done."

In addition to the Sao Paulo concert Reveille will be performing two concerts in Belo Horizonte and one concert in Rio de Janeiro where they will also be conducting a workshop to help local organizers create the first Gay men's chorus there. Reveille has done similar events in Hermosillo Mexico where the chorus performed to raise money for AIDS and HIV education and services.

This past year was an exciting and productive year for Reveille. They recorded and produced two CDs: "Let All Men Sing" and "A Christmas Collection", both demonstrating an eclectic repertoire. In addition, Reveille traveled to Montreal, Quebec, Canada in July to participate in GALA, a festival of Gay and Lesbian choruses. There, along with 5,600 singers representing 134 choruses and seven nations, Reveille performed to three standing ovations and received numerous invitations to travel and perform with the choruses of such cities as Chicago, Dallas, San Diego and even an invitation to travel to Australia!

For this tour to Brazil, Lerner has put together a program of high energy music with percussion rich songs from Africa, Jamaica, Tahiti, Mexico and Brazil. Chorus members have raised their own funds to pay for transportation but concert organizers in Brazil are providing hotels for the singers. "We are well known in Tucson for our concerts," said Lerner, "It will be very exciting to take our show on the road and share our unique sound and perspective with my people in Brazil."

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'Spamalot' Leads Tony Nominations

NEW YORK - Spamalot, the stage musical based on the Monty Python and the Holy Grail film, has topped the nominations for Broadway's main awards, the Tonys, reported bbcnews.com.

Spamalot received 14 nominations on Tuesday, May 10, including nods for actors Hank Azaria and Tim Curry.

Another movie-turned-stage show, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, and musical The Light in the Piazza, both have 11.

Dame Edna Everage and Whoopi Goldberg are among the other nominated stars. The ceremony takes place on June 5.

Spamalot, which has been endorsed by the original Monty Python crew, retains the zany style and story of the 1975 film while also spoofing other Broadway musicals.

Its nominations include best musical, best original score, best direction of a musical and best choreography.

Tim Curry, who plays King Arthur, and Hank Azaria - best-known as a voice in The Simpsons - are both up for best leading actor in a musical.

Another three Spamalot cast members are nominated - but David Hyde Pierce, who played Niles in TV sitcom Frasier, has missed out.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels is an adaptation of the 1988 film comedy that starred Michael Caine and Steve Martin.

Their stage counterparts John Lithgow and Norbert Leo Butz will compete with Curry and Azaria to be named best musical actor.

On the best musical shortlist, Spamalot, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels and The Light in the Piazza are joined by The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

Doubt, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play about abuse in the Roman Catholic church, has eight nominations, including best play.

That category also includes two productions from London's National Theatre - political thriller Democracy by

Study Suggests Pep Blocks Virtually All HIV Infections

Continued from Page Three

developed hepatitis B or C.

Follow-up interviews also showed that the availability of HIV postexposure prophylaxis did not lead the study subjects to engage more frequently in unprotected sex, the researchers report.

Postexposure prophylaxis can prevent HIV infection if started within 72 hours of exposure to HIV, AIDS experts say, with the best results seen among those who begin the anti-HIV drugs as early as possible in that three-day window.

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playwright Michael Frayn and Martin McDonagh's comedy-drama The Pillowman.

The best play shortlist is rounded off by Gem of the Ocean, about the African American experience in 1904.

It features former Cosby Show actress Phylicia Rashad, who is nominated for best leading actress in a play a year after becoming the first black woman to win the award.

Kathleen Turner is also in the running for her role in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, along with Laura Linney for Sight Unseen.

Billy Crudup, James Earl Jones, Christina Applegate and Alan Alda are among the other acting nominees.

In the best special theatrical event category, comedian Barry Humphries is nominated for Dame Edna: Back With a Vengeance! while Goldberg is nominated for Whoopi: The 20th Anniversary Show.

Spokane Mayor Takes Leave

Continued from Page One

Spokesman-Review was printing new allegations against West, accusing him of offering city jobs to two young men he met through the Gay chat site - and that one of them briefly accepted a city appointment.

West's announcement that he is stepping aside followed a call Monday from the nation's oldest national LGBT civil rights group that he resign.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also said that West's sexuality has nothing to do with allegations of child abuse.

"Three victims of Mayor Jim West's predatory and appalling behavior have already come forward and, based on what we know about pedophiles, it's almost certain there are many more," said NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman.

West, a former sheriff's deputy and Republican leader of the state Senate before he was elected mayor in 2003, built his political career on conservative issues including a condemnation of Gay rights.

In its report on West and the allegations of child molestation against him the Spokesman-Review printed online chat conversations between the mayor and young men to whom he offered internships. The chats were conducted by an investigator working for the paper but West apparently believed they were from young men.

West has admitted chatting on on line to Gays but said he is not Gay, that the people he chatted with were all adults and he denied the charges that he had sought out minors.

Ryan Oelrich, an openly Gay 24-year-old, told The Spokesman-Review that he accepted West's appointment to the city's Human Rights Commission in April 2004 after meeting West online at Gay.com.

Oelrich said he resigned from the commission in January after West "hounded me for months, telling me I was cute and asking me out on dates." Oelrich said he refused the mayor's advances, the newspaper reported. Oelrich told the newspaper he knows of "five or six other young Gay men that Jim West has met online and offered City Hall jobs."

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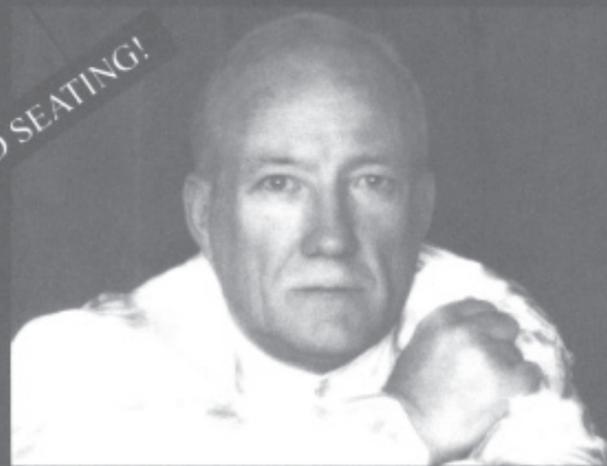
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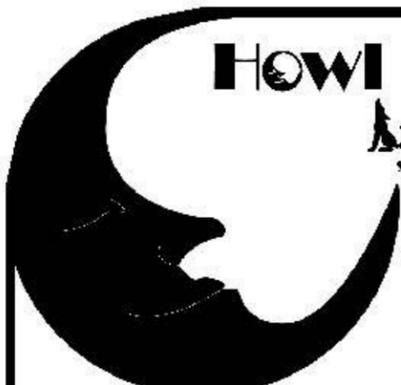
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UPDATE

Tucson To Take Part In The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

TUCSON - Tucson and Southern Arizona will join communities from all over the globe in celebration of the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Sunday May 15.

The Tucson AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be held at El Presidio Park in Downtown Tucson next to the huge water fountain in front of City Hall.

The event is based on these simple principles: to honor and remember the 28 million people lost to AIDS; to Support the 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS. This year's theme is "Turning Remembrance into Action."

