Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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4,000 Lost Souls

By Senator Robert Byrd

Last week marked the fifth anniversary of the start of our nation's invasion of Iraq. Again we are confronted with a sorrowful reminder of the consequences of that fateful decision by the death of four Americans killed in Baghdad, bringing the total number of American troops who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq to 4000. Each brave soul leaves behind devastated loved ones – sons, daughters, wives, husbands, moms, and dads. Each tragic loss leaves a void – a missing smile and loving embrace, an empty chair at the family dinner table – that can never be filled.

As we mark this painful milestone, we must ask ourselves: what is the moral justification for allowing this war to continue? Can we honestly say that the disastrous mission in Iraq warrants the sacrifice of more of our troops and the heartache and loss that so many loved ones continue to suffer?

In March of 2003, just prior to the invasion of Iraq, I made a final plea to the administration and my colleagues in Congress to avert a war that I believed would reap sorrowful consequences for our nation. In a speech entitled "We Stand Passively Mute", I expressed my outrage at the fact that the United States Senate – the world's greatest deliberative body – stood "for the most part-silent-ominously, dreadfully silent" on this monumental question.

Sadly, my worst fears have been realized. The decision to invade Iraq may go down as one of the gravest foreign policy blunders in our nation's history.

Yet the war continues. American troop levels are higher than they were the day President Bush flamboyantly swooped onto the deck of the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln to declare "Mission Accomplished."

Senator Robert Boyd

Four thousand Americans have now lost their lives, including twenty-three brave West Virginians. Almost thirty-thousand Americans have been wounded in action, many gravely, and countless thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed.

It is long past time to start bringing our troops home. Our men and women in uniform toppled the dictator. There were no weapons of mass destruction. There is scarce evidence that the Iraqi government is working to achieve the kind of political reconciliation that could end the continuing sacrifice of our brave men and women.

At this somber moment, let us resolve to take steps to finally bring this tragic war to an end. In 2008, the American people must not stand passively mute, as far too many of their leaders did five years ago. Let your voices be heard.

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National Conference To Address LGBT Black Concerns

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Hundreds of LGBT African Americans will meet in Baltimore next month in the first ever conference aimed at empowerment.

The three-day conference is being organized by the National Black Justice Coalition - the nation's largest Black LGBT rights group.

Called the Power of Us Conference, it will bring together 50 national experts in 35 workshops, panel discussions, and question and answer sessions.

"[It] is a powerful statement for a community that is rarely portrayed in media and entertainment," the National Black Justice Coalition said in a statement Monday.

The conference will showcase an array of highly successful men, women and youth who are making a difference in their community as Black openly LGBT.

Among those scheduled to participate are newly out Connecticut State Legislator Jason Bartlett; Judge Darrin Gayles; Newark, NJ City Council Member Dana Rone; Wilton Manors, FL City Commissioner Joe Angelo; Kathy Harris and Ray Cunningham of BET's College Hill; and Comic Karen Williams.

The conference will be divided into three main areas - Black wellness including HIV/AIDS, the Black Church and homophobia, and Black LGBT Politics including the 2008 Presidential Race and Marriage Equality.

NBJC said that tickets are still available through its Web site, nbjc.org.

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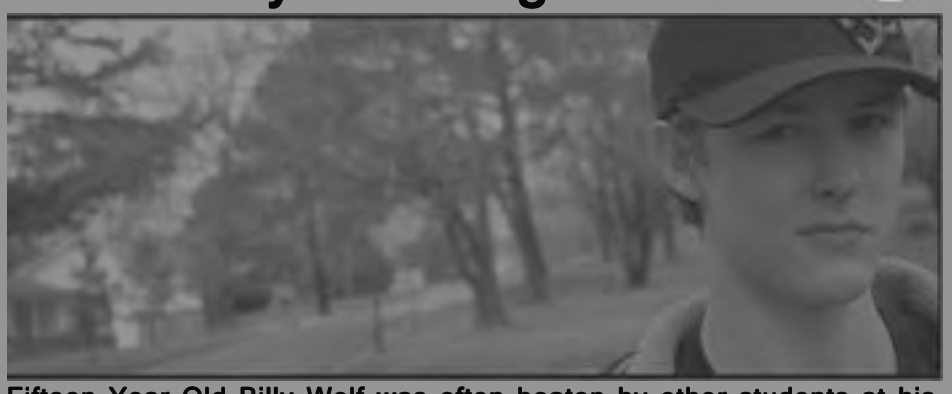
Hyatt Developer In San Diego Fighting For Anti-Gay Initiative

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - Developer Doug Manchester and other prominent San Diego County businessmen have given significant financial support to an initiative that would ban same-sex marriage targeted for the November statewide ballot.

Manchester's $125,000 donation has prompted a Gay-rights activist to urge a boycott of the Manchester Grand Hyatt and the Manchester-owned San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina. In addition to Manchester, Mission Valley developer Terry Caster has donated $162,500; Robert Hoehn, owner of Hoehn Motors in Carlsbad, has given $25,000; and La Jolla businessman Roger Benson has given $50,000, state records show.

Manchester said he was motivated by his strong Catholic faith. "I personally believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman," he said.

Student Beaten Up And Mocked As Gay -- Though He Is Not



Fifteen Year Old Billy Wolf was often beaten by other students at his Fayetteville, Arkansas school for being Gay even though he is not.

FAYETTEVILLE, Arkansas - For years, bullies have targeted him: left him black and blue, knocked him unconscious, mocked him as Gay (though he's not). Now his parents, who say school officials have been unhelpful, are suing their son's tormentors.

As reported in a March 24 New York Times article, 15-year-old Billy Wolfe has received numerous beatings from bullies ever since the Fayetteville, resident was twelve years old, edgeboston.com reported. A few years ago, the article reports, Billy was phoned by another boy from his school who offered, as a joke, to sell Billy a sex aide. When Billy told his mother and she in turn informed the other boy's parents, Billy became a target from pay-back.

Only, the pummelings and harassment didn't stop there. The Tmes story reports that Billy, who is tall and thin, wears braces, and suffers a learning disability, has become the constant, and literal, whipping boy in his school. While anti-Gay groups and activists criticize efforts to curb bullying nationwide, calling it a means to "promote" homosexuality, Billy, who is not Gay, has been depicted as Peter Pan online and called a "homosexual" by the kids who deliver the frequent beat-downs.

The Times report details how ten years ago the harassment of a Gay student in Fayetteville led to strict policies regarding tolerance; but Billy's parents, who possess voluminous records of the attacks against their son, question whether school officials are doing anything to address the problem. In one instance, Billy was beaten up on a school bus. School officials suspended first and examined the bus security tape later: they had suspended Billy, when the evidence showed that he was not the aggressor, but rather the victim.

The Times article even reports on a cell phone video in which a boy brags to his brother that he's going to assault Billy. The video goes on to show the boy punching Billy so hard that he staggers, a welt appearing on his forehead. In another instance, Billy was struck with such force that he was knocked out and suffered laceration on the inside of his cheek had to be sewn closed by a dentist. Though the attack took place during a woodshop class, a school official reportedly declined to contact the police about the matter and went so far as to comment that Billy had had it coming.

