



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Businesses Can't Discriminate Against G/L Couples, California Court Rules

SACRAMENTO - Country clubs must offer same-sex couples the same discounted memberships that they give married couples California's Supreme Court ruled Monday (August 1) in a decision that will spillover to affect all businesses in the state, reported 365Gay.com.

The court ruled that Bernardo Heights Country Club in San Diego discriminated against a Lesbian couple when it refused to give B. Birgit Koebke and Kendall French the full benefit of Koebke's membership.

Bernardo Heights' membership policy allows a spouse to be included in membership. Although Koebke and French have been together since 1993 and registered partners since 1998, Bernardo Heights Country Club refused to recognize the couple's relationship, limited how frequently they could use the course together, and forced them to pay additional greens fees whenever French seeks to play golf as Koebke's "guest."

Lambda Legal argued that the club's rules violate California's civil rights laws.

"The case basically asks whether businesses in California can provide benefits that are limited to couples that are married," Lambda attorney Jon Davidson argued.

"So long as same-sex couples can't get married, you are essentially excluding all those couples. It means no Gay people are ever going to be able to get the benefits."

Lawyers for the club argued that the rules do not amount to discrimination because they apply to all unmarried people.

The court, in the ruling, said that allowing the families of married members to golf gratis while charging the partners of Gay members constitutes "impermissible marital status discrimination."

"The Legislature has made it abundantly clear that an important goal of the Domestic Partner Act is to create substantial legal equality between domestic partners and spouses," Associate Justice Carlos Moreno wrote for a five-judge majority.

"We interpret this language to mean that there shall be no discrimination in the treatment of registered domestic partners and spouses."

The ruling reverses two lower courts that sided with the country club. But, it also limits damages. The court said the couple could not claim financial damages for the period before they became registered partners.

A similar case was waged in Georgia.

In December Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin directed Atlanta's solicitor to fine Druid Hills Country Club \$500 a day for each day, up to 180 days, it does not comply with a city LGBT rights ordinance after the club refused to grant a family membership to two same-sex couples.

The club then filed suit against the city alleging the ordinance is illegal and the city's own solicitor refused to prosecute Druid Hills claiming the ordinance may be unconstitutional.

The legislature then passed a bill forbidding both the state and municipalities from imposing any penalty on private organizations engaged in lawful expressive association effecting preventing Atlanta from enforcing its human rights ordinance. The law went into effect in June.

Gay Muslim Appeals In U.K. Asylum Case

LONDON - In one of the first judgments of its kind, a 34-year-old Gay Muslim asylum seeker has won the right to make an appeal to remain in Britain, Gay.com UK reported.

The 34-year-old Palestinian man, who can be identified only as "H.C.," lived in a refugee camp near Sidon, in Lebanon, but fled to Britain in 1998 after the video shop he worked in was blown up.

The man claimed that he was told by a fellow camp resident that the shop was blown up because of H.C.'s homosexuality.

Outrage!, the Gay-human rights group led by Peter Tatchell, has long campaigned on the issue and joined marchers at London's Gay Pride event in early July with placards saying, "Tony Blair deports Gay asylum seekers. Shame!" and "Labour deports Gays to face jail, torture and death."

During an asylum appeal in 2003, the adjudicator accepted some of the Palestinian man's claims, but dismissed his plea to remain in Britain and the Immigration Appeal Tribunal refused H.C. the right to appeal.

During the appeal court hearing, Dr. Alan George, a Middle East specialist, gave written evidence showing that homosexuality is condemned by both Lebanese and Palestinian society, and Gay men in particular were subject to serious abuse and discrimination.

Continued on Page Two

Lesbian Becomes Interim San Diego Mayor

SAN DIEGO - It took the resignation of one mayor and the extortion conviction of his replacement for openly Gay San Diego Councilwoman Toni Atkins to ascend to the top spot in the nation's seventh-largest city. But the fact that she landed the position is what's important to LGBT political groups, who finally — if temporarily — have a big-city mayor to call their own, reported 365Gay.com.

The results of Tuesday's (July 26) municipal election guaranteed that Atkins will serve as appointed acting mayor until December, following a November run-off between the two top vote-getters in the mayoral race. Until the end of the year, San Diego will be the largest American city with an openly Gay mayor.

"The more our members hear about it, the more they get excited about Toni Atkins leading San Diego during this period," said John Marble, spokesman for the National Stonewall Democrats, which counts Atkins as a member. "It helps demonstrate to Americans how their LGBT neighbors are a part of their life."

According to Gay political groups, the largest U.S. city with an openly Gay mayor had been Providence, R.I., whose population of 174,000 is dwarfed by San Diego's 1.2 million.

According to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund (GLVF), Gay mayors serve in more than a dozen other cities, including Palm Springs, Calif.; Casper, Wyo.; Northampton, Mass.; and Key Biscayne, Fla. The mayor of Spokane, Wash., with a population of 195,000, was forced out of the closet by a recent sex scandal.

Atkins' sexual orientation got little play in the media coverage of her rise to the mayorship last week after former Mayor Dick Murphy resigned in disgrace in the midst of a pension fund scandal, and his replacement, Councilman Michael Zucchet, was convicted in a wide-ranging City Hall scandal involving bribes by strip clubs.

"Americans are more concerned with the quality of their governments than the sexual orientation of elected officials," said Dave DeCicco, spokesman for the GLVF.

San Diego, which calls itself "America's Finest City," has bigger issues to talk about — from its financial meltdown, caused by a massive giveaway of pension funds to city employees, to a slew of federal and local investigations. Some observers predict the city will have



Interim Mayor Toni Atkins

to consider bankruptcy, a prospect Atkins hopes to avoid.

"I know she has her hands full," Marble said.

While her dedication to open government has drawn raves, Atkins has drawn fire from citizens angry about her decisions regarding issues ranging from budget cutbacks to employee pensions to a new downtown library.

In Tuesday's election, maverick liberal Democrat councilwoman Donna Frye — a self-described "surfer chick" who hasn't always allied herself with Atkins — came in first but failed to get the required majority vote to avoid a run-off against the second leading candidate: former police chief Jerry Sanders.

A Democrat, Atkins has served on the City Council since 2000, when she replaced another Lesbian, Christine Kehoe, who went on to the California Legislature. Atkins represents much of the older urban core of San Diego, including several neighborhoods with significant LGBT populations.

Wingspan Grand Opening Aug. 6

TUCSON - On July 11, Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, opened the doors of its new building at 425 E. Seventh St. It is Wingspan's fourth home in its 17 years of service to the community.

Wingspan is holding a Community Open House on Saturday, August 6 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served, and staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide tours, and answer questions.

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

UPDATE

Arizona Together Update:

TUCSON (ON) - Arizona Together (AT) is a statewide coalition, joined together to defeat the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona (PMA) amendment, drafted by the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), to add it to the state constitution.

If approved the PMA would define marriage as consisting of "one man and one woman," and prohibits the recognition or creation of any legal status for any unmarried persons similar to marriage. This measure would strip away many benefits, including health and dental coverage, currently offered to the domestic partners, same and opposite sex, of employees for the governmental entities which offers these as well as affected many state laws and private business policies. One thing is clear, once the state Constitution is amended, there is no going back and we must stop those individuals, such as CAP, who insist on mandating their discriminatory will upon the rest of the state.

At their Web site, aztogether.org, people can now make secure online, credit-card donations, as well as getting the address of where to send checks if they so are inclined. People can get more information, volunteer and read pertinent information about this proposed measure.

AT has many volunteer committees, in Northern and Southern Arizona, as well as holding events to get the voting public aware of PMA and why they shouldn't sign the petitions currently being circulated. Here is a schedule of upcoming events & committee meetings in Southern Arizona:

Monday, August 8, noon to 1 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., the LGBT Community Outreach/Social Change Committee, will be meeting to plan the upcoming fall events to engage the LGBT community about PMA and to fight it. For more information, E-mail Cathy Busha, cathy@wingspan.org.

Thursday, August 11, 6:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., the Southern Arizona Fund Raising Committee will meet to discuss the upcoming campaign and to schedule the various events being planned for the Fall calendar. For more information, E-mail Kim Brown, kbrown_psych1@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, August 16, 6 p.m., at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., a forum on the new voter registration rules will take place. Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez will discuss how the process has changed since the passage of Proposition 200 in the November 2004 general election.

For more information about Arizona Together, call Jess Knutsen, (520) 624-1779, Ext. 21 or E-mail: jknutsen@wingspan.org.

Position Open At WAVP

TUCSON - Wingspan's Anti-Violence Project (WAVP) is seeking a bilingual advocate and educator.

This position provides crisis intervention and advocacy services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) victim/survivors of violence and allies, as well as providing outreach and

education about violence within and against the LGBT with a focus on Spanish-speakers. The bilingual advocate and educator provides support for the WAVP Coordinator.

To apply, send a cover letter, resume and contact information of three references to Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705, or fax (520) 624-0364 or E-mail wingspan@wingspan.org. For more details, duties and responsibilities for this position, go online to wingspan.org. No calls please. AA/EOE

Town Hall To Focus On GLBT Issues Aug. 5

PHOENIX - The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is hosting a Town Hall Meeting on GLBT issues and panel discussion on Friday August 5, 7: 30 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum, Whitman Hall, 1625 N. Central Avenue.

HRC President Joe Solmonese will participate in the discussion on issues important to the GLBT community, including the role of religion in anti-GLBT discrimination, the prospect of a federal amendment banning same-sex marriage, and how any Supreme Court nomination could affect the rights of GLBT individuals.

As part of the town hall meeting, attendees will also see clips from the film, "For the Bible Tells Me So." The film examines and challenges how scripture is used to support anti-Gay discrimination.

For more information about the Human Rights Campaign, visit www.hrc.org. To see a trailer for "The Bible Tells Me So," visit forthebibletellsmeso.org.

Position Open At Body Positive

PHOENIX - Phoenix Body Positive is seeking a qualified individual for a Prevention Specialist.

This position provides comprehensive case management and health education services with multiple session risk reduction counseling around HIV and substance use issues to a broad spectrum of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their partners and/or family members.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to Phoenix Body Positive, 1144 E. McDowell Road, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85006, fax (602) 307-5021 or E-mail: info@phoenixbodypositive.org. For more information, call (602) 307-5330 or go online to phoenixbodypositive.org. AA/EOE

Gay Muslim

Continued from Page One

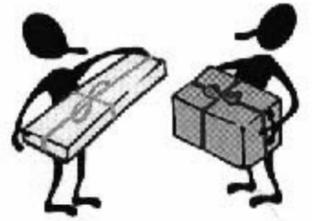
Indeed, the Palestinian Authority is understood to reserve the death penalty for homosexuality, although in the past, the most serious punishments meted out involved long prison sentences.

