WEEKLY OBSERVER FEBRUARY 2, 2005 ISSUE 1072

### Higdon Convicted Of Brutal Walsted Murder

TUCSON - A 22-year-old man described as having neo-Nazi beliefs was convicted Thursday, January 27, in the murder of a Gay man who was beaten to death near North Fourth Avenue in 2002.

David A. Higdon was convicted of the first-degree murder of Philip Walsted, who was beaten to death with a baseball bat.

After the jury was dismissed, Walsted's mother, Judy Boyer, walked out the courtroom doors and stopped. All she said was "yes," but she said it so slowly it made its own small sentence, and it sounded like a sigh of relief, a lament and a prayer all at once. Then she rejoined her family, and met their hugs and tears with her own.

Higdon, on January 27, had agreed to two of five "aggravators" prosecutors would have used in arguing the stiffest sentences for Higdon, allowing jurors to be dismissed. Higdon agreed that he had a prior felony, attempted burglary, for which he served time in prison, and was on community supervision at the time of the murder.

Prosecutors in exchange dropped allegations that the murder was committed for monetary gain; in an especially cruel, heinous or depraved manner; and in malice. They also dropped the allegation that it caused significant emotional and financial harm to Walsted's family.

Walsted, who received more than 50 wounds, was found dead on East Fifth Street near North Hoff Avenue early on June 12, 2002.

According to trial witnesses, the evidence against Higdon was striking. In his father's home, where Higdon was living at the time, police recovered the murder weapon, Walsted's drivers license, glasses, shoes, and watch. Higdon's clothes with Walsted's blood on them and newspaper articles about the case were also found by police. According to expert witness TJ Leyden, Skinhead's often keep mementos from their victims. State prosecutor Theresa Godoy linked Higdon's Skinhead beliefs and actions to the motive for murder.

Higdon had confessed to the crime in a number of ways-when bragging to another inmate in the Pima County Jail, in letters he had written where he stated he had "dipped his hands, his feet, and his laces in blood" (referring to committing a violent act) and that he had committed the "uber righteous act written in stone" (meaning murder, which cannot be undone), and through a tattoo he had put on his chest while incarcerated which displayed darkened lightning bolts within a swastika. Darkened in lightning bolts, in Skinhead culture, symbolize that you have murdered someone.



**Philip Walsted** 

Deputy County Attorney Teresa Godoy told jurors that Higdon is a skinhead who targeted Walsted because of his homosexuality and used a baseball bat because it's "the skinheads' weapon of choice."

Defense attorney Bobbi Berry had argued at trial that Higdon's girlfriend, Kathleen Farabaugh Turner, had killed Walsted because he refused her advances as a prostitute and that Higdon was protecting her.

"Today is the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz," Godoy said after the verdicts. "I hope today that our community can be liberated from hate.

"If one good thing comes out of this, it's more awareness," Godoy said.

Lori Girshick, director of the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, said Higdon's trial might have had a positive effect on the number of anti-Gay crimes being reported.

"There's been a significant number of hate crimes, antiGay crimes being reported to police," said Girshick, who monitored Higdon's trial. "That shows that there's a larger percentage of people willing to come forward than before."

Higdon's sentencing is scheduled for March 28. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. The minimum sentence would make him eligible for parole after 25 years. Jurors also found Higdon guilty of armed robbery; he faces at least 15 years in prison for that charge. Higdon also faces trial in a Neo-Nazi group plot to take over the Pima County Jail.

One of Walsted's sisters, Amie Walsted, said the verdict demonstrates that her brother's slaying was on a par with the killing of Matthew Shepard, a Gay college student in Wyoming who died after being beaten, robbed and left lashed to a fence in 1998.

**Continued on Page Eleven** 

## **Bush Bashes G/L Parents In Interview**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Bush angered advocates for LGBT equal rights by suggesting in a Thursday (January 27) interview with the New York Times that "studies" show children develop better when raised by heterosexual married couples, the PlanetOut Network reported.

The remarks were part of the president's response to a question about the Florida law that bars Gay men and Lesbians from adopting children. The law — one of the harshest anti-Gay laws in the country — was recently upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, and this month the Supreme Court refused to hear the challenge on appeal.

Regarding the Florida law, the president responded, "I don't know this particular case."

He continued by focusing on the "ideal in society" of children being raised by a man and a woman. "And I believe children can receive love from Gay couples, but the ideal is — and studies have shown that the ideal is where a child is raised in a married family with a man and a woman."

"It's too bad we don't have an ideal president," said John Marble, spokesman for the National Stonewall Democrats.

"Any law that bars Gay Americans from adopting children is morally wrong," he told the PlanetOut Network. "It's disturbing that we have a president

who refuses to denounce such a law."

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT rights group, objected to the president's lack of knowledge about parenting research.

"Every credible study has shown that sexual orientation has no affect on parenting ability," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "Adoption should be about what's best for the child, not appealing to a political base. The nation's leading child welfare, psychological and children's health organizations agree that Gay parents make just as good parents as straight ones."

"With so many children in foster care in need of permanently nurturing homes, it's critically important that we put science before ideology when making family policy decisions," she added.

In a recent study published in the journal Child Development, researchers found that teenagers raised by Lesbian couples developed as well as teens raised by opposite-sex couples.

Last December an Arkansas state court overturned a law that banned Gay people and anyone living with a Gay adult from becoming foster parents. The judge noted in his ruling that being raised by Gay or Lesbian parents does not increase likelihood of psychological problems, nor does it endanger the health, welfare and safety of a foster child.

## Religious Leaders Demand Cancellation Of World Pride

JERUSALEM - The city's Jewish, Christian and Islamic clergymen in a rare show of solidarity are demanding that authorities block this summer's planned International Gay Pride Parade in the holy city, reported 365Gay.com.

Former Chief Rabbi Mordehai Eliyahu in a public statement called event "a disgrace."

Muslim officials announced that if the Gay pride organizers do not heed warnings and attempt to march in Jerusalem, "their lives will be in danger."

The clerics have called on Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski to step in and order the parade and celebration cancelled. Lupolianski is a member of the hareidi, a fervently Orthodox community.

The group demanded he issue an executive order banning the parade.

Earlier this month it was revealed that Lupolianski had been working behind the scenes to get police to deny a parade permit. But, publicly, the mayor says that he is legally not able to directly intervene.

Last summer Lupolianski called Jerusalem's Pride celebration "ugly, insulting, offensive and provocative," but he did not move to have the parade banned. Jewish extremists condemned the mayor for not acting and he was given a special security detail for several days leading up to the event.

Even so, Pride celebrations were marred by ultra-conservative religious groups hurling rotten eggs as the parade marched down Ben Yehuda Mall.

World Pride, to be held betwee August 18 and 28 is expected to draw more than 100,000 Gays and Lesbians from around the world to the Holy City. The last World Pride was held in 2000 in Rome.

Jerusalem's Gay and Lesbian Center which is organizing this year's World Pride said that despite the mayor the event will "definitely take place".

The Center said it is not taking the threats too seriously, explaining that World Pride was held in Rome despite threats from the Vatican.

# UPDATE

#### Tucson Pride Needs Your Help

TUCSON - For 2005 Pride events, both a theme and a logo are needed. Artists, and anyone wishing to participate, are invited to submit themes and art for a logo. A cash prize of \$150 will be awarded to the winning entry. Deadline for entries is Friday, March 4.

Artwork may be presented in any media and must be mailed to Tucson Pride, P.O. Box 57478, Tucson AZ 85732. Sender should put "Attention: Logo Contest" somewhere on the envelope. Artwork received by email will not be considered. The artist must include their name, address and a contact number or email address on the back side of the artwork. The artist may include text of the theme and/or OUToberFEST 2005 in their presentation but it is not required. Entries will not be returned and become the property of Tucson Pride. Artists need to take into consideration that the logo will be used for advertising in both black and white and color ads, posters, flyers, brochures, etc. Artwork may include up to 6 colors

For any further information about the theme and logo contest, call (520) 622-3200, or send email to pride@tucsonpride.com.

New board members are needed on the Tucson Pride board. Tucson Pride plans, produces and promotes Pride events for the community including Pride Week in June and OUToberFEST, the Pride festival held the second Saturday in October. For 2005, there is a possible large social event to be held during Pride Week. The Board normally meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the offices of Janette Bunge, 845 S. Craycroft Road. (The February meeting is Tuesday, February 22, to accommodate schedule conflicts. The March meeting is Tuesday, March 8.) Some of the responsibilities with which the Board needs assistance for 2005 are organization and supervision of event security, assistance with entertainment procurement and scheduling, stage management, event logistics, volunteer coordination, and more. Anyone interested in being considered for the TPI Board should contact the Secretary, Bob Bowers, at (520) 790-5214, or send email to pride@tucsonpride.com.

#### Desert Voices Update

TUCSON - Desert Voices (DV), the city's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and straight supportive (GLBTS) chorus has received a \$2,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Mae Kruger, president of the Board of Desert Voices, said the grant is for their "Building Bridges" program.

"Inspired by fellow singer and board member—the late Mary Webber—'Building Bridges' is a recent commitment of DV members to take our songs and our voices out to Tucson and statewide GLBT&S rallies and community events, to add impact and meaning to a variety of causes," explained singer and board member, Sylvia Yeager. "This valuable grant will purchase a sound system that will better allow our music to be heard, especially since many events are outdoors."

It was Mary's courage, inner fire, and clear voice for change that inspired the chorus to seek this grant money to lend their voices to help in changing the world as well. In spite of the fact that she was in the final days of a brief but intense fight with cancer, Mary—a life-long activist with her husband Bill insisted on coming to Presidio Park for February 2004's "Freedom to Marry" rally to hear the chorus one last time. She passed away less than two weeks later. DV sang for her memorial service—with a theme of "Building Bridges"—and listened once again to her many friends, family members, co-workers and colleagues tell about the numerous ways that Mary had reached out to others throughout her life. But it was really Mary's last effort two weeks earlier—to support this GLBT cause at great personal expense—that inspired Desert Voices to launch its own "Building Bridges" program.

In November, the board of Desert Voices sent letters to over 20 local community organizations, offering their voices for community events, rallies and fundraisers. To date they have sung for the SAGA day of remembrance in December, and there are already commitments to Wingspan and SAAF for two separate events this spring. DV is currently in discussion with several other organizations for additional appearances.

Musical Director Chris Tackett explained that the chorus deliberately began learning more music "a cappella" (without accompaniment) about two years ago, in order to be able to sing at any time in any place. The grant money will be used to purchase sound equipment to make that goal a real possibility.

For more information about the chorus, or to request their voices at a community event, visit their website at www.desertvoices.org, or call the office at (520)791-9662.

## Rainbow Build Coalition Formed

TUCSON - A coalition of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) and allied organizations is forming under the name Rainbow Build Coalition to raise the funds and the labor to construct a Habitat for Humanity home.

Currently, there are over 20 community groups and organizations that have committed to being part of the Rainbow Build Coalition:

Arizona Human Rights Fund (AHRF), Cornerstone Fellowship, City of Tucson GLBT Commission, Desert Voices, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), LGBT&S Alliance Fund, Men's Social Network, Parent's, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Rainbow Families, Rainbow Interfaith Coalition, Raytheon's GLBT Alliance, Rubyfruit, St. Philip's Episcopal Church LGBT Phamily, Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA), Stonewall Democrats, Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Tucson Pima Public Library GLBT Committee Tucson Pride, Inc., Water of Life MCC, White Space Design and Wingspan.

This coalition decided to take on this project as a way of allowing the GLBT and allied communities to join forces and work together on a non-partisan, non-divisive project that will better the community. It is a way for GLBT and straight people to work together, learn from one another, and give back to our Tucson community.

