



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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EDITORIAL

Taking Things For Granted

It was 1976 and the murder of a member of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) family of Tucson, Richard Heakin and the legal machinations of the judge in the case of three high school students charged (who were granted probation for taking a life) what sparked the LGBT and straight supportive community to action.

Through this event and the subsequent movement to make sure this legal injustice doesn't happen again and to ensure that the rights of LGBT citizens of the Old Pueblo are never trampled upon, Tucson became a "beacon" with its anti-discrimination ordinance adopted in February 1977, by a unanimous vote by the Tucson Mayor and City Council.

A campaign like this needed a voice, an outlet for people to know what was happening, to instruct people what the needed to do and where to go and importantly, to inform their elected officials of their support for the ordinance and that it was the right thing to do by voting in favor of it. With that, the Observer (then known as the Arizona Gay News) hit the newsstands.

Over the years, this publication has prided itself in providing an outlet for Tucson's LGBT community organizations, offering the news, an avenue for LGBT and straight supportive writers to get their start in journalism and to keep people aware of what is going on in the lives of Tucson's and Southern Arizona's LGBT family and how things could affect them, something the corporate media doesn't do.

In the past four decades, the Observer has helped to start marking Pride with an annual nonprofit event in Himmel Park and the formation of the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance, publicize and assist in the effort to raise funds for those living with HIV/AIDS in the 1980's with the annual Jell-O Wrestling, AIDS Walk and PACT for Life fund raising events and holding an annual benefit for community organizations, to name a few of the many actions initiated.

Most importantly, this publication has provided something to the LGBT and straight supportive community of Tucson and thanks to the advent of the Internet, the online world, the history of Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities in the past four decades and thanks to the donations of many supportive people and several benefit fund raisers, it has a place on the World Wide Web for all to see, typos and all.

Unlike the corporate media, this publication is not produced for huge financial profit, a cheesy "tax write off," fast cars or fancy office

space but to provide the Tucson and Southern Arizona LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities the news and views on issues of concern and an outlet for LGBT owned businesses, local groups and organizations.

Some readers may think that the Observer may always be there every week in print or online, taking it for granted the economic aspect of this endeavor, it does cost to put out a publication in print and online on weekly basis, one of the few such entities in the nation to do so, something the production staff of three and the community writers take pride in but the current economic realities will be a part of this, like the proverbial "rain cloud on the horizon."

When one reads the weekly edition in whichever form they prefer, take the time to look at all the advertisements, including the announcements and classified and if one is interested, go to those businesses and groups and spend your "pink dollar," at these places to help out the LGBT owned and straight supportive businesses and organizations.

For the readers and the current advertisers, first the Observer thanks you yet again for your support now and over these past four decades, through the "sunny days" and the "rain clouds," Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities have been there for each other but nothing, and we repeat nothing should never be taken for granted because just like history, businesses, groups, organizations and such will become a thing of the past, something everyone will regret.

TUCSON LEATHER/LEVI WEEKEND MARCH 14-15-16

TUCSON - The Tucson Leather Committee has arranged a three-day weekend packed with fun, food and fantasy. The "Taste Of Leather" weekend begins on Friday, March 14 with a start-up party at Venture-N, 1239 N. 6th Avenue. It runs from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Guest MC is Israel (Mr. So. California Fantasy 2000) and special guest Buster The Balloonguy. The evening will feature demonstrations, massages, door prizes, boot black, 50-50 raffle and drink specials. Tuff Stuff Leather from Phoenix will have merchandise for sale. There are rumors of after hours parties at the Flamingo Hotel, official hotel for those coming from out of town.

Saturday, March 15th, the day starts out with a Brunch Buffet at Colors Food & Spirits, 5305 E.

Repeal Of Ban On HIV Travel, Immigration Attached To Senate Bill



Senator John Kerry (D-Mass)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Senate has attached legislation that would repeal a travel and immigration ban on people with HIV to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR.

The ban was originally enacted in 1987, and explicitly restated in 1993, despite efforts in the public health community to remove the ban when Congress reformed U.S. immigration law in the early 1990s.

The travel and immigration ban prohibits HIV positive foreign nationals, students, and tourists from entering the U.S. unless they obtain a special waiver that only allows for short term travel. Current policy also prevents the vast majority of individuals with HIV from obtaining legal permanent residency.

While immigration law currently excludes immigrants with any "communicable disease of public health significance" from entering the U.S., only HIV is explicitly named in the statute. For all other illnesses, the Secretary of Health

and Human Services retains the ability, with the medical expertise of his department, to determine which illnesses truly pose a risk to public health.

Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) introduced legislation - the HIV Non-Discrimination in Travel and Immigration Act - in December 2007 to repeal the ban. Representative Barbara Lee introduced the legislation in August 2007 in the House of Representatives.

Monday (March 10) the bill was attached to PEPFAR. It is expected to be considered by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations very shortly.

"The inclusion of this reform in PEPFAR means that we are one step closer to ending a counterproductive travel ban stigmatizing HIV positive doctors and AIDS experts," Kerry said in a statement.

"This law was written when little was known about the disease and destructive stigmas often won the day. With new knowledge about the disease, we must make it clear that this discriminatory, draconian law will no longer be tolerated."

Sen. Smith said: "The United States is a country founded on the principles of acceptance and freedom and should not forbid individuals with HIV - including AIDS experts - from entering the United States. It's time to get rid of this thoroughly outdated law."

Physicians for Human Rights and the Human Rights Campaign both hailed the attachment of the Kerry-Smith bill to PEPFAR.

"We welcome language in the PEPFAR Reauthorization bill that would lift the ban on travel to the US for people with HIV," said John Bradshaw of the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Physicians for Human Rights.

"More than 700 doctors, nurses, and public health experts recently wrote the government asking them to overturn this ban. It clearly violates the human rights of people with HIV and has stigmatized them for 15 years. It's time for the U.S. to treat visitors living with HIV with dignity, as other countries do. There have never been public health grounds for denying people living with AIDS admission to the United States, and there are none now," said Bradshaw, from Washington.

"The time is long overdue to repeal this unjust and sweeping policy that deems HIV positive individuals inadmissible to the United States," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "This law emerged out of fear and stigma, and there remains no public health rationale for treating HIV more harshly than other communicable diseases. We salute the leadership of Senators Kerry and Smith and urge Congress to end this draconian policy."

Continued on Page Two

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

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UPDATE

Antigone Bookss Events, March 14-16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join in for an event at Antigone Books, 411 North Fourth.

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.

On Sunday, 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. ...

Wingspan Altar For Young Hate Crime Victims

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan is displaying an altar in memory of Lawrence King, Simmie Williams, Jr., and Sanesha Stewart, all victims of hate crimes in February.

