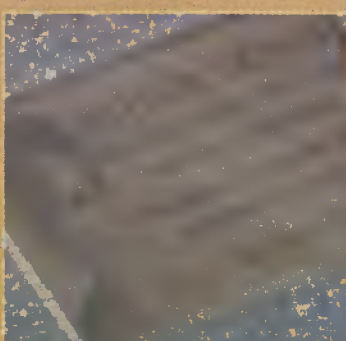


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President endorses 'Marriage Protection Week'

LGBT groups respond with 'Marriage Equality Week'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Marriage Protection Week, a time set aside by nearly two-dozen right-wing groups for targeted advocacy against same-sex marriage, was observed Oct. 12-18. Participants nationwide organized public rallies, collected petition signatures, lobbied elected officials and more to stop gays and lesbians from securing marriage rights.

The campaign was bolstered by an Oct. 3 proclamation from President George W. Bush officially recognizing Marriage Protection Week. LGBT and progressive activists were outraged by the move.

"By issuing this proclamation, the president has added the prestige and credibility of his office to these groups' attacks," said Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

In his decree, Bush tried to downplay the discriminatory aspects of Marriage Protection Week by avoiding any reference to same-sex marriage.

The document's only nod toward his position appeared in the phrase "marriage is a union between a man and a woman." The remainder of the proclamation extolled the virtues of marriage and the president's support of it, though one statement stood out as an olive branch to gays: "And we must continue to create a compassionate, welcoming society, where all people are treated with dignity and respect."

But opponents were not placated by such political maneuvering.



Despite protests from LGBT organizations, President George W. Bush endorsed 'Marriage Protection Week.'

Matt Foreman, the executive director of the

see MARRIAGE on 4

Mystery surrounds apparent suicide pact of CA lesbian couple

Depression and financial woes possibly led to deaths

by Paul Dehn

GORDA SPRINGS, Calif. — Residents of the tiny seaside town of Gorda Springs, Calif., have been rocked by an ongoing investigation into the deaths of a lesbian couple found dead in an ocean-view resort which frequently caters to celebrities and the wealthy. Police have uncovered what appears to be a bizarre suicide pact between the two.

The women, who shared a home in Long Beach, left several letters in their cabin at the Gorda Springs Resort, Monterey County sheriff's Cmdr. Fred Garcia told the [San Jose] Mercury News. "In the reading of the letters, it appears they were very despondent, very unhappy," Garcia said.



Abigail Tapia and Jacqueline Toves were found in this bed at the Gorda Springs Resort after an apparent double suicide.

They also appeared to have been planning their deaths for some time. One letter is dated a month ago, the other was an ongoing journal kept by computer. Abigail Tapia, 27, and Jacqueline Toves, 26, were found side-by-side and face-up on a queen-size bed, wearing t-shirts and panties, with garbage bags taped securely over their heads. Toves was wearing a grinning Halloween mask over the bag, while a feathered mardi gras-styled mask lay on the night stand by Tapia. Both women's hands were bound with duct tape, although Tapia's were wrapped loosely enough so her hands hung at her side.

"There was no indication of foul play, and there was no indication of

see MYSTERY on 12

Schwarzenegger appoints conservative lesbian to transition team

Lesbian Tammy Bruce is a feminist, pro-choice FOX News commentator who accuses the 'radical gay elite' of targeting children

by Ed Walsh

LOS ANGELES, Calif.

— She believes the "radical gay elite" targets children, is "dis-mayed" by the issue of transgender rights and is a good friend and strong supporter of Dr. Laura Schlessinger. She is also the former president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization of Women, openly lesbian and now one of the 65 members of the transition team for California's Governor-Elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Tammy Bruce: 'GLSEN is a national organization with one thing in mind: getting to your child through the open door at school.'

Tammy Bruce, the author of "The New Thought Police," and more recently, "The Death of Right and Wrong," told listeners to her radio talk show on KABC in Los Angeles this week that her views in support of a fiscally conservative government as well as support for gay rights and abortion rights are in sync with

see APPOINTS on 6