"To our knowledge, this may be the first GLBT Rainbow Build anywhere in the nation. This type of project is particularly important given the highly charged and politically volatile atmosphere we face over the upcoming years," says Kent Burbank, executive director of Wingspan.

Any community organization is welcome to become a member of the coalition as long as they are committed to working with the GLBT community and agree to: A) raise funds to support the construction, and B) recruit volunteer labor for the actual build. January 31, 2005 is the first deadline for coalition membership.

Individuals may also wish to participate by volunteering in the coming months to be a part of a work crew building the home, or may provide financial support by sending a check made out to "Habitat for Humanity" and you should write on the memo line "Rainbow Build". If you would like a specific GLBT or Allied organization to get credit for your donation please also put their name on the memo line of the check. Checks should be sent to Habitat for Humanity, 621 W. Lester Street, Tucson, AZ 85705.

You may also call Habitat for Humanity at (520) 326-1217 with your credit card information.

The concrete slab for the Rainbow Build home will be poured this month and the wall raising is scheduled for February 26, 2005. It will be one of thirty-six Habitat houses build in the Balboa Laguna neighborhood near Oracle and Glenn. It takes \$60,000 and approximately 2,200 hours of volunteers labor to complete. For more information please contact Toni Bravo at rainbowbuild@wingspan.org or call the Outreach Committee at (520) 624-1779



Want to do something positive with your leisure time?

> Interested in helping people while learning about HIV/AIDS issues?



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

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

Sign up today!

Contact Jess Pabón at 628-7223 or jpabon@saaf.org





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# TUCSON (ON) - On the day of the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Nazi death camp, as well as the same day, David Higdon was convicted of the brutal murder of openly Gay Tucsonans, Philip Walsted, a forum on hate crimes was held at Wingspan.

One of the prime topics discussed during this forum, sponsored by the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project was the Walsted murder and subsequent verdict.

Tim Rupel, a Detective for the Tucson Police Department Special Investigation Unit, "It was hate crimes victims that made me realize what police work was all about."

"If we go home and realize that our home has not only been burglarized but vandalized with some type of slurs are in the house we know that it's prejudice. And we know families this has happened to here in Tucson. I had a family that came home just like that; found those racial slurs, Rupel said.

Continuing, he added that, "Crime occurs everywhere, not only for those in poverty. Hate crimes stats for 2004, reported crimes, we had 23 for the city of Tucson. 10 were anti-Gay. An average of 8,000 hate crimes every year in the US. Number one is the black community. Here, it's the Gay community."

Rupel emphasized the effort to report cases.

"At Wingspan there's a push to report. Only one in every 8 hate crimes is reported. If 8,000 nationwide, we're probably have 64,000 occurring. We're not born to hate, we learn to hate from family, neighbors, community. We try to respond to it with forums, demonstrate. How can we get involved? Support Wingspan and other organizations.

"Hate crimes are always going to

#### **Hate Crimes Forum Held**

be there. The only way to fight them is to report. "I encourage you to report, call 911, call the Anti-Violence Project. The folks here will help them."

"The night Philip was found, basically in the gutter dying I got a phone call from the homicide sergeant saying 'We have a problem.' I don't want to get those calls anymore. It is not a good feeling." "It is tragic, we don't want it to happen again, we want to fight it, we want to stop it."

A survivor of a hate crime 16 years ago, who gave only his first name, Mark, said he was attacked and beaten outside of a bar on Grant in the early evening by Pima College students.

"Violence causes more violence," he said adding that he slept with a loaded gun that night. A friend of his 6 months later killed himself and a friend of his with that same gun. "Hate crimes affect everybody in the community one way or another."

Teresa Godoy, Pima County Prosecutor for 27 years, and the lead prosecutor on the David Higdon case was present for the forum.

"I thought it profoundly appropriate today that on this anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz that a jury would liberate Tucson a little bit, liberate us from a hate monger, cause that's what happened today. I was the prosecutor on this case form day one. Initially we didn't have evidence to support that it was a hate crime and it was finally developed by a man, Sgt. Sean Stewart, who works at the Pima County Jail. He is, I am so much indebted to him for being astute and watching out for things. Cause it was in Jan. 2004 that we began to learn what David Higdon's true beliefs were," Godoy told the audience.

She continued about the Higdon

court trial, "To be prepared for this case, I had to learn about the neo-Nazi movement, I had to learn about the Skinhead movement. I had to learn about hate. And it's frightening. Based on the color of your skin, who you love, the god you worship, the job you hold, you become their target. You become someone they want to eliminate. Immersing yourself in this culture so that you can be prepared to present evidence to this jury so that they can understand the motive for this crime, it was scary to me. It was scary to me that you could walk out your door and you would become a victim for no other reason than somebody doesn't like who you are. And who's it going to be tomorrow? There's people that they target today but who are they going to target tomorrow?

"I was also saddened when I was preparing for this case and I was going through questionnaires that went out to more than 100 people and when I saw that some folks in that questionnaire answered that they simply could not be fair if they learned that the victim in this case was a Gay man. They couldn't be fair. It really saddened me.

"And I'd been thinking about this for the past year...how can we change this?

"I have a son at home who's going to be 8 years old...he's taught that nobody walks a step behind. It's so important." We spend money to keep kids off drugs but it's just as important from the day they walk into kindergarten not to hate, that nobody is different, love is something they should show to everyone." Teach throughout the elementary school years, junior high and high school about drugs—do we follow the web sites they go to? There are so many hate sites. Kids are choosing hate sites and listening to white supremacist music. Parents need to know the kind of music their kids are listening to.

"Secondly, sentencing enhance-

ments to work as a deterrent so the judge can consider giving more time in prison. Make it a sure thing not just a possibility.

"Third, I was alarmed that at the Department of Corrections they do not consider Skinheads a security threat group. They consider them a disruptive group. There's so much propaganda, so much hate-filled literature is allowed in there. This is stuff that is used to teach young Skinheads." Not allowed in to the Pima County Jail.

"I would like to see, and it's going to be my mission to see that the Department of Corrections does something to eradicate this idea that Skinheads are just disruptive. They are a threat inside and once they come out on the streets they are a threat."

Clarence Boykins, President of the NAACP-Arizona said "What's really frightening is that this is nothing new." It's been part of our culture for too long. We met, talk, and then leave and then there's another incident. The problem is not solved or changed.

"What was the main factor of change in the Civil Rights Movement? The murder of Emmet Till in Mississippi and the decision his mother made to have an open casket. "I want the world to see what they done to my child," his mother said. This was the single most important incident—exposing the brutality in a way that couldn't be ignored. We need to disturb our comfortable world and get to the point where 'enough's enough.' It was frightening that in the November elections same-sex marriage was the number 1 issue. Skinheads have an army. Where's our army?"

Writer, activist and survivor of a hate crime, Matt Heil said, "Hate crimes are a message to the victim and to the wider community, be it Gay and Lesbian, ethnicity, etc. They say that we are on notice, we are hated enough and we better shape up or get out of town.

"Think about David Higdon's Continued on Page Five



# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6 STEAK DINNER 7:00 P.M. YARD DOG SALOON 2449 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 (520) 624-3858 Home Bar of TKO

#### FDA Rushes Approval Of Generic AIDS Drug

NEW YORK - The Food and Drug Administration's approval of a generic and less costly version of a widely used AIDS drug combination is expected to expand AIDS treatment in the developing world, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The FDA backing means relief organizations funded by President Bush's \$15 billion US AIDS relief plan can buy the product made by Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa's largest drug maker.

Last year, the Bush administration was criticized for refusing to purchase drugs that hadn't been reviewed by the FDA. AIDS activists contended the administration was trying to bolster the sales of U.S. drug makers at the expense of AIDS patients in the developing world.

The announcement that the FDA had approved the drug marks the first time the agency has approved a generic AIDS product made by a foreign drug company. The FDA approved a generic drug made by Barr Laboratories in December, but Tuesday's (January 26) announcement is considered a major advancement because the Aspen drug combination is so widely used as a first-line therapy.

Dr. Murray Lumpkin, the FDA's acting deputy commissioner for international and special projects, noted the approval is considered tentative because Aspen won't be able to sell its regimen in the United States where its components remain under patent protection.

Aspen's package includes one pill that is the generic equivalent of Combivir made by GlaxoSmithKline PLC of the United Kingdom and contains two drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine. The second pill is nevirapine, a generic version of Viramune, made by Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH of Germany.

The two drug makers earlier licensed Aspen to produce the drugs.

"For people in Africa and beyond this can be a turning point in providing low cost, safe and effective drugs to people who otherwise would have died," said Mark Isaac, vice president of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which receives funding from the president's plan.

Based on the price of other generic drugs, Isaac estimated the cost of the combination treatment could be about \$20 to \$30 per person per month. His foundation now pays \$55 per person per month for the same brand-name drugs.

Last year, the administration created an expedited review process for generic manufacturers wanting a single drug approved or any manufacturers looking to combine a mixture of drugs. Generic manufacturers that sell their products in the developing world routinely combine drugs made by different companies in one pill. Activists say combination pills help increase compliance.

The FDA said it reviewed Aspen's application in two weeks but had been working with the company for several months.

"I think this demonstrates that we are committed to providing low cost (AIDS) drugs as long as they are safe and effective," said Dr. Mark Dybul, assistant U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator.

Isaac said the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation treats about 3,000 people with the brand-name versions of the drugs that Aspen has been cleared to sell. But that number could rise to as much as 9,000 depending on the price and availability, he said.

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#### **Gay Games, OUTgames Prepare For Future**

BERLIN - The future of international LGBT sporting competitions is taking shape on separate paths, even as two rival major sporting organizations continue to discuss a possible reconciliation, the PlanetOut Network reported.

Groups from Cologne, Johannesburg and Paris have submitted letters of intent to bid for the 2010 Gay Games, according to officials from the Federation of Gay Games. Chicago will host the Gay Games in 2006. The first Gay Games were held in 1982.

Federation co-president Kathleen Webster praised the three cities in the bidding for the 2010 games.

"The inspiration of founder Tom Waddell and other 1982 Gay Games organizers becomes stronger with each cycle, confirming interest in bidding for our events from countries and continents where only just a few years ago such a project could not have been considered," she said in a written statement.

The Gay and Lesbian International Sports Association (GLISA), which organizes Outgames, is also moving forward with plans for 2009. The group has set a deadline of March 25 for submission of letters of intent to host the 2009 Outgames. Montreal is hosting the Outgames in 2006.

The dispute between the two groups, and the creation of the Outgames, began amid a controversy surrounding the 2006 Gay Games. The Federation had originally chosen Montreal to host the event, but later retracted the offer because of a disagreement over the size and scope of the games.

Ultimately, Montreal organizers decided to host its own international sporting competition, separate from the

Gay Games. Soon after, GLISA was formed, and Montreal's games were designated the first Outgames.

Next month, the Federation and GLISA may meet to discuss reconciliation efforts. The FGG has invited GLISA and other LGBT sporting groups to a "Building Bridges in LGBT Sports" conference, Feb. 12-13 in London.

Rachel Corbett, executive director of GLISA, told the PlanetOut Network that GLISA's board of directors would decide whether to attend the conference during a meeting on Thursday, January 27.

However, Corbett did express some concerns. "This is very short notice. There's no (specific) location, no facilitator and no agenda," she said Wednesday from her office in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

Corbett also said that last fall the Federation had refused a similar invitation from GLISA to meet and discuss the groups' differences. Still, she said it was likely the board would send a representative to London.