Indeed, school records indicate that Billy is not entirely passive in his interactions with his tormentors. The article cited records suggesting that Billy had been involved in verbal exchanges and shoving matches prior to being beaten up. That isn't good enough, say Billy's parents. Other than hearing that they should consider moving away, say Billy's parents, they see little evidence of the school district doing anything about the attacks.

One incident that did receive attention from school officials was when a Facebook page was created by the name Everyone That Hates Billy Wolfe. The page depicted Billy as Peter Pan, with accompanying text that read, "There is no reason anyone should like billy [sic] he's a little bitch," the Tiems reported. Continued the text posted on Facebook, "And a homosexual that NO ONE LIKES."

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UPDATE

Tucson Councilmember Seeks New GLBT Commissioner

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Ward V Councilmember Steve Leal is seeking an individual to serve on the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues.

The mission of this 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. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 5:30 PM at the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone, first floor. Meetings are open to the public.

Interested individuals, who are city residents, should send a letter of interest or an E-mail with their resume to ward5@tucsonaz.gov or by postal mail at 4300 South Park, Tucson, AZ 85714. For more information, please contact the Ward V Council Office, (520) 791-4231.

Amanda Curtis And Host Tangaora March 28-30

TUCSON - Tangaora, located at 604 North Fourth Avenue is hosting a special weekend event for local artist Amanda Curtis, March 28-30, for a chance to view and purchase her unique art pieces in celebration of the Aloha Spirit!

On Friday, March 28, 4 - 6 p.m., Curtis and her "Tiki Art" will be featured at Tangaora's Outdoor Studio. Curtis will hold a reception and artist showcase, Saturday, March 29, 5 - 8 p.m., with Hawaiian-style snacks with refreshments available for purchase from Rainbow Planet Coffee House. From 2 - 4 p.m., Sunday, March 30, Curtis will be featured in the Outdoor Studio.

For more information, call (520) 248-2696.

PFLAG/MSN Scholarships Deadline March 31

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The deadline for 2008 PFLAG/MSN scholarship applications is coming up quickly, Monday, March 31.

PFLAG Tucson will award seven $1000 scholarships in the name of Gene Moore, a dear past president of PFLAG.

Men's Social Network will also award an additional two $1000 Jerry Curl Scholarships to Gay male students through the PFLAG application process. LGBT graduating seniors headed to college, undergraduates, and graduate students may apply.

For application forms and details go to pflagtucson.org/scholarships. You may also call PFLAG at (520) 360-3795, email them at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org, or write to them at P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740 for information.

Puertas Abiertas

TUCSON (Observer Update) In an effort to better serve the Latino community and provide a safe space where Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people can meet, Wingspan has started a social group called Puertas Abiertas.

The group holds regular meetings, hosts events, forums, and educational and social events. Since its inception, Puertas Abiertas has been bringing Latinos together to celebrate their heritage and LGBT pride, while creating a sense of community. Please come out and join us. For more information on Puertas Abiertas, please call Wingspan (located at 425 East 7th Street) at (520) 624-1779.

Con el deseo de servir a la comunidad latina y proveer un lugar seguro donde las personas Gay, Lesbiana, Bisexual y Transgénero puedan reunirse, Wingspan a organizado un grupo social llamado Puertas Abiertas.

Este grupo conduce reuniones regulares, y auspicia acontecimientos, foros, y actividades educativos y sociales. Desde su creación, Puertas Abiertas ha reunido a gente latina para celebrar su herencia cultural y su orgullo gay, a la vez que ha ayudado a fortalecer el espíritu comunitario. Por favor, participe y reúnase con nosotros. Para más información, comuníquese a Wingspan al (520) 624-1779.

'25 Questions For A Jewish Mother March 29-30

TUCSON - The Invisible Theatre is proud to announce Emmy-winning actress/comedienne Judy Gold in "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother" playing March 29 at 8:00 p.m. and March 30 at 3:00 p.m. at the Berger Performing Arts Center (1200 W. Speedway on the campus of the AZ School for the Deaf & Blind).

Judy and award-winning playwright Kate Moira Ryan embarked on a five-year journey across the US interviewing over 50 Jewish women of different ages, ethnicities and occupations. The end result is a moving and humorous portrait of what makes a Jewish mother, a Jewish Mother. "Fiercely funny, honest and moving!" (New York Times).

For reservations call (520) 882-9721.

Arround The Old Pueb lo

The Wingspan Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will hold a free, engaging, and informative training on March 28, 29, and 30 for potential crisis line volunteer advocates, service providers, students, and interested community members. Participants must plan on attending the entire training. Wingspan is the only organization in Arizona that provides 24-hour crisis intervention specifically to LGBT victims/survivors of past/present violence. Our program relies on community volunteers just like you.

Topics that will be covered include: Domestic Violence, LGBT 101, Hate Crimes, Suicide Intervention, Active Listening Skills, Crisis Intervention, Community Resources, and much, much more. Wingspan welcomes folks who have no prior experience, as well as crisis line veterans. For more information, please contact Heather Hill at hhill@wingspan.org or by calling (520) 624-1779, x120. ...

This month is national "Write a Will" month, and in observance of the occasion, TIHAN and the Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce are joining other non-profit organizations around the country to encourage everyone to make their wishes known by writing a will. You are invited to a free 90-minute interactive informational session with estate attorneys Tim Olcott and Laura Schoenfeld which is designed to empower participants to formalize their plans to protect your estate and to ensure that your wishes are known and respected. This event is free and open to all, and takes place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31 at the TIHAN office (1011 North Craycroft, #301).

This event is sponsored jointly by TIHAN (tihan.org) and the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce (tucsonglbtchamber.org). RSVP to Scott at (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org. For more information about leaving a legacy through your estate planning, contact the Center for Planned Giving at the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (Center for Planned Giving at CFSA) or Leave a Legacy (leavealegacy.org).

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Death Is Not Funny

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Huffington Post journnalist (huffingtonpost.com) Nico Pitney made this nightmarish mosaic of John McCain and George W. Bush using faces of the 4,000 U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq. Writes Pitney: "In remembrance of the 4,000 brave men and women who sacrificed everything for us – and the two men who would continue this great tragedy, despite the cost to our soldiers, our military, and our nation." ...

In an exclusive interview with ABC News, Vice President Dick Cheney was asked what effect the grim milestone of at least 4,000 U.S. deaths in the five-year Iraq war might have on the nation. Noting the burden placed on military families, the vice president said the biggest burden is carried by President George W. Bush, who made the decision to commit US troops to war, and reminded the public that U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan volunteered for duty.

Steve May Leaves Congressional Race, Facing Family Lawsuits

SCOTTSDALE (Observer Update) - And you thought your family was f**ked?! Arizona politico Steve May rescinded his Congressional bid after falling out with his family, which owns United American Industries, a sweetener manufacturer, reported queerty.com.

May's Mormon parents, James and Carol May, allege in court papers that they brought their son into the business back in 1995, but gave him the boot in 2006 following his "erratic behavior," which they claim came from a substance abuse problem. May's made no secret of his previous bouts with addiction, and readily admits to checking into rehab in February of 2006.