Come light a candle, share your thoughts and gather with others to remember these young gender-non-conforming people of color who were

brutally killed for being members of the LGBT community. Anti-Violence Project Advocates will be available with support around these crimes and any hate or bias incidents you may have experienced. Sanesha Stewart, a twenty-five-year-old Transgender woman was tragically killed on February 9th in the Bronx, NY. Fifteen year-old Lawrence King, an out Gay student, was killed on February 12 at the E.O. Green Junior High in Oxnard, CA. The prosecution has designated it as a hate crime. Simmie Williams, Jr., an openly Gay seventeen-year-old, was shot in Fort Lauderdale, FL in the early hours of February 22.

Join with community members for a time of remembrance. The altar will remain on display for the next few weeks.

EON Volunteer Orientation, March 15

TUCSON - Eon's quarterly New Volunteer Training is for anyone age 18 or older interested in supporting LGBTQ youth at the Eon Youth Lounge in downtown Tucson.

For safety purposes, we do not publish the Eon address. Join in for a fun, interactive training on Saturday, March 15 from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Please RSVP to Courtney Jones, Youth Programs Manager, at courtney@wingspan.org or call (520) 620-6245.

City Of Tucson GLBT Commission Meeting March 18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues will hold their monthly meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m., in the EOO Conference Room first floor, 100 North Stone.

The mission of the GLBT commission is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals. The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999.

For the meeting agenda, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/uploads/bccfiles/2698.pdf. Call the City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213 for more information.

MOTHER HUBBARDS CUBBARDS ARE BRAND NEW! CHECK IT OUT

TUCSON - Mother Hubbard's Restaurant, 14 W Grant Rd, is once again under the ownership of Kal and Marcia Fisher. Manager Ruben Perez will be cooking up everyone's breakfast and lunch favorites, and all at lowered prices. The decor of the restaurant has been updated, and after 34 years at the same location, the picnic style seating has been replaced with comfortable chairs and new tables.

The Fishers are happy to be back serving the community, and are resuming the Wednesday morning free breakfast for Tihan clients. Also back is the \$1.99 special every morning until 10 AM. About the only difference is that the restaurant will now be closed on Monday. Hours for the rest of the week are 6 AM to 2 PM and weekends 7 AM to 2 PM. Delivery is available in the local area - just call 623-7976. So when you're craving good, reasonably priced, American style cooking, check out the old/new Mother Hubbard's.

'Los Monologos De La Vagina', March 15

TUCSON - V-Day International is celebrating TEN YEARS!

The Día-V Committee is proud to present their production of *Los Monologos de la Vagina* (The Vagina Monologues) in Spanish. Let's join the world in celebrating women and speaking out against all forms of violence against women and girls!

The performance will be Saturday, March 15, at Sunnyside High School, 1725 East Bilby Road. A resource fair will be held from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. The *Los Monologos de la Vagina* performance begins at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online at diavtucson.com.

Repeal Of Ban

Continued from Page One

The administration has acknowledged there are problems with the current system but its proposals still present roadblocks.

There are 12 proposed requirements of visitors and immigrants to this country who have HIV. They would require disclosure of HIV status to consular officials in the individual's home country; certification that the individual has in their possession all medication necessary for the duration of their stay in the U.S.; certification that no symptoms are being exhibited; and a commitment to avoid all high risk behavior while in the U.S.

In addition it is left to the discretion of the consular officers who often do not have the medical knowledge to make these decisions. No guidelines are given on how to make these determinations and there is no appeal process. If an HIV positive individual is given asylum in the United States, that person is not allowed to obtain a green card or become a U.S. citizen - even if their asylum was given because of their HIV status.

The United States is one of only 13 countries that have an HIV travel ban.

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Informing the Community

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New Arizona Development Goes After LGBT Retirees

SURPRISE, AZ (Observer Update) - Like a lot of baby boomers, Gay and Lesbian retirees are looking for a safe, fun place to live out their autumn years, the Arizona Republic reported. But Arizona's retirement offerings might not cut it for many, because of a lack of like-minded residents or a fear of coming out to the neighbors.

Out Properties LLC, a St. Louis development firm, hopes to change that by marketing a unique lifestyle to this niche group it calls "Gayby boomers," or Gay baby boomers. It plans to build a resort community, Marigold Creek, in Surprise catering to Gay retirees. "For some people, this might be the very first time in their entire life they've been able to live somewhere where they can be themselves," said Debi Purvis, principal with Out Properties. Marigold Creek is considered the first community of its kind in Arizona and will sit on 32 acres on San Ysidro Road east of 163rd Avenue northeast of Grand Avenue and will include 190 condos and homes ranging from \$249,000 to \$850,000. The first units are expected to open by fall 2009.

Surprise Mayor Lyn Truitt is a fan of the concept. "We're not a community that puts up barriers," he said. "Rather, we take them down."

Purvis said Surprise had the best combination of location and community in the Valley. "We knew it was an emerging, vibrant community and got such great feedback from people that said the community was growing and interested in the arts, and lots of different types of people living in the community," she said.

Though anyone will be able to buy at Marigold Creek, it is being designed with Gay retirees in mind.

Tucson resident Frances Coleman, 53, understands the need. "The really big advantage is, you don't have to go back into the closet and squish yourself," she said. "You can live with your partner and not have to pretend you're roommates." Coleman launched a senior group four years ago for Wingspan. She said she has encountered many retirees who chose to settle down in gated communities but kept their sexuality a secret. "As a Gay person, you're constantly coming out to people in every single venue - or constantly hiding, if that's how you live," she said.

Doug Beckwith, 56, lives in Chandler's Sun Lakes. While he enjoys the community, he sees the advantages of a place like Marigold Creek. "We spent our whole lives always being different and being outcasts," he said. "It would be kind of nice to live in a place where everyone else had gone through the same experience."

Marigold Creek's sales pitch hits on that very point. "Imagine a place where your neighbors are just like you. They share your interests and have similar lifestyles," an online statement reads. "Everyone is welcome, accepted and safe." In many ways, Marigold Creek mirrors other upscale retirement communities like Surprise's Sun City Grand. The gated development will have a fitness center, a spa, pools, a poolside bar and grill, a travel club and walking trails. It will also feature a theater and cabaret, and a spiritual center.

But existing communities don't always work for Gays, said Steve Donovan, a local Realtor and member of the Arizona Gay Realtor Alliance. Donovan said he has known many



An artist rendering of the proposed Marigold Creek in Surprise, Arizona that will cater to Gay and Lesbian retirees by Out Properties LLC.

members of the Gay community who moved into existing Valley retirement developments, only to be disappointed and move away. "They realized that wasn't the best choice, because it was not really geared toward that lifestyle," Donovan said.