"The idea's great," she said.
"The implementation is flawed, but hey, we'll go with it. We're probably not going to say no to attending."

Roger Brigham, director of communications for the Federation, also said he anticipated GLISA would take part.

"Since they have asked to meet one-on-one with (the Federation), and they know we will be there and we have said that is fine, I am guessing it will happen," he said in an e-mail to the PlanetOut Network.

#### G/L Marriage Amendment Re-Introduced In U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite President Bush's belief there are not enough votes in Congress to pass an amendment banning Gay marriage the measure returned to the Senate Monday, January 24, 365Gay.com reported.

The legislation was reintroduced by Colorado Republican Wayne Allard.

"This amendment represents, I think, the democratic process or the democratic response to recent and widespread efforts by activist courts to change this age-old definition of marriage," Allard said at a late morning news conference.

LGBT civil rights groups immediately denounced the move. The Human Rights Campaign said it shows Sen. Allard and other conservatives backing the amendment are out of touch with the American people.

"The American people value freedom, not discrimination," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "Americans want laws that ensure the safety and stability of their neighbors, and that's what our policymakers should be focused on. Pushing an amendment that would deny protections to millions of Americans is completely out of step with our nation's values."

Matt Foreman, Executive Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the new attempt to pass the Marriage Amendment will be a key test of Senate Democrats.

"Its not relevant what the Republicans in the Senate do," Foreman told 365Gay.com.

"What is relevant is whether Democrats and our friends and allies continue to stand with us and against this discriminatory legislation."

"The Democratic Party is still opposed to this amendment," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe. "It is wrong to write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution and it is shameful for Washington Republicans to attack Gay and Lesbian families for purely political reasons."

"This is clearly political payback," said McAuliffe. "The only reason Washington Republicans would introduce a measure that has already failed is to appease a small group of right-wing extremists who are now running their Party." The so-called Marriage Protection Amendment would deny marriage to same-sex couples and deny the ability to provide any protections to same-sex couples, such as domestic partnerships and civil unions.

It is the same measure as Allard sponsored in the last session. That attempt failed in July on procedural grounds. The House version also died partly due to disarray within the GOP.

Following the House vote Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) vowed the issue would be resurrected. "We will come back and come back until this is passed," DeLay warned.

Earlier this month President Bush told the Washington Post that he would not press the Senate to pass a constitutional amendment to ban samesex marriage.

"The point is, is that Senators have made it clear that so long as DOMA is deemed constitutional, nothing will happen. I'd take that admonition seriously," Bush told the Post.

But, within hours of the Post hitting newsstands the White House was denying the President had thrown in the towel on the amendment.

"Who's to say whether we have enough votes or not," Allard told reporters Monday, adding that the new congressional term has just begun.

Allard said he expects GOP leaders to call for a vote before the 2006 elections and added, "I think it would be foolhardy to back off when we've got a good head of steam coming out of the election."

"Sixty percent of Americans support either marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples," said HRC's Stachelberg.

"Same-sex couples are already denied more than 1,100 federal protections that other families take for granted. This amendment would enshrine that discrimination into our nation's most cherished document of freedom. It would also threaten protections that states have enacted, and on which thousands of American families already rely. It's wrong. Congress should be spending time protecting Americans, not looking for ways to preserve our peril."

#### Wal-Mart Redefines 'Immediate Family'

LITTLE ROCK - Wal-Mart stores on Thursday, January 27, redefined its company's definition of "immediate family" to include same-sex partners who are recognized under state law, Advocate.com reported.

Wal-Mart, the country's largest private employer, included the definition of "immediate family" in a conflict-of-interest policy the company filed Wednesday, January 26, with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

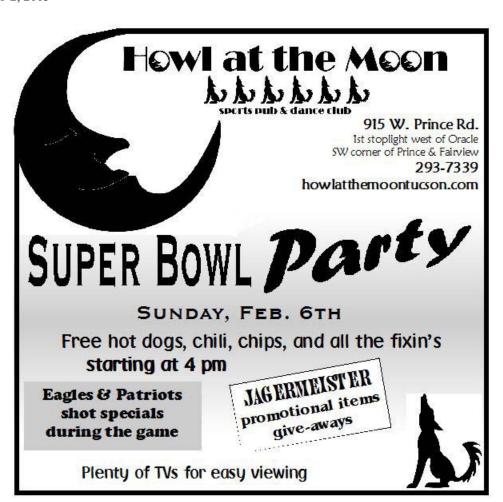
"We hope that with equal responsibility come equal benefits," said Daryl Herrschaft, deputy director for the Human Rights Campaign's workplace project. "We are encouraged by this sign showing America's heartland employer understands same-sex couples share the responsibilities that come with being a family. It's only appropriate for these families to also receive the same benefits as others."

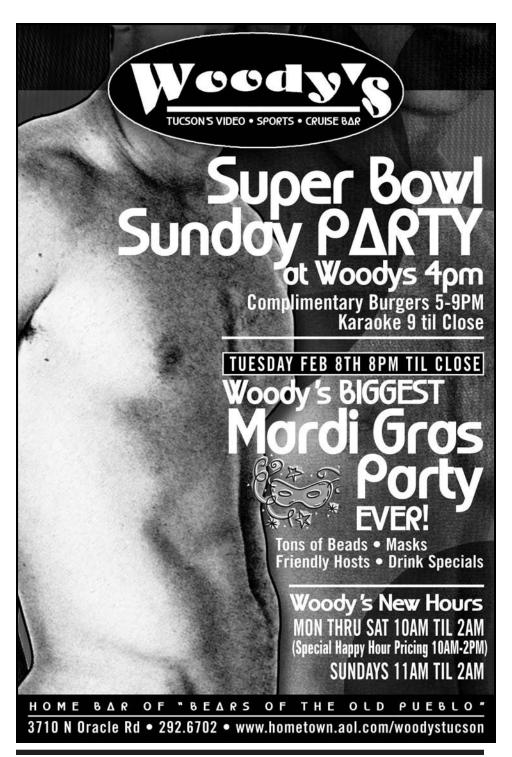
 $\begin{array}{c} Currently\,228 -\!\!-\!\!or\,45\% -\!\!-\!\!of\,Fortune \\ 500 \ companies \ offer \ health \ care \end{array}$ 

benefits to employees' same-sex domestic partners or spouses. The number has increased 10-fold since 1995 when only 21 Fortune 500 companies offered the benefits. Wal-Mart competitors Costco Wholesale, Best Buy, and Home Depot all offer domestic-partner health benefits.

In July 2003, Wal-Mart expanded its nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation. Currently, nine of the 10 top companies in the Fortune 500 include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies, and three of these companies also include protection against discrimination based on gender identity in their policies.

"Every Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender employee deserves to be judged by the job they do, not who they are," said Herrschaft. "We urge Wal-Mart and other companies to add protections for Transgender employees so that no employee is at risk for losing their livelihood for reasons that have nothing to do with their work."





#### **Hate Crimes Forum Held**

**Continued from Page Three** 

conviction as a message to the broader community that this will not be tolerated.

"When LGBT community members are not represented right in the media, write to the newspapers, call the radio shows. Let them know how you feel. Explain how you feel.

When a hate crime happens it's a powerful time to organize. We need to get the message out that it's positive to be

LGBT."

For more information, contact the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project, (520) 624-1779, or go online to http://www.wingspan.org/content/WAVP.php. If you are a victim or in an emergency, call the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project crisis line, (520) 624-0348 or (800) 553-9387.

#### **Study: Rise Of Syphilis Not Linked To Risky Sex**

NEW YORK - A recent rise in syphilis rates in the United States is probably due to natural cycles rather than an increase in unsafe sex or other behaviors, according to a new study, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

The finding is encouraging to public health authorities who have worried that increasing syphilis infection, especially among Gay and Bisexual men, is a sign that people at high risk for HIV have grown complacent about practicing safe sex.

Syphilis has been on the rise in the United States since 2000, when the incidence of the disease was at its lowest in six decades. In 2003, the most recent year for which data are available, 7,177 cases were reported, compared with 5,979 in 2000.

"One would expect for the next few years for syphilis incidence to continue to rise," said Nicholas C. Grassly, one of the study's authors.

Similar jumps in syphilis incidence have been observed in the past. When syphilis rates peaked in the early 1970s, some researchers blamed the sexual revolution; when infections rose again a decade later, they were attributed to the spread of crack cocaine.

Grassly and his colleagues argue in this week's issue of the journal Nature that syphilis infection follows a natural cycle that peaks at eight- to 11-year intervals. Though sexual behavior certainly influences the overall number of people infected, the researchers concluded, those regular ups and downs are an intrinsic property of the disease itself.

The researchers discovered the oscillating pattern by examining syphilis infection trends in 68 U.S. cities over the past 50 years. But when they looked at the pattern of gonorrhea infection over the same period, the pattern was absent. Gonorrhea rates tended to rise over the second half of the 20th century, then fell gradually beginning around 1980.

Because the diseases spread the same way, if changes in sexual behavior had caused the oscillating pattern in syphilis they should have created a similar pattern in gonorrhea. Yet gonorrhea rates show a steady rise from the 1950s through the 1970s, followed by a steady fall.

"You don't see these repeated, regular epidemics," said Grassly, an epidemiologist at Imperial College in London. He wrote the Nature paper with Christophe Fraser and Geoffrey P. Garnett, also of Imperial College.

The key to the difference between syphilis and gonorrhea is immunity. Unlike those who catch gonorrhea, people who recover from syphilis can resist re-infection for some time afterward. That means when the disease sweeps through a city, it leaves a relatively immune population in its wake and infection rates fall.

But as the population gradually evolves, the proportion of susceptible individuals rises and so do infection rates. Using a computer model, Grassly and his colleagues showed that the time from one peak to the next should be about a decade.

"It's a kind of neat piece of detective work," said Bryan Grenfell, a biologist at Pennsylvania State University who studies childhood infectious diseases. Many of those illnesses, such as measles and chickenpox, also follow oscillating patterns.

The British researchers detected another interesting pattern in the data as well. Until about 1980, syphilis rates in different cities varied independently. Houston might be experiencing a peak at the same time that New York was going through a trough. But more recently, syphilis rates have become much more uniform in the United

#### **Gay DNA Found**

CHICAGO - In the first-ever study combing the entire human genome for genetic determinants of male sexual orientation, a University of Illinois at Chicago researcher has identified several areas that appear to influence whether a man is straight or Gay, 365Gay.com reported.

UIC's Brian Mustanski, working with colleagues at the National Institutes of Health, found stretches of DNA that appeared to be linked to sexual orientation on three different chromosomes in the nucleus of cells of the human male.

"There is no one 'Gay' gene," said Mustanski, a psychologist in the UIC department of psychiatry and lead author of the study. "Sexual orientation is a complex trait, so it's not surprising that we found several DNA regions involved in its expression."

"Our best guess is that multiple genes, potentially interacting with environmental influences, explain differences in sexual orientation."

His research will be published in the March issue of the biomedical journal Human Genetics.

The genomes of 456 men from 146 families with two or more Gay brothers were analyzed.

While earlier studies had focused solely on the X chromosome, one of the two sex chromosomes, the present study examined all 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes in addition to the X chromosome. The other sex chromosome, called Y, was not explored because it is not believed to contain many

Identical stretches of DNA on three chromosomes — chromosomes 7, 8 and 10 — were found to be shared in about 60 percent of the Gay brothers in the study, compared to about 50 percent expected by chance. The region on chromosome 10 correlated with sexual orientation only if it was inherited from the mother.