In Iran and Saudi Arabia, Gay men are routinely stoned to death.

Lord Justice Keene, giving the ruling of the court, quashed the judgment of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal that denied the man the right to appeal his asylum decision.

The case will now be passed onto the newly formed Asylum and Immigration Tribunal for a rehearing.

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Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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GILBERT - Today (July 29), on his 35th birthday, Neil Schneider hopes the truth will set him free, reported the Arizona Republic.

He hopes to be free from the lies, the half-truths and selective storytelling. It ends today. Schneider is Gay, and has been closeted to all but his closest friends and family for the past few years.

Most of the folks he works with at the Arizona Farm Bureau didn't know. His neighbors, in suburban, mostly conservative Gilbert where he lives, didn't know. Until now. What will this mean for his career as a spokesman for the Arizona Farm Bureau? Will acquaintances and co-workers treat him differently now?

"I think it will be a complete shock to most people," he said.

All of these were questions he wrestled with for months. He said he felt like a fraud arguing for the importance of civil rights and benefits for homosexual couples to friends while still hiding his sexuality. But since doctors found a grape-size tumor on his spinal cord, he's started taking stock of his life.

He said he won't know if the tumor is cancerous until surgery in August, but he doesn't want to wait to find out before living his real life. He had taken some bold steps recently - writing a Letter to the Editor that appeared on The Arizona Republic Opinions page July 16 that argued for making Arizona a Gay friendly tourist destination to increase tourism revenue.

Previous letters he wrote defended the importance of agriculture in Arizona's economy and the war in Iraq, letters he still stands by. His political views haven't changed. Nothing about Neil has changed, except for the lies.

He said he wants co-workers and friends to see him as the same old Neil: Who grew up in Peoria, considers his high school agriculture teacher one of his

A Birthday Gift

greatest mentors and passionately defends the importance of farmers and agriculture in a society that has all but forgotten where eggs, milk and beef come from.

He appeared in The Gilbert Republic as a "Pop Quiz" profile. Under "best advice ever received," he said, "Accept yourself for who you are, no matter what other people think." He said he was tired of making up excuses for what he did during the weekend, excuses for why he wouldn't bring a date to a company dinner or wasn't interested in being set up on dates by well-meaning friends and co-workers.

"It was hard enough lying to my family all these years," he said. "I don't want to live a lie anymore."

For years, he feared rejection and hatred that the truth might bring.

But the tumor, his 35th birthday and the recent political movement behind the Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment have moved him past the fear. If organizers gather the required number of signatures, a constitutional amendment that would ban government-sponsored benefits to unmarried couples will be decided by Arizona voters in November 2006.

The measure would prohibit cities, towns and counties from giving legal status to unmarried couples, Gay or straight. It also would define marriage as between a man and a woman.

Schneider said he wants to speak out on what he sees as "hurtful and hateful" potential legislation. He wants the right to benefits or domestic partnership arrangements that often come with marriage. These are basic civil rights, rights that even heterosexual unmarried life partners could lose under the Protect Marriage Arizona Amendment, he said.

"I just think Arizona is more fair-

minded," he said. "This is the last great civil rights battle in our society."

Schneider was in denial to himself for 31 years. When he finally admitted to himself that he was Gay, his self-esteem improved and he underwent a lifestyle change, losing 60 pounds by exercising and eating right. This year, his birthday present is the truth. Along with a Web site he's launching today (July 29), Youknowoneaz.com, which aims to promote understanding and acceptance by helping people realize that they probably know someone who is Gay.

Schneider said that just because he's decided to be honest does not mean he is going to push his sexuality on anyone.

"So many people in Gay relationships are quiet, everyday Americans living their lives, working and paying taxes in places like Gilbert and Mesa," he said.

He said he has decided to move out of Gilbert, and build a home in Phoenix. But it's mostly because he wants to live somewhere with more recreation options for a single, dating man and take advantage of Gilbert's soaring resale market.

He said he will happily make the commute back to Gilbert every day, because he loves his job at the Arizona Farm Bureau.

"People involved in agriculture are some of the best people on Earth, kind and welcoming," he said.

For those who judge him, he said he wants them to try to understand "how much it hurts to not be able to be yourself and be honest."

For those who know him, he said he hopes the relationships will improve and get stronger as his other relationships in life have after choosing honesty. He said all he really wants to hear is: Happy birthday.

Desert Voices Auditions Aug. 15, 22, 29

TUCSON - If you like to sing, and want to raise your voice in support and celebration of the GLBT community in Tucson, Desert Voices (DV) is the chorus for you.

DV is a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight (GLBT & S) chorus has been making beautiful music and raising awareness in the community for the past 16 years and will be holding open rehearsals to welcome new members on the last three Mondays in August, August 15, 22 and 29, 2005. Open House rehearsals will be held at Water of Life MCC, 3269 N. Mountain Ave, and will begin at 6:30 p.m. New members are invited to come and meet director, Chris Tackett and chorus members and participate in a brief voice check to determine their part in the chorus. Membership dues are paid annually or per show, and some scholarships are available.

This season DV will present two complete shows in winter and spring, along with entertaining guests at their annual Silent Auction fund raiser, "A Passionate Affair". In addition the chorus will be singing at community events for a variety of different causes, such as the Annual AIDS Vigil, SAGA Day of Remembrance, OUToberFEST and the Bisbee Pride Festival. Chorus members work with director Tackett to develop their shows, weaving together familiar songs, personal experiences, laughter and outrageous parodies to create a unique theatrical event.

This year's season is titled "Reaching Out," further developing on the theme of "Building Bridges" from last season. The chorus continues their mission of singing out in celebration of the amazing diversity of the GLBT & S community, and working for equal rights for all people in these politically troubling times. More information about the shows that are planned for the season can be found on their website at desertvoices.org.

If you are interested in singing or just in learning more about the chorus and their mission, please come to the Open Rehearsals, or call their office at (520)791-9662 for more information.



IBT'S SHOW HEADLINERS



Ajia Simone



Bunny Fu Fu



Jane Starr

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Hours: Noon - 2am Happy Hour: Noon - 8pm	Troy's Recovery Bar 12-4pm \$1.75 Mimosas & Bloody Marys Karaoke 4-7:30pm Beer Bust 5:30-7:30pm DJ Mike Lopez 2-4-1 Drink Specials 10pm - Close <small>some restrictions apply</small>	DJ Mike Lopez Spinning the Hippest Music in Tucson! \$1.50 Well Vodka Drinks 10pm - Close	Tropical Tuesdays with DJ Q spinning music from the 70s, 80s and 90s \$2.50 Tropical Drinks 10pm - Close	The Best Premier Drag Shows in Town! 9pm The Divalicious Show Starring Bunny FuFu Dance with DJ Q 10:30-Close	Boyz Night Out Hot Bar Staff and GoGo Boyz dancing in their underwear \$1.75 Long Islands \$1.50 Tequila Shots 10pm - Close	Dance all night with DJ Mike Lopez spinning the best music in town! 9pm - Close	Beef Kabobs, Beer and Karaoke 5-8pm Drag Show 8:30pm - 10pm Party with DJ Q & DJ Mike Lopez 10pm - Close

More Than \$50,000 Raised For Rainbow Build



TUCSON (ON) - Thanks to many community groups and individuals the Rainbow Build for Habitat for Humanity Tucson has raised more than \$50,000.

Rainbow Build is the first LGBT Coalition of people and groups working together to build a home for Habitat for Humanity. Rainbow Build's ongoing effort was featured in a recent edition of the national magazine, The Advocate.

A total of \$60,000 had been pledged for the construction of the house, so the fund raising work isn't completed. Please send donations to Habitat for Humanity Tucson, with attention to Rainbow Build, and send to 621 W. Lester, Tucson, Arizona 85705, or go

online to hfhtucson.org.

Rainbow Build's volunteer coordinator is Rebecca Corran, bcorran@yahoo.com; (520) 237-1399. All volunteer requests should be routed through Rebecca. If you have particular skills in homebuilding, contact Rebecca Corran or Lisa Giannini, volunteer staffing coordinator at Habitat for Humanity, (520) 326-1217, lisag@hfhtucson.org. Construction will be ongoing through the Fall.

For more information about the effort and construction, go online to hfhtucson.org or rainbowbuild.org. PHOTOS: Mae Krueger



Friday Aug. 5th:
DJ Shawn @ 9pm

Saturday Aug. 6th:
Black Light Party
Drink Specials

Sunday Aug. 7th:
Dart Tourney @ 3pm
\$3.00 entry

&

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13th - Tina Angotti in concert
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20th - Ellas de Noche Latino Drag Show
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27th - Moon Glow Painting Party
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'Gay Chat Mayor' Likely To Avoid A Recall This Year

SPOKANE - There is almost no chance that a proposed recall election targeting embattled Mayor James E. West can be held this November, the elections chief for Spokane County said Thursday, July 28, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The elections office will not have enough time and staff to verify the more than 12,000 petition signatures required to approve a recall, while at the same time preparing for September's regularly scheduled primary election, Paul Brandt said.

"We are unable to throw all our staff into signature verification because we are running a primary," Brandt said.

West, a longtime leader of Republicans in the state Senate, is involved in a scandal in which critics contend he improperly used his office to seek sex from young men.

West contends he broke no laws.

The state Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the West recall case on Aug. 24, and will rule after that on whether the issue can be put to voters. If the recall bid is approved, boosters can then begin collecting signatures and submit them to the auditor's office for verification, a process Brandt estimated would take four weeks.

After verification, the recall election cannot be held for 45 days, but must be held within 60 days, Brandt said.

Shannon Sullivan, who's leading the recall effort, did not immediately return a request for comment.

"Even if she handed in signatures the day after the Supreme Court made its finding, it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to hit November," Brandt said.

West still has two years left of his first four-year term as mayor.

Meanwhile, City Council president Dennis Hession said this week that the council should investigate whether West violated city policies. An independent panel overseen by the city attorney initially took on the task but has disintegrated, with four of the five members resigning before they could get any work done.

West has come under fire after allegations that he used his position as mayor, as well as his city computer, to offer internships, other jobs, gifts or favors to young men he was seeking to date through Internet Web sites. The FBI is investigating whether West improperly used his political position.

Hession's action was prompted by City Attorney Mike Connelly's announcement that he was resigning his post to become attorney for the adjacent city of Spokane Valley.

Connelly seized West's computer records and formed a citizens panel to determine whether West violated city policies after the sex allegations surfaced in May. The effort was immediately criticized by council members, who said Connelly had a conflict of interest because the mayor was his boss. Four of five volunteer panel members resigned, and the review was put on hold.

Hession said it would be unfair to expect Connelly's replacement to oversee the investigation.

