Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

AZ Marriage Amendment A Step Closer To Ballot

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - A proposed amendment to the Arizona Constitution barring the governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriage has moved a step closer to being place on the November general election ballot.

On Thursday, February 21, the Senate Public Safety and Human Services (PSHS) Committee held hearings on SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1038.

SCR 1038 would place on the ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as between "one man and one woman."

At the hearing, the Chair of the PSHS Committee, Senator Linda Gray (R-Glendale), announced that testimony on SCR 1038 would not be heard.

By a vote of (4-1, with two Senators, Rebecca Rios (D-Hayden) and Leah Landrum Taylor (D-Phoenix) not voting), SCR 1038 was approved by the committee. Subsequent explanations for their votes then followed.

Senator Victor Soltero (D-Tucson), who voted against SCR 1038, stated "As I understand it, what this supposedly says and does already exists in statute. Actually, I really wonder why we have this bill here but that is a different story. For those reasons I vote 'No'."

PSHS Committee Chair, Senator Linda Gray (R-Glendale) stated "We have this in statute right now but with the change of two people in the Senate and probably two people in the House of Representatives that could very well change. That is why I think the public should go ahead and vote and support it. It is not the same bill that was on the ballot a few years ago. The benefit portion is what has been deleted from this and I think that is why it failed the last time by just one percent. So we will see how it goes this time with just the definition of marriage and with that I vote 'Aye'."

In explanation of his vote, Vice-Chair Senator Jack Harper (R-Surprise) stated "It is not a matter of whether or not this is already in statute. There are several things that we have done in statute and the Governor has done something different by executive order and many would say her executive orders are unconstitutional. She knows that we have a shaky majority in this legislature and probably could not get the votes to authorize the Senate President and Speaker of the House to sue and overturn one of her unconstitutional executive orders. This Governor has shown time and time again that she is willing to test the constitutionality of her actions including giving state benefits to unmarried partners. The Governor is stretching the limits of what she can do by executive order and that is why there needs to be a constitutional amendment and that is why I vote 'Aye'."

Senator Jack Hopper (R-Sunrise)

Senator Linda Gray (R-Glendale)

Senator Victor Soltero (D-Tucson)

SCR 1038 now goes to the Senate Rules Committee for review over the language in the proposed measure.

HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065 awaits to be heard by the House Rules Committee, which like its Senate counterpart, reviews bills to make sure the language is proper and constitutional.

If both bills are approved by each chamber, the measure will be placed on the November general election ballot.

Equality Arizona has set up an online activism page on their website, to take action go online to: eqfed.org/campaign/hcr2065.

Dying Lesbian's Partner Denied Access To Her

MIAMI, Florida (Observer Update) - Janice Langbehn and Lisa Pond had planned to take their three children on a family cruise. The Olympia, Washington couple had been together 18 years and with their children were looking forward to the holiday.

But just as they were about to depart on the cruise from Miami, Florida. Pond, a healthy 39-year-old, suddenly collapsed. She was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami with Langbehn and the children following close behind.

But once Langbehn and the children arrived at the hospital the hospital refused to accept information from her about Ponds's medical history. Langbehn says she was informed that she was in an anti-Gay city and state, and she could expect to receive no information or acknowledgment as family.

A doctor finally spoke with Janice telling her that there was no chance of recovery. Other than one five minute visit, which was orchestrated by a Catholic priest at Langbehn's request to perform last rites, and despite the doctor's acknowledgement that no medical reason existed to prevent visitation, neither she nor her children were allowed to see Pond until nearly eight hours after their arrival.

Soon after Pond''s death, Langbehn tried to get her death certificate in order to get life insurance and Social Security benefits for their children. She was denied both by the State of Florida and the Dade County Medical Examiner.

With the help of Lambda Legal Langbehn has notified Jackson Memorial Hospital that she intends to file a lawsuit.

"There is nothing that can make up for what my children and I endured that day," Langbehn says of the day Pond died. "We only want the hospital to take responsibility for how they treated us and ensure that it doesn't happen to another family."

In accordance with Florida law, Lambda Legal is waiting for the hospital to respond to the notice of intent to sue before formally filing a complaint with the court.

"The treatment that Janice and her children received was unethical and discriminatory," said Beth Littrell, Staff Attorney for Lambda Legal.

"This letter puts them on notice that we are advocating for justice for Janice and her children."

Gay Man Bequeaths $65 Million To LGBT Groups

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) - Ric Weiland, one of Microsoft's first fiv eleven LGBT charities, PageOneQ has learned. The bequest includes multi-million dollar gifts to Seattle's Pride Foundation, Lambda Legal, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The bequest, the largest ever in support of the LGBT movement, will establish a fund at the Pride Foundation in the amount of $65 million. The largest will support the foundation's grantmaking programs, an amount the Seattle Times has reported as $19 million. An additional $46 million in the fund will be distributed to national LGBT charities. The Pride Foundation provides scholarships and grants to LGBT students and organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Weiland, a Seattle resident, was a former board member and volunteer at the organization.

After the Pride Foundation grant, the second largest gift in the bequest was to Lambda Legal, an organization that seeks LGBT equality through legal work and advocacy in state and federal courts. The gift to Lambda, in excess of $10 million, like the other bequests, will be distributed over the course of eight years.

Weiland was known in his lifetime as a generous supporter of charities, including the Pride Foundation, Seattle's United Way, and the National Audubon Society.

Among other groups, bequests were left to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network of $1.6 million and $600,000 respectively. A full listing of the estate's gifts, including large bequests to NGLTF, AmFar and others will be released in a statement later today.

Ric Weiland

Weiland, who was high school friends with Microsoft founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen, was remembered by Allen as "a good friend, a terrific computer programmer and a very generous man," in a statement to be released by the Pride Foundation and obtained by PageOneQ. "His gift to the Pride Foundation demonstrates his compassion and dedication to the community, and I'm very proud to have had him as a friend."

"Ric's gift is a testament to his generosity of spirit and an example of the generosity he showed during his lifetime," explained the head of one group, contacted by PageOneQ, of its pending multi-million dollar gift.

Weiland, who committed suicide by self-inflicted gunshot in June of 2006, is survived by his partner Mike Schaefer, and nieces and nephews.

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UPDATE

Kolbe Endorses McCain's Bid

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Former U.S. Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), who is Gay, voiced his support for the presidential candidacy of Sen. John McCain in an interview with the Washington Blade.

In the interview, Kolbe called himself "a close friend of John McCain" and a "strong supporter" of his fellow Arizonian. "What is particularly encouraging about John McCain is that he helps the ticket overall for Republicans ... because he does make Democrats and independents very comfortable, so I think he's going to be a strong candidate."

McCain was a supporter in 2006 of Arizona's Proposition 107, which if approved by the voters, would have barred governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships. The Arizona Senator also voted for bar openly Gay and Lesbian citizens from serving openly in the armed services (Don't Ask, Don't Tell.)

Free Beginners Computer Classes For Seniors, March1

TUCSON (Observer Update) - If you have always wanted to know more about using a computer and your friends are bugging you to wade into the cyberworld, this is a perfect opportunity. You'll learn, Saturday, March 1, 10:00-11:30 a.m., from the proven OASIS model in the company of other LGBT seniors in Wingspan's computer lab, 425 E. 7th Street. Classes are being taught by the talented and knowledgeable Wingspan volunteer, Rick.

The Internet is more than just a place to send and get email. Come to this two hour class and learn the best way to search for the information you want. You will actually get to try out some search strategies online.

Space is limited so contact Penelope at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, ext. 122 to reserve a spot for you.

Lesbian Speed Dating March 1

TUCSON - Imagine walking into a room packed full of single women, knowing you'll get to meet 100% of them! It's like cramming five years' worth of dating into ONE night!

Speed dating is the latest craze which lets you 'date' up to 25 people one-on-one in a couple of hours. Speed dating is not about blind dates, nor is it a personal dating service, it's about meeting a group of singles and having fun. There is no wasted time, no awkwardness, ...and the best part? There's absolutely no fear of rejection! Contact details are only passed on if both parties are interested.

Cost: free, (a small donation of your choice is graciously accepted to cover expenses.) Time: Saturday, March 1, event starts at 3:00 p.m. at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Road (SE corner of Prince & Fairview). Important! Please RSVP with Robyn Serlin at rps75@mac.com to ensure your seat. You must have an email address to participate in this event.

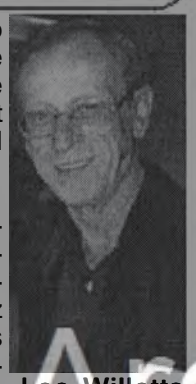
TIHAN Seeks Volunteers

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Volunteer with the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN). TIHAN has CarePartners–people living with HIV/AIDS–on a waiting list in need of a CareTeam. Several wonderful volunteers have stepped forward, but more are needed. Please make a difference in someone's life today and become a TIHAN Volunteer.

Your first step to volunteering is attending one of TIHAN's Orientations, which the next one takes place Tuesday, March 11, 1:00-5:00 p.m., at TIHAN, 1011 N. Craycroft Rd., #301 (Speedway and Craycroft). In just one evening or afternoon, you will experience an HIV 101 presentation, be inspired by a panel discussion by persons living with HIV, and hear an overview of TIHAN's programs, services and volunteer opportunities. Six times a year, TIHAN offers a Volunteer Orientation, and March 11th is your next chance.

If you are interested in volunteering at TIHAN or you just want to know more about HIV/AIDS and related issues, please join us. Your cost is only $17.00 and includes a light meal and printed materials. Feel free to pass this information on to your friends, family, co-workers and congregations. For more information about volunteer opportunities contact Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, (520) 299-6647 or email her at kim@tihan.org. To get more information about TIHAN visit the website at tihan.org.

IN MEMORIAM



Lee Willetts

We are very sorry to convey that Lee Willetts, a long time community activist and volunteer, pased away last week.

Lee was active in many organizations and groups, including TIHAN's Poz Cafe, where he and his partner were instrumental in the program's early days, helping create wonderful meals that helped nourish not just stomachs but also hearts and spirits as well. Please keep Lee's partner Alan and Lee's sister Suzanne and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

A service will be held this Saturday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m. at Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church, 3269 N. Mountain Avenue (near Ft. Lowell). If you can bring cookies or brownies for the reception afterwards, it would be much appreciated. Please let us know by e-mailing linkvolunteer@tihan.org.