"Our study helps to establish that genes play an important role in determining

whether a man is Gay or heterosexual," said Mustanski. "The next steps will be to see if these findings can be confirmed and to identify the particular genes within these newly discovered chromosomal sequences that are linked to sexual orientation."

The University of California at San Diego, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of California at Los Angeles were also involved in the study which was supported in part by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

#### **Ani Di Franco Comes To Tucson** Feb. 10

TUCSON - KXCI 91.3 FM brings Ani Di Franco to Tucson, Thursday, February 10, at UA Centennial Hall. Righteous Babe's Andrew Bird opens at 8:00 p.m.

Come see the only artist to put three straight albums on KXCI's Top 100 of the Year countdown. Her 'Little Plastic Castle' was chosen as one of the Top 50 Albums of the Past 21 Years by our listeners. Ani battles the corporate music world as one of the most influential heroines of contemporary music. She's an ardent feminist whose songs tackle the issues with insight and compassion, tempered by poignant candor.

Reserved tickets available now at the Centennial Hall box office (520) 621-3341, Antigone Books, KXCI and KXCI.org. Tickets are \$27 for KXCI members and \$32 for general public.



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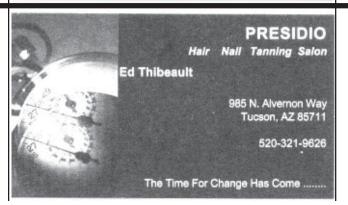
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## Third Shill Named In Bush Payola Scandal

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Despite assurances from President Bush that the White House has ordered his cabinet not to hire journalists to promote the administration's agenda, a third journalist has been found to be taking payola, 365Gay.com reported.

Michael McManus, whose syndicated column, "Ethics & Religion," appears in 50 newspapers, was hired as a subcontractor by the Department of Health and Human Services to promote an administration marriage initiative, according to USA Today and Salon.com.

In several columns McManus touted the Bush "family" plan. He was allegedly paid approximately \$10,000 for his work.

McManus also provided training at two HHS-sponsored conferences.

The new revelations came after it was learned Syndicated conservative columnist Maggie Gallagher and prominent black conservative writer/broadcaster Armstrong Williams were also paid by the administration to promote the marriage initiative.

Both Gallagher and Williams have a long history of attacking Gays.

In a column following the

November 2 election Williams linked Gay rights advocates with organized crime.

"Despite the rhetoric that you hear from the homosexual Cosa Nostra, the lack of support for the Gay marriage amendment has nothing to do with prejudice," he wrote.

In 2003 Gallagher testified before a Senate subcommittee in support of a constitutional ban on Gay marriage.

Following the revelation earlier this week that she had been on the administrations' payroll Bush said has instructed his cabinet not to allow it to occur again.

The contracts may have broken federal law in addition to the ethics of journalism.

Congress has prohibited propaganda," or any sort of lobbying for programs funded by the government, said Melanie Sloan of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington. "And it's propaganda."

Rep. George Miller of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Education Committee has called for an investigation.

#### G/L Marriage Legal Fight Shifting To Southern Califonria

SANTA ANA - They filed their lawsuit almost as an afterthought. But a legal challenge by a Gay couple from Orange County, Calif., against laws banning same-sex marriage has suddenly become an important case in a thinning field of litigation on the issue, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

Christopher Hammer and Arthur Smelt were to be in U.S. district court on Thursday, January 27, to see their attorney argue that the federal Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 22 are violations of civil rights akin to slavery or denying women the right to vote. U.S. district judge Gary L. Taylor didn't indicate when he would rule in the case.

The hearing comes two days after Gay couples in Florida decided to drop their lawsuits, leaving the California case as one of the few federal court challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act. "Certainly, eyes are going to be focused on this particular case," said Matthew Staver, president of Liberty Counsel, an opponent of Gay marriage involved in some 30 cases around the nation.

There are only a couple of samesex marriage cases pending in federal courts, according to lawyers on both sides of the debate, including one in Nebraska and one in Oklahoma.

Hammer and Smelt, both 45 and

on disability retirement from their jobs, met in 1996 and held a commitment ceremony in their Mission Viejo home a year later in front of a few family members. They tried to get a marriage license in Orange County, a largely suburban enclave south of Los Angeles, at the time but were turned down. "I was laughed at. They said, 'Don't even bother," Hammer said.

But last year, as the couple watched news reports of same-sex couples getting married in San Francisco—ceremonies later halted by a court—they decided to give it another shot. Turned down again, they filed a lawsuit. It's a matter of principle and fairness, the men said. "Everybody should have the right to get married. That's all," Smelt said. "That's just how I feel."

Their attorney, Richard C. Gilbert, decided to pursue the case in federal court, even though most cases elsewhere were filed in state courts, where activists believe their chances are better. "Marriage traditionally has been a state law matter," said Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel with Lambda Legal.

Gilbert said federal and state laws against same-sex marriage are unconstitutional. On Tuesday three Gay couples in Florida dropped their lawsuits challenging the Defense of Marriage Act after a judge dismissed their cases. They decided not to risk appeals that could result in the U.S. Supreme Court setting a precedent by rejecting the cases.

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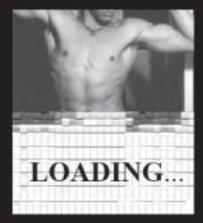
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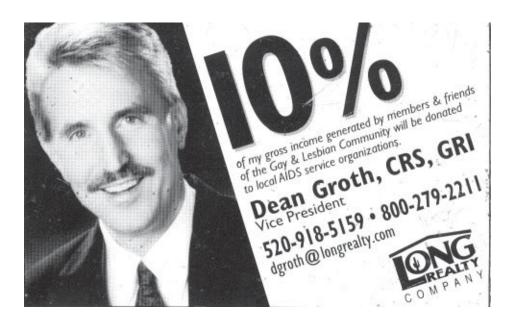


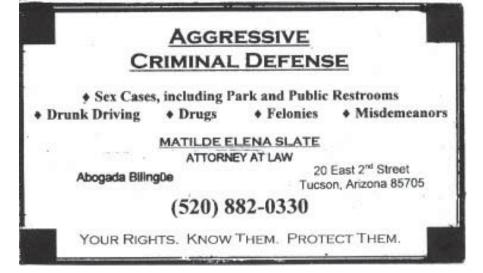
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#### **POLITICS 2005**

by Mark R. Kerr

'Kill Shill: 1, 2, 3, ...'

So at least \$290,000 has been doled out by Dubya and his minions, to three shills - Armstrong Williams, "Maggie" Gallagher and Michael McManus (Discovered so far!), er ethical journalists, er big whores, to spread Dubya's bile in print, online and in testimony - about leaving every child behind, and how marriage is being threatened by homosexuals; as recently reported in the alternative media, the blogs and finally picked up by the mainstream media know-it-all's - especially after the promises made by Dubya that there were no other reporters after homophobe extraordinare, Armstrong Williams, was outed in taking \$240,000, then "Maggie" for \$40,000 and Michael McManus for only \$10,000.

You would think that Dubya and the real power, Cheney would have just used the mainstream media - since they bought them a long time ago and they do have a cable network, Fox, also known as the Fascist News Channel, at their disposal?! Williams, Gallagher (faulty memory and all) and McManus spread propaganda, and Senators Edward Kennedy, D-MA, and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J. have introduced legislation to stop this "practice," the Stop Government Propaganda Act.

The Stop Government Propaganda Act states, "Funds appropriated to an Executive branch agency may not be used for publicity or propaganda purposes within the United States unless authorized by law."

This bill would allow citizens to bring lawsuits on behalf of the United States government when the Department of Justice does not respond.

If the matter is taken to court, the Act proposes that the senior official responsible would be fined three times the amount of the "misspent taxpayer funds" plus an additional fine ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and if a citizen's suit is accepted, the bill proposes that the plaintiff receives between 25 and 30% of the proceeds of the fine.

Publicity or propaganda would be defined as: news releases or publications that do not clearly identify the government agency responsible for the content; audio/visual or Internet presentations that do not identify the responsible government agency; any attempt to manipulate journalists or news organizations; messages created to aid a political party or candidate; messages with a "selfaggrandizing" purpose or "puffery of the Administration, agency, executive branch programs or policies or pending legislation"; and, finally, messages that are "so misleading or inaccurate that they constitute propaganda."

Also sponsoring the legislation are Senators Mark Dayton, D-MN, and Richard Durbin, D-IL, Democratic Whip.

"It's time for Congress to shut down the Administration's propaganda mill," Lautenberg said in a statement. "It has no place in the United States Government."

"The President said that his cabinet agencies made a mistake when they paid commentators to promote his agenda," Kennedy said in a statement. "It's more than just a mistake, it's an abuse of taxpayer funds and an abuse of the First Amendment and freedom of the press." ...

Still on the subject of legislation, in Arizona's Legislature, Monday, January 31 was the deadline for Senators to file

bills for consideration during this session.

Senator Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson, as previously reported, has filed legislation for the Senate to consider expanding Arizona's hate crimes law to cover misdemeanor offenses.

SB 1486, entitled, "Misdemeanors; Aggravated Sentencing." is also cosponsored by Senators Harry Mitchell, D-Tempe and Albert Hale, D-Window Rock, and is follows:

Amending Title 13, Chapter 7, Arizona Revised Statutes, by Adding Section 13-712; Relating to Sentencing.

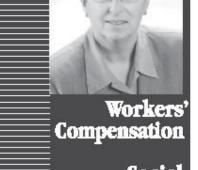
Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Title 13, Chapter 7, Arizona Revised Statutes, Is Amended by Adding Section 13-712, to Read: 13-712. Misdemeanors; Aggravating Circumstances; Sentencing - If a person is convicted of a misdemeanor offense and the court finds that the defendant committed the offense out of malice toward a victim because of the victim's identity in a group listed in section 41-1750, subsection A, paragraph 3 or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's identity in a group listed in section 41-1750, subsection A, paragraph 3, the court shall affirmatively state its findings on the record and may increase the sentence.

As of press time, SB 1486 has not been first read and assigned to a committee for consideration.

Meanwhile, SB 1077, a bill that would require school districts with sex education curricula to provide instruction that is medically accurate and defines the term "medically accurate," has been scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Education K-12 Committee on Wednes-





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#### COMMENTARY. . . .

by Eric Deggans

#### Dobson's Crusade Sends A Message The Mainstream Media Doesn't Get

It is something that draws an easy laugh, especially from journalists: a campaign condemning America's most beloved cartoon sponge.

But James Dobson's high-profile jabs against Nickelodeon's monster hit SpongeBob SquarePants are no laughing matter. They are, instead, a textbook example of how powerful evangelical conservatives send galvanizing messages to their faithful that sail over the heads of those who aren't supposed to get it.

Dobson, founder of the Colorado Springs-based ministry Focus on the Family, is a minister whose radio show draws 7-million listeners, a man who helped President Bush win the tough swing states of Florida and Ohio.

A leader this savvy knows the power of the media and likely doesn't believe his attacks will bring down the Sponge-ster, Nickelodeon's most popular cartoon.

But what he can do is mobilize his supporters by relying on three themes the religious right has beaten like a drum for decades: demonization of the media, demonization of liberals and demonization of Gay people.

Dobson's grievance surfaced last week during Bush's inaugural festivities, when the minister criticized a protolerance video headed for elementary schools featuring Nickelodeon's character alongside kids TV icons such as Barney and Jimmy Neutron.

SpongeBob's transgression? The group behind the video, the We Are

Family Foundation, includes sexual identity in a tolerance pledge on its Web site - not in the video.

Mainstream media outlets have had lots of fun with Dobson's critiques, from a Miami Herald writer noting SpongeBob's fictional home Bikini Bottom "is about to join Iran and North Korea in the axis of evil" to an MSNBC commentary by anchor Keith Olbermann headlined "Will SpongeBob make you Gay?"