Allegations against West came to light starting May 5 when The Spokesman-Review newspaper outed West as a closeted homosexual with stories saying



Spokane Mayor James E. West

he used his city e-mail to offer an internship to a man he believed was a high school student. The man was actually a computer expert hired by the newspaper to confirm that West was seeking dates online.

The consultant was hired by the newspaper in late 2004 after a teenager, now 19, reported that he went on a date and had consensual sex with West after meeting him in a Gay Internet chat room.

The newspaper investigation also included allegations by two men that West molested them when they were boys in the late 1970s. West has vehemently denied those accusations.

Woman Wins Appeal For GaysRock License Plate

SALT LAKE CITY - The state of Utah can't block a woman from using her license plate to tell the world that GaysROK, a judge has ruled, reported the Associated Press on Advocate.com.

The state has no good reason to prevent Elizabeth Solomon from having that plate—which can be read "Gays are OK" or "Gays Rock"—or another one that reads GayRYTS, according to Jane Phan, an administrative law judge with the Utah State Tax Commission.

"The narrow issue before us is whether a reasonable person would believe the terms 'Gays are OK' and 'Gay rights' are, themselves, offensive to good taste and decency. It is the conclusion of the commission that a reasonable person would not," Phan wrote. The state can appeal the July 19 decision.

"We're discussing it, and we have 30 days to do that," Barry Conover, deputy director of the commission, which oversees Utah's Department of Motor Vehicles, said Wednesday (July 27). "It kind of opens up the door for all types of people who want to make a license plate a public forum, for every initiative."

Dani Eyer, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah, which represented Solomon, countered: "The government can't pick and choose what subjects it likes and does not like." Solomon, of Park City, on Wednesday (July 27) said she considered the judge's decision as a victory for her daughter, who is Gay, and for two Gay male friends.

What Are You Doing August 5, 6, & 7? Its Our Anniversary Party Weekend!

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Gay Ex-Governor Still Searches For Niche

RAHWAY - These days, he has no governor's mansion, no state trooper bodyguards, no public appearances, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

A year after his life imploded in scandal, James E. McGreevey lives in self-imposed exile, avoiding the limelight he spent a lifetime chasing and trying to figure out what his next act will be.

Separated from his wife, McGreevey lives modestly, in a one-bedroom apartment, one town away from his old stomping ground in Woodbridge. He takes his 3-year-old daughter out for bacon and eggs after Sunday church services, walks to a corner newsstand for coffee and newspapers and stops to chat when passers-by recognize him.

It's a long way from the stately governor's mansion at Drumthwacket - and a long time since Aug. 12, 2004, the day New Jersey's 51st governor came clean with his soul-baring confession. With wife Dina Matos McGreevey at his side, his mother and father standing behind him, McGreevey confessed to an extramarital affair with a man and announced his resignation in a nationally televised speech.

"My truth is that I am a Gay American," he said.

Since then, McGreevey, 47, has disappeared from public view, ducking reporters at the few public appearances he made in his final months as governor and avoiding the questions that swirled around him in the wake of the announcement that ended his political career.

As citizen McGreevey, he

has been similarly mum - no tell-all book, no candid prime-time interviews, no public appearances. He did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Friends say he is coping fine, eager to embark on the next phase of his life but saddled with the baggage of a messy public downfall over the revelation that he put Golan Cipel - the man identified by McGreevey administration officials as his lover - into a \$110,000-a-year homeland security job for which he wasn't qualified.

"I'm sure he's had some tough moments, but he's always managed to pull through," said Rahway Mayor James Kennedy, a longtime friend who still sees the McGreeveys - separately - socially.

"Jim's an incredibly bright guy. I've known him since 1982, and having known him that long, I can tell you he's a resilient guy. He just went through a very traumatic experience. He's handling things very well. He's very logical. He's dealing with all of this very, very well."

After leaving Drumthwacket, McGreevey's wife - a public relations executive with Columbus Hospital Foundation in Newark - bought a three-bedroom house in Springfield where she lives with the couple's daughter, Jacqueline. But neither has filed for divorce.

McGreevey, meanwhile, embarked on what he said in his Statehouse farewell speech would be "a journey of self-discovery."

He found work in the law firm of longtime ally state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, but resigned after conflict-of-interest allegations were raised about his work on the \$1.3 billion Xanadu entertainment and retail complex under construction at the Meadowlands, which he had championed as governor.

Now he is looking for options outside the state, leery of similar controversies if he

gets work in New Jersey, according to friend George Zoffinger, chairman of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

"The poor guy, he was doing pretty well the first couple of months, but then the whole thing with Xanadu came up. It's a shame everyone comes down on him like that. No matter what he does in New Jersey, it's always going to come under scrutiny," Zoffinger said.

He has received offers of work from nonprofit organizations involved in public service, according to Lesniak, who said an announcement having to do with McGreevey's future was imminent.

With his Ivy League education and experience as a lobbyist, prosecutor, mayor, state senator and governor, McGreevey has employable skills. But he also has a stigma.

"There will certainly be not-for-profits that would not want to associate themselves with him because they don't want the notoriety," said Julie Goldberg, an executive recruiter. "There are others that may feel that the merits (of his case) were tried more in the public domain than anywhere and that he has a demonstrable track record of making solid relationships and getting things done."

His friend Lesniak insists McGreevey is not seen as damaged goods.

"To the contrary," Lesniak said. "He's a national figure. He is well known, he has expertise and he's well-regarded, for the most part. And admired. And he brings a skills set from the governor's office. He accomplished a lot of things that got lost in the Golan Cipel thing. People want to talk to him, want to hear from him, just like you do. We get calls for him all the time."

He has not gotten involved in Gay advocacy, as some thought he might after coming out so publicly.

"It would not be a natural fit for Gov. McGreevey to all of a sudden become a Gay activist," said Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality, a political organization active in Gay rights issues. "The problem for him is that Gay marriage is front and center in the Gay rights movement and he's never recanted his opposition to it. The governor saw fit to wrap himself in the protection of 'I am a Gay American,' but he has never seen fit to change his opposition to the number one Gay rights issue of our time."

For now, McGreevey lives alone in an apartment in the new, upscale 136-unit River Place at Rahway, occasionally taking the NJ Transit train into New York from the station nearby, ordering pizza deliveries from Michelino's Pizzeria and spending time with Jacqueline and his other daughter, Morag, from his first marriage, as well as his sister and his parents.

"He's just trying to straighten out his life," Zoffinger said. "He's living without the kind of deceit he had to live with for so many years. I think it's a relief he doesn't have to do it anymore."

"He's doing well," said McGreevey's father, former U.S. Marine Corps drill instructor Jack McGreevey, who recently joined his son to watch Fourth of July fireworks in Rahway. "He's fine and dandy." He would not elaborate or answer questions about his son's life since leaving office.

McGreevey, a tireless campaigner when he was in politics, still shows signs of that outgoing demeanor, according to one merchant. He's often

chatty when he shows up at Garden State News, a corner newsstand where he pours his own coffee and buys The (Newark) Star-Ledger and the New York Times a couple of mornings a week.

"I keep it short," said Bob Patel, who works the counter. "He wants to talk but I'm busy in the morning."

Defense Contractor Protects Transgender Workers

BOSTON - Raytheon has joined a growing number of companies to recognize the role played by the Transgendered in the workplace, 365Gay.com reported.

The company has added gender identity and expression to its equal opportunity policy. The Waltham Massachusetts-based company has had protections for Gay and Lesbian workers for several years.

Currently, 71 of the Fortune 500 firms include gender identity and expression in their policies. Raytheon is the first defense contractor to provide the protections.

"For Raytheon, adding gender identity and expression to our policy was an example of matching the talk with the walk," said Hayward L. Bell, Raytheon's chief diversity officer.

"We have historically supported employees facing transitions so this policy change makes our intention and beliefs regarding inclusion more explicit and it ensures consistency across the company."

Bell said that the company has provided information kits on gender identity and expression to department managers and human resources officers.

The decision was welcome news for Amanda Simpson, a Raytheon employee for 22 years.

"Knowing I'm going to be evaluated on how well I do my job and not my gender identity or expression is key to my productivity as an employee," Simpson said. "As a Transgender employee, who transitioned while at Raytheon, I am especially proud of my company."

The news was also hailed by Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

"Our national security deserves the nation's best thinkers, regardless of who they are," said Solmonese in a statement.

"Raytheon employs some of the nation's top security experts and wants them focused fully on their job. The threat of discrimination hurts job performance and Raytheon understands that.

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POLITICS 2005

by Mark R. Kerr

Stand Up And Be Counted!

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, at the time there was a total of 5,475,968 unmarried partner households in the United States of which, 594,391 were same-sex unmarried partners.

In Arizona, at the time of the census, there was a total of 118,196 unmarried partner households in the state of which, 12,332 were same-sex unmarried partners.

Pima County, according to the federal census figures, had a total of 20,917 unmarried partner households of which, 2,244 were same-sex unmarried partners.

Since the 2000 U.S. Census was conducted, those figures have risen, noted with the recent study of unmarried partner households, conducted by the Rutgers University National Marriage Project, as well as governmental entities, state, county and municipal, recognizing same-sex unmarried partner households with the rights and privileges the respective entity can provide under their laws, while in addition to those options or otherwise, many other same-sex couples have also taken the time and the money through legal paperwork, to ensure their relationships.

Tucson's Mayor and Council, in 2003 and by unanimous vote, recognized the unmarried partner households, both unmarried and same-sex, by creating the first Domestic Partner registry law in Arizona. This registry is for those who share a relationship of mutual support, caring and commitment, documenting their relationship.

Unfortunately at the present time, under city law and state statutes, only two rights and benefits are listed for couples who register with Tucson's registry:

1) A right to visitations of one's partner in a health care facility, as long as the patient consents.

2) Extending use of and access to city facilities to a registered domestic partner as if the domestic partner were a spouse.

Tucson's registry went into effect on December 1, 2003 with fanfare and celebration at City Hall, when many couples, both opposite-sex and same-sex registered their relationships and the prevailing question being gleefully asked about their documentation was "What is your number?"

As time has passed, the shine on the registry seems to be fading from Tucson's registry, for whatever reason, since only 240 couples (opposite and same-sex) have documented their relationship by going down to Tucson's City Hall and signing up.

This should not be the case, especially in lieu of the threat of the proposed Protect Marriage Arizona amendment to the Arizona Constitution, by Lynden Munsil, Cathi Herrod, Peter Gentala and the Center for Arizona Policy, spearheading the effort to enshrine discrimination against same and opposite sex couples.

Tucson's Domestic Partner registry is not limited to city residents and doesn't list on the paperwork whether it is same-sex or opposite-sex but is a public document that shows that the city recognizes caring, committed relationships.

Both same and opposite-sex

couples can register with Tucson's Domestic Partner registry since under the city's human relationship ordinance, on the books since 1977, rights, privileges and benefits under city statutes must be afforded to all people.