Beckwith, dean and executive director of Axia College of the University of Phoenix, said he has talked for years with friends about the benefits of a Gay retirement project. "It would be nice to have neighbors who you wouldn't have to explain to why you weren't married or didn't have grandkids," he said.

The "buzz" has been building about Marigold Creek, said Scott Jeffery, chairman of the Greater Phoenix Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. "We'll see how the market responds, to see if there is a specific need for it," he said.

Purvis said the company is

ahead of projections, securing commitments on 40 units. And while Donovan said many of his past clients tended to gravitate to homes near downtown Phoenix, he could see Surprise as a viable place for more mature clients. "Surprise is a great area, and it's up-and-coming," Donovan said. Like all retirement communities, it won't be for everyone.

Commercial real estate broker Tom Snyder, 64, said he will remain in central Phoenix. "I could never live in a Sun City or anything... it's just too far out for me," said Snyder, treasurer of the Gay and Lesbian chamber.

Out Properties is only in the early planning stages with the city, Surprise senior planner Janice See said. The City Council eventually must sign off on zoning and land use changes to allow a higher density, she said. But based on preliminary talks, the project sounds favorable, See said.



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COMMENTARY....

by Deb Price

Foreign Service Should Become More Gay-Friendly

Ordinarily, the swearing-in ceremony of the newest U.S. ambassador to Romania wouldn't be a headline-grabber.

But the courageous insistence that day in September 2001 of Michael Guest, the first openly Gay American to be confirmed by the Senate to be an ambassador, that his partner be acknowledged by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell underscored that the moment was anything but ordinary.

To his credit, Powell did respectfully acknowledge Guest's partner, who went on to live with Guest in the ambassador's residence in Bucharest.

But, sadly, the State Department didn't follow up with much-needed changes in actual policy even though Guest lobbied for years.

Because he was ignored when he tried to sound the alarm that, for example, the exclusion of Gay partners from safety classes puts them at serious risk, Guest decided to end his 26-year career. Fittingly, at his retirement ceremony in late November, Guest again made headlines.

"It's irrational that my partner can't be trained in how to recognize a terrorist threat or an intelligence trap," said Guest, 50, whose last job was dean of the department's Leadership and Management School. "It's unfair. Why serve in dangerous or unhealthy places if partners' evacuations and medevacs are at issue? ... This is not about Gay rights. Rather it's about the safety and effectiveness of our communities abroad."

Guest says the prospect of another assignment abroad forced him to choose between standing up for his partner of 12 years and serving his country.

His farewell bombshell triggered demands for change from Capitol Hill. Four House members, including Gay Wisconsin Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Florida Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, wrote Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to urge her make overdue changes.

As the lawmakers point out, partners of Gay Foreign Service officers don't get to use embassy health services. They wouldn't get protection from avian flu. What's more, when a U.S. embassy gets evacuated, Gay partners must pay to escape the crisis.

the intensive language training that other family members receive before overseas postings. They don't get the preferential treatment given other family members who apply for consulate or embassy jobs.

The lawmakers also expressed concern that partners are barred from the security classes given spouses of heterosexual Foreign Service officers.

But on February 25, just days after the lawmakers contacted Rice, Foreign Service Director General Harry K. Thomas Jr. announced he was "extending access to security training" to "members of household" — an elastic term that includes Gay partners — because "they can be at risk" and making them more savvy about dangers "can positively contribute to our collective safety."

A frustrated Guest says that step is too little too late. "It's unconscionable that the administration has not done that until now," said Guest, now working to get the United States to address anti-Gay human rights abuses abroad. "My partner is my family. That is very basic. And that is why the changes need to be made."

The State Department is the civilian face that America shows the world. Making that face more Gay-friendly will benefit our entire nation, not just the partnered Gay Americans sacrificing so much to serve abroad.

(Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News, from which this article is reprinted.)



Former Ambassador Michael Guest

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Many Not Yet Told Of Possible Exposure To HIV, HEP-C In Clinic Needle Scandal

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (Observer Update) - Health officials used an incomplete patient list to notify people exposed to hepatitis and HIV at a Las Vegas clinic, an epidemiologist testified, reported 365Gay.com. "We know of patients who had been there whose names were not on the list," Southern Nevada Health District epidemiologist Brian Labus told a state legislative committee on health care.

financial records. He did not explain why some patient names would not have appeared.

Health officials believe the clinic spread the virus by reusing syringes and vials of medication. Health District chief Lawrence Sands said it was a well-known violation of common safety standards.

The clinic's records show the practice of using single-patient vials of medication to treat more than one patient has been in use since March 2004, when the clinic underwent a renovation and expanded operation, Labus said. Inspectors could not be certain the practice wasn't in place before March 2004, he said.

The public hearing was the first investigating the spread of hepatitis C from unsafe practices at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada. An outbreak of six cases of acute hepatitis C was made public. The surgical center and five other affiliated clinics have been closed.

Nearly 40,000 patients who received treatment at the center from March 2004 to mid-January have received letters telling them they are at risk for exposure and urging to be tested for hepatitis B and C, and HIV.

Labus said the patient list was provided by the centre and based on

The clinic's majority owner, Dipak Desai, and member of the governor's commission on health care, has refused to answer questions about the allegations. He took out a full-page ad in the Las Vegas Review-Journal insisting that needles had not been reused and that the chances of contracting an infection at the centre in most of the last four years were "extremely low."

LA Times Comes Out For Full Marriage Rights

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - In the wake of the arguments before California's Supreme Court in the case challenging the state's ban on recognition of same-sex marriages, the Los Angeles Times, in their editorial for Saturday, March 8, has come out in favor of full rights, benefits and privileges for same-sex couples in committed relationships.

word - marriage?"

"The best response came from the lawyer for the city of San Francisco, which briefly granted marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004. "Words matter," Deputy City Atty. Therese Stewart said. "Names matter."

Entitled "Civil unions aren't marriage" the Los Angeles Times says, "the M-word does matter, and courts should make that clear." What follows is the editorial:

"In a 3½-hour session that sounded sometimes like a law school seminar and sometimes like a radio talk show, the California Supreme Court this week wrestled with the question of whether the state Constitution's guarantee of "equal protection of the laws" requires the recognition of same-sex marriages.

"Indeed they do. In 2006, New Jersey's Supreme Court ruled that "committed same-sex couples must be afforded on equal terms the same rights and benefits enjoyed by opposite-sex couples under the civil marriage statutes." The Legislature then passed a civil union law. Last month, a commission assigned to evaluate that law found that civil union status wasn't recognized by employers and was "not clear to the general public, which creates a second-class status." Some of the problems identified in the report can be traced to federal law; others reflect the fact that employers are forced "to try to fit a square peg, civil union, into a round hole, systems relating to marriage." California's domestic partnership law is subject to the same objections.