But such talk isn't funny to Barbara McGraw, an associate professor at Saint Mary's College of California and author of the book Rediscovering America's Sacred Ground: Public Religion and Pursuit of the Good in a Pluralistic America.

Though she says her own political views are quite liberal, McGraw has devoted significant time to exploring the friction between the religious right and secular left, declaring, "somewhere in the middle, you find the basic values of the nation." And she sees a significant message in Dobson's criticisms.

"Dobson says words such as tolerance and diversity are code words for a kind of proGay agenda some parents don't agree with," said McGraw, noting carefully that she doesn't agree with the minister's assertions.

"You're not going to have millions of people following something that is completely stupid . . . and there is a legitimate point about parents raising their children according to the values they

have," she added. "One of (Dobson's) key points is that liberals are using buzz words to promote an agenda that goes beyond race and religion. The mainstream media need to be sensitive to that."

My hunch is that McGraw is right. And other conservatives have taken similar stances; most recently with Education Secretary Margaret Spelling's stand against an episode of Postcards From Buster in which the cartoon character visits lesbian mothers.

But the PBS series Frontline exposed another agenda conservative politicians and activists often have during such crusades: demonizing key buzzwords among their faithful followers.

Frontline's recent documentary
The Persuaders followed consultant
Frank Luntz, the man credited with
turning the public against estate taxes by
call them a "death tax." In his hands, "tax
cuts" become "tax relief," and the "war on
Iraq" becomes the "war on terror."

"Eighty percent of our life is emotion and only 20 percent is intellect," Luntz told Frontline. "I am much more interested in how you feel than how you think." Asked if such terms don't just confuse the issue, Luntz had more wordplay ready: "Some people call it global warming, some people call it climate change," he rationalized. "What's the difference?"

Using the Luntz model, if Dobson can convince enough Americans that "tolerance" and "diversity" are simply code for "Gay rights," then he's

won a war on the language battlefield the same way Rush Limbaugh helped demonize "liberal" and "feminist."

Mainstream news outlets cracking jokes only help Dobson's cause, allowing conservative complaints about how the liberal media twist their words around.

On Fox News Channel's Hannity and Colmes program, for example, conservative pundit Sean Hannity assured Dobson that "what (mainstream media) try and do is marginalize conservatives . . . create this impression that it's a really extreme idea . . . They want to minimize your effectiveness."

But Dobson's message can be amazingly effective in generating fear, convincing conservative parents they can't even place their children in front of kiddie channel Nickelodeon without exposing them to radical ideas. No one should forget how effectively fear sold the American public on war with Iraq and a president with a seriously low job approval rating.

These are seeds, once planted, that will pay off in future campaigns against media indecency and Gay rights. And when Dobson's faithful turn out again to press their issues at the ballot box, mainstream media outlets will cluck their tongues and wonder how they once more missed the message.

[Eric Deggans is a Times editorial writer for the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times, an this was an editorial published in the January 28 edition of the paper.]

## Lesbians Chide PBS For Yanking 'Buster'

BURLINGTON - Two Vermont same-sex couples whose families are featured in a PBS children's program are upset the network has decided not to distribute the show, reported the PlanetOut Network.

The PBS decision was announced after Margaret Spellings, the new secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, criticized the episode as inappropriate for children.

Vermont Public Television will air the "Sugartime" episode of the show "Postcards from Buster" that features a broad variety of American families.

"Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," Spellings wrote Tuesday, January 25, to Pat Mitchell, the president and chief executive officer of PBS.

"I feel sick about it," Karen Pike of Hinesburg said of the PBS decision. She and her partner, Gillian Pieper, and their three children are featured in the episode.

"I can't believe PBS would back down to this," she said. "I understand they get public funding, but they should be the one station we feel confident in, in knowing that what we see there represents our whole country."

In the series, Buster, an animated rabbit, visits children around the country with his airline-pilot father and sends video postcards back to his friends.

"We reflect the diversity and the rich culture of American kids," said Jeanne Hopkins, a spokeswoman for WGBH, which produced the show. The Vermont episode shows maple sugaring and the Shelburne Museum, and features the children of the two same-sex-parent families.

Hopkins said WGBH will distribute the episode to any PBS station that asks for it.

PBS spokeswoman Lea Sloan said PBS reached its decision independent of Spellings' letter after concluding on its own that the episode was "sensitive in today's political climate.

"I feel betrayed as a parent," said Tracy Harris of Charlotte. She and Gina D'Ambrosio and their three children, ages 7 to 13, are the other family on the program.

"I thought long and hard whether to do this program, because it involved my kids, not just me," she said. "And, you know, when it comes to my kids, I usually err on the side of caution. In this case, I decided to take a calculated risk, because it was PBS."

Vermont Public Television decided Wednesday morning that it will show the episode March 23, VPT spokeswoman Ann Curran said Wednesday, January 26.

"This is something we think is an important Vermont story," she said. "Civil unions are an important part of life in Vermont, part of the culture of Vermont."

## **Ex-Gay Therapist Cited For Ethics Breeches**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Richard Cohen, an influential figure in the "ex-Gay" movement, has been permanently expelled from the American Counseling Association (ACA) because of ethics violations, according to an ACA document, reported the PlanetOut Network.

Cohen, billed as an "expert in sexual reorientation therapy," is the board president of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX) and author of "Coming Out Straight: Understanding and Healing Homosexuality." He claims that he was not Gay; he had "same-sex attraction disorder" and has since been healed.

The ACA announcement was obtained by Wayne Besen, author of "Anything But Straight: Unmasking the Scandals and Lies Behind the Ex-Gay Myth," and posted on his Web site on Tuesday, January 25.

The ACA said Cohen was expelled for violations of six ethical codes and that he "has not elected to appeal the decision taken by the ACA Ethics Committee." Details about the violations were not specified, but they corresponded to ACA codes of conduct toward clients, such as avoiding dual relationships or fostering dependent counseling ties.

The case was closed on May 28, 2002, according to Larry Freeman, the ACA's manager of ethics and professional standards.

"It is no surprise that Richard Cohen violated the ACA ethics, because reparative therapy itself lacks integrity and attempts to meet their agenda's need, not the needs of clients," said Joe Kort, psychotherapist and author of "10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do to Improve Their Lives."

"Of particular note is that Cohen's violations are self-serving, as he is accused of violating standard ethics of protecting his client from dual relationships, marketing purposes and testimonials," Kort added.

Considered a success story for the "ex-Gay" movement, Cohen is an adviser to conservative radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger, and he has advocated his therapeutic theories on "The O'Reilly Factor," "20/20" and other shows.

One man who considered himself "ex-Gay" for 17 years said Cohen's book, "Coming Out Straight," ultimately discouraged him from keeping up the struggle to change his orientation. Rick from Fredonia, N.Y., (who asked that his last name be withheld), said Cohen relies on a common reparative therapy theory: A child who doesn't form a healthy bond with his or her same-sex parent develops an "unhealthy" sexuality.

"Cohen's approach is to utilize 'holding therapy' as a way of repairing the bond and help a person transition from homosexuality to their 'inherent' heterosexuality," Rick told the PlanetOut Network.

"I found this basic concept to be very damaging to me," he said. "I was always 'sick' or 'broken' or in some other way inadequate as a human being. Because therapy always focused on my father and his supposed absence and bad parenting, my relationship with him suffered."

Rick added, "I decided to stop being 'ex-Gay' after a long process in which I determined being Gay was not a sickness to be healed or a sin to be repented of."

The American Psychiatric Association has repudiated "reparative therapy" for homosexuality. "There is no evidence that any treatment can change a homosexual person's deep-seated sexual feelings for others of the same sex," the group claims on its Web site.

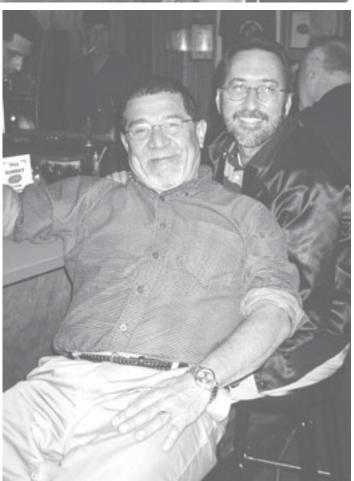






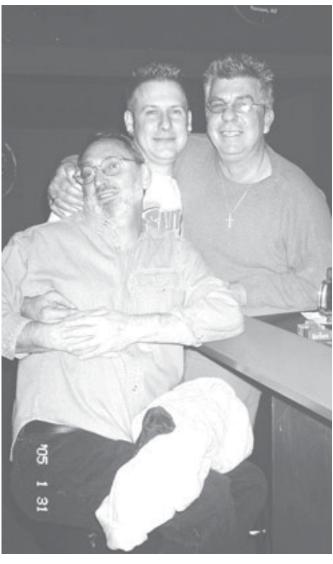














#### **HOROSCOPES**

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Is it February already? Let's not limit ourselves as we receive more than our fair share of valentines. How to choose? Go beyond red-only valentines and embrace the rainbow of colors. It"s all Aqueerius independence early on but by mid-month the Sun enters romantic Pisces and love conquers all!

#### ARIES (MAR. 21 - APR. 20)

Proud Rams happily discover that there are a few lovers among friends this February. Who will warm your cockles with an early valentine? You may even attract more than your bargain for around the office after the 7th. Make your assorted political moves while your charisma is high. Hurry! Before you know it, the planets move and your corporate overdrive shifts into neutral.

#### TAURUS (APR. 21 - MAY 21)

You can make a name for yourself among the glitterati as February gets underway. And what name might that be? It all depends on a combination of timing, yearning and desirability. So think about what you really want, keep a keen eye out for opportunity and be ready to demand what is rightfully yours. How brightly will you sparkle, queer Bull? Wear sunglasses....

#### GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Bank on February for a wilde escape that brings on an assortment of escapades. Pack your bags, pink Twin - your valentines are far flung and hidden in all sorts of nice places. There is one particular heartthrob who offers more than one might think. What was once sedate and cool becomes hot and zesty after the 7th. Are we talking about a good meal? Perhaps.

#### CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

It may be wintery February but the temperature is definitely rising. Strike a match, feel the heat and enjoy the sizzle. You can attract any valentine you want and yet you may feel too shy to make the first move. Don't let your self confidence flag, gay Crab. Although you may not feel up to meeting and greeting, this is not the time fade into the background.

#### LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Partnerships take on an added importance this month as four planets in Aqueerius brighten any one-to-one relationship. Proud Lions thrive with a significant other and are in a position to make others very happy and fulfilled. Return to creative pursuits and expand your artistic horizons. Immense opportunity will serendipitously channel through these efforts. Ommmm.

#### VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Work may be much busier than usual but you won't mind; February offers you ample energy to get the job done efficiently and easily. But thankfully life is not all dreary elbow grease. Queer Virgins can party hearty after the 7th thanks to Mars. Why not channel a bit of that workaday energy reserve into something fun and totally frivolous. Anyone we know?

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Fun is mandatory and inescapable. Start the valentines celebration early and enjoy the happy ruckus through the 19th. But all play and no work makes gay Libras slack, dissipated and out of shape. So get your jollies in early and be sure to take care of responsibilities on the job as well as revamp diet and exercise regimes as the month progresses. Then enjoy your just desserts.

#### SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

March to the tune of a different drummer. February delivers some surprising changes that will modify your perspective. Be prepared to do what needs to be done to

inspire, convince and reunite. Gather your valentines while you may. Once the dust has settled, you are able to truly enjoy yourself and apply your talents to something (or someone) truly remarkable.

#### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Gay Archers are never shy about asking for what they want. Now you may even get your wish. (May I suggest that you ask for the perfect valentine?) What is it about your family this month that creates discord at home? Try a teaspoon of diplomacy and a ladle of pride. Remember, only you are responsible for your own happiness. Others will simply have to

#### CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Well heeled pink Caps can be swept off their feet by the lovely valentine fog this February. Although they are more fiscally inclined, they are tempted to spend their hard earned dough on a dreamboat or three. Before you put your anchor down at any old dock, be sure that it is worth the effort. You don't want to be scuttled and used for scrap, do you?

#### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Aqueerians cannot be pulled off center stage with a hook this February. They are able to command all the attention and revel in it. Enjoy the roar of the crowd and see which important valentine you can impress. People who you meet now will help you financially later in the month. Bank on your considerable charisma and don't mortgage your best assets.

#### PISCES (FEB. 20 - MAR. 20)

A pride parade of planets offers Guppies a rush of good vibes throughout the month. You offer the world a nice combination of intuition and generosity. Don't waste it. Cash in on the good gay karma by volunteering for a good gay cause. (Is there any other?) Friends try to get into the act after the 7th. Let them get involved while you delegate and then relax...

#### **Higdon Convicted** Of Walsted Murder

**Continued from Page One** 

"This is as heinous and awful as what happened to Matthew Shepard," Amie Walsted said. "It's as heinous and awful for the same reason. He was Gay and beat to death."

As jurors filed into the courtroom to deliver the verdict, Philip Walsted's mother, grandmother and sisters held hands, trembled and waited.

"We were just trying to be strong no matter what had been done," Boyer said. "It's been a long time coming - 31 months."

"This poor kid was beat to death for being who he was," Godoy said in an interview, adding that the case was about "the very freedom to be who we are and to believe what we want, and love who we want, and not to be afraid when we walk out the door.'

This story was compiled from articles from the Arizona Daily Star, Tucson Citizen and information provided by Wingspan and the Wingspan Anti-Violence Project.]



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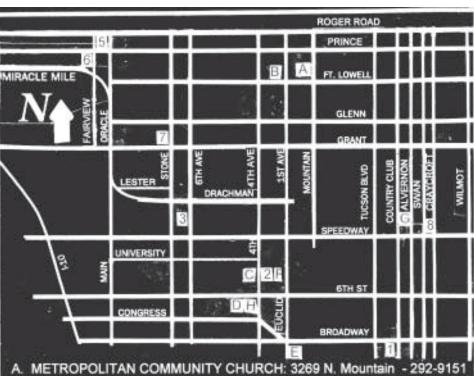
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#### **Creator Says Sponge Bob Not Gay**

LOS ANGELES - In a pattern that seems unavoidable for some handsome Hollywood stars but rare for chipper cartoon characters, SpongeBob's people have mobilized to deny rumors that he and his friends are Gay, the PlanetOut Network reported.

"I never intended them to be Gay," said Stephen Hillenburg, creator of SpongeBob SquarePants and his cartoon neighbors, in an interview Friday, January 28, with the Reuters news agency. "I consider them to be almost asexual."

Hillenburg made the comments from Singapore, where the "SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" makes its Asian premiere on Sunday, January 23. He made similar comments in 2002 after the media reported that SpongeBob items were big sellers among Gay consumers.

SpongeBob SquarePants, an animated kitchen sponge, is the title star of a Nickelodeon children's show. His home is a pineapple in an underwater neighborhood, and he has been known to hold hands with his best friend, Patrick, a starfish.

The rumor mill regarding SpongeBob's sexuality kicked back into gear last week when Christian leader James Dobson alerted fellow conservatives and members of his Focus on the Family group to a "pro-homosexual video" that stars SpongeBob and other popular characters from children's shows. The video — which includes the characters singing a version of "We Are Family" — will be distributed to 61,000 U.S. public schools in March.

Several LGBT groups objected to claim from conservatives that SpongeBob had an "insidious" influence on children, and several columnists poked fun at Dobson for "outing" the cartoon

Glennda Testone, spokeswoman for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), said the forthcoming SpongeBob video "encourages kids to respect and embrace difference. Dobson and company want exactly the opposite."

"SpongeBob creates this kind of inclusion and appears as an endearing character for all children, including those whose lives include difference," said Aimee Gelnaw, executive director of the Washington-based Family Pride Coali-

Days after the SpongeBob flap emerged, Margaret Spelling, the new U.S. education secretary, started another cartoon controversy. In a letter to the president of PBS, she objected to an episode of "Postcards from Buster" in which a cartoon bunny visits several children in Vermont, including those of two Lesbian couples.

Gelnaw, however, was quick to emphasize the family values of the two cartoons.

"As is the case with all children, the children of LGBT parents need images that mirror their lives," she told the PlanetOut Network. "We applaud the makers of Buster and SpongeBob and any other media that invites our children fully into the world by representing them in the stories that they tell."

## character.

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#### Gay Man Refused Entry To Britain **Because Homosexuality Is Illegal**

LONDON - A Gay Ugandan man has been denied a visa to enter Britain because there is a warrant for his arrest in his home country - a warrant that was issued because he is Gay, 365Gay.com reported.

Chris Stentaza had been invited to the UK by the Church of England. Stentaza had been a teacher at an Anglican run school in Uganda but was fired and forced to go into hiding after speaking at a conference of Gay Christians in Manchester 15 months ago.

Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda, punishable by lengthy prison terms.

Stentaza was rejected for a visa by the British high commission in the Ugandan capital of Kampala based only on the fact that a warrant had been issued on charges of "crimes against nature".

He had been invited to the UK to meet Canon Gregory Cameron, the secretary to the church's commission responsible for last October's Windsor report which investigated ways of keeping the worldwide communion together in the wake of the election of an openly Gay bishop in the US.

The primates of the worldwide church will meet next month to discuss the report and Canon Cameron is taking soundings from different church groups before they do so.

Canon Cameron said that Stentaza's views could have been important to the outcome of the meetings.

The head of the Ugandan Anglican Church, the Most Rev Henry Orombi, has called on US Episcopalians to "repent of their unbiblical behaviour and teaching" for electing Gene Robinson, the Gay bishop of New Hampshire.

The Rev Colin Coward, the director of the Church of England's Gay lobby group Changing Attitudes, said it was outrageous to deny Stentaza a visa.

"The British government is failing to recognize that there are people applying for visas who need support and encouragement to enable them to take part in the church's consultation processes. It was important for Christ's voice to be heard.'

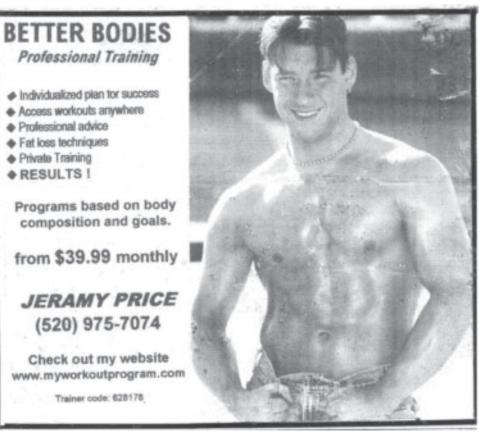
Changing Attitudes was sponsoring Stentaza's trip and had paid for his ticket.

The refusal of a visa to Stentaza came only days after Gay rights leader Peter Tatchell was briefly arrested for staging a protest during a Holocaust memorial at Parliament where he assailed the government for ignoring the pleas of asylum seekers and sending them back to their homelands.

Pleading with MPs and other attendees not to let the Holocaust occur again, Tatchell said that people seeking asylum from genocide and persecution are often turned away.







#### NOTE: FROM THE FOR-REAL JIDE

#### **Closing I-10**

I've lived and worked in Tucson long enough that almost nothing the local government could do would surprise me-And I've learned not to expect too much from the local press. That said, the proposal to close every downtown exit and entrance to 1-10 for three years and the limp journalistic response occasioned by said proposal suffice to strain the credulity of The most hardened cynic.

There seems to be general confusion about what will happen if this project goes through as planned. Although I'm not an expert on transportation or economics, I feel the confidence to predicts disastrous traffic mess and a crippling of many businesses. I'm not a medical expert either, but I'd be equally willing to predict serious problems for any patient who had the major blood vessels going to and from his heart tied off for three years

But what do the actual experts say? According to the January 23rd issue of the Arizona Daily Star, Mark Dunbar, assistant engineer for the Tucson district of the Arizona Department of Transportation, said. 'Our studies show the frontage roads functioning beautifully...'

What a relief! A public official who's not asleep at the wheel. They've got studies. They're not just blindly jumping off a cliff.

Now all we need to know is when and where and by whom were these studies done. What exactly were the studies designed to prove or disprove? How exactly were the studies conducted? And, most important of all, how exactly do the findings of these studies relate to the issues raised by the proposed project?

It would also be nice to know, for those of us who don't like to take the word of public officials on faith, where we skeptics could go to look up and read these studies for ourselves. I suppose that it should go without saying that the STAR article raised none of these questions.

The article does quote some local worthies on their state of doubt regarding the impact of the project. Jonathan Walker, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau, said, "It's tough to tell exactly what impact it's going to have, but I honestly don't think that its going to be much of a negative impact at all...' Donovan Durband. executive director of the Downtown Alliances said to believe that businesses in the heart of the city will be squeezed from both sides.

It's tough for me to tell what the source of all this doubt and confusion is. I perieve that it's somebody's job to find out what the impact will be, say the somebodies who are paid to run the City or the somebodies who are paid to report on

Heavens to Betsy! Is Tucson the very first city in the history of the United States to widen the portion of its interstate that goes through its downtown? Are we really about to go where no other city has dared to go. If so, shouldn't we be getting hazardous duty pay of something?

If not, if this type of project has actually been attempted somewhere else before now, wouldn't it be prudent to study whatever attempts have been made to find out what impacts they had, what problems arose and how they were solved? C'mon Tucson, this isn't rocket science.

If you're about to jump off a cliff you look over the edge to see what you'll be landing on. If at all possible, you observe the effects of the jump on previous

jumpers. You might end up in a nice warm ocean. You might end up in a pool of your own blood.

The project is supposed to take three years. The Star article fails to ask where that figure came from.

Doesn't it have to come from somewhere? What were the planners looking at to get that number? Were they in their backyards stargazing when the Milky Way formed itself into the shape of

Hey, I know! Why doesn't some reporter ask them? Maybe they have some definite reason based on engineering -messing around with facts and figures-for why it has to be three years instead of two or one or four or five.

Maybe the engineering was (choose one) excellent, good, average, poor, failing. Considering the enormous impact that the project could have, wouldn't it be nice to know that the threeyear figure was based on excellent engineering backed up by at least one second opinion that was also based on excellent engineering?

[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 ]

#### **Researcher Says HPV Vaccine** May Be A Year Away

LEBANON - Diane Harper, a researcher at Norris Cotton Cancer Center, has studied the link between human papillomavirus infection and cervical cancer for 20 years, the Associated Press reported on Advocate.com.

Harper now believes she may have found a vaccine that protects against the two strains of HPV that are linked to 70% of cervical cancers. The vaccine, made by GlaxoSmithKline, was tested from 2000 to 2003 on 1,113 women ages 15 to 25 from the United States, Canada, and Brazil. In women who received three injections and follow-up testing, the vaccine was 100% effective. In those who received only one or two injections, the vaccine proved to be 91% effective. The vaccine offers protection for three to five years. No side effects, except for pain or redness at the injection site, were reported, said Harper, who added that she is an independent researcher and is not paid by GlaxoSmithKline.