In Arizona, as of the writing of this column, Tucson's Domestic Partner registry is still the only outlet, albeit with minimal rights and benefits, to have one's relationship noted publicly and officially by a governmental entity.

If you are in a committed same-sex relationship and have gone through the legal morass of ensuring that relationship but haven't gone down to Tucson's City Hall, or if you are in a committed opposite-sex relationship but choose not to get married or cannot, due to: legal considerations (if one's former spouse is involved in a lawsuit making you liable under state statutes), or religious considerations (one's faith prevents a union), or age consideration (Social Security regulations) or for whatever reason it is time to stand up and be counted during these times, by signing up with Tucson's Domestic Partner registry. It does cost \$50 to register your relationship but it is a worthwhile investment.

For more information about the Tucson's Domestic Partner registry, call the Tucson City Finance Department at (520) 791-4566 or go online to: tucsonaz.gov/hottopics/dprreg.html.

In Their Own Words

Wal-Mart, Where America Shops And Subsidizes Health Insurance For The Billion Dollar Company.

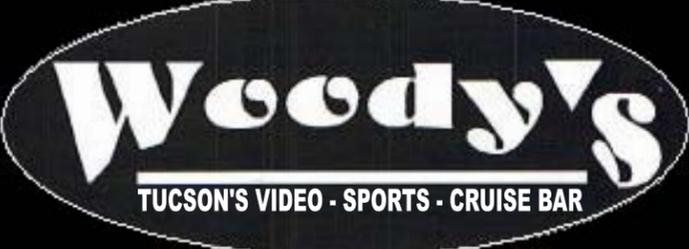


Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott

Despite a concerted effort to soften his rougher edges, Lee Scott can still be impatient with criticism. During the meeting in Los Angeles with business and civic leaders, he was asked about Wal-Mart's reputation for squeezing suppliers.

"I don't feel sorry for our suppliers," he shot back. "I flew here today on a Lear 31 [jet] that had to make fuel stops. Our suppliers fly directly into Bentonville on their G5 [jets]. They're not stopping on the way. And they have got a bathroom." He caught himself mid-screed and acknowledged that some buyers have treated suppliers unfairly. He said those who do so are fired. - Wal-Mart CEO Lee Scott, in a Wall Street Journal Article, dated Tuesday, July 26. . . .

In an article that ran in the Arizona newspapers, Sunday, July 31, one of every 10 Wal-Mart employees are getting their health insurance paid for by



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Arizona taxpayers, according to figures obtained from the state, amounting to nearly 2,700 Wal-Mart workers who are getting their health care from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

than any other and by contrast, other retailers in the top 15 list of private employers had rates of AHCCCS enrollment among their workers only about half that of Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart is the largest private employer in the state and has more workers getting state-paid health benefits

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 3
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join David & Daniel for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call David & Daniel at 579-9763

Thursday, August 4
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 10:00 a.m. Join Karol for Miniature Golf at Funtasticks. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#2. Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 11:30 a.m. Karol hosts a Lunch Out at Hometown Buffet. For reservations and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017.

#3 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 pm Join us for an evening of Mexican Train Dominoes. It's easy to learn; we'll teach you. For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017

#4 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, August 5
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come and put your acting/miming skills to the test. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Saturday, August 6
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:30 am. Join Jack & Mike and Ed & Marcus for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike/Jack at 881-5733 or Marcus/Ed at 407-5733.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. We invite you to join us for our monthly Pot Luck dinner and to get to know the nice guys of MSN. It's a nice, safe setting in which to meet new men and greet old friends. While reservations are not necessary, please call Robert at 400-1376 for location and directions.

Tuesday, August 9
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Terry hosts Bridge Night. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For reservations

and directions, please call Terry at 577-3545.

Wednesday, August 10
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Jack for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Jack at 887-3736.

Thursday, August 11
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, August 12
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Lloyd hosts a fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join David as he hosts Game Night. Here's your chance to play your favorite board /card games. For reservations and directions, please call David at 883-7668.

Saturday, August 13
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Marv hosts Pinochle Night. If you don't know how to play, but would like to learn, this is the place. For more information, please call Marv at 745-0304.

Tuesday, August 16
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. The Circle of Men is a support group that helps you deal with yourself and your relationships with others. For directions and reservations, please call Tom at 591-2828.

#2 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Karol for an evening of Dinner and a Movie; ?The Exorcist?. Is pea soup on the menu? For details and directions, please call Karol at 744-9017

Wednesday, August 17
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Canasta. If you don't know how to play, they'll teach you-and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. For directions and reservations, please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, August 18
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join the men of MSN for Coffee Night out at Rainbow Planet Coffee House. This is a chance to have a cup of coffee and chat with the men of MSN. This is a No-host event, so please ask Barista to point you in our direction.

Friday, August 19
Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Lloyd as he hosts Pizza Night. For just \$5.00, come and enjoy a night of Pizza and good conversation. For reservations and directions, please call Lloyd at 792-8537. Please reserve your spot by noon on Thursday, August 18th.

Saturday, August 20
#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed) 7:30 am Join Jack & Mike and Ed & Marcus for a morning of Volleyball. This is played for fun, and you'll get to know some nice guys as you play. For details and directions, please call Mike/Jack at 881-5733 or Marcus/Ed at 407-5733.

Love In Action Co-Founder: 'My Ministry Shatters Lives'

By Wayne Besen

NEW YORK - Author Wayne Besen (waynebesen.com) released a letter Saturday, July 30 by Love In Action's co-Founder and former ex-Gay John Evans, which rebukes Gay conversion groups saying that they "shattered lives". The group he started has recently made headlines because it runs a boot camp for Gay teens called "Refuge" that tries to turn adolescents heterosexual, often against their will, PageOneQ.com reported.

"In the past 30 years since leaving the 'ex-Gay' ministry I have seen nothing but shattered lives, depression and even suicide among those connected with the 'ex-Gay' movement," Evans writes in his letter to John Smid, Love In Action's current director. "I challenge Christians to investigate all sides of the issue of being Gay and Christian. The Church has been wrong in the past regarding moral issues and I'm sure there will be more before Christ returns."

Evans, a Gay man, founded what may be the first modern ex-Gay group in San Raphael, Calif. in 1973, along with a heterosexual preacher Kent Philpott. Evans left his life partner of ten years to start the Gay conversion group. He later dropped out after he realized it didn't work and his best friend committed suicide because he could not turn heterosexual.

"Having the founder of Love In Action step forward to admonish the ministry he started speaks to the utter hopelessness and futility of these groups, not to mention the danger they represent," said Wayne Besen, Author of *Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth* (Haworth, 2003). "Most disturbing are the compulsory Gay boot camps for teens which are tantamount to child abuse. They should immediately be shut down."

In May, 16-year old Zach told his fundamentalist Christian parents that he is Gay. Horrified by the news, they vowed to fix him by sending him to an "ex-Gay" boot camp in Memphis to be reprogrammed. Like a modern day message in a bottle, Zach used his Internet blog to send an SOS.

"I told my parents I was Gay," he wrote. "This didn't go over very well," and "They tell me that there is something psychologically wrong with me, and they 'raised me wrong.' Today, my mother, father and I had a very long talk in my room, where they let me know I am to apply for a fundamentalist Christian program for Gays."

The next day, Zach threw another bottle into the Cyber-sea.

"It's like boot camp. If I do come out straight, I'll be so mentally unstable and depressed it won't matter."

Besen is a nationally recognized advocate for Gay and Lesbian rights. He has been a guest on leading news and political talk shows. He made international news when he photographed "ex-Gay" poster boy and Love in Action graduate John Paulk cruising a Gay bar in Washington, D.C.

[The text of the letter follows]

July 30, 2005

Love In Action
ATTN: John Smid, Director
Memphis, TN

Dear Mr. Smid:

We as born again Christians believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. We Basically agree on the fundamentals of salvation. I've been a born again Christian for over 50 years and I've noticed Christians reading the same

scriptural passages, yet arriving at different personal interpretations regarding moral issues. Some of these issues that have divided Christians within recent years have been slavery, women's rights, the Charismatic movement and other issues, including divorce.

Within my lifetime, I've known members of my own family being asked to leave churches they had attended for years over issues of divorce and remarriage, yet later welcomed back when a different interpretation of scripture was explained.

Today, the subject of homosexuality is being discussed among Christians. Most Christians find the subject too uncomfortable to make a personal investigation, but rely upon the traditional Christian condemnation of homosexuality. There are more scriptures dealing with divorce than homosexuality, yet, today, Christians give each other the freedom of personal interpretation regarding divorce. I'm sure homosexuality will be added to the long list of disagreements among Christians.

In 1973, when I helped organize the "ex-Gay" ministry called Love In Action, I admit I had never heard of a different view of homosexuality or made an effort to research the issue. I held to the traditional Christian condemnation that all homosexuality was sinful.

One day, I read a booklet by Dr. Ralph Blair called, "An Evangelical Look At Homosexuality." I prayed before reading this booklet and was shocked, yet refreshed, because I had never heard such remarks regarding this subject from another Evangelical Christian.

I wrote Ralph Blair that I would like to discuss his views regarding this matter and his return letter informed me he could meet with me at my home in San Raphael, Calif. The night he arrived I invited several of my friends who were also involved with Love in Action to join us. We studied the scriptures dealing with homosexuality. I had struggled most of my life with this matter and I would continue to try to be "ex-Gay" if it were God's will. Over the past 30 years I have studied both sides of this subject and now know it's not my sexual orientation that's wrong or sinful. But one should allow the Holy Spirit to guide his or her life whatever one's sexual orientation. I challenge other Christians to study the scriptures to show yourself approved unto God and don't be afraid to challenge the traditional condemnation of homosexuality.

The Church has been wrong in the past regarding other issues and I'm sure there will be others before Jesus returns. I know my views regarding homosexuality and being Christian does not agree with most Christians and I've been accused of being "deceived and

tricked by the Devil."

God alone knows my heart and Jesus Christ means too much to me to go against the leading of the Holy Spirit as he guides me as a born again Christian. Someday, each of us will stand alone before God to give an account of our lives and I want Him to be satisfied with me.

I just returned from the 25th annual Conference of Evangelicals Concerned, a group of Gay Christians who know that it is possible to be both Gay and Christian. In the past 30 years since leaving the "ex-Gay" ministry I have seen nothing but shattered lives, depression and even suicide among those connected with the "ex-Gay" movement.

At the E.C. conference I met Gay Christians who have an even closer relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit seemed to hover over the entire conference. The closing communion service seemed as if Jesus Himself was there saying, "Come to me all who labor and are laden with the burden of trying to conform to the impossible conclusions of others, and I will give you rest."

Again, I challenge Christians to investigate all sides of the issue of being Gay and Christian. The Church has been wrong in the past regarding moral issues and I'm sure there will be more before Christ returns.