We will always remember Lee for his contributions to TIHAN and our community, and will miss him greatly,.

The 1st Annual UA QueerPeople Of Color Film Series

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The University of Arizona Office of LGBTQ Affairs presents "The Color of Queer: 1st Annual Queer People of Color Film Series! All films are free and open to everyone and will be shown in Nugent, room 2005, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 28: "Flag Wars" (pbs.org/pov/pov2003/flagwars/). "Flag Wars" is a poignant account of the politics and pain of gentrification. Working-class black residents in Columbus, Ohio fight to hold on to their homes. Realtors and Gay home-buyers see fixer-uppers. The clashes expose prejudice and self-interest on both sides, as well as the common dream to have a home to call your own.

Coming Up: Thursday, March 13: "The Business of Fancydancing" (fallsapart.com/fancydancing/). Seymour Polatkin is a successful, Gay Indian poet from Spokane who confronts his past when he returns to his childhood home on the reservation to attend the funeral of a dear friend. Based upon Sherman Alexie's book of poetry of the same name.

Thursday, April 10: "Saving Face" (sonyclassics.com/savingface/). A Chinese-American surgeon, living in Manhattan, is shocked when her single mother shows up on her doorstep pregnant. To help her mom save face and avoid the taboo in the Chinese community of an unmarried woman pregnant, the doctor helps her mom find Mr. Right. Cultures clash in this film that explores culture shock.

Feel free to bring food for yourself or to share. For map to Nugent: iiewww.ccit.arizona.edu/uamap/staticLarge/40.html. Closest parking available behind Student Union at the Second Street Garage, or on University at the parking meters. For more information, contact Cathy Busha, UA Office of LGBTQ Affairs, (520) 626-1996 or cbusha@email.arizona.edu.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.

If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org

SAAF.org

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

OBSERVER

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'Freeheld: The Laurel Hester Story' Wins Oscar

HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - A documentary film on the struggle by New Jersey police officer Laurel Hester's struggle to have her domestic partner recognized as her next of kin has won an Academy Award, reported 365Gay.com.

Filmmakers Cynthia Wade and Vanessa Roth accept the Academy Award Feb. 24. PHOTO: Joe.My.God

"Freeheld: The Laurel Hester Story" was directed and produced by filmmaker Cynthia Wade. The award was presented Sunday night (February 24) at the 80th Annual Academy Awards, held at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles.

Filmmakers Cynthia Wade and Vanessa Roth accepted by saying, "It was Laurel Hester's dying wish was that her fight against discrimination would benefit all same-sex couples across the country who face discrimination every day." They then lauded Hester's partner, Stacie Andree, who was seated with them in the audience, calling Andree "an auto mechanic by day, but hero by life."

"We are thrilled that this powerful film, one that has the potential to change hearts and minds concerning fairness for Gay couples, has been honored," said Neil Giuliano president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "We congratulate Cynthia Wade on her achievement and say 'bravo' to the Academy for their selection."

Hester had been a lieutenant with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. Diagnosed with terminal cancer she was forced to retire. In late 2005, as the disease progressed she appealed to the Ocean County, New Jersey freeholders to give her same-sex partner her death benefits.

Although New Jersey recognized same-sex couples it left it up to local governments to determine if benefits should be offered the partners of employees.

After listening to her request, and her concern that when she died her partner, Stacie Andree, might lose their home, with little discussion the freeholders rejected the request.

The story was picked up across the country and as pressure mounted on freeholders she was allowed to make a second plea a month later. Filmmaker Wade traveled to Ocean County and chronicled the events that followed.

Too ill to appear in person Hester appeared via video tape from her hospital room. In a frail voice, and often gasping for air, Hester begged for recognition of her partnership with Andree. "All I'm asking for is that you sign the resolution and that you make a change, a change for good, a change for righteousness and a change in the lives of so many people that have dedicated themselves to county government."

After the moving tape was played a second vote was held and resolution passed. A month later Hester died.

"Freeheld: The Laurel Hester Story," premiered last year at the Sundance Film Festival.

Wade said that she promised Hester she would submit the film for consideration for an Academy Award.

Garden State Equality which had lobbied freeholders on Hester's behalf held an Oscar party in New Jersey to watch the awards presentation. Members let out a cheer when the award was presented to "Freeheld".

Garden State Equality chair Steven Goldstein said the film should spur on state lawmakers to amend the civil union law to provide for full marriage for same-sex couples.

"Because of the failure of the civil union law, there are new Laurel Hesters all across New Jersey," said Goldstein.

"Same-sex couples denied equal benefits by employers, struggling to make ends meet, struggling to maintain their dignity, in the face of a civil union law that segregates, discriminates and humiliates."

Laurel Hester and Stacie Andree

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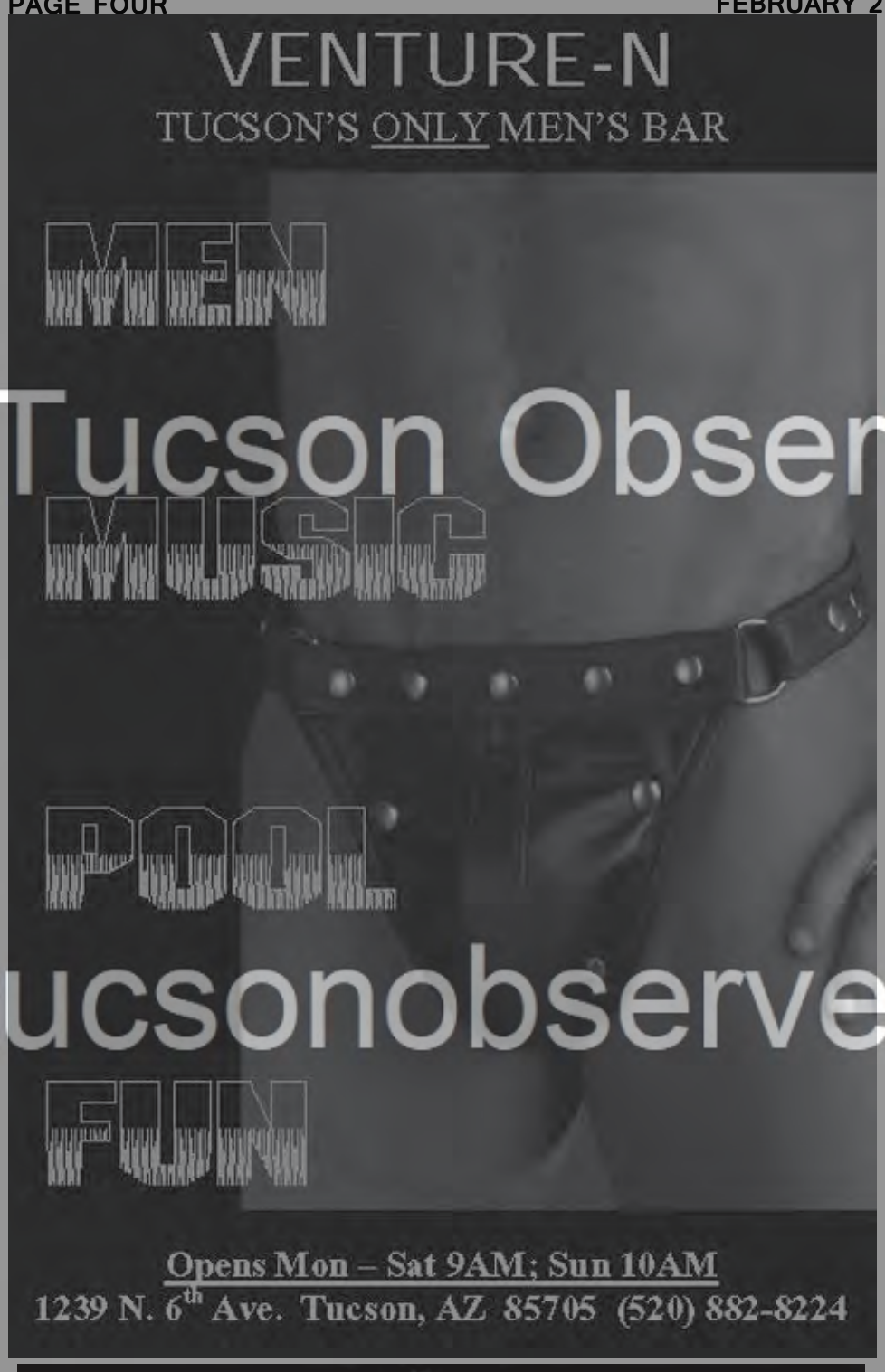


Vast Majority Of Military Officers Support 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

SANTA BARBARA, California (Observer Update) - A new survey of officers in the military believe that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" should be maintained, reported 365Gay.com. Only 22 percent of officers said that the ban on Gays serving openly should be repealed.

The survey was conducted by the Center for a New American Security and by the journal Foreign Policy. Some 3,000 active duty and retired officers at or above the rank of major or lieutenant commander were questioned during December, 2007 and January, 2008.

"These new data are consistent with other surveys which show that among the officer corps, there is little support for repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said Dr. Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara that has conducted extensive studies on Gays and Lesbians in the military.

The new poll included a question, "Which of the following steps do you support to increase recruiting numbers in the U.S. military (choose all that apply)."

Fifty-eight percent said that the military should "allow a larger percentage of those who have GED but not a high school diploma" and 38 percent said that the draft should be reinstated. Only 7 percent said that the "use of criminal, health, and other 'waivers' for service" should be used. Respondents were not given a "don't know," "maybe" or "unsure" option. A separate poll, conducted in the fall of 2006, by Zogby International, found that a majority of enlisted men and women, however, don't care if they are serving with someone who is a homosexual. Three-out-of-four members of the military who are serving in Iraq or recently returned home said they don't care if someone in their unit is Gay.

The poll also found that nearly one in four U.S. troops say they know for sure that someone in their unit is Gay or Lesbian, and of those 59% said they learned about the person's sexual orientation directly from the individual. Since the ban on Gays serving openly was implemented a decade ago more than 11,000 men and women have been dismissed under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" according to the Government Accountability Office. The number of Gays and Lesbians who have attempted to enlist and rejected because they said they were Gay is not known.