This family friendly celebration includes children's activities and AIDS Quilt viewing starting at 6 pm, an Interfaith Service, starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by a secular Candlelight Vigil and procession at 7 p.m. The Interfaith Service will consist of music, prayers and readings, while the Vigil will include

music and an opportunity for people to light a candle in memory of loved ones lost to AIDS. A group reflection will follow. Families, friends and individuals are welcome to come for either one or both parts of the Memorial. Everyone is welcome. Join this global memorial.

The event is sponsored by Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), and Wingspan.

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Campaign, a program of the Global Health Council, is a 12-month mobilization project that encourages communities and individuals around the world to become more involved with HIV/AIDS work through participation in this worldwide memorial.

For more information, or to volunteer at the event, call (520) 624-1779 ext. 15 or E-mail: ktankersley@wingspan.org.

Tucson Commissions Seeking Individuals

TUCSON (ON) - 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. ...

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.

Brain Responses Different In Gays And Straight Men

NEW YORK - The brains of Gay men respond more like women's when they react to a male sex hormone according to a new study that adds to the debate over nature versus nurture, 365Gay.com reported.

The study was conducted by researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

It shows that there are basic differences in physiological reaction to sex hormones.

The team, led by Dr. Ivanka Savic, exposed heterosexual men and women and Gay men to chemicals derived

from testosterone. These chemicals are thought to be pheromones, molecules known to trigger responses such as defense and sex in many animals.

When they sniffed the testosterone chemical, portions of the brains involved in sexual activity were activated in Gay men and straight women, but not in straight men, the researchers found. But, when they sniffed smells like cedar or lavender, all of the subjects brains reacted only in the olfactory regions that handles smells.

The result clearly shows a
Continued on Page Seven

Retrial Begins In Trans Teen's Slaying

HAYWARD - Jury selection is scheduled to begin May 8 in the retrial of three men charged in the brutal 2002 killing of Transgender ed teen Gwen Araujo, 365Gay.com reported.

In June last year a jury failed to reach a verdict in the trial of Michael Magidson, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares.

The stumbling block had been whether to find the three guilty of first degree murder which the prosecution had called for, second degree murder or manslaughter which the defense had argued was justified.

A fourth man, Jaron Nabors, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for testimony against his three friends. He is currently serving time behind bars.

The 17 year old Gwen Araujo was murdered during a party at Merel's Newark, California home, after it was discovered she was biologically male.

Araujo had been beaten, battered with a shovel and then strangled to death. Her body was found in a shallow grave several days later.

During the trial the defense put forward a variation on the "Gay panic" defense, shifting the blame from the defendants to the victim.

A psychologist testifying for the defense claimed that the the men, two of whom allegedly had sex with her, panicked after learning Araujo was biologically male.

Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero called on jurors to convict the three of first degree murder with a hate crime enhancement.

"These three men took upon themselves the power of life and death," he said.

All of the attorneys in the new trial will be the same except for the lawyer representing Merel. His legal aid lawyer withdrew from the case.

Sense Of Smell Is Linked To Sexual Orientation, Study Reveals

PHILADELPHIA - The human nose can not only sniff out suitable sexual partners, but it works especially well for Gay men, according to the first study of how body odors are linked to sexual orientation, the Independent reported.

Gay men showed a strong preference for the body odor of other Gay men in the scientific test of how the natural scent of someone's body can contribute to the choice of a partner.

Although previous studies have shown that body odor plays a role in making heterosexual men or women attractive to members of the opposite sex, this is the first study that has investigated its role in sexual orientation. Charles Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, a non-profit research institute, said the findings underline the importance of natural odors in determining a sexual partner whatever the sexual orientation of the person involved.

"Our findings support the contention that gender preference has a biological component that is reflected in both the production of different body odors and in the perception of and response to body odors," Dr. Wysocki said.

The study involved 24 heterosexual and homosexual men and women who for around nine days were subjected to a "wash-out" period when they used scent-free soap and shampoo and did not eat food with garlic, cumin or curry.

After this, they wore sterile cotton pads under their armpits for a day. These were collected and stored to use as a bottled source of their body odor. A panel of 82 heterosexual and homosexual men and women, not including the donors of the armpit pads, were asked to sniff each bottled body odor and evaluate its pleasantness according to a set of criteria.

In a study in the journal Psychological Science, the scientists found: "Heterosexual males and females preferred odors from heterosexual males relative to Gay males; Gay males preferred odors from other Gay males.

"Heterosexual males and females and Lesbians over the age of 25 preferred odors from Lesbians, relative to the odors from Gay males; Gay males preferred the odors of other Gay males relative to Lesbians," they say.

Dr. Wysocki said the strongest finding was that Gay men prefer the smell of other Gay men and that Lesbians responded differently to body odor compared to heterosexual women. "The overall conclusions are that the body odor you most prefer or least prefer does not depend on where it comes from but it also depends on who you are, in other words, your sexual orientation," Dr. Wysocki said.

Gay men preferred the odors from Gay men and heterosexual women, but odors from Gay man were the least preferred by heterosexual men and women and by Lesbians, he said. Other studies showed that body odor is linked with a set of genes involved in controlling the immune system - called the major histocompatibility complex - and heterosexual men and women preferred the odor of those with a different set of these genes to their own. One theory is that this could be an evolutionary mechanism to avoid inbreeding. The latest study suggests the genes involved in body odor may also play a role in sexual orientation.

"The bigger picture is that body odor is determined in part by gender orientation which is not something we can have predicted. And it's possible that the genes involved in body odor are also involved in later life in gender orientation," he said.

Brain Responses Different In Gays And Straight Men

Continued from Page Six

biological involvement in sexual orientation, Sandra Witelson, an expert on brain anatomy and sexual orientation at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, told the Associated Press.

Savic's findings are published in this week's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Last year, researchers from the University of California reported that that sexual identity is "hard-wired" into the genes.



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POLITICS 2005
by Mark R. Kerr

'Enemy Of The People'

During his Eastern European Invasion, Dubya actually lectured Russia and President Vladimir Putin, blathering, "The promise of democracy is fulfilled by minority rights, and equal justice under the rule of law, and an inclusive society in which every person belongs."

Minority rights, equal justice under the rule of law and an inclusive society in which every person belongs?

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration is about to implement new rules recommending that any man who has engaged in homosexual sex in the previous five years be barred from serving as an anonymous sperm donor.

Don't forget any man who has engaged in homosexual sex, using the FDA and the Center for Disease Control terminology, for the past thirty years can't donate blood or blood products.

Then there is proposed Federal Marriage Amendment, as well as the state proposals (Arizona having one in 2006) barring government recognition of a committed, same-sex relationship.

Paying "journalists," such as Maggie Gallagher and Armstrong Williams, naming two of the many, as well as organizations such as the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) to espouse Dubya's marriage bile.

AmericaBlog reports that NCFR, for the \$4.5 million dollar grant have agreed to break their own rules about discriminating against Gays and Lesbians to prevent anything about same-sex marriage or its effects from ever showing up on the White House website and concealing such facts as:

Thirty-three percent of female same-sex couple households and 22% of male same-sex couple households reported having at least one child under 18 years of age living in the home. Social science research has found few differences between children of Lesbian or Gay parents and those of heterosexual parents. Marriage of same-sex couples would protect children born after the marriage took place by providing them with the same rights and benefits as those with heterosexual married parents but you won't see this information on the clearinghouse or even see links to outside sites providing information on same-sex marriage — not even NCFR's own research. Can we say "newspeak?"