"The justices delved into whether sexual orientation is immutable, whether Gays and Lesbians constitute a "suspect classification" deserving of special protection by the courts, and whether a 1948 ruling against a ban on interracial marriage was a precedent for invalidating a state law that describes marriage as "a civil contract between a man and a woman." But the central issue in the case was identified by Justice Carlos R. Moreno. Referring to the fact that California grants same-sex couples the benefits of marriage under the term "domestic partnerships," Moreno asked: "Doesn't this just boil down to the use of the M-

"Ideally, full marriage rights for same-sex couples would come about through the political process. In fact, the Legislature has approved same-sex marriage legislation, only to have it vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on the grounds that it conflicted with Proposition 22, a ballot question approved by voters in 2000. That proposition can be read either as a ban on all same-sex marriages or a refusal to acknowledge those entered into outside California. But even if the court took a narrow view of Proposition 22, it would have to overturn language in the state Family Code limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

"It may be, as Justice Carol Corrigan suggested at this week's arguments, that evolving public attitudes will eventually lead to same-sex marriage - M-word and all - without intervention by the judiciary. As we have said before, we don't think same-sex couples should have to wait. In 1948, the court was accused of thwarting the will of the people when it struck down the ban on interracial marriage; it would face similar condemnation if it ruled that "equal protection of the laws" requires the same treatment for heterosexual and same-sex couples. But, as in 1948, the result would be the just one."

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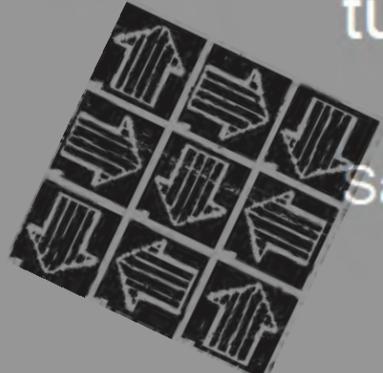
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Theater Review



John Sensenhouse (Atticus) holds Daria LeGrand (Scout) in the Arizona Theater Company's current show 'To Kill A Mockingbird'

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

BY Jack Melichar

TUCSON - To Kill A Mockingbird opened at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S Scott Avenue on March 7. For those in my generation, we will remember it as an outstanding read - unlike the younger generation who are still stuck on Curious George.

I recently had the opportunity to interview John Rensenhouse who plays Atticus Finch in this American Classic written by Harper Lee (by the way, the winner of the Pulitzer Prize).

Mr. Rensenhouse will be filling big shoes indeed. In 1962, Gregory Peck played the same role and for it, won an Academy Award. However, Mr. Rensenhouse is not an amateur. He recently completed a four year stint on the road in The Lion King. He has appeared in soap operas (his first professional appearance - The Edge of Night), Shakespeare - King Lear, The Taming of the Shrew and Dracula.

When I asked him how it felt to be following in the steps of Peck, he said "intimidating". I didn't have the heart to tell him I had played the same role in Boston. Why put the total fear of god in him?

I had assumed that being in a soap opera would be grueling work. I was wrong. He told me it was the closest to a 9 to 5 job that he had had in acting. Either fortunately or unfortunately, he was killed off after the first year. I vote for fortunately, for I have never cared for soap operas and am enraptured by those who have mastered their craft.

I asked Mr. Rensenhouse of his favorite roles. I was somewhat taken aback when he said Dracula. When I inquired as to why, his response was "I

only had to fly in and out, and the money was good!"

His other favorite role was Petruchio in 'The Taming Of The Shrew'

I am looking forward to the opening night on March 8, and to meeting Mr. Rensenhouse.

Come join the Observer and the Arizona Theatre Company for a Night Out at the Temple of Music and Art. We begin our levity at 6:30 on March 6. Meet friends and new acquaintances, and then enjoy a wonderful night of theater. But you had better hustle your butts, i.e get them off the bar stools. Tickets are almost gone!

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COMMENTARY... By Lisa Neff

Death, Not Prom Dates, For GLBT Teens

These days a name in yesteryear's GLBT newspapers, not today's headlines, is on my mind.

I've been thinking about Jamie Nabozny, because thinking about him makes me feel proud and strong. He's a man today, but when I met him he was a boy taking on the challenge of an adult; fighting, with the support of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a civil rights suit against his school district in Wisconsin.

Jamie Nabozny encountered countless acts of assault in middle school and high school – verbal harassment and physical violence, taunts and battered ribs. He endured those attacks in an indifferent school system run by ignorant educators who answered his reports of harassment with "boys will be boys."

Jamie took those educators to court and he won in what was heralded as a landmark case in the Gay civil rights community and for GLBT youth.

I've been thinking about Jamie because not too long ago a friend approached me seeking some advice. Her teenager had come out to her and she was worried how people might treat her child. "I just don't want her to be hurt," she said.

I felt already she had done the most important thing. She had told her child she loved her and that all would be right.

I offered recommendations about where to turn on the Internet and a suggestion that parent and teen talk about how out to be in high school – Out to family? Out to friends? Out to classmates or teachers? Out to take on the cause of civil rights and equality?

I was thinking, at the time, that the most serious issue ahead would be whether to take a date to the prom or how to respond to another kid saying, "That's so Gay." I was thinking more about Jamie Nabozny's victory in the courts in 1996 than Jamie's school days.

Then fear took hold of me when I read about the death of Lawrence King, a 15-year-old fatally shot at his school in Oxnard, Calif., by a 14-year-old boy who repeatedly had joined others in bullying Lawrence. How cavalier I'd been with my comments about life for Gay teenagers, I thought, and I wondered if

I should mention Lawrence's death to my friend.

About 10 days later I read about the slaying of 17-year-old Simmie Williams Jr. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Simmie, openly Gay, was fatally shot on a street corner following, according to police, "some words said."

During a vigil held in Simmie's memory, there were speeches and calls for legislative reform and the collection of donations to help pay for Simmie's burial.

I thought of Jamie Nabozny and all that he had suffered and overcame – certainly he faced a fear that the assaults might turn deadly.

Death, not prom dates, is what GLBT teens must think about? Then death is what I need to think about when I consider the challenges facing GLBT youth. And death is what I need to talk with others about before I, in solidarity with GLBT youth, join in the annual National Day of Silence next month.

On April 23, students will participate in the nationwide event coordinated by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

The event, now in its 12th year, serves as a protest against anti-GLBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Such intimidation can silence GLBT students and their peers and such intimidation often goes unpunished by school personnel.