A study conducted last year for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network concluded that the U.S. military could attract as many as 41,000 new recruits if Gays and Lesbians in the military were able to be open about their sexual orientation.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and allow Gays to serve openly has been reintroduced in Congress and has bipartisan support. The bill is unlikely to get out of committee during this election year, but hearings could be held.

N.J. Governor Recognizes Shortfalls Of Civil Unions

TRENTON, New Jersey (Observer Update) - Governor Jon Corzine said Tuesday (February 19) that a report issued on the first anniversary of civil unions in the state raises "significant concerns" about whether they give same-sex couples all the benefits and duties of marriage by another name, as had been mandated by law, according to The Star-Ledger, reported advocate.com.

The New Jersey Civil Union Review on Monday released its 21-page interim report, which illustrates that civil unions are unclear to the general public and establish a "second-class status" for same-sex couples, according to the paper.

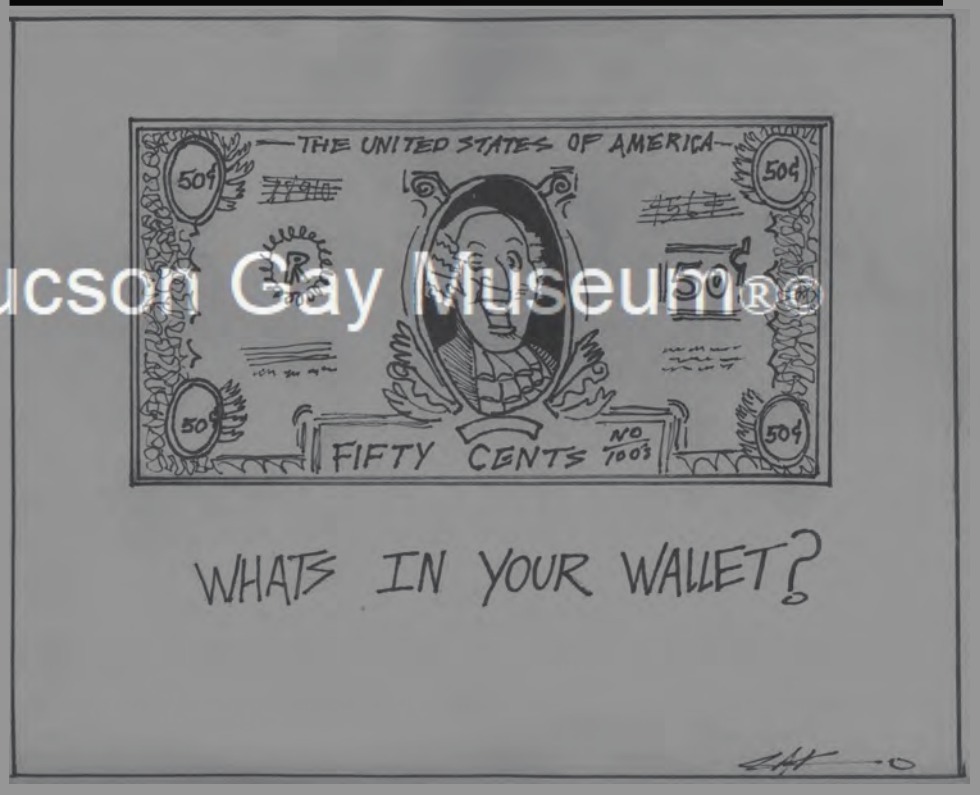
"Although this is not a final report and further evaluation remains, the report does raise significant concerns about whether the law has effectively granted same-sex couples the same rights and benefits of every other family in the state," Corzine told The Star-Ledger.

Steven Goldstein, chairman of Garden State Equality and a member of the commission, said that the findings only further the push for same-sex marriage in the state. "The tide is turning," he said to The Star-Ledger. "There is going to be marriage equality."

Meanwhile, the New Jersey Coalition to Preserve and Protect Marriage has called for an amendment to the state constitution to define marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution.

Corzine has previously said that while he would sign a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, he would wait to do so until well after the November election in case there are any conservative candidates who would exploit the issue for political gain.

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



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MSN And PFLAG Offering LGBT School Scholarships

TUCSON (Observer Update) - It's that time of year again to apply for LGBT scholarships offered through PFLAG Tucson and Men's Social Network.

This year six $1,000 scholarships will be awarded through PFLAG to LGBT persons to attend an institution of higher education. In addition, Men's Social Network will award two $1,000 Jerry Curl Scholarships to Gay male students through PFLAG's application process. The application deadline is March 31, 2008. The requirements for application are: Must be a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender person to receive a PFLAG scholarship and a Gay male student to receive a Jerry Curl Scholarship; and must be accepted to an institution of higher education for the period for which the scholarship is requested.

A complete application packet, which can be downloaded at pflagtucson.org/scholarships/index.htmshall, shall consist of: The application (personal information page); an essay detailing the applicant's plan for higher education, activities within the community, and why PFLAG Tucson/Men's Social Network should award a scholarship to them; two letters of recommendation (one must be from someone other than a family member); and a copy of the student's admission acceptance letter (if the applicant is a current student, then a copy of the most recent grade report). The essay should be typed, double-spaced, no longer than two one-sided pages or one front-to-back page and detailed enough to describe the applicant and his/her situation to the committee. Remember, any information that is provided will be used only to select the seven worthy candidates and will be kept in the strictest confidence. All information must be submitted to the following address in one envelope and postmarked by March 31, 2008: PFLAG Tucson Scholarship Application, P O Box 36264, Tucson AZ 85740-6264

The applications for the PFLAG Tucson Scholarships are reviewed by the Board of Directors, or by a committee established by the Board, and a representative from Men's Social Network. Applications will be judged on an individual basis using only the information provided by the applicant. All applicants will be notified by mail of the committee's decisions by April 30, 2008. The board of directors of PFLAG Tucson and their families are excluded from receiving or applying for this scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact PFLAG Tucson at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org or call (520) 360-3795.

Antigone Books Events For March

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join in for an event at Antigone Books, 411 North Fourth Avenue, on Friday, March 7, 7:00 p.m., with Nadia Shivack.

Nadia Shivack, will discuss her book Inside Out: Portrait of an Eating Disorder (Ginee Seo, $17.95). In the hospital where she was taken for treatment, Nadia wrote and drew on napkins after meals in order to keep the food in and calm the outrageous voices in her head. These pictures, together with others drawn on notebook paper and a variety of other surfaces, tell an unflinchingly honest story of a woman's lifelong battle with anorexia and bulimia. Raw, brave, and brilliant, Nadia's journey takes readers to the intimate corners of these misunderstood diseases. Beverly McGuffin, RN, MS, who helped Nadia get back to work, will be here as well. Nadia shares that "work is at the core of my recovery and has helped me to define myself for the first time as more than an eating disorder and more than a label."

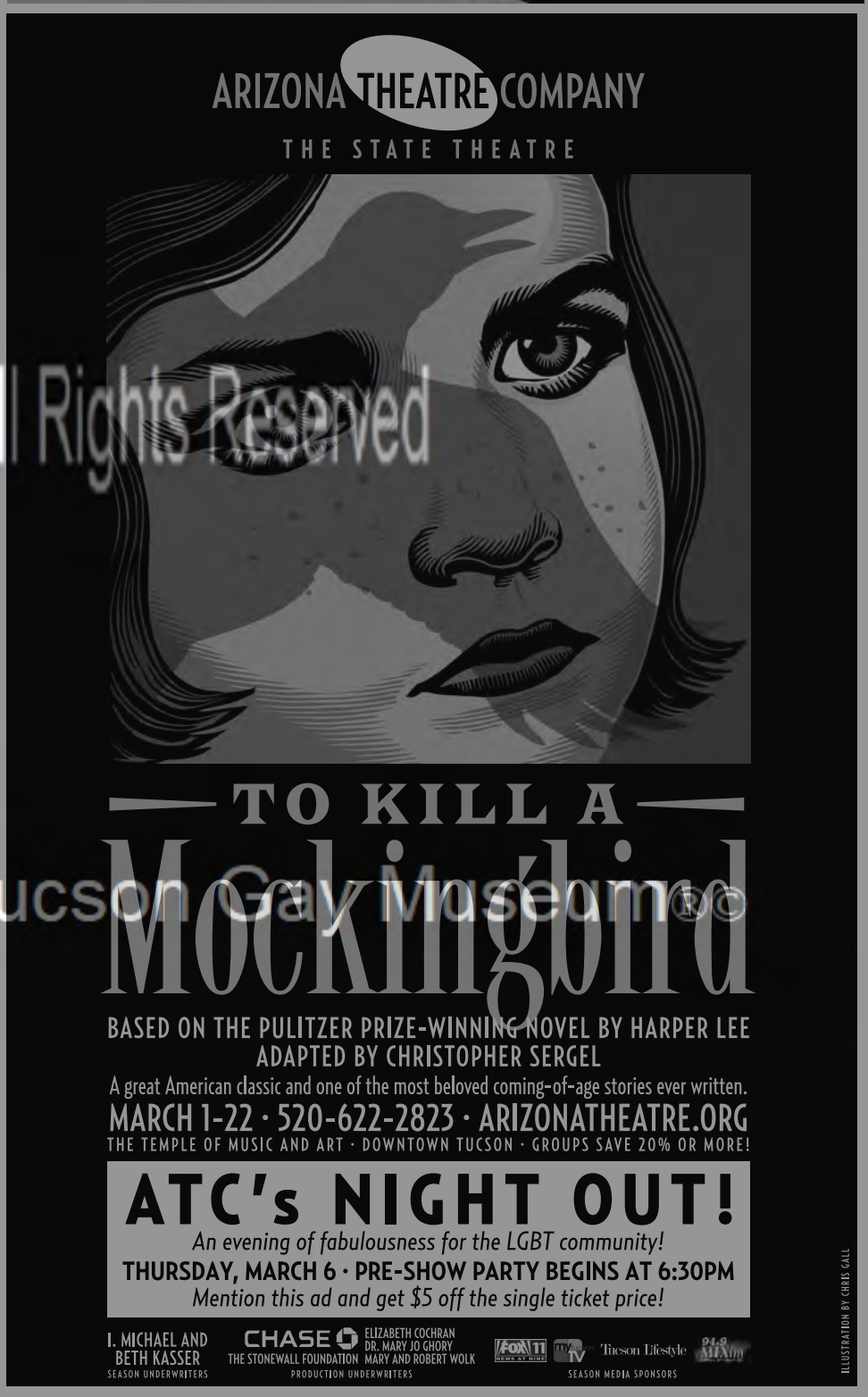
This reading will be followed by a question and answer period and with refreshments. ...