When it comes to sex and teaching the nation's youth, Dubya's junta is funding abstinence-only programs which don't work and telling parents, on 4parents.gov, of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) children that conversion therapy is the only answer.

GLBT citizens of this country work and pay their taxes at a higher rate, contributing to Social Security but not being able to leave their Social Security benefits to their loved ones. GLBT citizens work, but in most cases they can lose their job because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, perceived or otherwise.

When it comes to HIV/AIDS, Dubya's junta is cutting funding for research and programs and what meager funding they offer comes with such stipulations of who can get help and what can be said about this dreaded disease.

Hate crimes are rising, thanks to the Republicans and their wingnut supporters blaming the GLBT community for everything from the deficit to Iraq and yet Dubya and his D.C. elephant minions

oppose a federal hate crimes law, protecting all citizens from hatred, perceived or otherwise.

Gays and Lesbians have become foster parents or have adopted children from their state's overcrowded child protection services programs to provide a home for a young person who has come from a dysfunctional home, most likely abused by their parents but the Republicans and their wingnut minions would rather have these kids suffer in an overcrowded, underfunded state system, such as Ohio, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas (since overturned in court), Florida, Tennessee, naming four of several efforts or states where it is against the law.

In Arizona, there was an effort, headed by wingnut Republicans and the state's Catholic Conference to allow pharmacists the option to fill a prescription for birth control medication on moral, ethical and religious grounds, like California, Washington, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Texas, New Hampshire, Ohio and North Carolina, that was thankfully vetoed by Governor Janet Napolitano but this was just the first step for Republicans and their wingnut supporters.

Efforts in other states, such as Michigan naming one, to deny GLBT citizens health care, allowing doctors or other health care providers to refuse to treat GLBT patients, citing moral, ethical and religious grounds without being disciplined are ongoing. Remember, it only takes one state's "idea" to spread like a disease like it has in Mississippi and Illinois (only overturned by an executive order by the Governor)

Books by GLBT authors or on GLBT subjects or with any mention of which is ongoing would be banned, citing Oklahoma and Alabama's push by Republican legislators of two recent examples.

In Alaska, there is an effort to quarantine people who are HIV+ or living with AIDS.

Despite the rates of HIV infection rising, Arizona still censors what can be taught to the youth of the state about sex, birth control, condoms and sexually transmitted diseases. Expanding the state's hate crimes law to cover misdemeanors as well as basic employment protections, two efforts quashed in the Grand Canyon State, thanks to the Republican wingnuts at 1700 West Washington.

Gee and I always thought the GLBT and HIV/AIDS communities were the "Enemy of the People," as the wingnuts and Republicans propaganda would have everyone believe, if they really love "Big Brother?"



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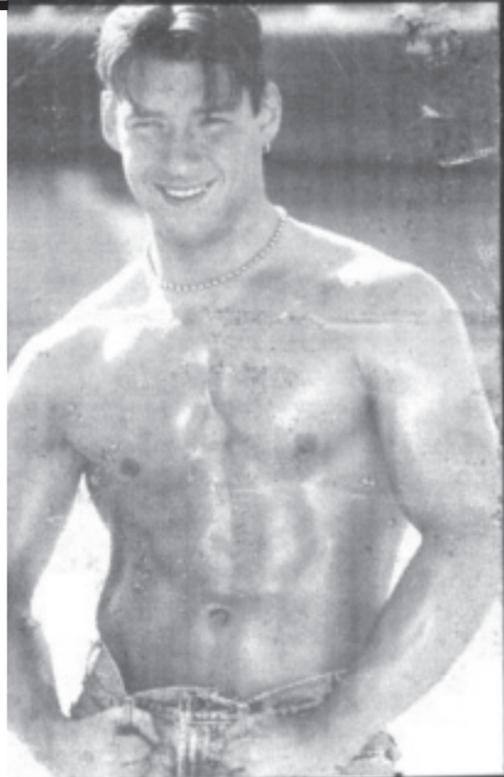
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Cheney Raises Cash For Anti-G/L Marriage Amendment Author

DENVER - Calling her "exactly the right person for the job," Vice President Dick Cheney raised an estimated \$200,000 for the reelection campaign of Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colorado) in Denver on Monday, May 9, 365Gay.com reported.

Musgrave is the author of the proposed amendment to the US Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

Just over 200 people paid between \$500 to \$4,000 to attend Monday's luncheon-fundraiser in downtown Denver.

Musgrave is one of a number of Republicans that Democrats believe is vulnerable in 2006 and she is building a war chest to stave off an attack.

Her chief of staff, Guy Short, said that as of March 31, there was about \$422,000 in Musgrave's campaign fund. Prior to Cheney's speech, Republican National Committeeman Bob Shaffer told the crowd the national party will spend whatever is necessary to help Musgrave win a third term in her northeastern Colorado district.

Attempts by Republicans in Congress to pass the proposed amendment failed last July. It was reintroduced in Congress earlier this year.

Cheney's support for Musgrave drew immediate condemnation from Gay Democrats.

"These actions underscore the hypocrisy of the Bush administration which claims to support families but actually works against us," National Stonewall Democrats spokesperson John Marble told 365Gay.com.

"By raising money for Marilyn Musgrave Vice President Cheney is funneling cash into the campaign for the anti-marriage constitutional amendment," Marble said.

Last August, during a campaign stop in Davenport, Iowa, Dick Cheney was asked about the President's support for a proposed amendment to the US Constitution. Cheney said he thought the issue should be left to the states, prefacing the remark with "Lynne and I have a Gay daughter, so it's an issue our family is very familiar with."

During the GOP National Convention when Republican Senate hopeful Alan Keyes accused Mary Cheney of being a "sinner" and a "selfish hedonist" Dick and Lynne Cheney were silent.

Following Dick Cheney's acceptance speech at the convention the Vice President's family appeared on the stage - all but Mary Cheney who had been in the hall for the speech. Her absence led LGBT commentators to openly question whether she was being hidden away.

During the vice presidential debate when the issue of same-sex marriage came up Vice President Cheney said that "people ought to be free to choose any arrangement they want."

Democratic VP candidate John Edwards replied saying it was obvious that the Cheneys loved their daughter and that "you can't have anything but respect" for them. "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman and so does John Kerry," Edwards said.

That night Cheney thanked Edwards for the "kind words he said about my family and our daughter. I appreciate that very much."

But, when John Kerry brought up Mary Cheney's name during the last presidential debate with Bush the Cheney family went on the offensive. Within an hour of Kerry's remark Lynne Cheney accused Kerry of pulling a "cheap and tawdry political trick." The following morning the vice president called himself a "pretty angry father".

Scalia Slams 'Living' Constitution

COLLGE STATION - Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on Thursday, May 5, said the public - not the courts - should make decisions on controversial issues such as abortion, the death penalty and Gay rights, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

He said too many courts are interpreting the Constitution as a document that evolves with society, but that he believes it should be interpreted as it was written.