So the National Day of Silence serves as a protest – students literally spend a day in silence and pass out cards reading, "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence. ... My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

Are you asking what you are going to do?

Because I hope you too will join the protest that day in memory of Lawrence King and Simmie Williams, in praise of Jamie Nabozny's battle, and in solidarity with students dealing with complicated, potentially dangerous, school days.

(Lisa Neff is a reporter with The Islander, a weekly newspaper on Anna Maria Island, Florida, and this oped is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

Socialitsts Who OK'd G/L Marriage Wins Spanish Election



Jose' Luis Rodriguez Zapatero MADRID, Spain (Observer Update) - Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero won re-election Sunday (March 9) in a clear endorsement of a record of social change including the legalization of Gay

marriage and on-demand divorce, reforms once unthinkable in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Spain.

Zapatero also shifted Spanish foreign policy by pulling troops from Iraq in his first term, which he won three days after Islamic militants killed 191 people in a string of bombings against commuter trains.

Voters handed Zapatero his second term despite worries about a slumping economy, immigration and resurgent Basque separatists, blamed for gunning down a member of the prime minister's party on Friday – timing that recalled the March 11, 2004 Madrid attacks.

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'DRAG FOR A CURE' Held March 4th at IBT's where staff and friends raised over \$4,000 for a local breast cancer awareness organization. All proceeds support the Race for A Cure! Congratulations to everyone involved. PHOTOS: Amanda Irvine



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Saving Our History Since 1967



POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

With Friends Like These. . .

According to a recent news article in Tucson's morning daily newspaper ("She's our woman in Phoenix," February 26), Republican state Representative Jonathan Paton of Tucson said his first call was to Kathleen Mayer, one of the open Lesbian prosecutors of the Pima County Attorney's office to get information and assistance on several criminal justice bills he was drafting for consideration.

This wasn't the first Paton had worked with Mayer on legislation. On a specific bill dealing with Child Protective Services, Paton invited Mayer to a meeting of interested parties to discuss the proposed legislation. "She had the sort of moral authority to convince people that this is how it works," Paton said in the article.

Meanwhile, the Arizona Senate Government Committee chair, Jack Harper (R-Surprise), in an interview for another article in Tucson's morning daily newspaper ("Bill would let Arizona opt out of Electoral College system," March 5), had a quasi-Sally Field moment when he expressed that "he likes her, he really likes her." Harper was referring to his fellow state Senator, Paula Aboud, D-Tucson, the only open Lesbian in the Arizona Senate.

With friends like these, one would think these elected officials would be open-minded and considerate of all but whom are we kidding, it is an election year so its time to make wedge issues of citizens for political fun and profit!

As previously reported, despite twelve year old current state statutes on the recognition of same-sex marriage (A.R.S. 25-101, 25-112), four-year old legal precedent (Standhardt v. Superior Court) by those "judicial activists" that had been approved by the Republican-controlled state Senate, Republicans in both chambers of the Arizona Legislature, with no positive campaign record to run on, are trying to place a proposed amendment to Arizona's constitution to be considered on the November ballot by the voters, to ban same-sex marriage.

SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1038 and HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065 are making there way through both legislative chambers and if

they are approved, the measure will be on the November general election ballot.

Both Paton and Harper are co-sponsors of their chamber's respective bills. When voting for SCR 1038, February 21 during the meeting of the Senate Public Safety and Health Services (PSHS) committee, "It is not a matter of whether or not this is already in statute."

While Arizona state employees await a final decision on a proposed rule change before the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, that would allow them to include their domestic partner and their children in their employee benefits, some members of the Arizona Legislature are working to take those benefits away through SB (Senate Bill) 1499.

Entitled, "state employee health benefits; dependents," SB 1499 would create a state law that prevents state agencies from extending partner benefits to their employees. Thirteen state Representatives and Senators, all Republicans have cosponsored SB 1499. One of the thirteen who signed on to the bill is state Senator Jack Harper, R-Surprise, so with friends like these.

SB 1499 has been approved by the Arizona Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Retirement Committee and the Senate Rules Committee respectively and have been caucused by the majority and minority in the Senate.

HCR 2065, as previously reported, received approval by the Arizona House Judiciary Committee and the House Rules Committee respectively and had been caucused in the Arizona House but an objection was filed.

SCR 1038 had been okayed by the Arizona Senate PSHS Committee and still awaits a hearing before the Senate Rules Committee.

To take action, go online to eqfed.org/ahrf/home.html, reach your state Senator or state Representatives online at azleg.gov and E-mail or call at (800) 352-8404.

The Oasis Is Drugged..... And So Are You

By Jimmy Petrol

The boys and girls down at T.W. are doing their level best to get us the stuff in gobs, as we tend to blow it like nobody's business watering lawn, filling private pools and generally mucking around in it. Don't call and get all huffy....they aren't the ones taking all the meds...and they were very sure to mention to me that they didn't think people could help needing medication.

Minute...tiny....that is the characterization that has to be used to describe it, but there it is....and it is just going to get bigger.

The Associated Press (AP) has released an article....AP claims it contacted many American city's water suppliers and asked about drug contamination.....not surprisingly, there is some.

At first blush, it is amusing to find that San Fran has a detectable level of sex hormones in municipal drinking water. Southern California has free anti-depressants in many areas. Nothing to worry about there, if you fit one of the common demographics for So. Cal, ie: on Prozac and Viagra.

There could be a great real estate opportunity here; what kind of drugs would you like to get without the bother of a 'script and a visit to the medico? Admittedly, the current dosages are very small and the effect on the human system is at doubt. Just as the long term effects of smoking were long disputed, the water districts are kicking the dirt and telling us not to worry, according to the AP.

An also ran, with nothing fun mentioned in the way of inadvertent recreational drugs, was Tucson. The AP says we've got a couple of drug traces and an antibiotic. While we cannot claim to have been able to detect any systemic effects ourselves, we are hopeful that the continuous, ultra-low dosage of the unnamed antibiotic is having a prophylactic effect. On the other hand, what are those two mystery drugs behind door number two?

Tucson Water (T.W.) called right back and told me that the three pharmaceuticals had been found in 2002 when T.W. did a little research to see if these things they were finding in runoff and such were finding there way into the water system. They found the antibiotic, at 4 parts/trillion, a blood-pressure med residue at a similar level and an anti-seizure med at about 47 parts/trillion. Really low, in only a couple spots....really, really low.

One thing, though: don't flush those unused medications....seal it up and get rid of it in some manner that will keep it out of the water supply. Tucson Water mentioned this...J.P. is guilty of this very thing.