Love in Christ, John Evans,
Original Member of Love In Action - 1973

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

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Wednesday September 21, 2005
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm

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

UPDATE

Another Mayor Comes Out

CHULA VISTA - The mayor of San Diego's largest suburb has come out - only days after San Diego itself got a Lesbian mayor, reported 365Gay.com.

Mayor Steve Padilla's coming out at a Friday night (July 28) Gay pride rally makes Chula Vista, Calif., the second-largest city in America with an openly Gay mayor, after San Diego itself. Providence, R.I., is next in line.

"I've considered myself pretty out since about 1999 but I thought this was an occasion to put any questions to rest," Padilla told 365Gay.com.

"In my life since 1999 I've been very honest and open about who I am — and it's certainly not everything I am, but it's an important part of who I am, and certainly if Pride isn't the venue to be overtly out, I don't know what is.

"It's something that I'm very comfortable with and something that I'm very matter-of-fact about, and I think that's what you saw here tonight."

In February of 2003, shortly after he took office, Padilla talked to this reporter about being Gay, and allowed notes to be taken, but on the condition that no story would be published at that time.

"It's not something that I'm

Americans With Disabilities Act Turned 15

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Tuesday, July 26 marked the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act - the landmark U.S. civil-rights law that protects people with disabilities from discrimination - including those with HIV/AIDS, 365Gay.com reported.

The act ensures equal access to public transportation and public buildings, and requires employers to provide a "reasonable level of accommodation" to help them do their jobs.

In 1998 the US Supreme Court ruled that the ADA covers people living with HIV/AIDS. The split ruling has been instrumental in fighting more than a dozen cases where people were fired after their employers learned the worker was HIV-positive.

Earlier this month a man forced from his job at McDonald's after the fast food giant learned he was HIV-positive, was awarded \$490,000 by a jury after the man sued under ADA.

In May, Nodak Enterprises, which operates 42 retail stores under the names Auto Glass Service and Service Auto Glass in seven southern states, has settled a wrongful dismissal suit with a former employee who is HIV-positive.

Last year Cirque du Soleil agreed to pay a record \$600,000 to end an HIV discrimination complaint filed by gymnast Matthew Cusick.

In December Foot Locker agreed to pay a Gay former employee an undisclosed amount to end a bias suit brought by Kevin Dunbar, 26. His suit charged that the company subjected him to harassment from his coworkers, supervisors and customers and then was fired.

"When it comes living a full life for people living with HIV/AIDS, protection from discrimination goes hand-in-hand with access to life-saving drugs," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese in a statement Tuesday (July 26).

prepared to do yet," Padilla said in 2003. "It has nothing to do with my internal perspective on it—how I feel, my family, friends, associates. I'm very comfortable with being Gay and with who I am, and am living my life with integrity. As an elected official, is it something I should share?"

"I know some say if you don't openly discuss your personal life, you're somehow closeted or hiding something," he said then. "Because I don't discuss it publicly doesn't necessarily mean I'm in the closet. ... I do live my life out and about, and I don't hide, but I choose not to discuss that with the media. There may come a time when I will.

"My consultants and I did ask ourselves, 'Do you think Chula Vista would elect an openly Gay mayor?'" he said in that earlier interview. "Then we asked, 'Would Chula Vista re-elect an openly Gay mayor who is doing a good job?' And we thought there was a better chance of that."

Padilla is up for re-election in a June 2006 primary.

Chula Vista, population 200,000, is located immediately south of downtown San Diego on the freeway to Tijuana.

"As we celebrate the importance of the ADA in helping to turn the nation around from the fear and ugly discrimination we saw when the epidemic first started, we must also work to ensure people have the medical treatment they need."

Mass G/L Arrests In Cameroon

YAOUNDE - Fifteen Gay men and two Lesbians are reportedly in jail awaiting trial after being arrested for being in a Gay bar in the capital, 365Gay.com reported.

All "homosexual activity" including congregating in "places of ill repute" is illegal in the African nation.

Press reports in Yaounde indicate the men have been in jail for a month. The women were arrested several days earlier.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission says it is monitoring the situation. The Commission says that the arrests are part of a police crack-down on homosexuality.

"The 17 have been charged with sodomy and all or part of the group remain in detention at Kondengui Central Prison," the IGLHRC said in a statement.

If they are convicted they face 6 months to 5 years imprisonment. If one of the persons involved is under the age of 21 the penalty is doubled, according to local press reports.

The IGLHRC said it was working with a coalition of human rights activists in Africa and has petitioned the Cameroon government for the immediate release of the detainees with regard to the sodomy charges.

IGLHRC holds that Cameroon's sodomy legislation contradicts interna-

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tional conventions signed by Cameroon that guarantee all citizens freedom from discrimination, the right to privacy and the right to freedom of association and assembly.

NOTES FROM THE FOR-REAL SIDE

Tram Or Not

by Lee Thorn

The Arizona Daily Star just ran some dueling essays on the subject of an aerial tram to Mount Lemmon. I was surprised by how completely the essays talked past each other.

One said, "In deciding whether to build a tram, we should consider the value of looking up and experiencing nothing but the work of nature." The other said, "The tram could...run along Cargodera Canyon where the existing power lines to Mount Lemmon are already located."

If we're talking about a route that already has power lines on it, then the issue of "looking up and experiencing nothing but the work of nature" is not even in play. If we're talking about tearing up virgin forest, we've got a completely different debate. If these essayists really want to argue with each other, it might be well for them to decide what they're arguing about.

At the risk of stating the painfully obvious, lots of folks who'd love to see a tram on a route that already carrier power lines would fight tooth and nail to prevent a tram's being placed on virgin forest.

Both essays mention the efficiency of aerial trams, how much faster they can get you up the mountain than a bus could. Remembering my one and only tram experience, I can attest that efficiency wasn't the object for me or my fellow riders. We were focused on the experience of the ride itself.

On the way up we got spectacular views that you cannot get from a bus. Understand that you're looking at the mountain from a glass box moving slowly above the mountain. Our ride to the summit was very quiet, with passengers in awe of the sights and in fear of what falling would be like if the cable should break.

Our destination was a great big restaurant serving wonderful food and booze. We had no need of ground transportation because there was no place to go but the restaurant. All they had was a little asphalt path around the restaurant for those of us who like an after dinner stroll.

On the ride down the earlier quiet was replaced by burps, farts, loud dumb talk and frequent raucous laughter. The spectacular views were of stars and approaching city lights.

And nobody was afraid of anything.

The essays agree on the need for a feasibility study, but neither really defines what that study should focus on beyond examining "the environmental, technical and economic issues in constructing an aerial tram to Mount Lemmon." For a project as big and potentially important as this, we really need to get down to the nitty-gritty.

"Let's do a feasibility study," always sounds good to just about everybody. But resumably the City of Tucson had one done that told us if we built a big fish tank and put it downtown 100,000 tourists a year would come to see it. There are studies and studies. And politicians walk smartly away from some studies once they've served their political purpose.

We already know that human ingenuity is equal to the task of building an aerial tram. In that sense it's feasible. What we need to know is who'll pay for the tram and how much. Who'll profit from the tram and how much? In other words, we need a feasibility study to determine whether it's feasible to make the project economically fair.

To get numbers that are a little more reliable than the fish tank digits, you need two groups of real pros working independently, making their own independent assumptions, gathering their own independent data, doing their own independent calculations, and then simultaneously publishing it all for every citizen, not just the politicians, to see.

Independent evaluations may still seem curious to city planners, but science couldn't be conducted without them. One study, even expertly done, doesn't carry much weight in science without confirming studies.

I loved my tram ride, but I wasn't too crazy about the fish tank ride that the City gave us. By the way, did they ever come up with a replacement idea for the fish tank or is Rio Bravado still marching boldly forward with a hole in its center?

[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.]

Belfast Pride Parade Given Go-Ahead

WBELFAST - A Gay Pride march due to take place in Belfast will take place as planned, the Parades Commission has ruled, reported the BBC.

The march, scheduled for August 6, has been held in the city centre for the past 14 years.

The police passed the matter on to the commission for consideration after some Christian groups called for the parade to be banned.

However, Amnesty International said the march should be given the go-ahead.

"Prejudice against people based on their sexuality is, sadly, all too common in Northern Ireland and around the world," said Amnesty International's NI programme director Patrick Corrigan.

"Politicians, church leaders and ordinary people all have an obligation to stand up against such prejudice and stand in solidarity with Gay people here and worldwide who face persecution and violence."



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What I Learned (And Didn't Learn) From Reparative Therapy

The mainstream media—including CNN's Paula Zahn and ABC's Diane Sawyer—are paying close attention to ex-Gay programs like "Love in Action" due to the imminent release of teen Zach Stark from a facility in Tennessee. With reparative therapy—which both the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association say does not work—now in the media spotlight, here's an inside look at one Gay man's first-hand experience with an ex-Gay program (to protect the identity of individuals connected to the story, he's asked to remain anonymous). This was from Gayhealth.com, July 28 online edition.

I came out at an ex-Gay ministry meeting.

You know, one of those groups (very similar to "Love in Action") that promise to help Gays "recover" from their homosexuality and become "normal" again.

"I hated the idea of 'recovering' from who I was, like getting over an illness or disease."

Of course, I've always felt normal. So what if I loved MGM musicals and knew every line in *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, right? To me, that was normal. But I equated approval with oxygen, so I kept such things to myself for years. I played the nice guy—the funny, gregarious and likeable guy. But no one knew the real me. To survive, I censored my authentic self.

Now, of course, surrounded by my wonderful friends and the freedom of New York City, being out is no big deal. Today, I'm just another person, not a label or stereotype—something I only could fantasize about before. But I'd never actually shared my unusual coming out story with my friends until recently, and was unprepared for the tremors it caused. "You did what?" said my friend Sally, as wide-eyed and stunned as the rest when told the unsettling news. "No you di'int!"

But I did, Sally, I did. Telling my friends—and seeing the look of shock on their faces—brought the experience back into sharp focus. Now, inspired with the hope that my story might actually help others, and in response to the ridiculous media reports that programs like "Love in Action" can make you straight, I've decided to share it.

The year was 1992—obviously pre-Will & Grace, Queer Eye and let's not forget Ellen. I was a 20-something self-styled hipster (or at least I like to think so) with a cool media job in a conservative city in Florida. I lived in a spacious house near the beach, traveled widely and had money in the bank. On paper, it was my dream, one I'd worked hard for.

I always knew I was Gay, and as I got older it became more difficult to stay in the closet, without the love and support of people who really knew me. Each day brought a feeling of isolation, and I grew more unequivocally desperate. I was

having anxiety attacks when I wasn't darkly depressed, my only salve being my fantasies—and Joni Mitchell. I was dying of loneliness. No wonder Lesbian and Gay folks are at a greater risk for depression and anxiety—according to numerous studies—not to mention suicide.