"The Constitution is not a living organism. It is a legal document ... and like all legal documents it doesn't change," Scalia told about 1,000 people during a 30-minute speech at the George Bush Presidential Library Center at Texas A&M University.

Scalia said if the American people want to ban or uphold issues like abortion, the death penalty or Gay rights, they need to convince their fellow citizens to do so and not leave it up to judges.

"The Constitution has nothing to say about it either way," said Scalia, who has discussed his stance in many other speeches.

When the public supported the right of women to vote, Scalia said, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Scalia said that would not happen today, but instead judges would simply read in such a right into the Constitution's equal protection clause, which doesn't address the subject.

"You should not use the Constitution as a means to enforce your own social views," he said.

The crowd at this generally conservative university greeted the speech with cheers and applause. Former President Bush, Barbara Bush, and three justices from the conservative Texas Supreme Court attended the speech. The

former president introduced Scalia.

"Am I totally preaching to the choir here?" Scalia joked.

Other Supreme Court justices have argued the Constitution is a living document.

Scalia, who has been on the court since 1986, described himself as an "originalist," someone who thinks the Constitution means the same thing now as when it was first drafted.

Calling the idea of the living Constitution "terribly seductive" for judges, Scalia said originalism is the "only game in town."

"You either tell your judges to be bound by the original meaning of the Constitution or you evolve our Constitution the way you think is best," he said. "That is not a road that has a happy ending."

Scalia also criticized the increasing politicization of nominating and appointing federal judges.

"We want a moderate judge. What in the world is a moderate judge?" he said. "What is a moderate interpretation of the Constitution? Halfway between what it really says and what you'd like it to say?"

Scalia's positions on Gay rights issues that have come before the high court have shown an extreme conservative view.

In the case that overturned sodomy laws Scalia dissented from the majority writing, "The court has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda." He took the unusual step of reading his dissent from the bench.

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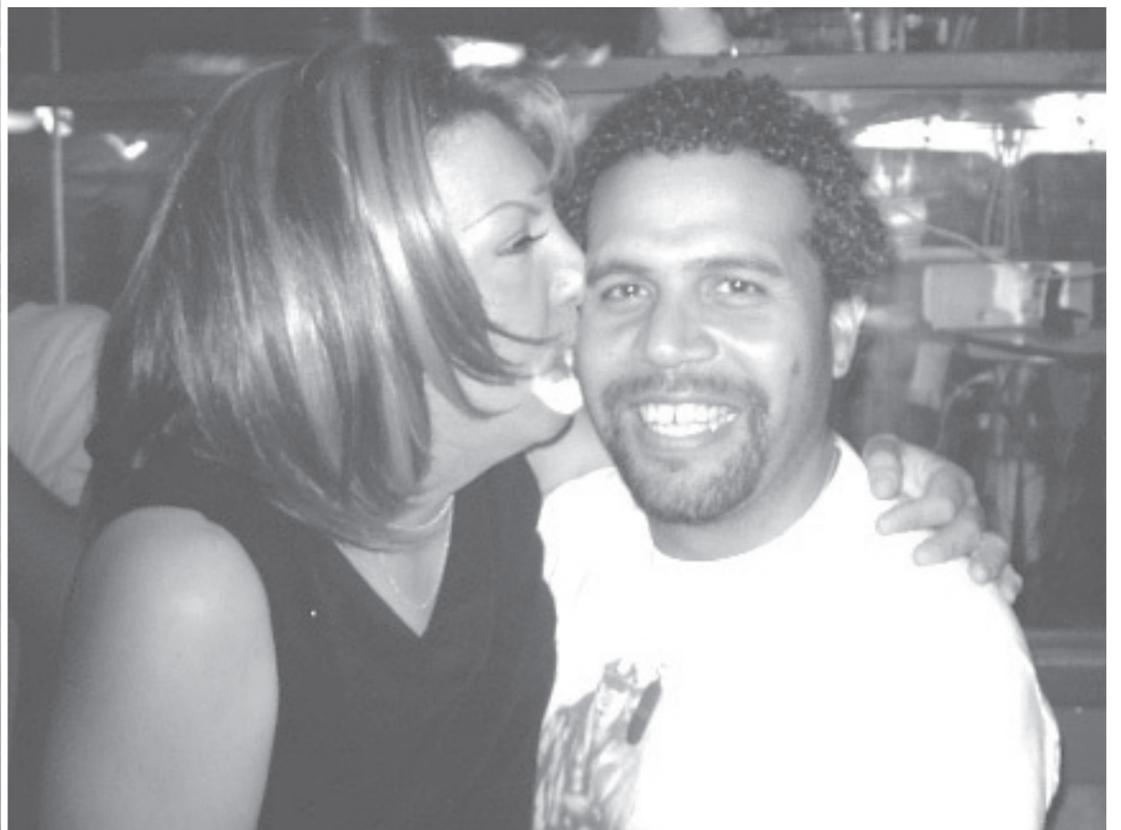
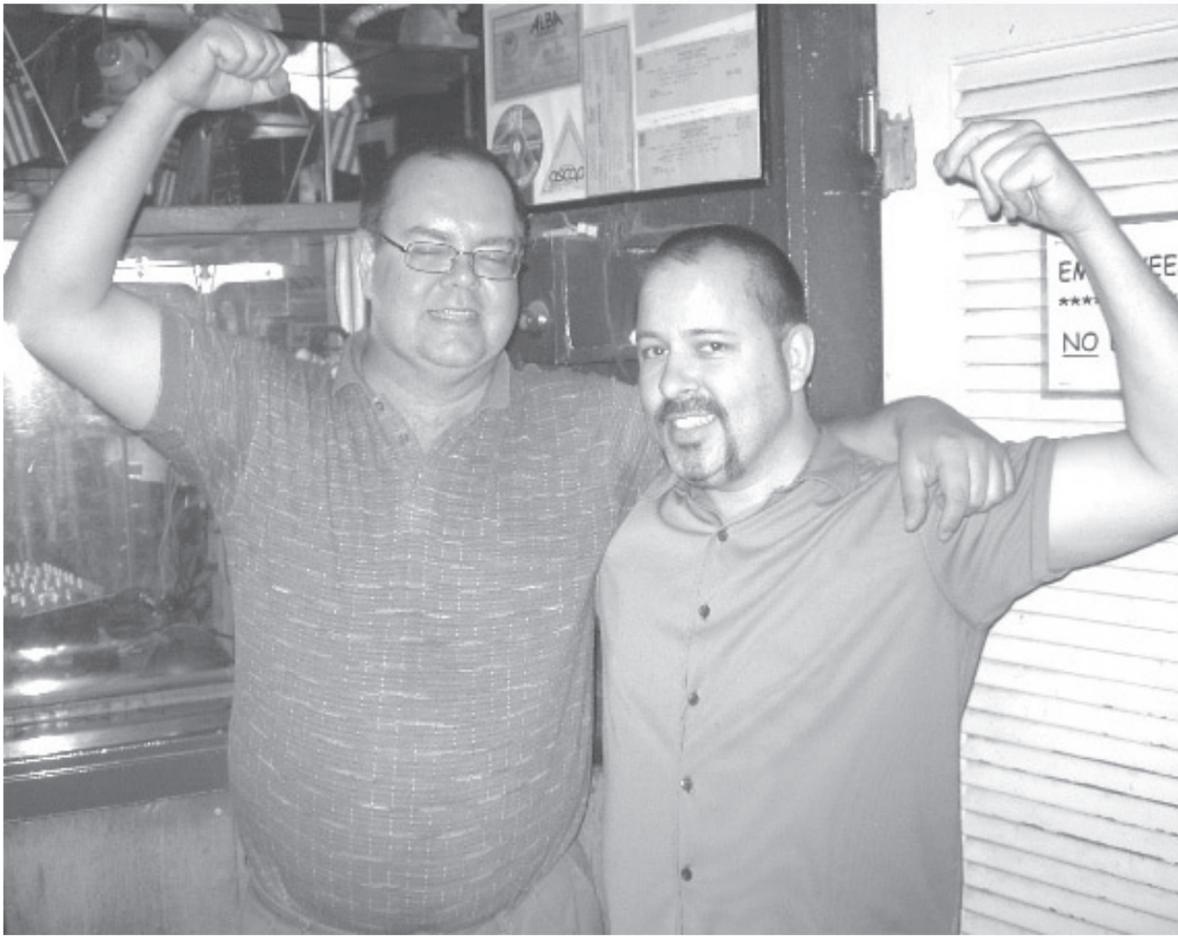
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In Their Own Words