Republican May denies his parents claims, particularly that he tried to steal their employees and start a rival business. He also blames their actions on their religion... From Arizona Capitol Times: "(My parents) always see my behavior as erratic because they're dishonest," May said. "Sobriety showed me that they were engaged in ... evil behavior that I want nothing to do with." May said he and his parents had reached an agreement for them to buy him out in February, freeing up his time to run for Shadegg's seat. Steven Weinberger, James and Carol May's in-house legal counsel, said that's a "complete and utter fabrication." ...

A mediation memo in the case states May's Mormon parents never accepted Steve as a Gay man. The memo, written by Steve May's attorneys, describes the story of a successful business infected by a dysfunctional family. "My parents have been abusive people our entire lives," he said of himself and four siblings. "I unfortunately thought that if I made them rich that they'd be nice to us, but that's not what happened." Mr. and Mrs. May deny those claims, of course.

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UPDATE

Observer Opens Store On Blog

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Observer's blog, located at tucsonobserver.blogspot.com has been operational for more than a week has been the interactive offshoot for the Observer, Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) weekly newspaper.

People have accessed this new media outlet to come together to learn, be aware, communicate and most importantly to be more informed on issues of concern, events and happenings that affect their lives.

New posts have been featured on the blog, as well as links to information and websites of note and concern but a feature has been added to tucsonobserver.blogspot.com, a store.

Café Press is a business which offers various generic items to whomever who want to sell items with their logos, prints, etc., and the Observer is the latest to set up an online store on the Café Press website.

Located at cafepress.com/tucsonobserver, interested people can purchase items, from mugs, mousepads to t-shirts with the Observer insignia on it.

Proceeds from the purchases will go towards the production of the print edition and maintenance of the online Observer. So for those wondering, their money will go to keep Tucson, Southern Arizona and the Internet world informed on the issues, events and happenings of concern to the LGBT communities.

As time goes by, the blog will change and hopefully soon, the website will be updated for the better. The Observer strives to improve and can do so, with the help of its readership.

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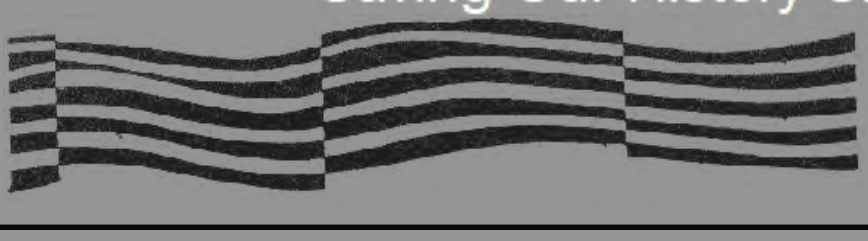

In Their Own Words

By Judy Shepard

(This guest column for GayPolitics.com, from which this is reprinted from, Judy Shepard comments on the now-infamous remarks made by Oklahoma state Rep. Sally Kern.)

"Sally Kern's comments hit me like a punch to the gut. I was enormously saddened that someone–anyone, really, but especially an elected official–could say such mean things about other human beings. We have so much to deal with already–the incessant dreary news about war, about the economy, about shocking crimes. I'm amazed that someone like Sally Kern found the time to push a whole new theory about who we should fear.

"But as despicable as Sally Kern's ideas are, she is of course free to shout them from the rooftops. One of the oddest responses of people who agree with her has been that we are trying to restrict her freedom of speech. In reality, the Victory Fund gave her a megaphone. If she's that proud of her speech, she must be thrilled that more than 1 million people have listened to it.

"No, the question isn't whether she has a right to spew hateful rhetoric. The question is whether she ought to.

"My son died nearly ten years ago at the hands of people whose hatred changed many lives that day. It hardened hearts and brought others to their knees. It shook a nation and enraged millions. At that time, I knew there was a window of opportunity that I could use Matthew's story and my voice in replacing hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance. Through the Matthew Shepard Foundation, we are reaching young people who are at risk of being poisoned by the dark ideas of people like Sally Kern.

"I don't know why Sally Kern is proud of comparing Gay people to cancer or terrorism, but count me as someone who's listening now to people like her. She may be free to say people like my son are a threat to America, but when she does she puts other mothers' sons in danger. I pray she doesn't say it anymore."

Georgia Appeals Court Overturns Contempt Conviction Of Lesbian Mom

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - A long nightmare has ended for Elizabeth Hadaway, who was convicted of criminal contempt of court last year for not handing her daughter over to foster care after she lost custody solely because she's a Lesbian.

A year and one day after a county court judge sentenced Hadaway to 10 days in jail, the Georgia Court of Appeals has overturned her contempt conviction. The American Civil Liberties Union, which represented her in the appeal and secured the little girl's return home from foster care last May, applauded the court's decision.

"Just yesterday I was watching Emma hunt for Easter eggs and thinking how the possibility of going to jail and being separated from her again made it hard to just enjoy the moment," said Elizabeth Hadaway, a 29-year-old paramedic who first took in the little girl when the child's biological mother asked her to raise and adopt Emma. "I'm just so grateful that the court has lifted this burden so we can move on and I can keep focused on making sure Emma has a happy home and a good life."

Hadaway's struggle began in 2006, when a Wilkinson County Superior Court judge was on the verge of granting her request to permanently adopt Emma when he noticed in a home study that Hadaway was living with her female partner of seven years. The judge abruptly changed his mind about the adoption request solely because Hadaway is a Lesbian. Although Emma's biological mother told the court that she wanted the child to be raised and adopted by Hadaway, the judge denied the adoption and ordered that Emma be sent back to her biological mother. Hadaway met with the biological mother at a truck stop to hand over the girl. After accepting custody, thus satisfying the court order, the biological mother saw how distraught Emma was at being taken from Hadaway and again insisted that Hadaway should raise the girl. Because Hadaway took Emma back, the Wilkinson County judge then ordered that Emma be sent to live in a foster home and sentenced Hadaway and her attorney to 10 days in jail for contempt of court. The sentence was stayed pending appeal.

Emma, now seven years old, was eventually returned to Hadaway's care last May after an expert commissioned by Wilkinson County Department of Children and Family Services found that the little girl was experiencing emotional trauma because of the separation from Hadaway. Next, a judge in another Georgia county granted Hadaway permanent custody. DCFS then let Emma return home, but not before she had been in foster care for three months, during which her welfare was seriously compromised.

"We're pleased that the court has agreed with us that Elizabeth Hadaway shouldn't do jail time simply for doing the right thing for her child, but it's unfortunate that it's taken almost two years of court proceedings to end up with things where Elizabeth, Emma, and Emma's biological mom wanted them to be in the first place," said Debbie Seagraves, Executive Director of the ACLU of Georgia. "Elizabeth Hadaway did everything the judge ordered her to do, and she should never have been punished."

"None of this would have ever happened if the trial court had recognized this child's needs and not been swayed by misguided beliefs about Gay people," said Ken Choe, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "No child should fear being torn away from home just because his or her parents happen to be Gay."

Hadaway is represented by Ken Choe and James Esseks of the ACLU's national LGBT Project, and cooperating counsel Dan Bloom of Pachman Richardson, LLC in Atlanta and Amy Waggoner of Aussenberg Waggoner, LLP in Alpharetta.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

By Deb Price

Uncle Sam Should Work To End Anti-Gay Abuses Worldwide

DETROIT, Michigan - After Korab Zuka founded a Gay-rights group in Kosovo in 2005, he received threatening phone calls and emails and had his car vandalized.