So why didn't I just move to New York City or San Francisco and come out, you ask? Even though I was suffering, I wasn't yet ready to give up the life I'd worked so hard to build. And why should I have to? But with no Gay role model—someone who was out and maybe even proud (is that too much to ask?)—I was lost, and didn't realize how much harm I was doing to myself by hiding. Times were very different: George Michael was still pretending to be straight and Bush Sr. was still president. There were no circuit parties, Gay gyms or hip vodka ads trumpeting a suitable Gay existence.

So what better time to try an Episcopal church-sponsored ex-Gay ministry, right? I really thought that the solution to my problem wasn't coming out, or moving, or finding new friends. I thought being straight would solve all of my problems. My therapist (a nice, albeit clueless woman who I chose from the yellow pages because she took my insurance) had actually suggested it.

Not only was there potential to get "fixed," but I was also drawn to the idea because an ex-Gay group would be filled with, well, Gay men, and at least I could talk honestly—even shed a tear—with people who would understand what I was going through. What sweet relief! But it would come at a major price.

For starters, I hated the idea of "recovering" from who I was, like getting over an illness or disease. I wanted the support of a group of people who were like me, and I wanted to recover from the pain and isolation of hatred and homophobia, and a tiny part of me thought it would actually work.

So I mustered up the courage to drive to the meeting, held in a seedy but historical section downtown, in the city's oldest church. I sat in the parking lot, unable to move. I was sweating and nauseous; I wanted to flee.

Only about five or six other guys showed up to the meeting, but to me that was monumental. The meeting room seemed dark and depressing; the tension and shame in the air were suffocating. But that night, I uttered the words "I am Gay" for the first time. I also talked openly about my feelings. Going to that meeting marked my first step toward freedom, no matter how f**ked up the circumstances.

My unconventional coming out party went on for almost a year—days and weeks and months of 12-step meetings ("I admit that I'm powerless over my homosexuality..."), Friday

night support groups (held so we wouldn't get tempted by local Gay bars), and humiliating sing-a-longs ("Amazing Grace" was our anthem) surrounded by myriad married couples.

But what I'd hoped would help me connect with my true self, and with God, had the opposite affect: I had never felt lonelier, and I was darkly depressed. My soul felt dead, and so did I. My innate joy was buried in shame every day. I hated myself more than ever.

To contain my urge to be playful and camp it up, I instead wore a perpetual mask of gloom. If I was tempted to hit a bar, I called to chat with my 'sponsor' instead. We all added up the days since our last trip to a bar or hook up, and announced it at each meeting; instead of feeling proud, I felt punished, like Martha Stewart must have felt whiling away her days in Alderson.

Finally, something happened that changed everything for me. Completely by accident, our long-time group leader—a minister's son no less—was spotted having a Gay old time with a shirtless pal in a nearby city (I'll spare you the details). In Gay recovery circles, this is called a "slip" my friends, kind of like an AA member downing an entire bottle of Kettle One.

That was it. No more meetings. No more pretending. I was done.

After all, what was this accomplishing? I'd never felt less connected to God in my life. And I wasn't the only one who left the organization for good. The word spread like wildfire. It was like we all saw the light. Ironically, the religious and spiritual experience I was searching for had finally happened. I felt the truth:

There was nothing wrong with me.

Of course, because we had all endured this painful attempt to excavate our straight selves, many of us also bonded. In fact, lots of late night coffees fueled an intimacy that I find all too rare in today's Gay community.

Sex was off-limits, so we actually got to know and accept each other as people (imagine that!). Instead of worrying about who had the lowest body fat percentages or the best jobs, we just really got to know and care for one another. In fact, I'm still friends with several of the guys from that group to this day; and yes, they're Gay, and happily so. Some are even in long-term committed relationships.

My unsolicited advice, if you're struggling with merging your sexuality and spirituality? Lighten up on yourself as a first step. Self-acceptance is an incredibly powerful, and immediate, healer. Ultimately, that's all I needed to finally connect with life (and in my opinion, with God).

So don't let anyone tell you there's something wrong with you. Not ever!

Despite the crazies on the far right, much of society is evolved and accepting these days—and if they're not, screw 'em—and just let the rest happen naturally.

Trust me, I wish I'd have done exactly that right from the beginning.

What Do You Think?

Lesbians Sue To Recover UK Inheritance Tax

LONDON - A class action suit is being prepared to recover millions of dollars in inheritance taxes paid by British Gays and Lesbians when their partners died, 365Gay.com reported.

In December same-sex couples will be able enter into civil unions where their relationships will be treated like those of married couples allowing them to avoid the tax.

But, Gays and Lesbians say that they should have been exempted from the tax in October 2000 when the Human Rights Act came into force.

Lawyer Clive Margrave-Jones and Financial Planners Ltd are preparing a suit against the Blair government to recover the taxes on behalf of Gay widows and widowers.

"We are claiming that these people who have lived together for a long time have not been given the opportunity to register their relationship for tax purposes, which is an infringement on their human rights," said Margrave-Jones.

One of those affected by the tax is the surviving partner of Nigel Hawthorne, the star of the British sitcom "Yes Minister".

Trevor Bentham was forced to pay nearly \$700,000 in death duties when Hawthorne died.

A similar class action suit will be heard later this year by the Supreme Court of Canada. That one involves survivor pensions and could cost the Canadian government as much as \$140 million dollars.

In 2000 the federal government passed legislation recognizing same-sex relationships under the Canada Pension Plan and made it retroactive to Jan. 1, 1998.

But, Gays argued it should have been backdated to April 1985, when Gays and Lesbians were granted equality under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and began a class action suit to recover the unpaid benefits due an estimated 1,500 survivors, many of whom became widowed at the height of the AIDS crisis.

Earlier this month the Canadian government told 500 of the oldest litigants in the case that it will begin paying the benefits even though it is continuing to fight their claims in court.

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Florida Home Of Gay Couple Burned



Paul Day {} and Christopher Robertson in their burned-out home

LAKELAND - A mobile home belonging to a Gay couple in Lakeland, Fla., was torched and an offensive epithet spray-painted on the front steps, authorities said, reported the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

Paul Day, 25, and Christopher Robertson, 23, returned home from errands Monday (July 25) to find their house in Kings Manor Mobile Home Park burned and the words "Die Fag" spray-painted on the front steps.

The case is being investigated as an arson with burglary, Lakeland Fire Department spokeswoman Cheryl Edwards said. But officials remain tight-lipped about whether it was being investigated as a hate crime, which would allow for enhanced criminal penalties. The law defines such a crime as one in which the

victim is intentionally picked based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, advanced age, or mental or physical disabilities. Edwards said Friday (July 29) that the fire department wasn't releasing any information about the incident.

Day said someone apparently poured a flammable substance all over the carpet and torched it, causing an estimated \$15,000 in damages.

The home, which just had three months' worth of renovations completed, is in ruins, Day said. When Day moved to the mobile-home park a couple of years ago, he said, a group of teens and young adults sometimes taunted him as he checked his mail. "I tried to not associate with people here," said Day, who works at an auto parts store in Auburndale. "We've just tried to stay to ourselves."

New Oregon Bill For Civil Unions Unveiled

SALEM - After seeing proposed legislation to allow civil unions and ban anti-Gay discrimination rebuffed last week, LGBT Oregonians saw a glimmer of hope in a new House bill introduced on Tuesday (July 26) by Oregon state Rep. Mary Nolan, D-Portland, 365Gay.com reported.

Earlier this month a similar bill, Senate Bill 1000, passed by a wide margin with bipartisan support in the state Senate, and Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski promised to sign it into law if it reached his desk.

The legislation would have authorized civil unions for same-sex couples and prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodations and public services.

But last week House Speaker Karen Minnis, R-Wood Village, vowed to block a vote on the measure in the House, claiming the bill violated the will of Oregon voters, who approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman.

Republicans on a House committee subsequently removed the language allowing civil unions, replacing it with "reciprocal benefits" for unmarried people, which would extend a limited number of benefits, such as hospital visitation rights, to couples who aren't legally able to marry. The provision to prohibit anti-Gay discrimination was also removed. Minnis then said she would consider allowing the new version to come up for a vote.

Supporters of the original Senate version were outraged, prompting Nolan to draft the new House version, House Bill 3508. It incorporates the reciprocal benefits language along with civil unions

and discrimination protections from the original bill.

"We're giving the Speaker of the House one more chance to do the right thing," said Nolan. "The matter of civil unions and nondiscrimination deserves a full and open debate on the floor of the House. It's not acceptable that one person, the Speaker of the House, should stand in the way and prevent the House from doing its duty. We're not asking for the Speaker's personal vote for civil unions. But we are demanding the opportunity for the whole House to debate on a matter that the Senate has already dealt with decisively."

Nolan's new bill faces the same challenges from opponents as the original version, and with the legislative session nearing an end, its passage appears unlikely.

Despite that, LGBT leaders continue to push for a vote by House members.

"Oregonians have a right to know where their legislators stand on these issues," said Roey Thorpe, the executive director of Basic Rights Oregon, a statewide group that lobbies for LGBT rights. "Do House members believe that discrimination against Gay and Lesbian Oregonians is acceptable? Do they believe that some families are less deserving of the legal protections other Oregon families count on? Then let them say it on the record."





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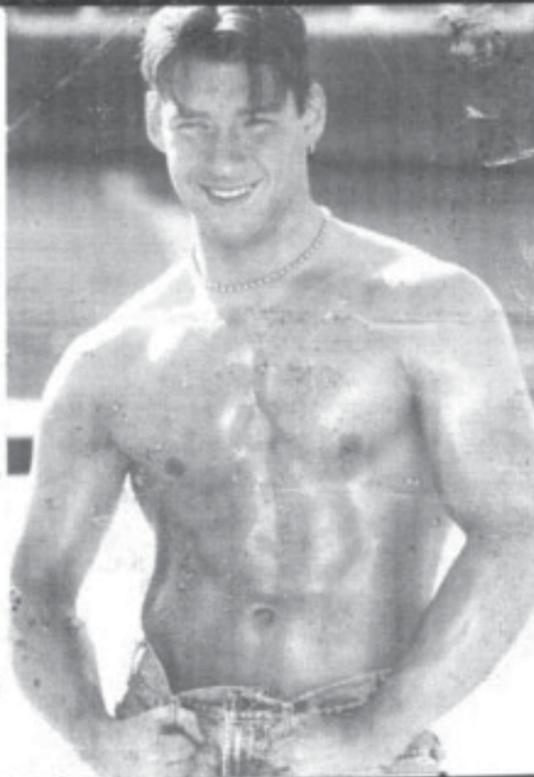
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Don't let the August doldrums bite. Mars and Neptune play off Jupiter through the month, feeding our dreams, energizing our desires and generally pushing us in lucky directions. Party on compadres and don't trip at the curb.

ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)
Friends and partners have great ideas as to how you can spend your dough. The truth, proud Ram, is that the next weeks are chockablock with hefty purchases that satisfy your every whim. This largess also acts as an aphrodisiac with almost anyone you choose. Squeeze and spread your juice around. They say money cannot buy happiness but let's prove the skeptics wrong!

TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls have excessive amounts of energy that can be channeled to success now thanks to Mars, Neptune and Jupiter. Gather and expend it on the job and with anything that plots out long term professional plans. (Do you have any?) There will be something about you that encourages a certain someone to give you a shot at the big prize. Is your gun loaded?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Adventure awaits you now and it won't be in the usual way. Get out of your rut and routine pink Twin and try something or someone totally different. Mars conspires with Jupiter to provide a few fun surprises and sparks of inspiration. Travel is highlighted but only if it takes you to mind altering, consciousness raising destinations. Try Maui, not Newark.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Changes in your home situation prove to be very lucky in August, Gay Crab. If you have been eyeing that palace by the beach consider making a deposit. Improving your surroundings not only creates a physically pleasant environment but also has emotionally recharging impact. Mars recruits a few good pals to help you with the heavy lifting ... of the cocktails.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Hard work pays off through August, at least that what Mars tells me. But frankly it is not good enough to quietly do the work. No effort gets recognized without some buzz. Jupiter is ready to give you press points and you are deserving of all accolades. You have been a shining star professionally. Don't be shy -tell others how great you are. Roar it Out, proud Lion.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Queer Virgins have itchy feet in August. Mars can't sit still and Jupiter promises to have all the funds you need for fun, fun, fun. Travel will not only broaden your horizons but will also expand your social life. Be sure to tie off any loose ends at work before you escape to parts unknown. It would be a shame to have another mountain (of paper) to climb when you return.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
How hot can your August get, Gay Libra? Pretty hotsy totsy thanks to energetic Mars. Revel in it and plan to get your face out there where you can meet and greet. Jupiter gives you charm, panache and enough good luck to be able to maximize every encounter. There is no telling who is waiting to get to know you. Hmmm. Is that in the biblical sense?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
No matter how secretive you are apt to be, August demands that you lose that straight jacket and be true to yourself. Lucky Jupiter is feeding you all sorts of useful information through the strangest sources. Go with your gut proud Scorp. Don't ask why, just listen and then act upon it. Some of these missives include

important relationship advice. Do you need any?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
If the mirror has not been kind, use August to try for a better reflection. Gay Archers turn over a new, healthy leaf that not only enhance their image in their own eyes but also create waves in their social pond. Jupiter sez share your high spirits with a group of new souls. If they say beauty is only skin deep be sure to show more of that gorgeous skin.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
While I know that it is not in your nature, pink Caps can glide through their career in August with the least amount of effort and the maximum amount of reward. Sipping coffee is seen as pivotal information gathering and staring out the window is viewed as creative brain work. Will you score points for taking a nap under your desk? Don't let this become a habit, buddy!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
You manage to make your opinions known internationally by just staying close to home in August. News of your exploits and talents will travel even if you don't. So if money is tight or time is short, don't mope quietly around the house. Reach out as best as you can and bring the world to you. It is your base of operations if you do more than the lazy basics.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)
Guppies seem to know just what to say to get who and what they want... at least this is so for the next month. Do you have your eye on a certain special someone? Make your intentions known. And while you reap the personal benefits of your charismatic bon mots, be sure that you spread more universal truths around as well. Get off your stump and make a speech.

Group Fails To Convince Ft. Lauderdale Schools To Show Diversity Tape

FT. LAUDERDALE - Nearly 100 people crammed into a meeting of the Broward County School Board (July 26), but despite emotion charged support for a diversity video featuring the cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants, the board decided to uphold a committee decision not to show the tape to students, 365Gay.com reported.

In May, the Diversity Committee voted to reject the video saying it encourages kids to be friendly to potentially dangerous strangers, with several of the committee members voicing concerns it could lead some children to talk about being raised by same-sex parents.

"These people are trying to mess with our kids' minds and introduce all kinds of activities in the name of tolerance," said Steve Kane, a local radio talk show host and a member of the diversity committee.

Kane's remarks led to Equality Florida calling its supporters to attend Tuesday night's meeting of the Board.



Wanda Alston's Killer Gets 24 Years



Wanda Alston

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A neighbor who confessed to killing the Washington, D.C., mayor's liaison to Gays and Lesbians was sentenced on Friday (July 29) to 24 years—the maximum prison term under voluntary guidelines, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

District of Columbia superior court judge Judith Retchin could have departed from guidelines and given William Parrott Jr. life in prison for the slaying of Newport News, Va., native and longtime time Gay rights activist Wanda Alston. Parrott has no prior criminal record.

Parrott, 38, said a "binge of smoking crack cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol" led him to repeatedly stab Alston, 45, in her home March 16. Parrott tried to get residential drug treatment in the weeks before the crime but was turned down, assistant U.S. attorney John Cummings said. "Perhaps if he'd got that, this might not have happened," Retchin said, adding that she hopes the case draws attention to the need for more available drug treatment.

Alston's friends and family—including her 83-year-old mother, maneuvering with a walker—packed the courtroom. Tissues were passed up and down aisles. Alston's friend Veronica Wilson remembered her as a "kind, loving,

generous, sweet human being." "She just had to take his stab wounds one at a time, until she died," said Alston's sister, Aurelia Lewis. "The pain will never go away."

Shackled and in an orange jumpsuit, Parrott faced Alston's loved ones and apologized. "Wanda Alston was not only a neighbor, she was a friend—someone I talked to," Parrott said. Her family believes that's why she opened the door to him. "This is as close to a 'Jekyll and Hyde' situation as I can remember," Cummings said. The judge said drugs are no excuse for crime. "What you did was just horrific—you armed yourself, and it was a brutal assault," Retchin said to Parrott, citing how he washed the knife he used to stab Alston and discarded bloody clothing, then stole her car and credit cards.

But the judge said Parrott accepted responsibility by pleading guilty in April to second-degree murder. "I know you are tortured by the death you inflicted," Retchin said. She recommended he get intensive drug treatment in prison and sentenced him to five years' probation after his release. He must pay \$100 for a victim assessment fee and \$16,000 in back child support, which his attorney intends to file a motion to suspend. He is required to serve at least 85% of his prison sentence, Cummings said.

Maine To Vote On Repealing G/L Rights Law

AUGUSTA - Voters will decide in November whether to repeal Maine's newly enacted Gay rights law, the state's chief elections officer said Thursday (July 28) after qualifying the measure for the ballot, 365Gay.com reported.

The declaration by Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap sets into motion what will be the latest in a series of battles at the ballot box over Gay marriage around the country.

News of the approval was hailed by Christian leaders who are spearheading the campaign.

"Praise the Lord," said Tim Russell of the Christian Civic League of Maine. "Clearly, 56,650 signatures in 80 days is a big hill to climb, and we climbed it."

As passed by the Legislature earlier this year, the law would protect people from discrimination in employment, housing, education, public accommodations and credit based on their sexual orientation. Twice before, Maine voters have rejected similar legislation.

Supporters of the Gay rights law,

which has been put on hold pending the Nov. 8 vote's outcome, said Thursday's announcement came as no surprise.

"We all knew this was going to happen," said Jesse Connolly, operations director for Maine Won't Discriminate. Connolly said his group has been organizing for the vote since late last year, and is now actively canvassing voters, organizing fund-raising and building alliances.



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 2. IBT'S: 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
 3. VENTURE-N: 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
 5. WOODY'S - 3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
 6. HOWL AT THE MOON - 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
 7. YARD DOG - 2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
 8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS, 5305 E. Speedway, 323-1840



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Moscow Mayor: Nyet To Pride Parade

MOSCOW - A day after Moscow LGBT rights groups announced they would seek permission to hold the first Gay pride march in the Russian capital next year the city's mayor has told them not to bother, 365Gay.com reported.

Mayor Yuri Luzhkov said that if he receives an official request from the groups it will be turned down without discussion.

In an interview Friday (July 29) with Russia's Interfax news agency Luzhkov said that he "stands on the protection of the interests of Moscovites and they would not support such an initiative."

Nikolay Alekseyev, leader of the Gay Russia.Ru project and Evgeniya Debryanskaya leader of a Lesbian rights group said they are not deterred.

They say that if Luzhkov denies them a parade permit they'll go to court and are prepared to take the case all the way to the European Court in Strasbourg.

"Both legally and constitutionally Mayor Luzhkov can not deny to us only because we are Gay," said Debryanskaya.

She said she expected that rather than use opposition to Gays as the "official" reason for refusing the allow the parade, Luzhkov might invent an excuse. "Authorities will probably say that they have to change the surface on the road which will be supposed to be used by the Gay pride [parade]," she said.

The two organizations announced plans on Thursday (July 28) to hold the parade May 27, 2006 - the anniversary of the abolition of laws against homosexuality in 1993.

Moscow is the biggest city in Europe never to have had a pride parade.



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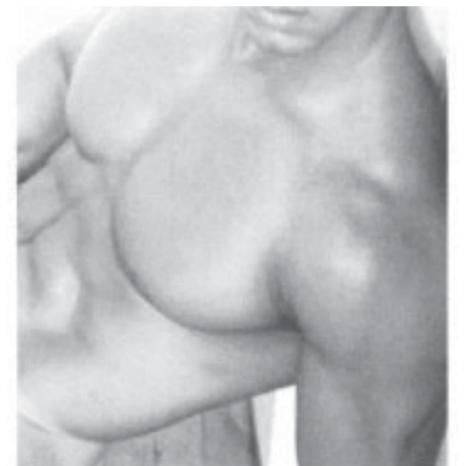
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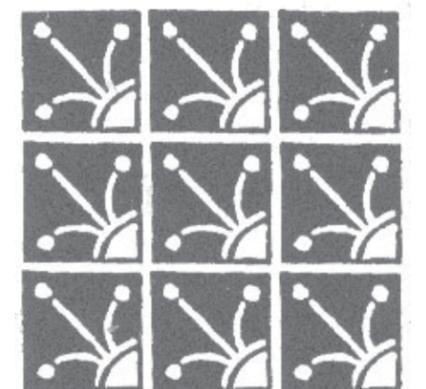
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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

sunday

COLORS - Open 11am - 11pm Champagne Brunch 11am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$2 sky cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 2-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 11:00 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 11am - 1:30pm, - Scrambled eggs, hash brown, biscuit & sausage gravy and your choice of Bloody Mary, Screwdriver or Mimosa. 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, or mimosas. til 4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-7:30 Beer Bust. 2-4-1 drink specials and DJ Mike Lopez 10pm to close. (Some restrictions apply).