"I had 12 earrings in my ear, I rode a motorcycle, I had a tattoo and, strangely enough, I just did (Lesbian drama) The L Word.

"As fate would have had it, I'm a heterosexual, which all of you know is no picnic. I think I would have had a lot more lovin' in my life (if I was Gay).

"I did The L Word and they put me on it and they didn't even let me play a Lesbian! Isn't that crazy? I played a straight girl. I just don't have enough clout in Hollywood, apparently."

She adds of her days as a hopeful Lesbian, "That was just a crazy college phase in my life. It's all over now."

- Actress Camryn Manheim in an interview with Contact Music on May 7, entitled "Manheim's Lesbian Dreams Dashed." . . .

"I'm opposed to it being in a platform. I think it's a mistake. I think it's the wrong thing, and I'm not sure it reflects the broad view of the Democratic Party in our state."

- U.S. Senator John F. Kerry said that he believes it's a mistake for the Massachusetts Democratic Party to include a plank in its official platform in support of same-sex marriage, saying that such a statement does not conform with the broad views of party members. . . .

"She has proved to be exactly the right person for the job."

- Vice President Dick Cheney, father of a Lesbian daughter, said about Republican Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave of Colorado, one of the co-sponsors of the anti-Gay and Lesbian Federal Marriage Amendment, at a fund raising event for Musgrave in Denver, Monday, May 9, that raised \$200,000. . . .

"Do you believe a dog could care for a baby? Yes or No"

- CNN's Daily Poll for Monday, May 9. A total of 156,389 votes were cast with Yes winning with 100,706 votes or 64%. One wonders though how Senator Rick "Man on Dog" Santorum, R-PA, feels about this poll? . . .

Dave Kaplan, president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Washington, a pro-Gay GOP group, said in a story for the Spokane Spokesman-Review said that just because West has different opinions than many in the Gay community does not make him anti-Gay.

Really? Spokane Mayor Jim West's votes on Gay-rights and human-rights issues:

On Christmas Eve 1985, Gov. Booth Gardner signed an executive order banning discrimination in state hiring based on sexual orientation. West and 14 other Republicans responded by introducing a bill in January 1986 that would have barred Gay men and Lesbians from working in schools, day-care centers and some state agencies. The bill called for screening prospective employees for sexual orientation and firing state workers whose sexual identities became known. The bill failed.

Also in 1986, West voted to bar the state from distributing pamphlets telling people how to protect themselves from AIDS during sex.

West opposed Gay rights bills introduced in 1985 and 1987.

In 1989, West opposed a

proposal to expand a needle exchange program to protect people from AIDS from Pierce County to the entire state.

In 1990, as part of a bill on AIDS education, West proposed that teen sex be criminalized. The bill, written by the abstinence group Teen Aid, would have made sexual contact a misdemeanor for unmarried teenagers under 18. Sexual contact was defined as "any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person" for sexual gratification.

West voted in 1998 for the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as between a man and a woman. Gov. Gary Locke vetoed the bill, but the Legislature overrode his veto.

As Senate majority leader, West and other Republicans in 2003 bottled up the Gay-rights bill in committee and it died.

As Spokane's incoming mayor in November 2003, West said he's opposed to extending City Hall benefits to domestic partners, citing the cost. In April 2005, the City Council approved domestic partner benefits in a 5-2 vote, enough to withstand a mayor veto.

Federal Court Supports Ex-Gays And Halts Sex Ed Course

BALTIMORE - A federal judge Thursday, May 8, issued a restraining order blocking Montgomery County public schools from instituting a new health curriculum that seeks to provide positive information for LGBT students, 365Gay.com reported.

Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays filed suit earlier this week, accusing the school district of "denigrating" so-called former Gays in the materials to be used in the course.

The suit accused the school board of "an irrational phobia of the ex-Gay community," and "urges censorship of ex-Gay materials in our schools."

The group also claimed that because the course listed Gay-positive churches and religious groups but not conservative churches opposed to homosexuality the school district was favoring some religions over others.

U.S. District Judge Alexander Williams agreed, saying that the program depicts some Christian sects, notably Baptists, as unenlightened and Biblically misguided.

"The court is extremely troubled by the willingness of the defendants to venture, or perhaps more correctly, bound, into the crossroads of controversy where religion, morality and homosexuality converge," Williams said.

A pilot program to test student response to the course was set to begin in six schools on Friday. The program was to have included discussions of homosexuality and a videotaped demonstration of how to use a condom.

Montgomery's school board approved the new curriculum last November. It was to be aimed at students in eighth and 10th grades. County educators say the changes were needed to teach students about the dangers of unprotected sex and homophobia.

In his questioning of school system attorney Judith Bresler, Judge Williams implied the system was taking a position of morals by urging sensitivity toward Gays and Lesbians.

"We seem to be tilting toward a particular view," he said.

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There is magic in the air while Sun, Uranus and Neptune troika through the heavens. Prepare for cool sip of serendipity delivered with a jolt of caffeine. Just be sure to capitalize on every creamy dream and whip it up into a frenzy. Hey, is that a cherry on top?

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
There are some friends who love to waste your time but why should you care? Life needs its pleasant, nonsensical diversions especially when Sun, Neptune and Uranus let off steam and defer your more serious life goals. These pals are loads of fun and provide intangible happiness. This is your reason for living now, Gay Ram. So live a little and stop counting the change!