"It offers such an advantage for women and such a change in health care, one that we will actually see in the next five years," Harper said of the vaccine. If approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it could be available early next year. "I'm extremely excited about the possibilities.'

According to preliminary findings, said Harper, the vaccine may protect against HPV-associated diseases such as anal cancer, vaginal cancer, vulvular cancer, esophageal cancer, abnormal Pap smears, and mouth or oral cancer. "It's going to take us 20 to 30 years to get the data, but we're really hopeful this has long-term protective effects," she said.

The vaccine is now in phase III trials—the final step before licensing the drug for general use—and involves 15,000 women worldwide. If approved, said Harper, the vaccine would be recommended for girls ages 10 to 12 with booster immunizations later. Harper and her research team also are examining an HPV vaccination for men, who often



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unknowingly carry the infection.

HPV is believed to be the most common sexually transmitted disease among Gav men. Studies suggest that more than half of all sexually active Gay men and as many as 90% of HIV-positive Gay men carry HPV. The virus can cause anal or genital warts, and certain strains have been linked with an increased risk of anal cancer.

FOR SHOWTIMES



Dear Dr. X,

What is going on with Syphilis? I see stuff everywhere talking about it, but I thought the US got rid of it for good in the eighties. How did it come back? Is it something that "immigrants" are bringing into our country?

Signed, Nervous

Dear Nervous,

I will choose to believe that the latter part of your question is due to sheer and overwhelming ignorance and not racism. And since you have asked for understanding, I will try to help you.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection caused by the Treponema pallidum bacteria. It is easily and most often spread through sexual contact (through semen and blood), but may also be spread through non-sexual contact with skin that has a sore or rash on it. Since syphilis is bacterial, there is no vaccination available to keep you from getting it (like Hepatitis A and B), and therefore it is almost impossible to "get rid of" in the way that you are talking about. On the up side, since it is bacterial, it is much easier to control and treat than a viral infection. Though the US had seen a decrease in the number of cases in the nineties, we are now seeing an increase in virtually every major city. Tucson has also seen an increase-about triple the number of new cases in recent

The best way to prevent syphilis is to not have sex. Since that is not a reasonable or viable option for most men, here is the second best way: use That thin latex barrier condoms!



prevents contact between healthy skin and skin with a rash or sore, and prevents exposure to infected semen or blood. This applies to both anal and oral sex. Remember, though, that you can still get syphilis from non-genital contact, such as from a rash or sore on someone's hand or

The good news about syphilis is that it is easy to treat if caught early. A few doses of antibiotics and you're back in the game. Dr. X suggests that you get tested for syphilis (along with HIV and other STD's) about every three months if you are sexually active and in a non-monogamous relationship. The good folks at the Pima County Health Department can take care of all your STD needs at the Theresa Lee Clinic. You can call them at (520) 624-8272 for hours and other info.

Dear Dr. X,

I read your column in the paper, but don't go to the Gay bars yet because I'm not 21 for six more months. All my friends are younger than me, and most are straight. I don't really know any Gay guys over 21. I'm scared of how to talk to guys when I can finally go out. Any ideas?

Signed, Young and Dumb

Dear Young,

You are not dumb, just a bit

scared of the unknown. What you are talking about is the entry into a whole new environment for you, and possibly a dramatic personal change. This would be scary and daunting for anyone.

My first piece of advice is not to worry about it too much. I know that is easier said than done, but try. When you are finally able to go to the bars, talk to guys there the same way you talk to guys now. Just be yourself. There is nothing you need to change about who you are just because you turn 21. Talk to lots and lots of people. When you connect with someone, go from there. Don't worry about the ones you don't connect withyou can't be best friends with everyone.

My second piece of advice is to not focus too much on building your Gay adult life around the Gay bars. They are great meeting places for other Gay men in a comfortable setting, but remember to balance out your life. Surround yourself with a mixture of folks with all sorts of gender identities and preferences. Clubs offer a place to party and have a good time with friends, but try to have fun with these people, and other people, outside those club walls. Go hiking. Play sports. Have parties at home. Travel. Do things with friends that create memories for all of you that don't involve bar life.

And finally, a word about

alcohol. Though it would be naïve of me to believe that you have been waiting until you turn 21 to try alcohol for the first time, I also know that it will soon be so much more of a temptation than it has ever been, because it will be so easily available. When you start going out to bars, Gay or straight, be careful. It will be easy to get very drunk, very quickly. Have a good time, and be Don't drive if you've been drinking-take a taxi. Take condoms with you (just in case), and remember to use them. And surround yourself with friends who care about you and will watch out for you when you need it.

I don't know of an official "buddy" program for folks just turning 21 or just coming out, but if you still feel too nervous about it, write back and I'll see what I can do about finding a buddy for you from perhaps either Wingspan or Eon Youth Lounge who can help show you the ropes. Good luck!

[Do you have burning questions with no answer in sight? Ask Dr. X! Send your questions to Dr. X at gmhp@saaf.org or mail them to SAAF/GMHP, 375 S. Euclid, Tucson, AZ 85719. You can also check out Dr. X online at www.gmhp.org.]

#### City Ordered To Pay \$1.3 **Million To Gay Musical**

SAN JUAN - A federal court has ordered the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, to pay the producers of the Gay musical Naked Boys Singing \$1.3 million in compensation for closing the campy musical a day before it was to open at the state-owned Tapia Theatre in 2003, 365Gay.com reported.

The show was shuttered by the Public Safety Commissioner, Adalberto Mercado, and officials from both the Teatro Tapia Board of Directors and the city of San Juan, after seeing a technical rehearsal.

At the time, San Juan mayor Jorge Santini was quoted in the media as calling the production "immoral."

The hit off-Broadway show was to have run 5 weekends.

Following the city's order to shut down the production the San Juan producers, Ulises Rodriguez and Raymond Gerena, sued Mayor Jorge Santini and the City of San Juan for damages and reparations and for constitutional violations of freedom of speech.

"This court case is another indication of the world still fighting against freedom of speech and homosexual themes in culture," says Carl D. White, Leader, Martian Entertainment, and General Manager of the Naked Boys Singing! world brand.

Last December the Atlanta production of Naked Boys Singing was shut down after police said the show bar in which it was playing didn't have an adult

The charges were later dropped after mayor Shirley Franklin interceded.

"Naked Boys Singing," is billed as a musical revue that "celebrates the splendors of male nudity in comedy, song and dance." It features six male actors who are in the buff for much of the performance.

The New York production of the show is now in its sixth year where it has been critically acclaimed. A Chicago production is in its third year and it just opened in Indianapolis. It has been translated into six languages and has played Sao Paulo Brazil, Sidney Australia, Rome, London, Paris, and has toured Norway.

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#### Woody's

3710 N. Oracle Road Wednesday March 16, 2005 Time: 7 pm - 10 pm

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# UPDATE

#### Joan Berry To Step Down From GLAAD

NEW YORK - Joan M. Garry will step down from the top post at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in June, the organization announced Friday, January 28, Advocate.com reported.

"I look back at the past eight years as the most professionally and personally rewarding of my life," Garry said in a statement. "And now feels like the right time to pass the baton. This job requires significant travel, and right now I'd like to travel less, be at home more, and spend a bit more time with my kids and my partner."

GLAAD's board has hired a search firm to help find a replacement for Garry.

#### Gay Architect Philip Johnson Dead At 98 NEW CANAAN - Trend-setting Gay U.S. The cause of his death was

NEW CANAAN - Trend-setting Gay U.S. architect Philip Johnson, whose glass skyscrapers helped define America's urban landscape, has died at age 98, his lawyer's office said on Wednesday, January 26, Advocate.com reported.

Johnson was at home in New Canaan, Conn., when he died on Tuesday evening, January 25, according to the office of attorney Joel Ehrenkranz.

The cause of his death was not immediately available. Johnson was a prolific designer whose creations include the so-called Glass House, a transparent box, in Connecticut; the New York State Theater; New York City's Asia House; and the American Telephone & Telegraph Building in Manhattan, which is known as the Chippendale Building and is now owned by Sony.

#### **Gay Man Beheaded After Sex**

VADODARA - An 18 year old has been charged with murder after the torso and severed head of a co-worker were discovered in the outskirts of Vadodara, India, 365Gay.com reported.

Police say that Naushad Pathan hacked off the head of the victim, identified only as Dilshad, after they had sex. Investigators said the two men worked in a bakery. The victim allegedly invited Pathan to an abandoned rail yard for sex. The two rode a bicycle to the secluded area.

But, Pathan told police that he felt coerced and afterward "was ashamed." Homosexuality is illegal in India.

Police say they seized a knife and

a bicycle along with blood-stained clothes in Pathan's home.

Under questioning Pathan confessed that before leaving Dilshad he picked up the knife and stabbed him. Pathan said that Dilshad attempted to escape but he overpowered him and then severed his head.

He told investigators that he changed his clothes, wrapped the blood-stained clothes in a plastic bag, and returned to the bakery.

When the body was found the next day, bakery owner Raees Khan identified it.

#### **Anti-G/L Amendments Gain Steam**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Constitutional amendments that would bar same-sex marriage are gaining momentum in three more states - South Dakota, Kansas, and Maryland, 365Gay.com reported.

In South Dakota, which already has a so-called Defense of Marriage law, the proposed amendment has 55 House sponsors and 23 Senate sponsors, virtually guaranteeing that it will clear South Dakota's 105-member Legislature.

Lawmakers say they will put the issue on the 2006 ballot.

In Kansas the House is expected to vote on a proposed anti-Gay amendment to that state's Constitution. The measure has



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already passed the Senate.

If approved by the House the amendment would go to voters on April 5

Republican lawmakers say they have enough support to ensure House passage.

"We're fairly certain we have the numbers with a small cushion," said Doug Mays, speaker of the House.

"Marriage is the foundation of our society. This would protect traditional marriage in Kansas."

In the last session a similar amendment was was unexpectedly defeated by five votes.

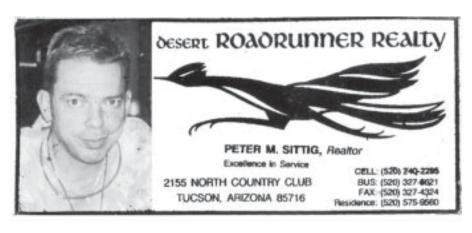
The proposed amendment would not only ban Gay marriage but civil unions as well and prevent the state from offering benefits to domestic partners.

In Maryland, close to 1,000 supporters of an amendment demonstrated in front of the State House Thursday, January 27, to put pressure on the legislature.

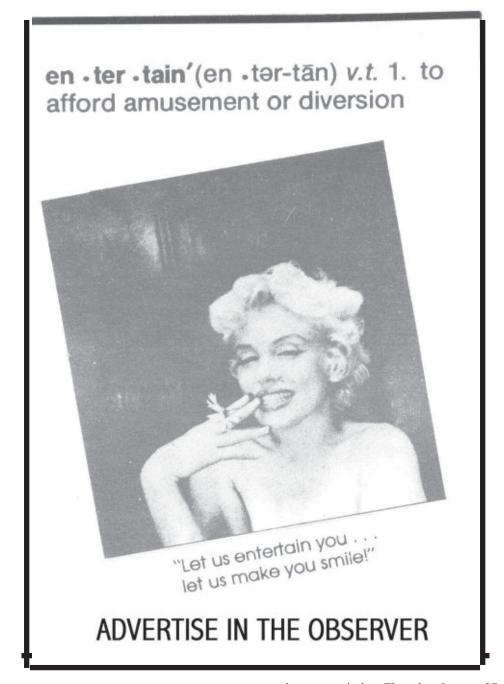
Among the speakers was Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele who said Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. would have spoken at the rally but had a scheduling conflict.