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Brunch \$5, 11:30 - 2:30. Patio open 1pm-close. Yard games on the grass. Beer Bust 16oz \$1 2-7p. \$2.50 Sirloin Burger or Chicken w/sides 5-9pm. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9

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-8pm, DJ Mike Lopez 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy & Beefeaters Martinis.

WOODY'S - Open 10am. w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1

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

tuesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. 1st Tuesday of month "Dinner & Movie" sponsored by GMHP. All other Tuesdays "Dinner and a Concert" shown on 52" projection system. Full menus served until 10pm.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Q playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longneck. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. 80s Nite 9-close. \$1 off to those wearing 80s concert T-shirt. (Excludes draught & schnapps).

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

wednesday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers 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.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm "Diva-Licious" show w/ Bunny Fu Fu. HiNrgy dance with DJ Q,

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Underwear- fetish-leather nite \$1 off for those wearing underwear-fetish or leather. (Excludes draught & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

thursday

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 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 \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 10am w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Free Pool all day. NTN Game Nite w/prizes 9-close. \$1 Pabst Blue Ribbon. Patio bar open 8pm-close

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

friday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers. Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly Dinner Specials. 6:30-9:30pm. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis 10pm "Guys & Dolls" hosted by Lucinda Holliday. Reservations suggested.

Open 11am for lunch. Dinner 5-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm domestic beers or well cocktails \$2.25.

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-8pm,, Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm-2am.

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am.w/Special Happy Hour til 2pm \$1.50 well or domestic longnecks. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. Patio Bar open 8-close. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

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

saturday

COLORS - Open 4pm-2am, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$2 Skyy cocktails, \$3 Skyy Martinis, \$2 Domestic and half-price appetizers Full menu served 4-11pm. Nightly dinner specials. Amber Norgard sings originals and cover tunes 6:30-9:30pm. Reservations suggested.

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. \$4.00 Cheeseburger & 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-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Jane Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Regular Happy Hour 2-8. \$5 Steak or Fish w/all the trimmings 5-9. Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz w/Arthur Migliazza on the patio 6-9. Party w/DJ Jeff 9-close.

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

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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 at

Of reported demographic information from participants, 60% of all registered walkers are female, two thirds are under 35, and one-fourth are under 18.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

WOODY'S - Intensive Care Party. Special shot prices to those in their Hospital Gown (back open).

FRI-SAT-SUN, AUGUST 5-6-7

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - It's a Three Day Party celebrating Colors' First Anniversary. There'll be live music all three nights. Friday it's hot jazz and cool martini's with the piano and singing of Susan Artemis from 6:30 to 9:30 followed by the Guys and Dolls Show starring Lucinda Holliday and guests. Saturday in the piano lounge Marilyn Harris will be at the grand piano from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. On Sunday, Dickie Steed will be at the piano 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. when Marilyn Harris will take over until 9:30 p.m. Then at 9:30 comedian Kaynin Richardson will keep you laughing during his stint. Beside all this Colors, will have their usual terrific food and drink specials plus there will be a Grand Prize Drawing for a Color Television Set after Kaynin's show. Don't forget the Champagne Brunch on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to get you started for all the frolicking that day. For more information or reservations call 323-1840.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

YARD DOG SALOON - DJ Shawn will be playing starting at 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - 1ST Anniversary Party. Check the Calendar for Friday-Sat-Sun above.

HOWL AT THE MOON - "Motown Night" classics, soul, disco all night long!

VENTURE-N - Leather Nite 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. 'Seek'n Hides - Meet & Greet'. Dress up or down. Specials for men in leather - or ??

WOODY'S - 8:00 p.m.. Monsoon Party!!! Drink specials, great music. Prepare to get Wet!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - 1ST Anniversary Party. Check the Calendar for Friday-Sat-Sun above.

WOODY'S - Brunch 11:30 am. Patio Bar 1:00 p.m. Beer Bust 2-7 p.m. Burgers 5-9 p.m. Giant Jenga Bud to the E Party 8:30 p.m. Karaoke with Michael D. 9 p.m. to closing.

YARD DOG SALOON - Dart Tournament starts at 3:00 p.m. (\$3.00 entry). Plus steaks cooked to order by Rob and Pete at 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

VENTURE-N - Spaghetti Nite with Ayce., \$2.00 - 6 to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

WOODY'S - Sarong Underwear Party 8:00 p.m. til close.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

WOODY'S - August Birthday? Celebrate at Woody's starting at 9 p.m. Champagne toast, balloons and cake!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

HOWL AT THE MOON - Tina Angotti In Concert. The award-winning singer/songwriter from Phoenix will be performing from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Don't Miss It!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

WOODY'S - Wet Shorts Contest

SATURDAY AUGUST 20

HOWL AT THE MOON - Ella de Noche Latino Drag Show back by popular demand. The fun starts at 10:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Tattoo Party

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

WOODY'S - Boys Gone Wild Party

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

HOWL AT THE MOON - Moon Glow Painting Party - black lights, body paints - Oh Yeah!

~~**YARD DOG SALOON** - The Scottish are coming !!!!!~~

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, 425 E. 7th Street. Call 624-1779 for more information.

YOUNG AND GAY? GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 743-0810, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

TUCSON GAY INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 881-1794 - 8 am - 5 pm M-F.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO — a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second 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 til 9:00 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; Dezerz Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)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. Visit our web site <http://www.desertdominion.org> or call (520)792-6424

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REVEILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS rehearses 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 us. The group meets once a month, on the 3rd Monday, at 6:30 p.m. Reading selections include Gay-themed novels, bios and other nonfiction. For location or more info, email Bryan at Bryansct@aol.com

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

LGBT BUDDHIST MEDITATION GROUP. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, a reading from a Buddhist religious text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Meets every Sunday from 10:00 - 11:30am at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.. Contact Sean Seeba at 622-8759 for more information.

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

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

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

SUN WORSHIPERS OF TUCSON (SWOT) is a local men's nudist organization for men of all ages. Events feature swimming, hot tubbing and socializing in a relaxed, private setting. Check out our website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swot>. Bi-weekly daytime meetings, Saturdays at 10am and Sundays at 2pm. Contact John at 327-3135 for more info and upcoming dates.

MAN TO MAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY FORMING for anyone wanting quality friendships, better health and more passion in their lives. This group has far-reaching benefits for those who want to explore their own spirituality, sexuality and purpose in life. Weekly social events include Keys to Healthy Relationships, and Be Your Own Best Lover. Also events include entertainment like dinner, movies, theater and art. Group discussions. Group fun with intimacy, spontaneity and play. A great way to meet other men who are on a more focused path. Contact Marc Haberman, Holistic Health Practitioner at 881-4582.



Lack Of Partner Benefits Hits Gay & Lesbian Couples Dearly

PHILADELPHIA - State university professor Rita Drapkin considers herself a married woman, even though Pennsylvania doesn't sanction Gay marriage, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania provides health insurance only to Drapkin, who is assistant director of the school's counseling center, and not to her Lesbian partner of 28 years.

While Drapkin contributes almost \$400 a year from her paycheck toward her own health plan, her partner, Cindy Klink, a freelance concert producer, is covered by private health insurance that costs roughly \$3,600 and only covers catastrophic illness.

"It's been incredibly frustrating," said Drapkin, 54, a tenured professor at the school in western Pennsylvania.

As more colleges and universities nationwide extend health care benefits to same-sex partners, the faculty union that represents 5,500 professors at Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities is still waiting for them - even though a contract ratified more than a year ago opened the door to same-sex benefits.

That's because the pact doesn't require the State System of Higher Education to provide same-sex benefits unless the state extends similar "domestic partner" benefits to other unionized state workers.

The Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund, which oversees state workers' health care benefits, voted July 21 to study the possibility of offering them to same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexual couples who live together.

There is no deadline for completing the study, however.

The vote was prompted partly by persistent lobbying on the part of the Association of Pennsylvania College and University Faculties, the state system's faculty union, said trust fund board member Joan Bruce, president of Service Employees International Union Local 668.

"I was actually very surprised to find out that their contract was tied to the employee-benefits trust fund, where they have no seat," Bruce said.

Linking state university faculty same-sex benefits to benefits for other state workers was a key compromise that enabled both sides to reach a tentative settlement in February 2004.

During negotiations, the university system's administration said it wasn't feasible to offer same-sex benefits, citing budget constraints. Consultants to the administration estimated at the time the benefits would cost an additional \$600,000 to \$1.2 million a year, system spokesman Tom Gluck said.

"Because our fiscal situation overall was a very challenging one, and health care costs in particular ... to expand benefits in any way to more people for more services, this was not the time to do that," Gluck said.

Nearly 300 colleges and universities nationwide provide some form of domestic-partner benefits, including 23 in Pennsylvania, according to Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay rights advocacy group. They include Penn State University, Temple University, and the Univer-

sity of Pittsburgh, which receive state funding but are not state-owned.

The state system's faculty union is concerned that not offering same-sex benefits puts the universities at a competitive disadvantage, union president Patricia Heilman said.

"The pressure is even more intense for us to obtain domestic-partner benefits, because we actually compete with Pitt, Penn State and Temple for faculty," Heilman said.

Daryl Herrschaft, a Human Rights Campaign spokesman, acknowledged that same-sex benefits can be a touchy issue at taxpayer-funded public colleges and universities. But he also noted that some of the nation's largest public systems provide them, including the University of California and the State University of New York.

"If you were to ask a hiring manager at Penn State, would they like to be able to compete with Harvard or Dartmouth or the University of Pennsylvania when trying to hire faculty, I think the answer would be 'yes,'" Herrschaft said.

Nancy Smith, an education professor at Millersville University, near Lancaster, said having same-sex benefits in the state system would make a huge difference for her and her partner, Virginia Belson. After the two women dated long-distance for a year-and-a-half, Belson quit her job as a child therapist in the Frederick County, Md., public schools to move to Pennsylvania.

Although Belson is looking for a job here, Smith wants to be able to take care of her health care benefits if she can't

find one. Belson currently pays more than \$400 a month for temporary health coverage through her former employer.

Smith, who has been at Millersville for 18 years, said looking for a job at a college that does provide same-sex benefits is not an option at this point in her career.

"For anybody, straight or Gay, when you're a full professor it's hard to relocate in academia," Smith said. "It's an option if you want to move into administration, but if that's not what you want, you stay where you are."

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

Be Someone's Champion On August 20th, 2005 Saturday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

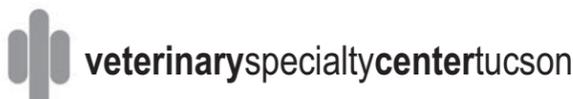
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