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls feel great pressure to succeed at all costs. Why is it then that other things now get in the way? As you rumble down the cosmic superhighway hoping to make up for lost time, there is some annoyingly slow traffic lumbering in the fast lane. It is the Sun, Neptune and Uranus happily spreading tacks on your professional path. Don't get frustrated. Enjoy the down time.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Your juices are brought to a boil when the Sun, Neptune and Uranus conspire to mix business with pleasure. Pink Twins think that they can escape all emergencies at work by travelling but ha! There is no hiding from your responsibilities. However, you may find that you have inspiring solutions to intractable old problems. Then again, maybe you are just inspiring yourself.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
While pink Crabs are tempted to take a certain platonic relationship to the next steamy level, hold off and cool down while Sun, Neptune and Uranus bury a few landmines in your primrose path. Acting out on your sexy impulses work well on those who you know less well. At least it will be easier to avoid them when the bloom is off your rose colored glasses.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Lions want their recognition ... right now! But as the Sun, Neptune and Uranus mix their magic, you may find that you would do better to blend into the background and wait for your next best professional move. There are those who are close to you who are more concerned with their self interests than with your self actualization. Forgive and forget. Well at least forgive.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
If you feel pulled in several directions at once, blame Sun, Neptune and Uranus who pour on the work, create domestic discord and tempt you with possible escape and escapades. Relationships vie for your attention with demanding bosses. You can run but you can't hide queer Virgin! Face the music and dance - as long as you don't lambada. It is forbidden you know.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
Sun, Neptune and Uranus increase the level of intensity in your everyday life and lead you into reckless temptation. But try not to overdo especially with exercise. Silly preventable accidents can occur. On the other hand, creative and fun activities can take on a "wilde" life of their own and leave you feeling dissipated and spent by the end of the week. Lucky thing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Your home may not be the most relaxing place to be as Sun, Neptune and Uranus impact both the physical (pipes and electricity) and the emotional. There appears to be a tussle brewing. Relatives vie for your attention and partners may have to intervene or referee. Everybody wants a piece of you now, proud Scorp. What piece will you give? How about your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Get back to work and finish some long standing projects, Gay Archer. This can be a very productive time where, if you concentrate, you may even scratch your way up to the next level. Yet Sun, Neptune and Uranus try to sidetrack you with a variety of less important things. Will you be tempted? Try to stick to your game and keep your eye on the ball. No names please.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
If you put your money where your mouth is, expect to swallow it. Blame Sun, Uranus and Neptune who encourage you to spend spend spend on junk. Pink Caps are known for being rather frugal (okay, cheap) and this may be an extravagantly wasteful time. When it is all over you may be left with a handful of dust, a hangover and some treadmarks. Oh but what memories!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Aqueerians are usually unusual and revel in their individuality. Good thing. As Sun, Neptune and Uranus aspect you are sure to surpass your usual unusualness. But if you are interviewing for a big job or angling for anything that is important to long term growth, wait until next week if possible. Hang around the tried and true crowd for now. They love you warts, farts and all.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Your intuition is running on overdrive when Sun, Uranus and Neptune polish your crystal ball. What is it that you see in this fog and mist? You may surprise yourself with all your great insights, Guppie. Don't waste time second guessing and procrastinating. This is the week to overachieve on your karma. Put all your best intentions to good works. It pays off in June.



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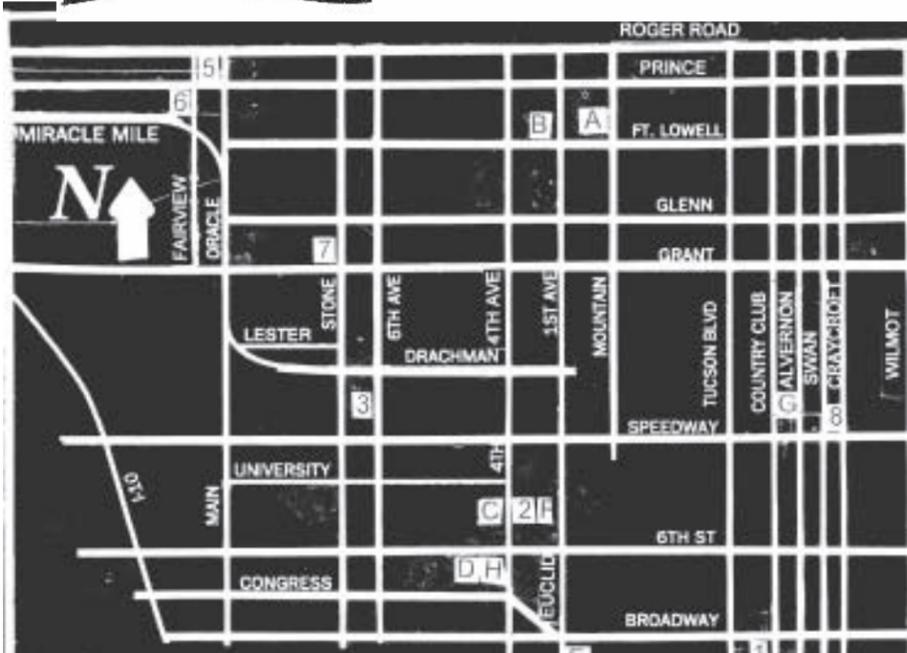
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Dear Dr. X,

I saw a flyer hanging recently at a local bar advertising a piss party in another city. The idea was that guys get together and piss on each other and have sex. I don't think I'm a prude or anything, but this seems a bit whacked. Is pissing on each other really some sort of sex thing, or is it about some self-esteem issues that these guys need to get over? What about STD's?

Signed, Dry

Dear Dry,

Thanks for the E-mail. I saw that flyer myself, both here and in the host city. I actually know several of the guys who are responsible for this and similar events, and have asked their views to help answer your letter.

In asking, I simply asked them what their attraction to water sports is. All of them, without exception, cited a hyper-masculine feeling or animalistic sensation while on either end of the act. Many described feeling a sense of "belonging to" or "ownership" from their partner because of it. Only one guy, out of about nine, said that he got off on feeling like he was being humiliated and degraded. All the other guys felt like the pissing was more like a bonding act than an act of degradation.

Here are some other interesting things they shared. Piss play is almost exclusively during those times when they and their partner are having hot, wild sex sessions; it doesn't seem to find its way into their romantic lovemaking. Though I know of some guys who are into it, none of the guys I spoke to for this article were into



drinking it, and the majority seem to only like their genitals getting soaked-not their entire body. Also, most of these guys told me that they will plan this kind of play into their night in advance, and will be sure that they/their partner drink lots of water beforehand to get a clean and clear stream.

I thought it was interesting that the majority of the men I talked to felt like water sports in their bedroom gave them a closer bonding with their partner. Again, several cited that sense of belonging. Depending on how you deep you want to go to interpret that, I suppose you could tie those feelings in to self-esteem. I'll tell you though, these guys seemed happy and healthy, with no hang-ups about it. Wish I could say the same for the rest of us.

Lastly, about STD's: pissing onto unbroken skin is considered safe play. However, this changes if the skin is broken, or if you are ingesting. Though urine is essentially sterile in the kidneys, it may acquire bacteria as it travels through the bladder and urethra. Additionally, extreme or rough exercise and sex can sometimes cause small blood vessels to rupture internally, leaving small amounts of blood in the urine. Both the bacteria and the blood have the potential to cause

problems if allowed into the body through ingestion or broken skin.

Also remember that urine can contain and pass along unprocessed medications and recreational drugs that have passed through the liver (about 25% of Meth and 60% of MDMA pass through unprocessed), and these can be absorbed by ingesting the urine. This is why you hear about tweakers and ravers drinking their own urine—they are trying to re-up!