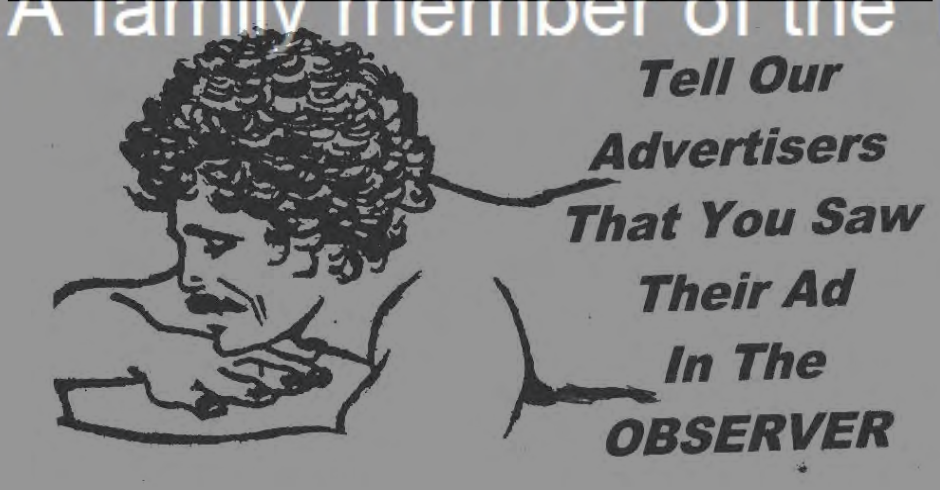
On Sunday, March 9 and March 16, noon - 2:00 p.m., a bibliography workshop with Penelope Starr will be held. Record the story of your life using the books you love. This two-part workshop explores how our lives have been shaped by the books we've read. In the process of this exploration, we will each create an autobiographical bibliography. All ages welcome. $20 for both sessions. Advance registration (and payment) required. Limited to 10 participants. Register at the store, by phone (520) 792-3715 or in person.

Workshop facilitator Penelope Starr is a performance and visual artist, and the founder and producer of Odyssey Storytelling. ...

Other Voices Women's Reading Series continues on Friday, March 14, 7:00 p.m. This month's featured readers are Rebecca Seiferle and Melissa Buckheit. Rebecca is the author of four poetry collections including her most recent, Wild Tongue (Copper Canyon, $17.00). She has won a Western States Book Award, a Pushcart prize, and a Poetry Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation, among many others. Melissa is a poet, dancer/choreographer and photographer whose works have appeared in numerous literary journals. Her manuscript has been a finalist for three poetry awards, and one of her poems was nominated for a 2007 Pushcart Prize.

The reading will be followed by an open mic. Please arrive 15 minutes early if you'd like to sign up to read. Refreshments will be served.





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COMMENTARY. . . .

LGBT Leaders Seek More Candidates Of Color

By Deb Price

When Joe Angelo ran for city commissioner of Wilton Manors in southern Florida four years ago, he pledged to control development, build a new city hall and clean up neighborhoods to fight crime.

But when he won, the headline in the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel said: " FLORIDA'S FIRST Gay BLACK PUBLIC OFFICIAL."

"It was scary to see that big headline," recalls Angelo, 42, who's considering running for mayor. "But the day after the headline was the best day because I realized I was liberated."

Although it might seem easy to "liberate" yourself from the political closet in Wilton Manors – the second U.S. city to elect a Gay-majority legislative body – Angelo still had to jump past his gut-level fear that voters would reject him because he's Gay. Layering race on top of sexual orientation only makes such a jump scarier.

"Gay black people are reticent to jump in because they think it is shallow water," Angelo says. "Once they see more people like themselves are in the political water and doing fine, then it'll be easier for them to jump in."

While the nation has about 400 openly Gay elected officials from school boards to Congress, the vast majority are white. But from April 24-27, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps elect Gay candidates, will holds its first-ever political training program for Gays of color. The Baltimore program coincides with the Gay National Black Justice Coalition's annual conference.

The Victory Fund is taking another important step: It has just announced the Bayard Rustin Award, an annual $1,000 prize to be administered by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists to recognize the best scholarly paper on black Gays' participation in electoral politics.

There is much to be learned about black political trailblazers. Dana Rone became the first black Lesbian elected in New Jersey when she won the first of two terms on Newark's school board. Now the 41-year-old advocate for the poor is serving a four-year term on the city council.

"It's essential to be honest and bring that to elective office," Rone says. "Then people feel they can trust you."

Kecia Cunningham, 42, is serving her third term on the Decatur, Ga., city council.

"We kept the focus on the fact that I was competent and committed to the work of the city," she says. "Potholes don't ask who you fall in love with."

America's problems are more likely to be fixed if its leadership is diverse. If you're black and Gay, jumping into public service may be right for you.

(Deb Price is the national columnist who writes from the Detroit News, from which this is reprinted from.)
Reach Deb Price at dprice@detnews.com or(202)662-8736.

Judge Okays Lesbian Ex-Cops Suit Against The LAPD

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - A gay woman who alleges the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD)wrongfully fired her because of her sexual orientation can take her lawsuit to trial, a judge ruled.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Edward A. Ferns rejected a motion by lawyers for the city of Los Angeles to dismiss the case on grounds there were no triable issues in Shelby Feldmeier's lawsuit.

Feldmeier, who attended the hearing, filed the lawsuit in January 2006. She graduated from the LAPD academy in February 2004 and was assigned as a probationary employee to the Wilshire Station, where male officers made frequent offensive comments about homosexuality and asked if she was gay, according to her lawsuit.

Nader Rides Again

by Jimmy Petrol

Ralph Nader announced that he will run as an independent candidate in the upcoming presidential election. Nader's candidacy in the 2000 election was vilified for siphoning votes from Democratic hopeful Al Gore, who narrowly lost the election to Mr. Bush Junior after a questionable vote count in Florida and a surprising interpretation of the constitution by the U.S. Supreme Court, whose intervention into the election process decided the vote in favor of Mr. Bush.

Nader cited his motivation for the current bid; "The issue is, do they have the moral courage, do they have the fortitude to stand up to corporate powers and get things done for the American people."

The immediate, knee-jerk response came, predictably, from the Republicans. Mike Huckabee, again floated the opinion that a third party candidate would only siphon votes from Democratic candidates, not Republican, and therefore Nader's candidacy would be welcomed by Republicans.

This attitude may have been correct in the 2004 election, when America was unconcerned with its military involvement in Iraq, but it may not be true today. With Mr. Bush Junior's approval ratings at an historic low, it is possible that any candidate may be acceptable to republican voters in the face of more of the same.

While Nader has be sharply criticized for presenting himself to the voters in years past as an un-elect-able candidate whose only effect was to destabilized the political process by weakening the 'liberal' party, Hilary and Obama have suffered no such censure.

It is unlikely that either a woman or a black man could have been presented as viable candidates in any election previous to this year's. The social perceptions that dictate our leader's race and sex are strong and pervasive.

The duo's strong candidacy in the face of this social structure is indicative of Mr Bush Jr.'s unpopular policies and the failures of his government to address the concerns of the masses, to be sure. But likely as not, the failed and hated Nader run in 2004 paved the way for these two most unlikely of candidates.

Another likely effect of Nader's persistent success (in vote 'stealing') may be seen in the shift among the major candidates toward publicly beneficial programs and platforms. For example, the lack of health care for the working classes has long been an issue of misery for those who suffer and die for lack of such care, despite the fact that the blue-collar worker carries the legacy of American greatness, having built her into the powerhouse economy she became in the 1950's and maintained until these declining years, starting with the oft' caricatured presidency of Mr. Bedtime for Bonzo Reagan.

We can welcome Mr. Nader to the arena for his ability to force the majors into more effective platforms and devices. If Obama, Hilary, Huckabee and McCain hope to corner the American vote market, they had best pay close attention to those Americans desperate enough for change to vote for an 'unelectable' in such startling numbers. This time, republicans may find the option of voting for Mr. Nader more palatable than that of joining with the democrats. Indeed, republican flippancy towards this third party may prove the republican's undoing instead of the democrat's as conservatives search hopelessly for an 'elect-able' candidate that will not support the Bush agendas and policies in the coming years.

(Jimmy Petrol can be reached at jpetroulisx@yahoo.com.)

Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender library users.On a daily basis they review, order and make GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation.

The Pima County Public Library's (PCPL) GLBT Services Committee is dedicated to upholding the library's Mission Statement as well as the Library Users Bill of Rights for all of our customers. PCPL is one of the few public libraries in the country to have an established GLBT Services Committee. I's an exciting time for GLBT-themed publishing.

More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee are proud to offer our favorite recent books that are by and about GLBT people. We hope this offering inspires you to read one or more of these marvelous books

Blue Lawn, William Taylor (Alyson). The girls in David's small New Zealand town have him in their radar. At 15, he's handsome, smart, and really nice. But it's the new guy, Theo, who gets David's attention in this forthright story about same-sex attraction.

My Heartbeat, Garret Weyr (Houghton Mifflin). As she tries to understand the closeness between her older brother and his best friend, fourteen-year-old Ellen finds her relationship with each of them changing. A story of first loves. (Gina Macaluso)

For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to tppl.org/community/glbt/index.cfm.

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Program Seeks Openly LGBT Appointees For The Next President

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute has unveiled a new program to provide the widest possible opportunity for LGBT professionals in the next President's administration.

"Our goal is to make sure all Americans have an equal voice in their government," says GLLI CEO Chuck Wolfe. "Through public service, our community demonstrates a commitment to making our country a better place for all its citizens and for every kind of family."

"The next administration must know that we are concerned about being included," says James C. Hormel, the first openly gay U.S. ambassador, "determined to contribute our talents, skills and insights, and eager to participate in the hard work of governing our country."

"When I was appointed by President Clinton to serve in his administration," adds Fred Hochberg, former leader in the Small Business Administration, "he said that in order to be true public servants, federal officials must represent the full diversity of the American people, including members of the LGBT community. We look forward to continuing to further these goals with a new administration in November."