The upshot here is that the byproducts of human populations are building up, even from our excretions....and with these populations concentrating more and more in cities, the problems of contamination of all sorts becomes exacerbated.

Breath slower, walk softer.

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

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Lesbian Lawmaker Presses D.P. Rights For California Straight Couples

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - While same-sex couples battle for the right to marry in California, a Lesbian lawmaker is proposing that the state allow heterosexuals to take a step short of going to the altar - registering as domestic partners.

State Sen. Carol Migden, a San Francisco Democrat whose legislation created the state's domestic partner registry in 1999, has introduced a bill that would allow straight couples over age 18 to become domestic partners. The measure is scheduled to be considered Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

It comes as the state Supreme Court weighs whether to strike down California's prohibitions against Gay marriage. The state's current domestic partner program covers only same-sex couples and older heterosexual couples who have at least one member who is age 62 or older. There are about 48,000 couples in the registry currently.



State Senator Carol Migden

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HOROSCOPES

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We feel feisty to the point of instability when Mars opposes Pluto this week. Even moderation goes full tilt. One good push deserves another... and another!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

This week can bring a contretemps between your career and your home life. Each side demands your attention and each side puts on the pressure to the breaking point. Try not to bite at the bait. Proud Rams need to learn the art of compromise. Learn to fight another day when you are more on form. So just rest and recharge those batteries before you pop a socket.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

To tell the truth, queer Bulls are less able to tell the truth when Mars opposes Pluto. There is something fun and wilde about taking a chance and pretending to be who you are not. You may exaggerate your assets to the bulging point. Sometimes this self promotion works out well for you but sometimes you may come up a bit short. Will your tall tale attract the tall tail?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

A pink Twin and their money are soon parted when Mars opposes Pluto. You are motivated by a combination of lust and avarice. But can status really be bought or does it need to be earned? Decide for yourself once you have gone through the exercise. It may turn out that the quiet accumulation of wealth and love is better than the showy, envy attracting kind.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Independence is the keyword when Mars opposes Pluto. Suddenly pink Crabs are weighing the cost benefits of a certain relationship. Who are you and who are you seeking for the long term? You may be chaffing at your leash but this is a temporary development that will change by next week. Why scuttle the ship because of a few extra buoys?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions not only uncover behind the scenes mischievous plots at work when Mars opposes Pluto, they manage to expose and incapacitate them all in the nick of time. Your reputation for strategic insight is enhanced and you advance into an important advisory position where others begin to look to you for guidance. Oh do you

have them fooled! You are just darned lucky.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

You may not think of yourself as a party animal but now, as Mars opposes Pluto, you are thrust into the epicenter of manic, celebratory fun. Goody. Just when you were ready to slip into your furry slippers and brew some tea, the posse arrives and hoists you Out the door. Enjoy the bon temps while you can, queer Virgin. By next week you will ache for a zetz or two.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Just when you thought that it was safe to leave early and feign a cold, Mars opposes Pluto and ratchets up the responsibility. Proud Libras find creative ways to spend more time with their family by delegating less important work tasks to underlings. But this can backfire if some of these throw away projects wind up to be deal makers. How to choose? How to choose?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Gay Scorps may unintentionally spill the beans on an important issue. This announcement spreads like wild fire, cannot be rescinded and can get you into trouble. So if you have a juicy secret, bite your tongue until next week. In the meantime, find better ways of communicating your thoughts. Don't they say actions speak louder and prouder than words?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Love costs much more than you think when Mars opposes Pluto. Gay Archers who ache to be adored find that they need to splash their intentions all over town and in a big way. With the right message you can attract lovers like flies, especially if you pour on the honey with your money. Is it worth it in the end? While it pays to advertise, be sure to negotiate the buy.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Partners expect too much of you when Mars opposes Pluto. And this may begin to get on your nerves. Pink Caps feel hemmed in but should refrain from getting frustrated and making any demands. Very soon this angry feeling will pass. If you are looking for a relationship, restraint is still a good strategy.... especially when you use restraints. Ahem.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

How many secret admirers will you discover this week, Aqueerius? Many, it seems. Mars opposes Pluto and turns up your charm and grace. Fill up your dance card and experiment with new creative outlets. It will enhance your karma and bring a glow to your persona. Suddenly you are the pick of the litter. This is great especially if you are into trash.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Friends are there to help you get out of a jam when Mars opposes Pluto. Your energy level is high and unstable. Guppies seem to take things to the extreme and engage in riskier-than-usual behavior. It is fine to have a back up team to protect you but try to use more common sense in any social situation. Often we learn by doing but life lessons are best gathered in other ways.

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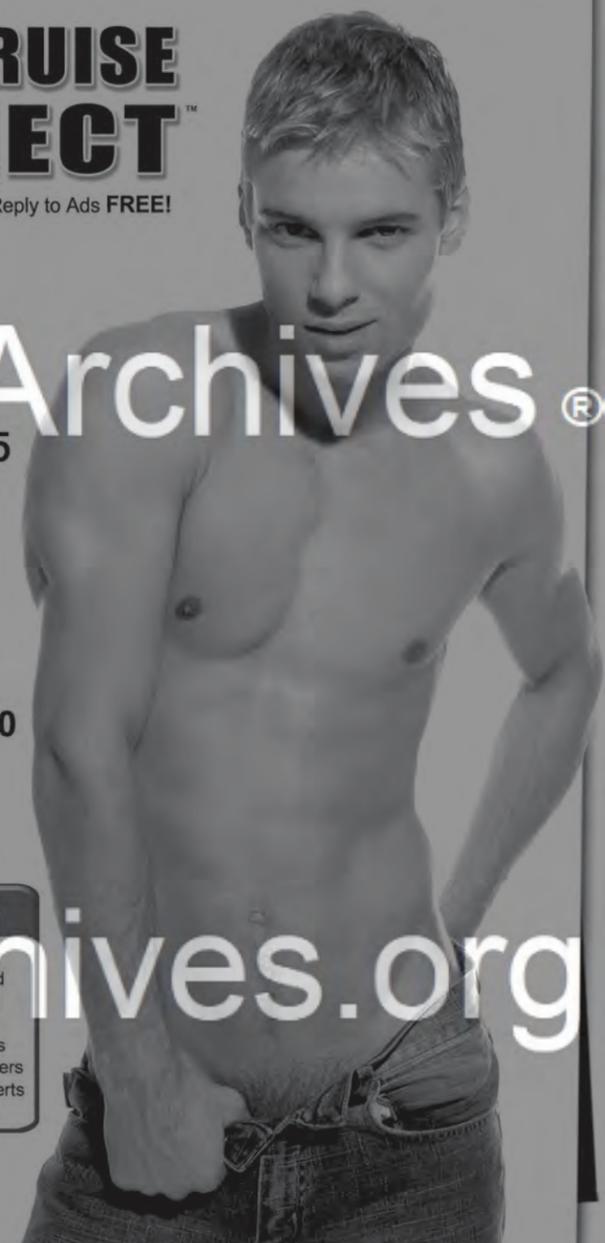
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Man Arrested In Larry Craig Sex Sting Is Acquitted

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - A Minneapolis man arrested in the same airport bathroom sex sting as U.S. Sen. Larry Craig has been acquitted.