"We are going to make you hold your intestines," Zuka, 22, recalls being warned. "We will (rape) your mother ... and we are going to cut your head off.'"

The police were indifferent to his cries for protection.

"I was frightened. A Gay guy had been beaten to death a few months earlier. The threats kept coming. There is only so much a person can resist," he says.

So Zuka applied to the United States for political asylum, which has just been granted.

Zuka sketched out his terrifying story in an interview with me and at a recent news conference called to highlight the latest State Department report on human rights violations around the globe, including outrageous and horrifying abuses of Gay men, Lesbians and transgender people.

While the report describes courageous Gay activists and some court breakthroughs, it also tells of alarming anti-Gay violence and harassment by police and run-of-the-mill bashers, as well as discrimination in employment, housing and health care. For example:

Honduras: "(P)olice beat and detained" a Gay leader, then threw him in a cell with 57 gang members, who raped him. A "transvestite activist" was attacked by five men while "police reportedly prevented other persons from aiding" him.

Iraq: Islamist death squads are thought to be behind a rash of anti-Gay killings, kidnappings and torture. The victims included a taxi driver, a tailor and a chef.

Indonesia: Two Gay men were harassed by neighbors, then "arbitrarily arrested, beaten and sexually abused by police."

Croatia: A survey found nearly 15 percent of Gay people said they'd been physically assaulted in the past three years. Several tourists also were Gay bashed, including a hand-holding German Gay couple and a British man who ended up with a concussion.

Cameroon: Gays "suffered from harassment and extortion" by police. Also a private high school kicked out 34 students accused of being Gay or Lesbian.

"The U.S. is a very respected country in Kosovo. ... If the U.S. government ... were to say to the government, 'This is not OK, how Gay and Lesbian people are treated,' I am sure that it would have made a difference," Zuka says.

"I hope that Kosovo will change. And that will be with the help of the United States serving as a role model – and not only for Kosovo, but for many countries," he added.

Zuka's heartfelt plea comes as a new Gay group, the Foreign Policy Project, is pushing the State Department to work harder to reduce anti-Gay abuses abroad.

The project is getting help from the nation's only openly Gay ambassadors: James Hormel, ambassador to Luxembourg from 1999 to 2000, and Michael Guest, ambassador to Romania from 2001 to 2003.

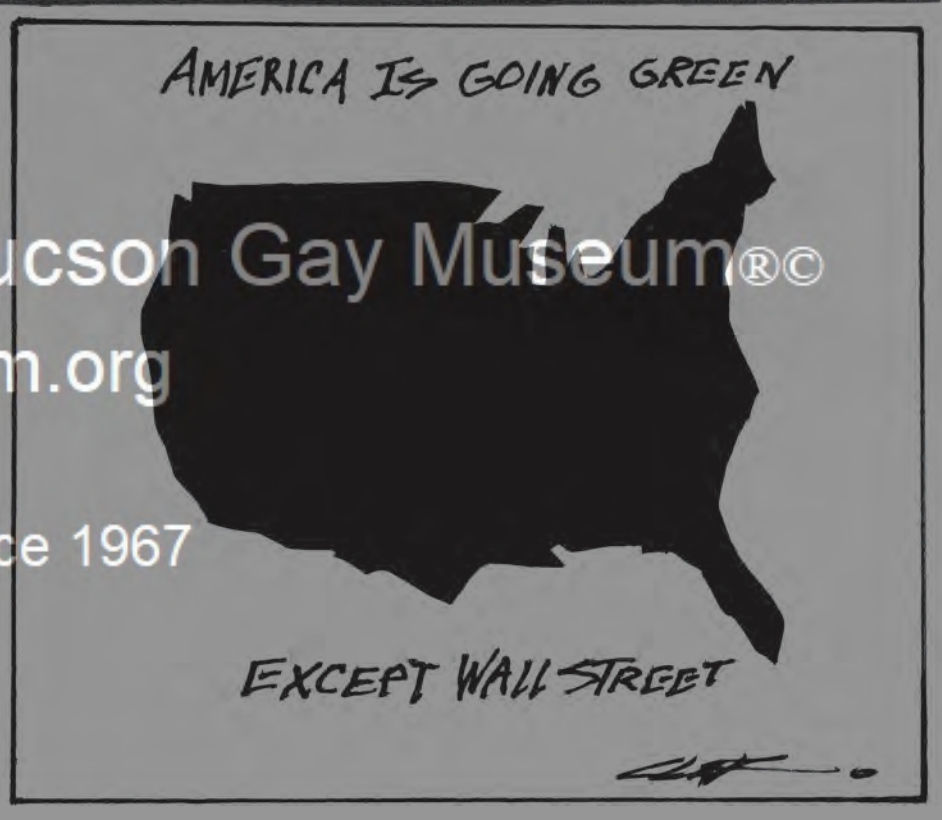
"We need to challenge these abuses wherever they occur," Guest says. "Our embassies must become advocates for change."

Hormel adds, "If the State Department will highlight sexual orientation and gender identity as important components of a broad U.S. commitment to human rights, it will be taking an important step toward rebuilding our credibility abroad."

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: Just like their heterosexual friends and neighbors, Gay people in every corner of the globe ought to enjoy those fundamental freedoms. And Uncle Sam should say so at every opportunity.

(Deb Price of The Detroit News writes the first nationally syndicated column on Gay issues. This oped is reprinted from pageoneq.com.)

AS I SEE IT. . . . . BY CLARK



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The Brunch Is Back

By Jack Melichar

Woody's (located at 3710 N. Oracle Road) had suspended its Sunday Brunch a short while ago.

Realizing the error of their ways (and they make errors aplenty!), they have reinstated it - and it is bigger and better than before. It is a great way to see old acquaintances and to meet new friends.

The food is superb, the price is reasonable, and you will have the opportunity to meet me (remember I am only 22, but it have had a very hard life)! The brunch begins every Sunday at 11:30. However, this is a Gay bar, so give or take a few minutes (one hopes not hours).

I have worked on prepping for this brunch - so when I say it is great, I am in some ways tooting my own horn.

However, I learned in the late 40's (before most of you missies' fathers had even reached puberty), that *He who toothet not his own horn, the same shall not be tooted.* John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers. Woody's is also indebted to Jeff and Peter who have worked their butts off, although, looking at them you couldn't tell it.

See you Sunday at Woody's, and don't eat all the bacon - someone did on Easter, and I don't enjoy cooking bacon!