LGBT organizations teaming up with the GLLI include Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Black Justice Coalition and the Stonewall Democrats.

"In 1996," continues Ambassador Hormel, "we worked closely with the second Clinton administration to identify gays and lesbians who were qualified to serve the president. We stand ready to help whoever is elected this November."

Potential applicants are invited to visit the GLLI's webpage, glli.org.

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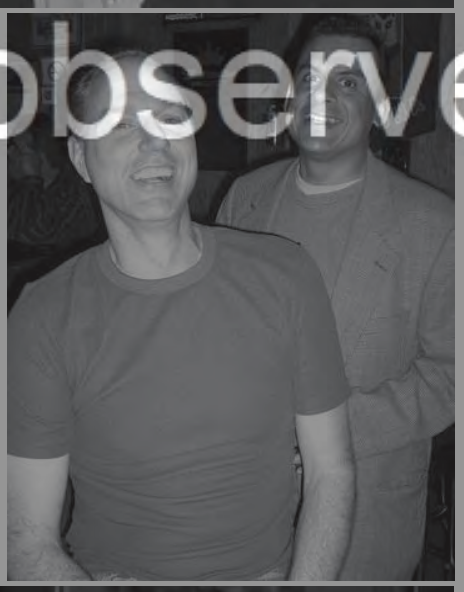

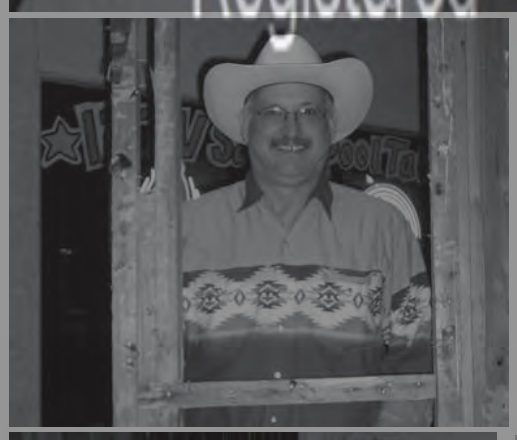

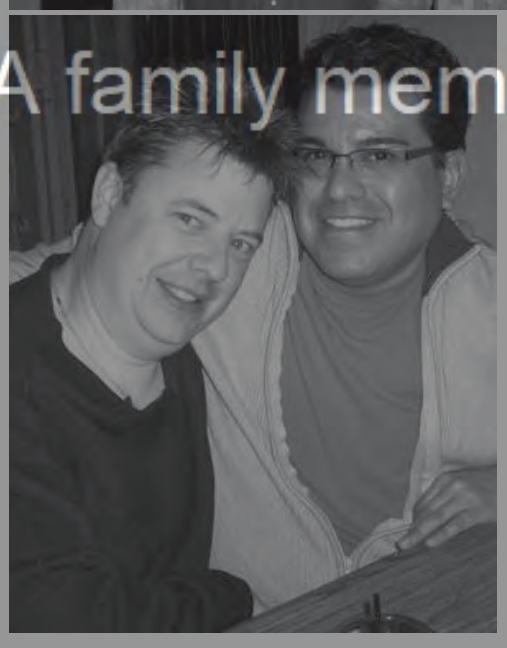
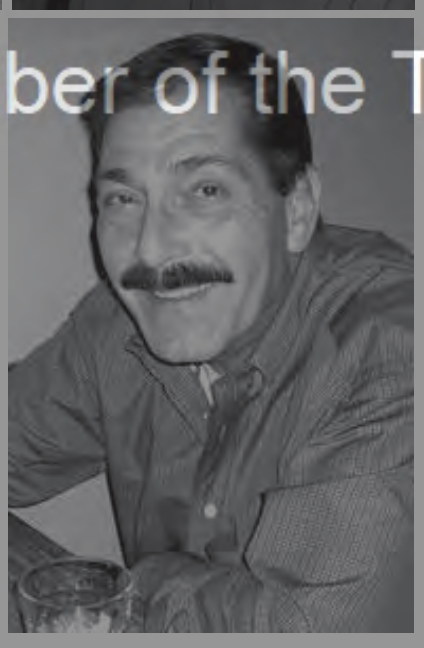

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Lisa Neff

Taxing Issues For The IRS

I like to work ahead on the calendar. Before the end of the year, I start wondering how long I'll have to wait to receive reports on my income for the year.

I'm not eager to pay taxes – I've already done that with deductions from my paychecks. But I am eager to get and spend my refund check – this year maybe on an electric scooter. Plus, I like filling out the paperwork – briefly in high school I thought I might pursue a career in accounting because I had fun with the financial workbooks.

So "April 15" and "the IRS" and "tax" don't have the negative connotations for me that they have for some people – perhaps if I ever make much money or have much in the way of investments I'll think differently.

But I do have some serious thoughts about others paying their fair share – specifically those who claim tax-exempt status with the federal government, but who don't play by the government's rules. It taxes my nerves when powerful and rich faith-based organizations evade taxes while engaging in politics.

Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code allows tax-exempt organizations to produce unbiased voter guides to educate voters. The IRS "Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations" warns that content must be "neutral, unbiased," contain "complete compilation of all candidates' positions" and "may not be used to attempt to favor or oppose candidates for public elected office."

Earlier this year, Americans United for Separation of Church and State asked the IRS to investigate two faith-based, tax-exempt groups – the American Family Association and WallBuilders. Americans United has alleged that the two groups violated federal regulations with the production of a biased voter guide intended to pump up support for Mike Huckabee among conservative evangelical voters.

Wondering why John McCain has lately run into trouble with evangelical conservatives? Check out the voter guide from the AFA/WallBuilders.

The guide was published before McCain seemed the clear victor in the race for his party's nomination. The guide lists the candidates for president in both parties and their alleged positions on issues – documentation for some of the candidates' stands dates back more than a decade.

Is the guide neutral and unbiased? No.

Does it reflect candidates' complete positions? No.

Does it favor one candidate and oppose others? Yes.

The clear favorite in the guide is Huckabee, the only candidate to get a "yes" on each of the hot-button issues addressed. As you look at the GOP page, your eyes go directly to Huckabee's column of "yes" and, if you're a Christian of "right mind," you think he's the "right guy" on the issues. You might notice that Ron Paul gets a "no" for not supporting a so-called Human Rights Amendment, but you won't read mention that Paul has supported federal legislation that achieves the same goal without amending the Constitution. There are other omissions in the guide, as well as dodges and weaves from the full facts.

Americans United executive director Barry Lynn calls the guide partisan propaganda. And he's right.

Now, I don't have a problem with partisanship or propaganda per se – some of my favorite posters and sayings propagandize.

But I do have a problem with tax-exempt groups engaging in partisan electioneering and misrepresenting the facts. I don't care for distortions and mistruths even when I don't much care for the targets.

Probably the mention of the American Family Association rings some bells for you. The AFA is a Christian right group based in Tupelo, Miss., that has led a number of boycotts against companies with domestic partnership programs and other Gay-friendly policies. Most recently and notably, the AFA has targeted Ford Motor Company.

The organization's chairman and founder, the Rev. Donald Wildmon, personally endorsed Huckabee for president saying, "I feel that Gov. Huckabee understands the needs of our country and has the ability to lead us in meeting those needs. ... This is a personal endorsement. It is not the endorsement of any group with which I may be associated."

WallBuilders perhaps is not as well known. The Texas-based organization founded by Republican Party activist David Barton spreads a "Christian nation" gospel – that would be that the United Stations is a nation founded by Christian men on Christian principles.

An IRS spokesperson declined to comment on Americans United's complaint – the IRS as a matter of practice does not discuss whether investigations are under way.

The AFA, meanwhile, maintains that its voter guide complies with federal law because it was developed by a trinity of constitutional lawyers and reviewed by a trinity of constitutional lawyers.

I wonder if those lawyers are on retainers, because they may be called upon to defend the AFA and WallBuilders. Look at the potential trouble Wiley S. Drake, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Buena Park, Calif., faces. Last August, Drake, prominent with the Southern Baptist Convention, reiterated his endorsement of Huckabee in a press release written on church letterhead.

"I believe God has chosen Mike for such an hour, and I believe of all those running Mike Huckabee will listen to God," Drake wrote.

Just as it challenged the AFA/WallBuilders' voting guide, Americans United complained to the IRS about the press release.

That complaint prompted Drake to pray for the deaths of two Americans United officials. It also prompted the IRS to take a look at Drake. In mid-February, reporters confirmed that the IRS had opened an investigation of Drake. A 14-page letter from the government to the pastor stated, "We believe it is necessary to resolve questions concerning your tax-exempt status as a church."

Listening and reading the lit from Drake, the AFA and WallBuilders, you'll probably agree that they don't have God on their side – nor should they have the IRS.

(Lisa Neff is a reporter with The Islander, a weekly newspaper on Anna Maria Island, Fl. She has worked for more than 20 years in journalism. This oped is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

So What Was Done Then?

In an oped that was published in Tucson's morning daily, Thursday, February 21, Cathi Herrod, President of the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP) wrote that the people should " . . . decide the future of marriage . . ."

Herrod wrote "Resolutions introduced in the Senate and House would refer to the voters a constitutional amendment defining marriage."

This would place on the November general election ballot, a proposed constitutional amendment which states that "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state."

It is interesting that Herrod and CAP want the people to decide but are going through the legislative route in 2008, instead of gathering petition signatures, as they did also with help from paid petition circulators in 2006 when they place Proposition 107, "the Protect Marriage Amendment," on the general election ballot which was defeated, the first time ever.

"A constitutional amendment is necessary to protect the rights of the people of Arizona to decide on marriage. The future of marriage in Arizona should not be a judge's decision, and it should not be a politician's decision. The people should decide," Herrod wrote.

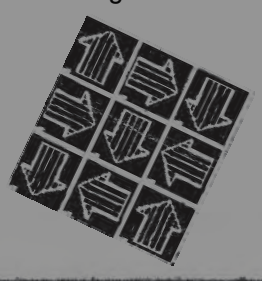
Herrod and CAP are having convenient memory loss because of Standhardt v. Superior Court, 206 Arizona 276 (Arizona Appeals Court, October 8, 2003, Arizona Supreme Court, May 25, 2004) that upheld Arizona's statute prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying (A.R.S. 25-101) as well as the statute (A.R.S. 25-112) prohibiting that ensures marriages from other states prohibited through (A.R.S. 25-101) won't be recognized in Arizona that Herrod and the CAP acknowledged in their then, issue brief, "Civil Unions and Gay Marriage."