If you are considering exploring this side of sex-play, I encourage you to find some guys out there who have experience in this area and can help you navigate this area. The Internet is a great way to meet guys with similar interests without having to get too personal and embarrassed. If you do decide to pursue this activity, I suggest that you be very open and honest with your potential partners both about your desires and your level of experience.

Have lots of fun and safe play!

[Do you have burning questions with no answer in sight? Ask Dr. X! 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.]

FDA Approves Once-Daily HIV Drug

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Fighting HIV—at least for some patients—just got a little easier, reported GayHealth.com.

The US Food and Drug Administration announced it has approved a once-daily formulation of Abbott Laboratories' protease inhibitor Kaletra, which will offer patients and physicians more flexibility than the current twice-daily dosage, the company said. "We are pleased to be able to provide patients with a once-daily, Kaletra-based regimen, as an alternative that provides comparable efficacy to the twice-daily dosing option in initial treatment of HIV," said Scott Brun, M.D., divisional vice president, Infectious Disease Development, Abbott. "The once-daily regimen provides enhanced flexibility for people living with HIV."

The new drug is used in combination with other anti-HIV drugs, and it should be taken with food to increase absorption into the blood stream. The usual dose for adults is three capsules or 5.0 mL twice a day. The new approval was based on data from a clinical study of 190 treatment-naïve HIV patients. The 48-week study compared the once-daily and twice-daily Kaletra doses. Both doses were given with once-daily tenofovir and emtricitabine. Comparable virologic responses were found between the two groups, and once-daily Kaletra was generally well-tolerated. The most common side effects reported by both groups were nausea and diarrhea. Reports of diarrhea were more common in the once-daily group.

Once-daily Kaletra will be offered in both liquid and softgel capsule forms.

Treatment Not Needed

For All Prostate Cancers

STORRS - Men diagnosed with the least dangerous, localized prostate cancer have only a minimal risk of dying from the disease over the following 20 years, one of the largest and longest studies on the issue found, reported Advocate.com.

"These results do not support aggressive treatment of localized, low-grade prostate cancer" by surgery or radiation, the report from the University of Connecticut Health Center said. "Surveillance is really the best option for those patients," added physician Peter Albertsen, who led the study.

Albertsen's research, which began with 767 men and covered more than 20 years, also found that the death rate from prostate cancer across the board appears to remain stable beyond 15 years after diagnosis. That contradicts a recent Swedish study that reported a three-fold increase in prostate cancer mortality rates for men who survive more than 15 years after the disease is found.

Albertsen, whose findings appeared in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association, said the conflict might be due to differences in how the disease was classified in each patient and how the causes of death were determined. The men in the Connecticut study were between the ages of 55 and 74 when diagnosed with low stages of prostate cancer as far back as 1971, meaning that the tumor had not progressed outside the gland. But they had many grades of tumors, from the least dangerous to the most virulent. The men with low-grade or least dangerous tumors at diagnosis had a low risk of disease progression even after more than 20 years, with 7% dying of prostate cancer. Most died from other identifiable or unknown causes, and 12% were still alive 20 to 33 years after diagnosis.

He said both his and the Swedish study do agree that men with tumors rated at the lower end of the Gleason rating system, widely used in the United States to define prostate tumors, rarely die from their disease; but men with tumors rated at the higher end of that scale die from it within five to 10 years of diagnosis, often despite aggressive interventions. How to advise men with tumors in the middle of the scale who otherwise have a life expectancy of greater than 15 years "poses the greatest challenge," he said.

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NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE
'MERIT' by Lee Thorn

The County Attorney's firing and suspensions of some of her own lawyers has recently focused attention on the Pima County Merit System Commission.

The Commission, to quote my favorite daily newspaper, "is a five-member board appointed by the Board of Supervisors to hear appeals of county government employees who believe they were unfairly demoted, suspended or fired."

The raps against the Commission are that it fails to take the responsibilities of elected officials into consideration and that its members aren't qualified to hear extremely complicated legal arguments. I would suggest that these criticisms of the body are not in fact defects but actually very substantial merits.

If the Commission doesn't worry about keeping the skirts of elected officials all snowy white and if it ignores arcane legal crap, it's got enormous freedom that politicians and courts do not have — it's free to do the right thing. Wonderful!

Another great strength of the Commission as it's currently constituted is that it doesn't include a single lawyer. But that's where the good news ends. Although the Board of Supervisors was smart enough to keep the Commission free of lawyers, it was not smart enough to keep it free of politicians.

Don't get me wrong. Let lawyers by lawyers and let politicians be politicians. Just please don't put them on a merit panel that's trying to get to the truth of how the bureaucracy treats its employees and then trying to make things fair. As any honest judge will tell you, even as he's looking down at you from the bench, "The law doesn't have to be fair."

And doing the right thing has nothing to do with politics. It has everything to do with common sense, experience, judgment, and a sense of what's right and what's wrong. Not one of these attributes has every been supplanted by a set of rules, not even in this age of computers that can generate a million rules a second.

So get the pols off the Commission and replace them with "real people." They already have a retired aerospace worker and a retired school principal. Maybe they could find a waitress, a truck driver and a janitor who are not retired and who would add some balance to the

team with respect to both age and social class.

Not that you'd want anyone extremely young or anyone who's down-and-out. If you're looking at the workings of the county bureaucracy, you want people with experience in the world of work and you want people whose work experience has been successful.

Also, if you don't want to rely exclusively on retirees, you need to pay the Commission members a decent wage.

The current head of the Commission has served for 14 years. That's another weakness of the present arrangement. You don't want a dynasty here. A four-year term and a two-term limit would keep things from getting too cozy and inbred.

As a condition of having his case heard by the Commission, the employee should agree not to take his complaint to the courts. Think of it as a form of binding arbitration. Also think of the time and money that could be saved. And the real justice that could be done.

Let's return to the case at hand, the one that got everyone looking at the workings of the Commission, in which the County Attorney took action against her own lawyers for, again according to the Star, failing "to divulge information about a suspect in the slaying of "a prominent local doctor. The chastised lawyers' defense, if the Star can be believed, is to say that the County Attorney's actions against them "were motivated by her fear of bad press."

If that's really their defense, it's hard to imagine how they got to be lawyers in the first place. Most lawyers realize that if you do a bad thing, say murder someone, it's no defense to say that the cop who arrested you just wanted to make himself look good to his boss.

The motives of the people who hold you responsible for a bad act don't make you innocent of committing the act even if those motives are tainted, even if they're dirty rotten, even if they're evil.

A waitress or a truck driver or a janitor would know that. They'd know it without having to consult a single law book and without having to conduct a single opinion poll.

[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 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.