Thirty-nine-year-old Vince Tuzon used a similar argument to Craig in pleading not guilty. Tuzon claimed he wasn't guilty because the police officer initiated the foot-tapping. On Friday (March 7), a Hennepin County jury agreed with Tuzon.

"My client really feels that he was set up," defense lawyer Jeffrey Dean said. "He stopped in to use the restroom. He was using the toilet when he was essentially bombarded with overtures." The Metropolitan Airports Commission was "disappointed" with the ruling, spokesman Pat Hogan said. "Every case is different, and we respect the jury's decision," he said. "That's just the way this one went."

Gay, Trans Arab Outcasts Find Some Solace In Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (Observer Update) - A recent show in Tel Aviv was a public coming out for "The Bride of Palestine," a 26-year-old performance artist who's one of a new generation of Gay Arab-Israelis struggling to define themselves, their sexuality and their political identity.

societies without being firmly rooted in either one.

In an effort to carve out a space for themselves, Palestinian drag queens gather every few months at a club in the heart of Tel Aviv to take part in underground shows. They're forging their identities at the center of what some consider an occupying power. The Palestinian nationalists among them recognize the irony in the fact that Israel has become their sanctuary.

For most like The Bride, being Gay makes them pariahs in their conservative Arab communities. Being proud Palestinians puts them at odds with the dominant Jewish-Israeli society. So they try to take a stand against bigotry in both

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.

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun, Jacqueline Woodson, (Scholastic). A lyrical novel about a boy's coming to terms with his mother's homosexuality.

Name Me Nobody Lois-Ann Yamanaka, (Hyperion). Named after Emmylou Harris because her mother used to "do it" to the Profile album, the protagonist doesn't know who her father might be, and feels like a nobody in her Hawaiian town: "I'm not smart enough to be a nerd. I'm not stink enough to be a turd. I fall somewhere right below the band geeks and right above the zeroes." A mixture of splendid and musical Hawaiian Creole English. This is a page turner novel that explores sexuality, racism, and the troubled waters of establishing one's own identity.

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. It'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

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



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ACLU Helps Gay Man Secure Health Insurance

ATLANTA, Georgia (Observer Update) - After pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union, Georgia's commissioner of insurance has agreed to allow Jon Lawson, a 51-year-old Gay man, to purchase health insurance through a state plan designed to help people who are uninsured.

Commissioner John Oxendine initially denied his application because the plan requires the applicant to be insured for 18 months before joining the plan. Lawson was deemed ineligible because he was covered as a domestic partner through his previous insurance plan. According to the ACLU, Oxendine has been blocking LGBT residents from receiving public health insurance since the state supreme court ruled that the city of Atlanta is allowed to provide domestic-partner benefits to its employees.

"I'm happy that the insurance commissioner did the right thing, not only in my case but for others who may be in the same situation," Lawson said in a statement. "Anyone who needs health

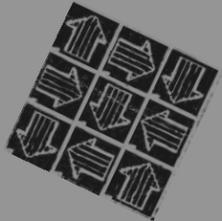
insurance and meets the state's requirements should not be denied under any circumstances." Lawson, who was insured after breaking up with his partner of six years, discovered he was eligible for insurance under the state's Insurance Assignment System. The program is for those who have insurance but are about to become uninsured. He applied for the program and provided proof that he was insured for the required previous 18 months. Several days later, he received a call from Oxendine's office and explained that he had been covered as a domestic partner under his former partner's plan. The same day, the program's coordinator said he was ineligible for the program because "the relationship of domestic partner is not considered a family relationship under Georgia law," according to the ACLU. The ACLU sent a demand letter on January 9 to Oxendine's office on behalf of Lawson; the letter detailed his qualifications for the insurance program. On March 3, Lawson received notice that he will be insured under the program.

Microsoft Exec Surprises Colleagues With Sex Change

REDMOND, Washington (Observer Update) - Megan Wallent is an executive on the go. At Microsoft's headquarters where male executives far outnumber their female counterparts, Megan is a standout, especially for one significant difference.

Until few months ago, she was a he. "Well, I'm me," Megan said. "And I think most people would perceive me as female these days. And that's the way I present myself to the outside world."

(abcnews.go.com/Nightline). Megan used to be Michael, a longtime Microsoft executive who oversaw the entire Internet Explorer division of Windows for years, a leader of hundreds and an executive who interacted frequently with Bill Gates.



Megan's story was on "Nightline"

NON-BAR CALENDAR

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

Saturday, March 15
EON's quarterly New Volunteer Training is for anyone age 18 or older interested in supporting LGBTQ Youth at the Eon Youth Lounge in Downtown Tucson. Join in for a fun interactive training from 10am to 1pm. RSVP to Courtney Jones. Youth Program Manager at courtney@wingspan.org or call (520)620-6245.

The Dia-V Committee is proud to present their production of Los Monologos de la Vagina (The Vagina Monologues) in Spanish. Join the 10th year anniversary celebrating women and speaking out against all forms of violence against women and girls! The performance will be held at Sunnyside High School, 1725 E. Bilby Road. A resource Fair will be held from 4-6pm. The theatrical performance begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online at diavtucson.com

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

Tuesday, March 18
The City of Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues hold their monthly meeting this evening at 5:30 p.. In the EOO Conference Room, first floor, 100 N. Stone. For the meeting agenda, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/uploads/bccfiles/2698.pdf

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

Oklahoma Legislator Defends Leaked Anti-Gay Statements

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma - Facing criticism over a speech on the "homosexual agenda," spreading across the Internet after being posted online by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Oklahoma House Rep. Sally Kern stands by her statements.



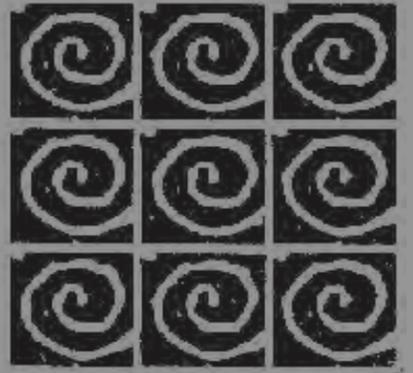
Rep. Sally Kern

"the death knell for this country," a threat larger than international terrorism. "Or Islam," she adds, "which I think is a big threat."