With the court case being about state law, this ruling has established the constitutionality of the law, which was one of the big legislative successes according to the CAP website was that the conservative organization "first successfully drafted and lobbied laws was the "1996 ban on same-sex marriage."

In an interview in the April 10, 2005 Arizona Daily Star article, entitled, "Len Munsil Wants to Convert You," as well as his biography posted on CAP's Web site, azpolicy.org, Len Munsil, Herrod's predecessor as President of the organization, in 1996 "personally drafted (SB 1038, creating A.R.S. 25-101 and A.R.S. 25-112)" the ". . . prohibition on same sex marriage," which was written "in the basement of the House late in the session."

To paraphrase Herrod's article, "the state statute controls, a court has decided what to do with this subject and the voters have decided on this issue" but this won't stop CAP, since they need their sure-fire way to continue their "industry of hate," making sure the money rolls in, perhaps to finance other campaigns or to pay off a debt.

Take action against Herrod, CAP and the anti-LGBT hate industry, speak out against the current measures, SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution 1038) and HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065, go online to eqfed.org/campaign/hcr2065 and send your state Senators and Representatives a message that "enough is enough." One can contribute by going to Equality Arizona's website at equalityarizona.org.



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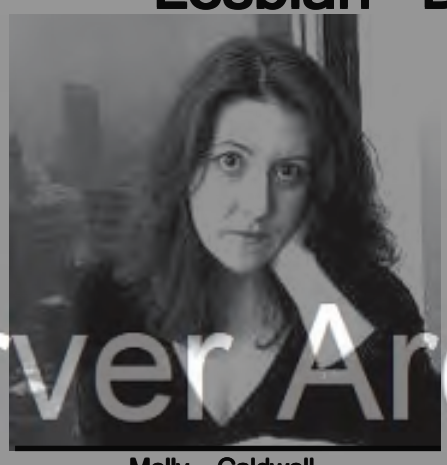
NY Court Hears Lesbian Divorce Case



Molly Caldwell

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - In what is believed to be a groundbreaking ruling a New York City judge says that the ruling by the state's highest court that found there is no constitutional right for same-sex marriage does not apply to divorce, 365Gay.com reported. The ruling by Supreme Court Justice Laura Drager allows a Manhattan woman to sue for divorce from her same-sex partner whom she married in Canada in 2004.

Drager found "that out-of-state same-sex marriages are properly recognized under our law," and therefore "Beth R." can proceed with her case against "Donna M.". R is seeking the divorce and the awarding of joint custody of M's two children. Because the children are minors the women are identified only by letters. M had sought to have the divorce petition quashed on the grounds that New York State does not recognize same-sex marriage.

In her ruling Drager said that New York does not recognize an out-of-state marriage in only two instances: if it is specifically named by the Legislature as prohibited or is "abhorrent to New York public policy." The written ruling noted that the Legislature has not specifically outlawed out-of-state same-sex marriages, and that "the abhorrence exception is so narrow that it has been applied only to marriages involving polygamy or incest."

An attorney for M told the New York Post he will appeal. The case will likely be decided by the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court in light of an appeal of a similar ruling this month by an appeals court in Rochester.

In that case the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court reversed a lower court judge's ruling in 2006 that Monroe Community College did not have to extend health benefits to an employee's Lesbian partner. Patricia Martinez, a word processing supervisor, sued the school in 2005, arguing that it granted benefits to heterosexual married couples but denied them to Martinez and her partner, Lisa Ann Golden. The couple were married in Canada in 2004.

In 2006 the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, ruled that same-sex couples do not have a constitutional right to marry. It said that the issue, however, could be taken up by the Legislature.

Meanwhile, in a separate case being played out in Manhattan, a woman is suing her former partner for a split in the couples assets even though they were not married.

Molly Caldwell says she and heiress Halina Avery were in a committed relationship for 14 years, sharing rings and a home in a toney Manhattan co-op. When they split up in 2006 Avery moved to seal off Caldwell from her assets. Caldwell is seeking spousal support and an equitable distribution of assets.

"This was, for all intents and purposes, a marriage," the New York Daily News quotes Caldwell's lawyer, Aaron Goodman, as saying. "They should be treated no differently than the parties in a divorce."

But attorneys for Avery say the women had a signed agreement that limited what Avery's responsibilities would be if the relationship soured and that Caldwell is trying to apply the legal terms of marriage to the relationship when they were not married.

"They never entered into, nor intended to enter into, a marriage," lawyer Yetta Kurland told the News. "If they had intended to marry, or file as domestic partners in New York City, then they would have done so."

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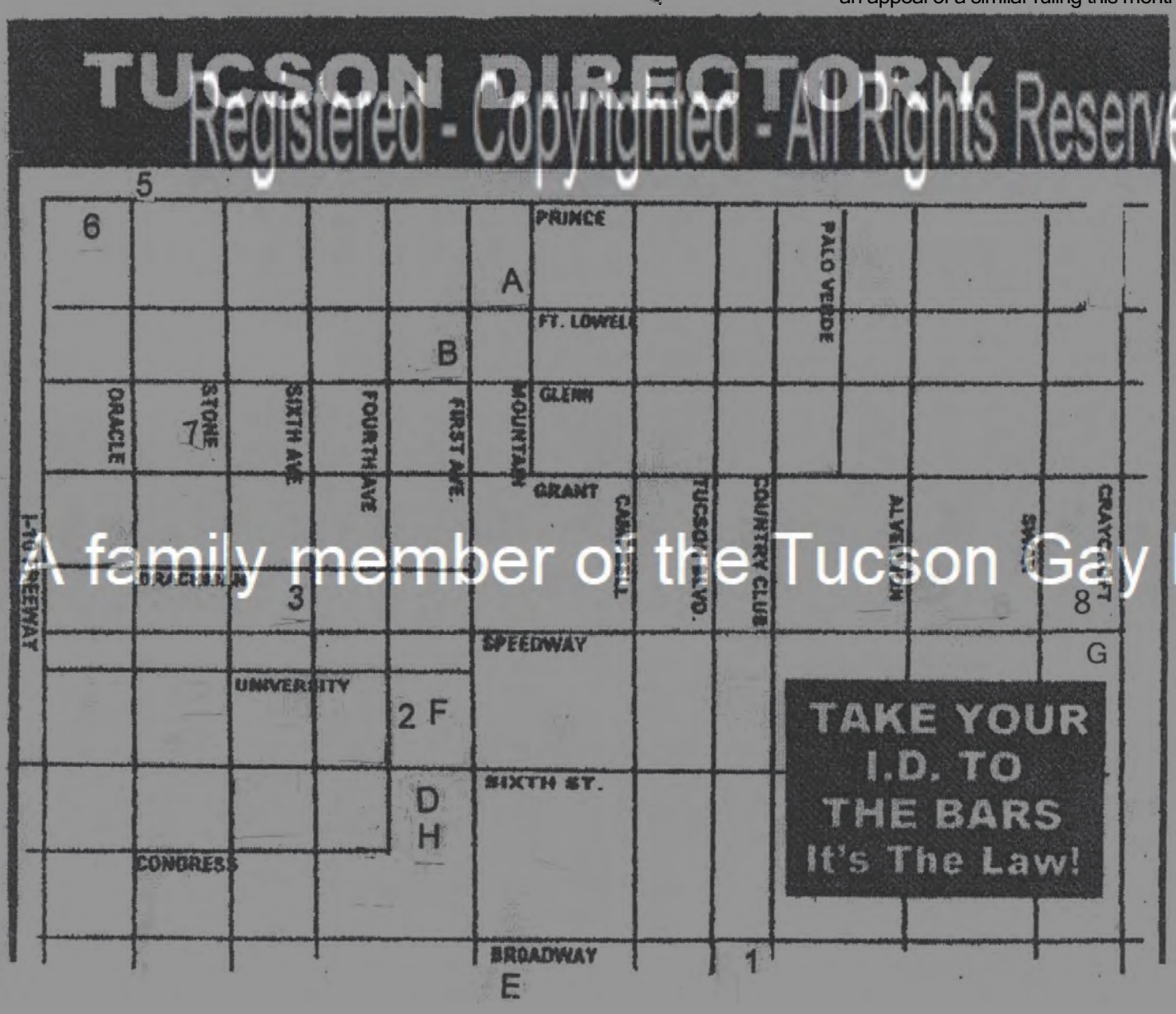

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National Day Of Silence Planned For Gay Teen Victim

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Two days before a shotgun-wielding Steven Kazmierczak shot 21 students inside a lecture hall on the campus of Northern Illinois University, taking the lives of five people as well as his own, 15-year-old Lawrence "Larry" King was shot in the head at the E.O. Green School in Oxnard, California, reportedly for being gay.

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King was in the eighth grade. His killer, 14-year-old Brandon McInerney, apparently targeted the student because he was openly gay and sometimes dressed in women's clothes.

Now the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a leading gay-rights student organization, has decided to make King's murder one of the central themes of this year's annual Day of Silence on April 25.

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HOROSCOPES

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They say March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. How can that be true? After all, surprising Uranus electrifies lucky Jupiter for the next weeks. So March really comes out loud, proud and queer, just like it should. Amen!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You are absolutely prescient when it comes to your career and other professional opportunities this March. Proud Rams seem to just know the who, when, where, why and how of advancement. So why would you possibly consider relaxing now? Get on your hooves and make some major tracks up the ladder. Don't stop until you reach the top. Or do you prefer the bottom?