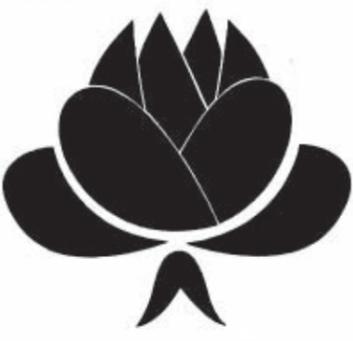
MONDAY, MAY 30
 Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch – 12:30 p.m., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

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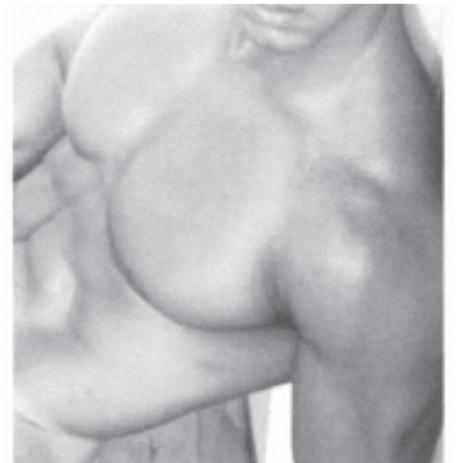
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

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, \$4.50 - 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 Skyy 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. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am-1:30pm, \$4.50. 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

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 12

YARD DOG SALOON - Budweiser Promo Party. Bud specials and prizes. 7 - 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

WOODY'S - Is your birthday in May? Sign up for your Birthday Party at Woody's by May 12. 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. Hawaiian drinks, Hawaiian Dinner at 7pm. DJ Shawn at 9p.m. Aloha Dancers Hula Contest 10p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

VENTURE-N - Tonight is steak Night and kicks off Memorial Day Weekend here. Bring your own steak or buy one here. V-N provides the side dishes.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for Woody's Memorial Day Weekend Party. The Red, White & Blue Party starts today.

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

OCTOBER 16 - 17TH Annual AIDS WALK takes place at Rillito Downs Race Park, s River Road and First Avenue in Tucson. AIDS WALK 2005 will again feture both the traditionala 4K walk as well as a 10K non-competitive run. Tucson's support of AIDS WALK over the years has made an important and lasting statement about Southern Arizona's commitment to the fight against AIDS. AIDS WALK attracts approximately 4,000 walkers annually and continues to enjoy strong corporate underwriting alliances.

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18. AIDS WALK Tucson has grown from 800 participants in 1989 to more than 4,000 individuals and 79 businesses raising over \$239,000 in 2004 for local HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support programs.

Safe Sex



Is Bringing Men Together

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

Crystal Meth's 'Trigger' Discovered

SAN FRANCISCO - Chemists at The Scripps Research Institute have found evidence in laboratory studies that the immune system may be able to recognize methamphetamine and boost tolerance to the drug through an unusual vaccine-like mechanism, 365Gay.com reported.

Their finding, if confirmed in human studies, could help explain why chronic users go on long binges with the illicit drug, also known as speed. The study could lead to new treatments for the drug's addiction, they say.

Recent studies by others have documented the drug's apparent ability to suppress the immune system, making abusers more vulnerable to diseases such as HIV.

The new study is the first to suggest that the drug can engage the body's defense system to attack methamphetamine in such a way that makes users inclined to use more of the drug.

"Test animals injected with methamphetamine actually developed antibodies to the drug, which is highly unique for a molecule of its relatively small size," says study co-leader Kim Janda, Ph.D., a chemist at Scripps.

Developing antibodies to the body's invaders, such as viruses and bacteria, is normally a good thing and forms the basis of modern vaccines, he explains. But ironically, people who abuse methamphetamine may build up antibodies to the drug itself, so they require increasing amounts to get high, resulting in binging behavior, he says.

"Without knowing it, they're essentially vaccinating themselves against the drug, and that's not a good thing as it requires more of the drug to get high," says Janda.

In a test tube study designed to simulate the chemical reactions that occur with the drug when it enters the bloodstream, the researchers showed that methamphetamine reacts with glucose and proteins to form a larger-size "glycated" product. This product is then recognized by immune system components, stimulating the production of antibodies to the drug.

In follow-up studies using mice, those injected with the drug developed antibodies to it.

"Antibodies are usually produced only in response to large molecule invaders such as proteins, not to small drug molecules," Janda says. "Glycation acts like a linker that allows [the methamphetamine] to be displayed to the immune system, triggering a vaccine-like reaction."

Just as a vaccine is able to remove invading pathogens by using antibodies to the pathogen, antibodies to methamphetamine attack and begin to clear the drug, Janda says. If the antibodies prevent some of the drug from reaching its place of action in the brain's pleasure center, users might require more of the drug because some of it is bound up by antibodies and "soaked up like a sponge," Janda says.

"If the mechanism we proposed proves true in humans, then it will help explain why addicts go on prolonged binges, requiring more frequent intake

and ever-increasing amounts of the drug in order to achieve a high," says Janda

"Right now, there's nothing really effective in getting people off methamphetamine," says Janda, who believes that highly specific methamphetamine antibodies can be made in a laboratory and then used as a clinical treatment for addiction.

In theory, antibodies to the drug could be mass produced and administered at therapeutic levels that are high enough to clear the drug from the body, he says. "Methamphetamine has become the 'crack' of the 21st century," Janda says. "We're just starting to unravel its mechanism of addiction." Further studies of the drug are planned, he adds.

**CARD ADS IN THE
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Methodist Church Appeals Lesbian Minister's Reinstatement

PHILADELPHIA - The United Methodist Church will ask its highest court for the right to defrock a lesbian minister who told her congregation that she is in a relationship with another woman, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com. Irene "Beth" Stroud was ousted last year for violating the denomination's ban on "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" clergy. A church appeals panel voted to set aside that decision.

The Reverend Thomas Hall, counsel for the church, said that he consulted with eastern Pennsylvania bishop Marcus Matthews, who decided to move forward with an appeal. The church will be crafting a letter of appeal to be submitted to its Judicial Council. "We're just saying that we felt an egregious error was committed at the appellate level," Hall said.

The case, which may not be reviewed until October, stems from Stroud's announcement two years ago to her Philadelphia congregation that she is living in a committed relationship with a woman. She was defrocked in December, meaning that she could no longer serve communion or conduct baptisms. A church council successfully argued she had violated the "clear, unambiguous" Gay clergy ban when she publicly revealed her relationship.

The appeals panel ruled that the evidence against Stroud was "overwhelming" but said she was denied due process in her trial because Methodist bodies, including the General Conference, had not properly defined terms related to the ban on Gay clergy, such as the meaning of "practicing homosexual." "We knew that there would be another step," said Jana Moore, a spokeswoman for Stroud. "In no way are we surprised. We are prepared."

Stroud said she met with Matthews on Tuesday, May 3, and that he offered to appoint her as an associate pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Pa., with full rights and responsibilities of an ordained elder. But she said she told him she wanted to remain a layperson until her case ends. "When I put my robes back on, whether it's at the conclusion of the judicial process or in a number of years when the General Conference changes this unjust legislation, I want that to be a sacred trust among me, God, and the larger church," Stroud said in a statement. "I don't want my ordination to be a symbol of who is on the winning or losing side of a controversy at any given moment."

Matthews said in a statement that the appeal will be filed by May 29, within the 30-day deadline. The Judicial Council normally meets twice a year, during the last week in April and the last week in October.

KALEIDOSCOPE

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47 N. 6TH
(ACROSS FROM THE
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**AFTER-HOURS 2-4AM
SATURDAY, MAY 21
INVITE ONLY
CONTACT PULSE FOR TICKETS.**

WWW.PULSE.TUCSON.ORG

PULSE IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION,
WINGSPAN AND ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.