Kern also compares the LGBT movement to "cancer in the big toe," making the comparison to say that the "Gay agenda" must be rooted out before allowed to "spread." "This stuff-it's deadly," she says, "and it's spreading, and it will destroy our young people. It will destroy this nation."

"The homosexual agenda is destroying this nation," opens a candid Kern to who she thinks is a private audience of fifty Republicans. "Not everybody's lifestyle is equal," she charges, "just like not all religions are equal." "According to God's word," Kern continues, "that is not the right kind of lifestyle. It has deadly consequences for those people involved in it."

In the speech, Rep. Kern charges that Gays are "infiltrating" political offices, seeking to indoctrinate America's children through pro-Gay legislation, Gay-straight alliances and school curricula. She considers Gays



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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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. Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at Rose canyon lake at 12:00 pm. We will meet at the yard dog at 10:30 am to car pool up to Rose canyon. T.K.O. will also be having a bake sale at Woodys on Sunday April 6th 3:00pm to 6:00 pm.

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.saaaf.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.

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 (GPGCLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclcc.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 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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 MESSAGE 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. Sundays 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 to SAGE-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.



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. 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 1/2 price 4-6pm. 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 Domestic and well and 1/2 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 Domestic and 1/2 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). Full 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 - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 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 - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 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 Hill 9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, 1/2 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 Teriyaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. 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 open 11am-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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

WOODY'S - "Tease & Tanks" Dance Party 9-close. Dance and wear your favorite "T" or "Tank" for drink specials.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

IBT'S - Pre-St. Patrick's Day Celebration with green draft beer and \$2.00 shot specials. Mike Lopez is DJing on the Patio and DJ Todd Marble on the dance floor.

VENTURE-N - It's Leather/Levi Weekend here at the Start-Up Party will be from 10pm until 2am closing. Demonstrations, massages, door prizes., Boot Black, drink specials, 50-50 raffle etc. etc. etc

WOODY'S - Live Soul/Motown/R&B by Simon Crown. March Birthday Party 10pm. Cake and Champagne Toast.

Saturday, April 15th

THE BIZ - Tax Day Promo. Bring in proof of doing your taxes and we give you a "return".

COLORS - the Leather/Levi folks will be here from noon until 2:00 for a brunch buffet. There will be drink specials. Come on by and visit with the leathermen

VENTURE-N - Surf-N-Turf Dinner for the Leather men cooked by chefs Richard and Roy. More Drink specials - Demonstrations - Massages - Porn Sale. Etc. Etc. Etc. The Fetish Party takes place from 10pm until closing with more of the above. Special Guest Boot Black: Tino

YARD DOG - Two Sons Band will be playing on the Patio starting at 9:00 p.m.

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. St. Patrick's Day Party starts at midnight tonight and continues tomorrow!

VENTURE-N - The Leather/Levi Weekend winds down with another party here from 11am to 1pm

WOODY'S - Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 11am - 3pm. Special Brunch \$6 11am-2pm. Bud Team - Rock Paper Scissors Contest - Prizes and Giveaways 9pm. Karaoke 9pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

THE BIZ - St. Patrick's Day Party. 25 Cent Draft Green Beer. Poker Pubv 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Party starts at midnight March 16!

IBT's - Happy St. Patrick's Day. Happy Hour will include Corned Beef and Cabbage. DJ Hurricane spinning the hottest Hip-Hop, R&B and Dance Music. Drink Specials - Green Beer - Beads and more!!!

WOODY'S - St. Patrick's Day Party and Corned Beef and Cabbage and Potato Dinner 5-8pm. Door Giveaways; \$3.75 Killian Red Promo 9pm with Killian Red Giveaways; Karaoke 9pm.

YARD DOG - St. Paddys 's with Corned Beef and Cabbage served from 3-7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

"Torn/Tattered/Tattooed" Dance Party. Wear it and Dance and get Special Drink Prices.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

WOODY'S - "Spring Break Party" - Dress for the Beach with Special Beach Drink Prices 9pm - close.

YARD DOG - Amanda Nichole and special guest at 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

WOODY'S - Woody's Annual Easter Party and Easter Egg Hunt/"Basket Contest". Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 11am-3pm. Easter Buffet Brunch only \$6, free glass of champagne included 11am-2pm. Drag Bingo with Stella Virgin and Janee Starr 8pm; Karaoke 9pm.

YARD DOG - Easter Brunch 11am until 2pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

WOODY'S - "Leather" Dance Party. Wear your best Leather Accessories for Special Drink Prices 9pm-close. Hottest Leather Contest \$50 prize



'L Word' Ending Run On Showtime



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LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - "The L Word" is set to take its final bow. Showtime has renewed the Lesbian drama for a sixth and final season, which will make it one of the premium network's longest-running series, reported the Hollywood Reporter. Eight episodes have been ordered, targeted to go into production in early summer for an early 2009 premiere.

While past seasons generally have consisted of 12-13 episodes each, Showtime executives and series creator/executive producer Ilene Chaiken believed that eight additional episodes were creatively what was needed to wrap up the story lines. "The L Word" follows a group of Los Angeles-based friends as they navigate careers, families, friendships, personal struggles and romantic relationships. The series became the first Lesbian primetime drama on television

when it debuted in January 2004. Its stars include Jennifer Beals and Mia Kirshner.

Chaiken, who created the series with Kathy Greenberg and Michele Abbott, said the show will live on, interactively. "This is by no means the end of 'The L Word,'" she said. "The brand and the social network community, OurChart.com, will continue to live and be a destination for Lesbians everywhere and a lasting tribute to what 'The L Word' has accomplished." She added that fan input will play a part in wrapping up the series' story lines, noting the role that viewer input has played in the past.

"The L Word," which received a GLAAD Award for best drama series, also has a big following in virtual world Second Life and has spawned such branded products as perfume, jewelry and books. The Season 5 finale is set to air March 23.

Lesbian Dallas Sheriff Avoids Runoff In Re-Election Bid



DALLAS, Texas (Observer Update) - Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez took the first step toward her goal of being re-elected this fall with a win Tuesday, March 4, in the Democratic Primary.

Valdez, the first woman, the first Latina and the first Lesbian to ever win the county's top law enforcement office, pulled in 50.86 percent of the primary vote to escape a runoff, despite having three challengers in the race for the party's nomination.

Valdez said that winning the nomination outright "gives me a great boost." "Now I am looking forward to the second phase of this election," Valdez said. "Now we work to continue the progress we've made and we continue to work toward November. But we also want to try and unite the Democratic Party again."

Sheriff Lupe Valdez

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