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Grab a few compadres and travel this March. Queer Bulls will do best when they are out on the road with the rest of the herd. If time and money are tight, find social outlets closer to home. There might be a few jolly souls who consider funding your travels. Why not choose one particular well endowed benefactor to spoil you? Stop when you start to smell.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins can be lured by flattery and sugar and are tempted to take a leap of faith on the job. Will a certain dalliance turn into something much more ... or much less than expected? Hedge your bets. If you are professionally advancing by way of the casting couch be sure that you are prepared to fluff the pillows every so often. Or is it "get the coffee"?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Relationships are in for a reevaluation when March rolls in. Gay Crabs who have found their soulmate should sweep them off their feet and take them away to explore parts unknown. Those Crabs who are scuttling across the floors of silent seas can cast their nets wide and far and catch more than a few beauties. Will you toss a few back and choose just one? Ha!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions hate to toil away in obscurity. They would rather become the center of attention and adoration. And so it is in March when you grandstand even in your dreary job. Why fight it? Get out in front and show the office pool how fabulous you are. You never know whose eye you will catch. When charm fails, try to gather hearts and souls with candy or other bribes.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins are not known for their cut up personalities but March makes you effusive, creative and very much the party hound. Mark your dance cards and take to the floor. You never know who you will meet or what can happen. There is a combination of opportunity and luck coming your way. Don't sit at home and warm the couch cushions. Set the town on fire.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Your home becomes a center of activity this March. First, turn you attention to your "to do" list. Then find new ways to enjoy yourself. Not only can proud Libras accomplish a great deal of home-oriented projects, they can also make it the center of entertainment for their posse and relatives. Okay, if relatives are starting to get on your nerves, make it just the posse.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

You finds ways of making your point as March gives you a warm and welcoming platform from which to orate. Queer Scorps not only cajole and entice folks from various constituencies, they also create a buzz of excitement wherever they roam. Who knows what heights of power you can hit? Try to be the power behind the throne rather than the head despot.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers consider buying extra property or pouring a little money into the patch of grass they already own. Not only are you correctly calculating potential income and revenue from your portfolio, you manage to ask the right questions from the right financial advisors. Examine the bottom line and see how big you can make it. The bigger the better, as they say.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Make a few stump speeches this March and consider tossing your hat into a particular ring. Not only do you know what the people want, you can make them believe that you are the one to deliver it. If you are thinking of running for office, do so now before those nasty rumors start. Otherwise use your fleeting gift for personal advancement before they catch on to you.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

There is a divine presence around you all March that clues you into the machinations of others. Good. Your timing is spot on and you can cash in on it. Rely on your intuition and keep your eyes open for great opportunities. Not only will you make strides, you will also make deep imposing tracks. Aqueerians can hit a high note, even if they can't sing.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Friends are your biggest boosters this March. So don't sit at home and wait for the phone to ring. Go through your personal date book and start to connect and reconnect. Get involved in group efforts. Not only will you rise to the top, you will go further in your personal goals than you ever imagined. Make your personal stock into a bull run. Unless of course you prefer bears.

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Demands For Censure After Gay Earthquake Remark

JERUSALEM, Israel (Observer Update) - Several Members of the Knesset are calling for an extreme Orthodox party to censure two of its members after recent outbursts that attacked Israeli Gays, 365Gay.com reported.

The most recent came when Shas Party member Shlomo Benizri told the Knesset that Gays were responsible for last week's earthquake that rattled the region. A tremor measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale rocked Israel, Lebanon and Syria. Seismologists say there could be a major earthquake within the next few years because of a major fault-line in the region.

Shlomo Benizri

Parliament was discussing the damage caused by the quake and ways of limiting damage from future earthquakes when Benizri said the most effective way of preventing damage would be to roll back LGBT civil rights. Attorney General Menachem Mazuzruled same-sex couples could adopt. It was the latest in a series of pro-Gay rulings in Israel that have followed the 1988 decriminalization of homosexuality..

Benizri told the Knesset that homosexuality is an abomination under Jewish law and in its religious text, the Gemara. "We are looking for earthly solutions, how to prevent them," Benizri said. "I have another way to prevent earthquakes. The Gemara says that one of the reasons earthquakes happen - which the Knesset [Parliament] legitimizes - is homosexuality." "God says you shake your genitals where you are not supposed to and I will shake my world in order to wake you up," he told the chamber.

Last month another Shas member, Nissim Ze'ev declared that "homosexuals were poisoning society," and that "homoLesbianism legitimized the state of Israel's 'self destruction.'" Shas is a part of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's ruling coalition but is frequently at odds with Olmert over social issues. The party has been pressuring the Knesset to enact legislation banning Gay pride parades from Jerusalem. Ophir Paz-Pines, a Labor party member of the Knesset said that both Ze'ev and Benizri should be dropped by Shas a call that has gone unanswered.

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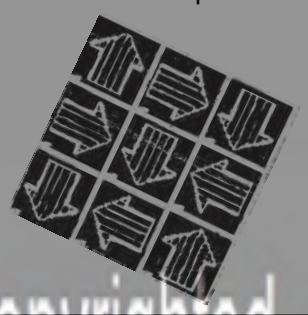
Mormons Expel Musician Over Gay Marriage Criticism

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Peter Danzig did not set out to be a Mormon activist. The gentle musician spent his life serving the church he loved.

But in 2006, Danzig finally felt compelled to protest. BYU adjunct professor Jeffrey Nielsen lost his job for arguing in a The Salt Lake Tribune column that the LDS Church was wrong to oppose Gay marriage and to enlist Mormon support for a constitutional amendment against it.

The dismissal appalled Danzig, who had explored the questions of homosexuality while pursuing a graduate degree in clinical social work. "I wish to express to Jeffery Nielson that I admire his courage and that I stand with him," Danzig wrote in a letter The Tribune published on June 14, 2006. While others wrote letters in support of Neilson without facing discipline, Danzig endured months of grueling attacks on his motives and membership.



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Gay Activist Receives Prestigious Order Of Canada

Rev. Michaelle Jean

OTTAWA, Canada - The Order of Canada was awarded for the first time to a Gay activist yesterday. Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean presented Torontonian Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes with the country's highest civilian honour for his long-standing work as a Gay rights champion.

"About 27 years ago, I was fasting to protest the police actions around the bathhouse raids," Hawkes, 57, said in a phone interview. "And to see how far we've come, that Canada is the first country in the world to give its highest award to a Gay activist."

Hawkes has been a pastor at Toronto's Metropolitan Community Church on Simpson Ave. for over 30 years.

Ft. Worth Baptist Church Kills Family Photos Over Gay Members

FORT WORTH, Texas - Fort Worth's Broadway Baptist Church members reached a compromise on a church directory Sunday (February 24), ending a debate on how to include photos of Gay members but leaving the pastor's fate unclear.

In a 294-182 vote, members approved a recommendation by the church's board of deacons to publish a directory that would include member photos in "candid, small and large group pictures" but not include family portraits.

The 125th anniversary pictorial directories "will identify the people in them by name and every effort will be made to include all members in the directory," the deacon board said in its recommendation.

Tenn. House Panel Kills 'No Promo Homo' Bill

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee - A House subcommittee killed legislation proposed by Republican state Rep. Stacey Campfield to prohibit discussion of homosexuality in Tennessee elementary and middle schools.

The move came after spokesmen for the Tennessee Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union and the state Department all spoke against the Knoxville Republican's bill.

Basically, they said it is not needed and puts the Legislature in the business of dictating school curriculum - decisions best left to the State Board of Education. Hedy Weinberg of the ACLU also said the measure "a clear attack on one community, the Lesbian and Gay community."

Police Shutter A Club In Buenos Aires For Gay Bears

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina - The Windy City Times reported that city inspectors and federal police shut down the Buenos Aires Bears clubhouse January 23.

The officials claimed they were verbally instructed by higher-ups to close the building because of a pre-existing closure order that had resulted from a noise complaint. But a spokesman for the club, Marcelo Surano, said the noise complaint had been resolved and the facility has newer paperwork authorizing its operation.

The raiding officers had no documents to back up their claims, so the bears refused to let them into the building. But the bears left nonetheless, and the officers then slapped a "closed" notice on the entrance.

Play Safe!

NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Canasta hosted by Merlin and Lee at 207-5336. MSN Canasta is played every Wednesday at 7pm, but check back here for the specific host.

Thursday, Feb. 28
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, February 29
Tucson Prime Timers, invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 E Speedway

Sunday, March 2
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch 11:00AM-Colors, 5350 E. Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 3
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, March 7
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM. Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday, March 8
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to attend a presentation by Dr. Stuart Cohen on Wingspan's programs for older gay folks. Regular Prime Timers meeting and no-host lunch to follow. 11AM at Wingspan, 425 E 7 St. see our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 9
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

3:30-5:30 p.m. Sign up for the monthly Men's Massage Group in its 18th year. Mark your calendar. Spend two hours on the 2nd Sunday of each month in nude bliss with other men. Non-sexual. Call Marc at 881-4582 to sign up and for information.

Monday, March 10
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM. The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, March 14
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 16
Tucson Prime Timers, welcomes guests to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 East Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 17
Tucson Prime Timers wishes you A Happy St. Patrick's Day and Invites you to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM . The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimer.org

Friday, March 21
Tucson Prime Timers Invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 24
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes you to our weekly Monday drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, March 28
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, March 30
Tucson Prime Timers invites You to our weekly Sunday Brunch at 11:00AM Colors, 5350 E Speedway. See our website for club info: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, March 31
Tucson Prime Timers welcomes Visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM The Wildcat House, 1800 North Stone. See our website for club info:Www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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WRITE NOW is an LGBT writers' group that meets at Wingspan, twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:00. For more info please call 323-2465 or email evynrubin@yahoo.com.

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 pm., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Venture-N.

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.

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 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet in Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with TUCSON PRIME TIMERS. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 731-3485. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 19 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. 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, 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 2nd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-4582 for more information or sign up.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m.Sundys only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity 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 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

REVEILLE MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 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

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

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go toSAGE-Tucson-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

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

THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; L Word Sundays. L Word shows at 7pm on two 51" flatscreens. Beer Bust 5pm-10pm. DJ HILL following til 2am.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10;m. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas $2.50. Texas Hold-'Em Poker at 3 and 6 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. $1 hot dogs, $2 chili dogs during game. SIN Nite Drink Discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt. Latin Dance Music 8:30 to close.

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Poker Pub...FREE. No Happy Hour on this day. Games at 6:30 and again at 9:00pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour all day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30, Play for points and prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am--8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am.Beer Bust 3-7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. No Happy Hour on this day. Spin Tuesdays with Karaoke. Spin the drink wheel every hour for incredible drink prices...nothing over $2!! Karaoke at 8pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints.$3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. $2 U-call-it drink special 9pm to midnight (some restrictions apply).