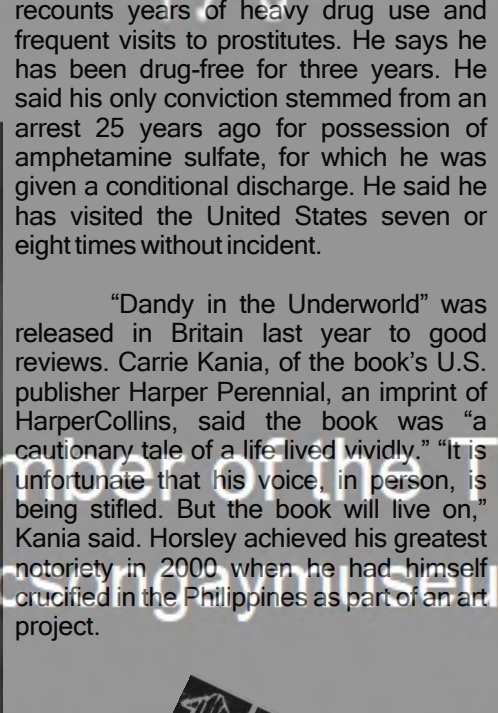
Next week, I shall tell you about going to the dentist. I despise dentists - or I did. However, with only one tooth left, it's not so bad.

Sexually Ambivalent British Writer Denied Entry To U.S.

LONDON (Observer Update) - British writer and self-styled dandy Sebastian Horsley was denied entry to the United States after arriving to promote his memoir of sex, drugs and flamboyant fashion, reported advocate.com. Horsley said he was questioned for eight hours Tuesday (March 18) by border officials at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey before being denied entry on grounds of "moral turpitude."

The 45-year-old author was traveling to New York for the U.S. launch of "Dandy in the Underworld," his account of a life dedicated to sex, drugs and finely tailored clothes. "I was dressed flamboyantly - top hat, long velvet coat, gloves," Horsley said. "My one concession to American sensibilities was to remove my nail polish. I thought that would get me through."

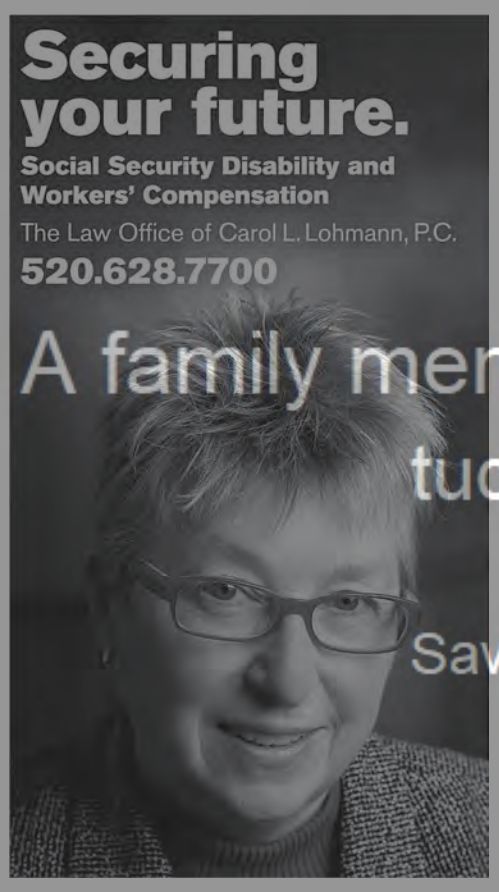
According to Lucille Cirillo, a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Horsley was traveling under the CBP's visa waiver program, which entitles citizens of some countries - mostly in the European Union - to enter the United States for business or leisure without applying for a visa. Travelers can be refused entry if they admit on a customs form to being convicted of a crime or to being addicted to narcotics, Cirillo said. She declined to specify what responses Horsley listed on the form. "We interviewed the individual extensively and the CBP officers decided he was not admissible under the visa waiver program," she said.



British Writer Sebastian Horsley

Horsley can still apply for a visa to return to the United States, Cirillo said. "They knew more about me than I did," Horsley said in an interview from his London home. "They said, 'We know you're a heroin addict, we know you're a crack addict, we know you're involved in prostitution.'" Horsley's book - billed as an "unauthorized autobiography" - vividly recounts years of heavy drug use and frequent visits to prostitutes. He says he has been drug-free for three years. He said his only conviction stemmed from an arrest 25 years ago for possession of amphetamine sulfate, for which he was given a conditional discharge. He said he has visited the United States seven or eight times without incident.

"Dandy in the Underworld" was released in Britain last year to good reviews. Carrie Kania, of the book's U.S. publisher Harper Perennial, an imprint of HarperCollins, said the book was "a cautionary tale of a life lived vividly." "It is unfortunate that his voice, in person, is being stifled. But the book will live on," Kania said. Horsley achieved his greatest notoriety in 2000 when he had himself crucified in the Philippines as part of an art project.



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PERSPECTIVE

Make Way, Peons, For the Great And Mighty

By Jimmy Petrol

Buried deep in a bunker built of technology, armed guards, state police and impressive architecture, the legislators of the Sunstroke State consider their people and their times with all due care and solemnity. Theirs is responsibility dealt large, and they mean to meet the anti.

Never has it been so clear as today, when the most protective legislation imaginable lay under the heavy consideration of this august body.

The State of Arizona may, amazingly, offer its citizens a right to *brandish* arms. There can be little doubt that this novel interpretation of the Second Amendment will provide excellent entertainment for the citizens of this bold and innovative state, The upshot, if you will forgive the expression, will be hardest on the very citizens the proposed legislation seeks to empower.

Arizona law may soon enable any citizen who feels threatened by any *other* citizen (of any state, for that matter) to haul out a sidearm and wave it about. While this may, at first blush, appear to provide a much needed deterrent to crime and general incivility, the results will undoubtedly be drastic. Already, there is a great body of law that provides citizens (and even non-citizens) the right to defend themselves.

In Arizona, where the law allows most citizens the right to carry loaded weapons in cars, busses, department stores, in backpacks and the like *without a concealed weapon's permit,* that means protection from real threats can be lethal. It is already legal to shoot and kill anyone who attacks another in a way that would put a reasonable citizen in fear for his or her life, etc, etc. The obvious reason for the modern citizen to *want* to carry a weapon is to provide a suitable response to *other gun carriers* who, on occasion, take them out in McDonalds and start waving them about. In this instance, the native Arizonan is likely to take the long view of the matter and shoot the first fellow dead.

It will not be the *possibly unarmed*, but rude, criminal element that gets shot, but rather the pompous brandisher, who, having had enough of some tough character's rude slurs and general bad manners, pulls out a gun and starts pointing it at people. There is no doubt that the act of pointing a loaded weapon at people in a public place is bound to excite the citizens in the general vicinity. Not having been privy to the specifics of the altercation prompting the fearful citizen to draw down on his unfortunate miscreant, the random Arizonan is more likely to shoot whoever is waving a gun about without waiting to find out if they are a mass murderer or simply a pompous ass.

One can only grope for the motivations behind this proposal. One can easily picture the average legislator, after a hard day legislating against the criminal element and the lax and miserable citizen, popping out for that saving cocktail, or out to dinner with a member of the staff. There is a little drinking, a little laughing, and a little eating. Said legislator then totters off to the parking garage, where he or she may be intercepted by one of the great unwashed. Royalty, when caught alone in such a case, has always had it's misgivings about personal safety. And rightly so; the expensive suit, watch, car and general *chic* of the royals is a beacon to beggars and muggers alike. Who, in the dim confines of a parking garage, wants to stick around and find out if a curt "get a job" will suffice, or if hard cash will be demanded?

Better, they must think, to simply haul out the gold-plated Smith and Wesson and order the *filth* away.