Also on hand was the Rev. Lou Sheldon, founder of the national Traditional Values Coalition.









The protest was organized by church groups opposed to Gay marriage.

An amendment was proposed in Maryland last year, but did not make it out of the House Judiciary Committee.

Meanwhile, in Wisconsin, which is also considering a ban on Gay marriage, close to 400 people opposed to measure demonstrated at

the state capitol on Thursday, January 27.

The proposed amendment, which was approved in the last session of the state Legislature must also be approved in the current one in order to be placed on the state ballot.

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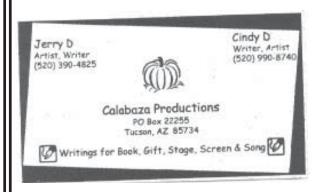
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#### ON-BAR CALENDAR Groups / Clubs / rganizations *i*

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

#1 Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Join Richard and T. Jay for Canasta. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call Richard and T. Jay at 881-7919.

#2 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.

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 27**

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 1:00 p.m. Les hosts a Lunch Out at Colors, Tucson's one and only gay-owned restaurant. For reservations and directions, please call Les at 690-9565.

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

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

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Men's Social Network (open to men of all ages; newcomers welcomed): 7:00 p.m. Steve 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 Steve at 664-2076.

Tucson Prime Timers Food & Drinks, Woody's, 3710 N, Oracle Rd.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 31**

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

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

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

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

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

#### **MONDY, FEBRUARY 14**

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

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

#1 -Tucson Prime Timers, Lunch/Business Meeting -Noon, Home Town Buffet, 5101 N. Oracle Rd.

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

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

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

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

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

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

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



## SAR CALENDA Of Upcoming

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

VENTURE-N - The annual, fabulous Aquarian Party -Mardi Gras Edition - is here along with food at 7:00 p.m., drink specials, Unique Mask Contest at 11:00 p.m. Prizes and surprises. DJ Jerry playing 9:00 p.m. until closing.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Amber Norgaard performs from 6:00 to 9:00 tonight and every Friday in February

#### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Colors Cabaret presents Angela Dodd beginning at 10:00 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS - Super Bowl Party features 6 TVs plus a big screen. Free Give-Aways. \$2.00 Hot Wings during pre-Game. \$1.00 Touchdown Cuervo Shots. \$2.00 Regular Skyy all day.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Super Bowl Party here with free hot dogs, chili, chips and fixin's starting at 4:00 p.m. Eagles & Patriots Shot Specials during the game. Jagermeister promotional items give-aways...

VENTURE-N - 4:00 P..M. Super Bowl XXXIX. Watch the game here. Bar snacks during the game. Beer Bust 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Boss Burgers 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Super Bowl Party 4:00 p.m. Complimentary Burgers 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Karaoke 9:00 p.m. til close.

YARD DOG SALOON - After the game, come on by for a great Steak Dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

WOODY'S - World's biggest Mardi Gras Party Ever. 9:00 p;..m. til close. Tons of beads and masks! Friendly hosts. Drink specials.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

WOODY'S - Valentine's Day Party. Watch for more details.

#### DAILY BAR CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY

COLORS - Fabulous Brunch 11am - 2pm with complimentary mimosa. Dinner 5-10pm..

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open at 10:30 am. Chuckwagon Breakfast 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, includes Bloody Mary or Mimosa. \$2 Smirnoff Sunday. Enjoy the

smooth sounds of Susie Rough 7-10:30pm.
IBT's -Open Noon. \$1.75 Bloodys, Screws or mimosas. til 4pm 4-7:30 Karaoke with Michael D. on the patio 5:30-8 Benefit BBQ for community organizations 7:30-2Am Dance with David Z.All drink specials not

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

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

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

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm for dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beer and well cocktails

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.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8. Free Hot Dogs. WOODY'S - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-

2pm. Karaoke w/Michael D. 9-1 YARD DOG - Open daily 6am. 50¢ off any Scotch

until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

#### **TUESDAY**

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. Happy Hour 4-7pm. Domestic beers and well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30pm to close w/Johnny DJ.

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 Debbie 8-

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio 6pm. Free

Pool til 4pm.
WOODY'S - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-2pm. Bartender Calls It drink specials...

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

#### WEDNESDAY

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5pm dinner. 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. Free Pool all day. Draught Beer Specials all day. Beginning couples dance lessons with Amanda 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Country DJ Jake plays 8:30 - close

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-2pm. 2Free Hot Dog Buffet 5-11pm. Underwear- fetishleather nite w/Gary and Chris with GMHP. \$1 off any drink or bottled beer. (Excludes draft & schnapps) for all in leather or underwear.

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

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch, 5pm dinner. 4-7pm Happy Hour Domestic Beers or Well cocktails \$2.25. Karaoke 10:30 - close with Johnny DJ.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open at 3 pm. Happy Hour 3 – 8 pm, \$2 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3 sm pitchers, \$5 lg pitchers. \$2.00 Mexican Beers all day. Karaoke with Debbie from 8 to midnight.
IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-7pm,

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

VENTURE-N - Open 8am. Patio open 6pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (4th Thursday of each month). Bring your own or get it here \$5. WOODY'S - Open 10am. Happy Hour 10am-

2pm. Free Pool 8 to close. Volleyball Court is Open. See bartender.

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

COLORS - 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 country dance songs 8:30-midnight then a mix of dance and country until close. Kitchen open 10pm-2am for late night munchies.

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

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

WOODY'S - 10am. Happy Hour 10am-2pm.

Martini Party - Well Martini's \$2.00 3-4pm. Call

Martinis \$3 from 3-4pm. Complimentary Shrimp Cocktail 4-8pm. Patio Bar Open 7pm - midnight. YARD DOG - Open daily 6am.50¢ off any Gin

until 7pm. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Kennel open 9pm.

COLORS - Open 11am for lunch; 5-10pm full dinner.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm. DJ 9-1.
WOODY'S - Open 10am. Happy Hour

10am-2pm. Patio Bar opens 5pm. 5-9pm Steak or Mahi Mahi BBQ with all the trimmings \$5.

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



## 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

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 575-8660 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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

#### YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 300 E. 6th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call529-2269, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww,org

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

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

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

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 300 E. 6th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

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

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave 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 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, 7pm at Sentinel Bldg. On the City of Tucson Resource Campus, 310 N. Commerce Park Loop on Bonita St. between St. Marys and Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NET-WORK (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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLI-ANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-variant advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3nd 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 multichoice 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, 300 E. 6th Street. 743-

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.

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

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

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"

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

LIKE TO READ?

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> 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.



#### **FBI Probes Boy Scouts Over Phantom Members** In Gay Ban Wake

NEW YORK - The FBI is investigating the Boy Scouts of America amid allegations the organization is inflating its membership to gain funding, 365Gay.com reported.

Membership in the BSA has declined since a 2000 Supreme Court ruling that held that the Boys Scouts and its affiliates can prohibit Gays. The high court said the constitution gave scouts the right to choose its members. The Scouts also prohibits atheists.

A number of cities banned the scouts from using public facilities, and charitable groups like some United Way chapters cut off the scouts.

But, in cities where agencies like the United Way continues to fund the BSA it is alleged that troops are being encouraged to list fake names as members to boost enrolment making the group eligible for more money.

Federal agents are probing local councils in at least three states - Alabama, Georgia, and Texas.

"The BSA national leadership continues not to follow their own oath of honesty," Scott Cozza. of Scouting For All told 365Gay.com.

"This isn't the way to deal with dwindling numbers - being inclusive is."

In Birmingham, Alabama, boy Scout volunteer Tom Willis said he knew something was wrong when he saw that 20 youngsters on the list for a scouting program all had the same last name: Doe.

"It was just so blatant, Willis told the Associated Press. "They didn't even try to make up names," said Willis, a dentist from Decatur and a former Eagle Scout who serves on the board of the

Greater Alabama Boy Scout Council, which runs scouting programs in northeastern Alabama.

The FBI refused to comment on its investigation. Greg Shields, a spokesman at the Boy Scouts' national office in Irving, Texas, said the organization has numerous policies meant to ensure the accuracy of its membership rolls, and is "dedicated to the accurate reporting of membership."

The Greater Alabama Council claimed 10,000 new Scouts that year, and tax forms show it had revenue of \$6.5 million, including \$100,709 in government grants. In a United Way funding application, the group said it served almost 120,000 youths and adults in 2003.

"I would say the numbers are probably inflated 30 to 40 percent in our council," Willis said.

Federal prosecutors have sub-poenaed the Boy Scouts' grant applications, audits and tax forms from 1999 through last year from the United Way of Central Alabama.

Nationally, the Boy Scouts claim 1.2 million adult leaders and 3.2 million youth members in six programs, including the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts.

Suspicions have led to investigations elsewhere. In Texas, a Scout group removed thousands of names from its membership rolls and a federal grand jury two years ago looked into the matter. No charges were filed.

In Atlanta, independent auditors are investigating claims the metropolitan area's Boy Scouts inflated black membership numbers to 20,000 to gain more donations. A civil rights leader contends there are no more than 500 blacks actively

#### ResidentsWon't Go Down Gay Road

PEORIA - Residents who live on Gay Road in nearby Marquette Heights, Ill., have successfully petitioned to rename their street Hennepin Road. They wanted the name changed because they were being harassed and teased due to the word "Gay" in their address. The city council voted 4-1 to change the name, the Peoria Journal-Star reported Tuesday, January

Darlene Elmore, a Gay Road resident, signed the petition to change the name because "of the taunting she and her children have endured. It's unfortunate people are cruel like they are," she told the newspaper. "It would just be nicer all around if it were changed."

Yet, there's no homosexual connection to Gay Road. It was named after Picard du Gay, an explorer from the 1600s, according to the newspaper. Hennepin also explored the area with du Gay and will now be honored with a street.

City alderwoman Susan Hoover opposed the change. "I think we should be proud of the exploration our forefathers did," Hoover told the newspaper. "[Du Gay] didn't do anything to disgrace his name. I feel like [changing it] was saying something was wrong with the man's name."

Let's hope Marquette Heights doesn't have a Kinsey Avenue.

#### **Cop Wins Gay Discrimination Suit**

NEW YORK - A former Suffolk County police officer Friday, January 28, was awarded \$270,000 for the abuse he suffered once fellow officers learned he was Gay, reported 365Gay.com.

For a decade, John Weeks says, he was a respected and decorated officer on the Long Island force. But, that all changed when fellow officers discovered his sexuality.

Weeks had filed a \$10 million civil lawsuit that claimed he was discriminated against and placed in a hostile work environment because of his sexuality.

In court he testified that he regularly found offensive posters and writings on police department walls and billboards.

Weeks testified that he had a long term relationship with another officer. When the relationship soured the man filed a complaint with Internal Affairs. The nature of the complaint was not revealed and the other officer has not

been named.

But, whatever the complaint was it led to a raid on Weeks home. He told the court that one day in December 1999, Internal Affairs officers searched his home computer and found he had visited various Gay Web sites.

Weeks testified that suddenly fellow officers who he thought were friends avoided him and over the next few years, he endured humiliating insults from co-workers and supervisors.

"Somebody wrote on a bathroom wall, 'Weeks will die like Matthew Shepard," Weeks lawyer Rick Ostrove told the court.

"I believe you will find John Weeks was subjected to severe and pervasive harassment at work," said Ostrove.

Weeks was fired from the force last April, several months after he took a leave from his duties because of emotional