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month $2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG -Open 11am-2am.Beer Bust 3-7pm

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJHill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. $5.00 Jager Bombs and Long Island Ice Tea. Texas Hold-'Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu& Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG -Open11am-2am BeerBust 3-7pm

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. 20/20 Thursday's a night guaranteed to F*UCK,, with your vision!! $20 at the door we take care of the rest (premium top shelf not included). DJHill spins hip hop & R&B all night. 21'n up

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Mexican Beers $2.50 all day, all night. Starting 1/17/08 TNT Thursday Night Temptation for 18 & over. Eat-drink-dance Music with DJ Shorty v2.0

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. $3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here $6.00.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, $1.00 PBR Longnecks, $2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG-Open11am-2am BeerBust 3-7pm

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. NOCHE de CALOR. 1/2 price Happy Hour til 8pm. Every Friday DJ Hill spins the best norteno, Cumbias, Salsa, Bachata Reggaeton, Rock en Espanol and anything else that makes you shake your hips!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.,50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays classic country 8:30 to close..

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. $2.00 U-Call-Its til 11pm. Saturday night dance party with DJ Hill9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. $4.50 cheeseburger & fries.$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm. 5-8pm- karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

Dallas Repaying Feds For Missusing HIV Education Money

DALLAS, Texas - The Dallas Independent School District has been ordered by a judge to repay the federal government $336,000 for misusing grant money that was supposed to be geared toward HIV education programs, reported advocate.com. The grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to be paid over three years, was to provide two full-time employees for the program, according to The Dallas Morning News.

Becky Beck, a teacher who was hired through the funding, testified that she was assigned unrelated work including CPR training, health seminars, and curriculum writing, her attorney told the newspaper. As a whistle-blower, Beck will receive $47,400 from the federal government.

A spokesperson for the district said that administrators admitted no wrongdoing in the case and decided to settle the case to "avoid delay, uncertainty, inconvenience, and expense of protracted litigation." The lawsuit has been under seal since it was filed in October 2006.

LGBT Fight Raising Age Of Consent In Canada

OTTAWA, Canada - Raising the age of consent is a veiled attempt to assert conservative moral values on youth, queer and youth-led groups told Senators.

The Senate's legal affairs committee is studying a Harper government bill that would raise the age of consent from 14 to 16. It will almost certainly pass – no political party has opposed it – but queer and youth-led groups came out Feb 22 to insist on their sexual freedom.

The proposed changes will have a disproportionate impact on Gays, said Richard Hudler of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario. "My first lover was 17 years older than me. And this is common [among Gay people]," he said.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
WOODY'S - Sarong Party 9:00 p.m. with your favorite bartenders Chris and Ryan.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29
IBT'S - Leap Year Party. A party 4 years in the making!!! Shot Specials. DJ Todd spinning inside and DJ Mike Lopez on the Patio. GoGo Boys and much more.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
HOWL AT THE MOON - Bill Cane Band is here playing rock, country, alternative, folk - your favorites. Starts at 9:00 p.m. No Cover.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
IBT'S - 'Drag For A Cure' - Bar staff and friends of the community in the show to raise money for a local breast cancer awareness organization. All proceeds support the Race for a Cure. Show starts at 8:00 p.m. Some of the other highlights: Drink specials, Raffle prizes and Pre-Show hors d'Oeuvres

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
WOODY'S- Board Sorts Night!! Hot 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 - close. $1.00 off all drinks 8:00 p.m. to closing. (Excluding Draft and Schnapps).

FRIDAY, MARCH 7
WOODY'S - Live Blues - Motown Soul with Simon Crown. 6:00p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Then dancing with DJ Clint.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
HOWL AT THE MOON - Mr. Boogie Woogie electrifies the night which his incredible energy. Boogie Woogie piano at its best! 9:00 p.m. $5 Cover

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
THE BIZ - God-Des and She from the 'L Word' will be performing live following the 'L Word'. Live at 9:00 p.m. Tickets on sale now!! 18+ $15 Adv. $17 @ door. 21+ $10 Adv. $12 Door. All ages show.

MONDAY, MARCH 17
THE BIZ - St. Patrick's Day Party. Watch for details!!!

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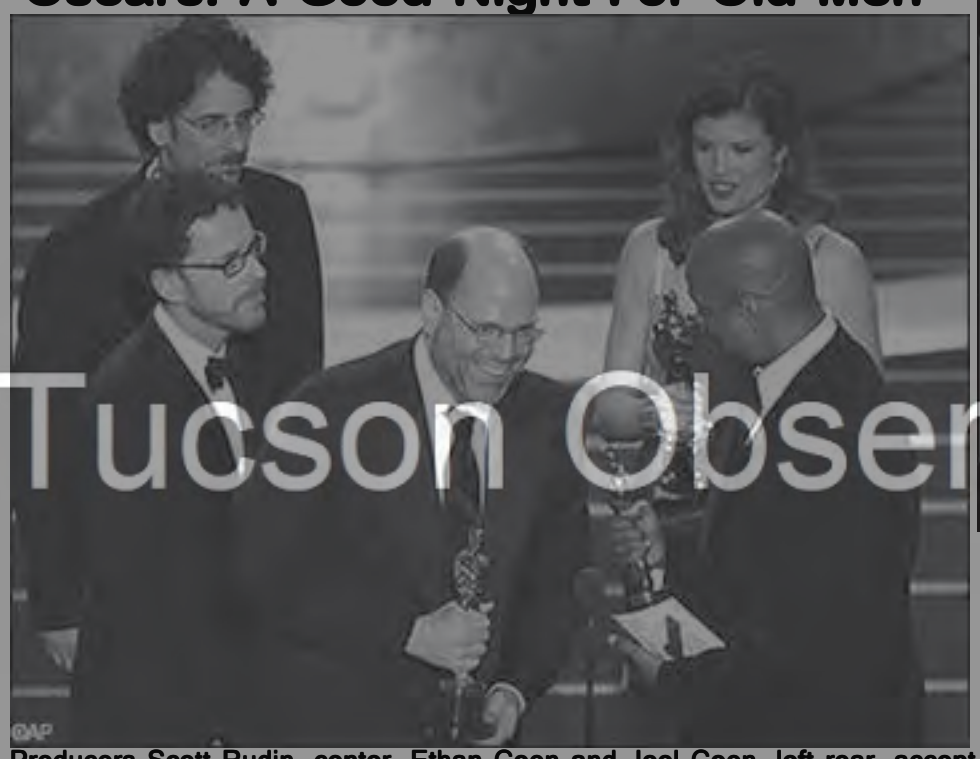
Oscars: A Good Night For Old Men



Producers Scott Rudin, center, Ethan Coen and Joel Coen, left rear, accept the Oscar from Presenter Denzel Washington after the film 'No Country for Old Men' won the best motion picture of the year at the 80th Academy Awards.

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - It was a night of Old Men and pregnant women at the 80th Annual Academy Awards, reported eonline.com.

Joel and Ethan Coen's No Country for Old Men, considered the frontrunner going into the ceremony, lived up to expectations, racking up a leading four Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor for Javier Bardem.

In accepting the Best Director honor, Joel Coen recalled the experience of making movies alongside his brother since childhood. "What we do now doesn't feel that much different from what we were doing then," Joel Coen said. "We're very thankful to all of you out there for continuing to let us play in our corner of the sandbox."

Taking the stage to accept his award earlier in the evening, Bardem paid tribute to the director brothers and their interesting choice of coiffure for his character. "Thank you to the Coens for being crazy enough to think I could do that and for putting one of the most horrible haircuts in history over my head," Bardem said in his acceptance speech, referring to the unflattering bowl cut he sports in the film. Bardem, a native of Spain, was just the first European actor to collect an acting honor Sunday. In the end, all four major acting prizes went to Euro-thesps, with France's Marion Cotillard winning Best Actress for La Vie en Rose, Britain's Daniel Day-Lewis winning Best Actor for There Will Be Blood and compatriot Tilda Swinton taking home Best Supporting Actress for Michael Clayton.

Though It girl du jour Ellen Page was passed over in the Best Actress category for her turn as a pregnant teen in Juno, screenwriter Diablo Cody won the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay for the poignant coming-of-age tale. "This is for the writers," an emotional Cody said as she hoisted her statuette. "I want to thank all the writers. I especially want to thank my fellow nominees, because I worship you guys. I'm learning from you every day."

Pregnancy–if not teen pregnancy–was certainly in the spotlight at the awards ceremony, with presenters Jessica Alba, Cate Blanchett and Nicole Kidman all showing off baby bumps of various sizes. The blatant display of fertility even inspired host Jon Stewart to invent an imaginary award–creatively dubbed the Baby–which he presented to an absent Angelina Jolie.

"The Baby goes to...Angelina Jolie. Oh my god, Angelina Jolie. I'm just stunned. It goes to Angelina Jolie. That's terrific," Stewart joked. "Obviously Angelina couldn't be with us tonight–it's tough to get 17 babysitters on Oscars night. I'll accept this Baby on her behalf." (Jolie has yet to officially confirm her pregnancy, but her bulging profile at the Spirt Awards left little doubt.)

Other big winners of the night were The Bourne Ultimatum, which notched a trio of Oscars for Best Film Editing, Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing, and There Will Be Blood, which picked up the statuette for Best Cinematography in addition to Day-Lewis' acting win. La Vie en Rose was also a double winner, picking up the trophy for Best Makeup, on top of Cotillard's acting victory.

Ratatouille was named Best Animated Film, marking the second Oscar victory for director Brad Bird, who also won in 2004 for The Incredibles.

The Oscar for Best Original Song went to "Falling Slowly" from the Irish film Once, which managed to beat out three songs from Enchanted and a song from August Rush for the win. In a rare do-over, Jon Stewart invited cowinner Markéta Irglová back to give her thank-you speech after the orchestra inadvertently played her offstage.

In an onstage meeting of pregnant woman and old man, Kidman presented the honorary Oscar to 98-year-old production designer Robert Boyle, in recognition of his contributions to classic films including North by Northwest, The Birds, Marnie and Mame.

It was something of a disappointing night for both Atonement and Michael Clayton, with both films losing out in six of the seven categories in which they were nominated. At least Clayton won in a glamour category; Atonement's lone honor of the night came in the Best Original Score category.

In his second go-round as host, Stewart had plenty of material to work with, ranging from political quips to references to the recently ended writers' strike. "The fight is over," he said at the opening of the show. "So tonight, welcome to the makeup sex."

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