Of course, this is a bill that could only be conceived by a group so far removed from the public places and circumstances the average Joe inhabits that the reality of the coming shootouts and ambuscades the law will promote are inconceivable. To imagine that Jimmy Petrol might mistake a well heeled and affluent legislator for a mass murderer about to begin his workday is beyond them. But it will happen. People who point guns at other people in public in Arizona are simply going to get the style of frontier justice our lawmakers dream of. It just isn't going to work out for them the way they think.

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

Gay Fans Get Iced With Homophobia At Rangers' Games

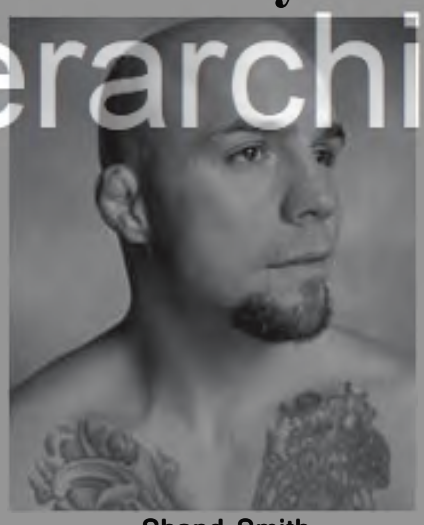
NEW YORK CITY - The New York Rangers and owner Madison Square Garden are facing a lavender rebellion. Gay fans, such as Kevin Jennings, are growing more vocal in their fight against homophobic epithets hurled during home games, reported queerty.com.

[Some] fans recalled that the crowd booed when the name of the New York City Gay Hockey Association, a recreational league, flashed briefly across the jumbo screen.

"It's a pervasive problem," said Jennings, who is the executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, a nonprofit group that promotes tolerance of Gays and Lesbians. "I took my godson a few months ago. I won't take him again. He's 6. I don't want him looking around and seeing other men engaging in this behavior and thinking this is the way you behave."

The battle began late last year and spurred MSG to release a statement decrying anti-Gay attitudes. Despite their pledge to boot contentious fans, the arena still allows Larry Goodman to lead chants, which often devolve into "Ho-mo Larry!" Goodman's well aware of the uproar, but seem undeterred: That's how it will always be and that's what makes it part of the fun in going to a Rangers game in New York City, for God's sake. It comes to a certain point, it is sort of like, you've got to have freedom of speech.

New York Times Profiles An Openly Gay Ultimate Fighter

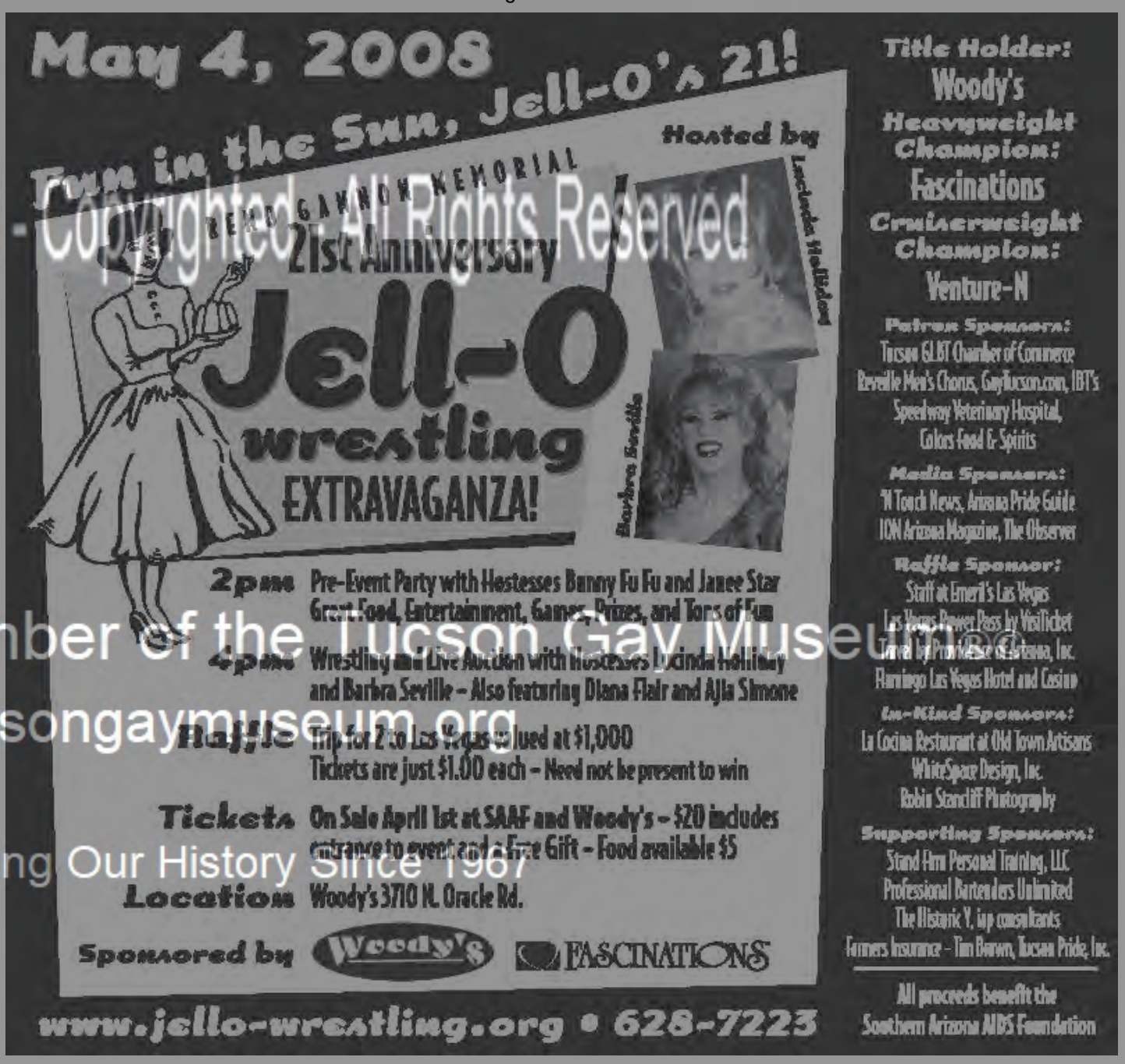


Shand Smith

NEW YORK CITY - Shortly after he was released from California's Avenal State Prison in early 2005, Shad Smith got a call from the organizers of an underground fight club called Felony Fights, reported the New York Times.

Was he available? they asked. "I was just out of prison and out of money," Smith told me recently. He was incarcerated for failing to comply with the probation terms of an earlier D.U.I. conviction, a relatively minor offense in his long criminal résumé. "They said they'd give me 800 bucks to show up and double that if I won." Smith is Gay, and I know of no other professional fighter who is openly so.

"I was always scared that my mom and dad would find out and wouldn't like me, and my brothers wouldn't like me," he said. "I was petrified, because I didn't want anyone to find out. And I would try to be the toughest person around. That way, no one would suspect, no one would ever say it, no one would think it."



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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

'More Than A Wedge Issue

During a recent campaign stop in Medford, Oregon, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, running for the Democratic Presidential nomination, decried how campaigns use wedge issues, "to divide the electorate, but have ultimately done little to make a real difference, especially when there are more important things to worry about."

Senator Obama went on to state to the assembled crowd that there are campaigns that use Gays and Lesbians to such extent.

One wonders if whether those wanting to repeal Oregon's Domestic Partner Registry (with its benefits and rights), were just outside the Medford, Oregon auditorium circulating their petitions to get their measure on its November general election ballot. Oregon has a law defining marriage as between a "man and a woman."

For that matter, will Obama's remarks be stated in Pennsylvania, which has their presidential primary on April 22, and the Pennsylvania Legislature is considering a proposal to place on its November general election ballot a proposed state constitutional defining marriage as between "one man and one woman," and barring governmental and legal recognition of civil unions - despite a state defense of marriage law which has been on the books for twelve years.

Wedge issue is one thing, but as we know, read, seen and most likely witnessed, it goes much further. Some recent examples (of the many) include:

Ralph Martinelli, a male employee of Konica and his partner, Robert Ryan, moved from New Jersey to Idaho because of the job and the partner no longer is eligible to be on the company's health insurance plan because they live in a state which doesn't legal recognize a same-sex relationship either as a civil union or a domestic partnership.

Elizabeth Hadaway, a Lesbian living in Georgia, faced jail time for criminal contempt of court last year for not handing her daughter over to foster care after she lost custody solely because of her sexuality.

Jason Hair-Wynn is an HIV/AIDS counselor living in Attleboro, Massachusetts, married to his same-sex partner since 2005 and can't get a passport issued with his hyphenated last name since he received a letter from the State Department saying the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) prohibits it from recognizing his new name. Under DOMA, only heterosexual marriages are recognized by the federal government.

Billy Wolfe being beaten daily at school because of his perceived sexuality. Young people such as Lawrence King and Simmie Williams Jr., were brutally murdered because they were Gay.

People who are HIV+ or living with AIDS cannot travel or move to the United States because of federal government policy prohibiting individuals, which this country is only one of thirteen with such Draconian laws on the books.

This country is facing many, many problems and one cannot let such issues to be marginalized by politics, either by Democrats or Republicans. Answers must be found and implemented to solve all the pending questions since there is no more time for division.

Speaking out in all forms and venues is the first step Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and those citizens living with or affected by HIV/AIDS must take so that issues are addressed, not spun or used as a "wedge," because as Larry Kramer and ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) put it, "silence equals death." Silence isn't golden but is marginalizing, something that is no longer affordable since no issue can be ignored, period.

Gay Playwright Kushner To Be Honored At Guthrie Theater

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - The Guthrie Theater is getting a lot more Kushner into its lineup next season. The Guthrie said it will produce Tony Kushner's musical, "Caroline, or Change," as well as a collection of the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright's short plays as part of its 2008-09 season.

The theater announced last fall that it had commissioned a new Kushner play, tentatively titled "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism With a Key to the Scriptures." All three Kushner productions will be staged simultaneously in spring 2009. The Guthrie will also organize a series of speakers, scholars and other special events to examine Kushner's work. And the theater will collaborate with the University of Minnesota on a spring-semester course about the playwright.

"Tony is one of the most important voices in American theater today and it's appropriate and exciting to be able to devote the Guthrie's talent and resources to producing three of his plays simultaneously," theater director Joe Dowling said in a statement. Kushner won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for "Millennium Approaches," the first half of his two-part "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes," which offers a look at AIDS and Gay life in the 1980s. "Angels in America" was later made into an HBO film. He has won an Emmy and two Tony Awards.

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Student Beaten Up And Mocked As Gay -- Though He Is Not

Continued from Page One

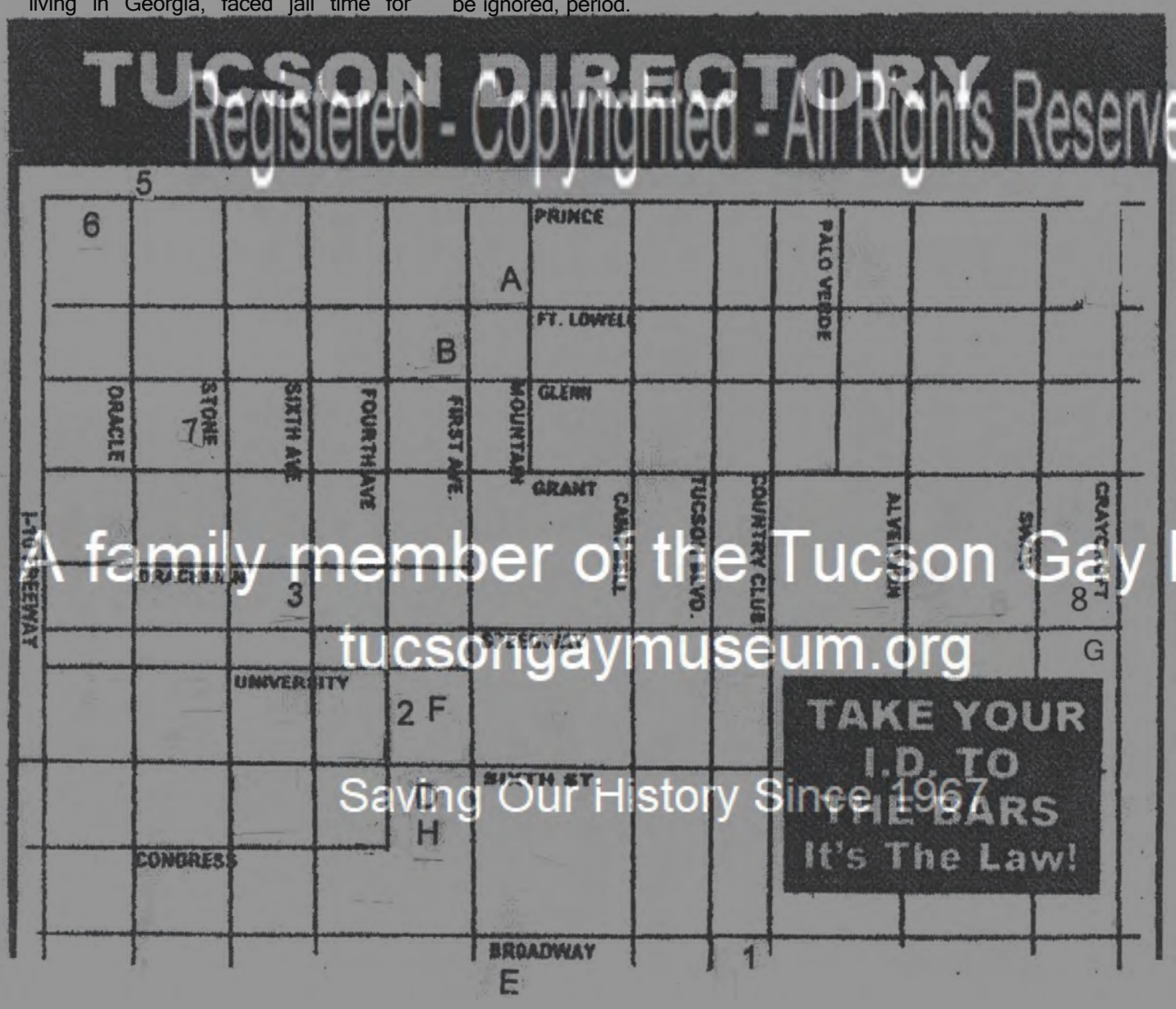
School district spokesman Alan Wilbourn was cited by the Times article as saying that the school's principal followed up after Billy's mother complained, contacting the parents of the boys responsible. The parents, he said, saw that the page was taken down.

Wilbourn also cautioned against jumping to any conclusions that the school district is not taking action against the bullies who have been physically assailing Billy these past few years. The Times article cited Wilbourn as saying that, as a matter of federal law, students' records indicating whether and what disciplinary actions have been taken against the student, and for what, are not available to the public.

Wilbourn also said that it is the policy of the school district to leave it up the judgment of school staff to decide whether any individual act of bullying warranted police involvement. But Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe have determined that they've had enough and have filed suit against the boys who have bullied their son, and left the possibility open they they will sue the school district as well.

The Times reported that D. Westbrook Doss, Jr., said that the idea behind the suit was not to collect money so much as to press the point that bullying is simply not acceptable in the schools.

TUCSON DIRECTORY



Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
   2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
   616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Organizations

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

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West Palm Gay Activist And Partner In Murder-Suicide

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida - H.G. Roosters bar workers kept calling Michael Brown's home West Palm Beach home, his partner told them Brown wasn't available, sunsentinel.com reported.

Michael Brown

Brown, 50, a prominent Gay activist, had been beaten and stabbed to death inside his apartment. His partner, Brant Hines, killed him either that day or the night before, West Palm Beach police said. Then the next night, Hines, 27, hung himself from a leather strap outside Brown's bedroom door, police said. He did not leave a note.

When Brown didn't show up, police were called about 5 p.m. to the South Flagler Drive apartment. "Apparently they had an on-again, off-again relationship. It was somewhat of a volatile relationship even when it was on," police Lt. Chuck Reed said. "We believe it was the result of a violent domestic disturbance."

U.S. Refuses New Passport To Married Mass. Gay Man

ATTLEBORO, Massachusetts - As an AIDS counselor, Jason Hair-Wynn wants to bring his expertise to Africa, a continent that has been ravaged by the disease.

But when the Attleboro resident recently applied for a new passport so he could go to Africa, he learned the U.S. State Department would not recognize his new hyphenated name because he is a Gay man married to another man.

He said the State Department said it was prohibited from recognizing his new name by the Defense of Marriage Act. "We are unable to comply with your request for a name change based on the documentation you sent because of the Defense of Marriage Act ...," the letter states.

Jason Hair-Wynn

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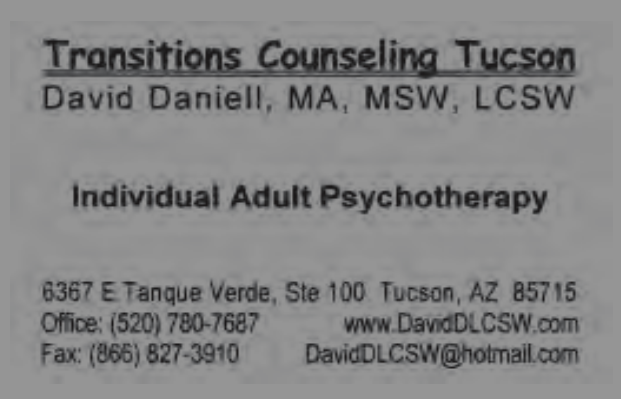

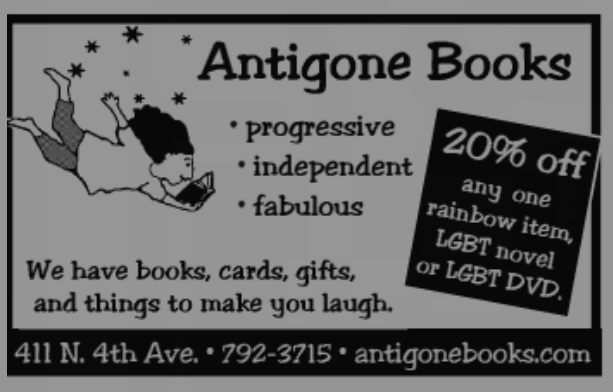

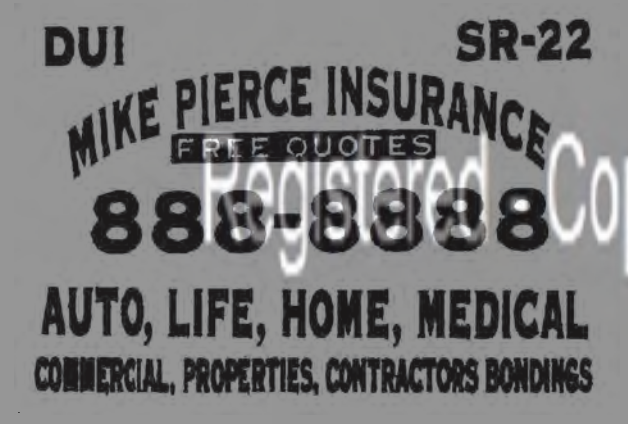

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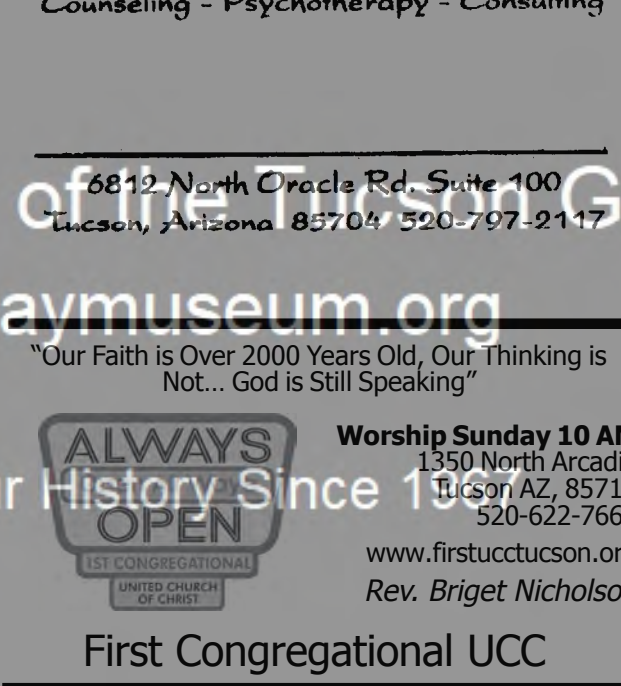

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HOROSCOPES

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Get your motor going when the Sun pounces into Aries this week. We feel a sudden urge to surge. This is no time to rest on your laurels. Wear them instead.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

What is it that makes you so charismatic and such a social magnet now? With Sun in your own sign, it is your best time of year. Prepare for future success, proud Ram. Begin by fielding a few great ideas, expanding your sphere of influence and meeting new influential folks. Press and impress when and where you can. You never know what and who will sprout. How?

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Explore all that is hidden and secret when Sun sits in Aries. There are gems hidden in the rubble that serve you well in the future. Conquer through careful examination. It is also a good time to do charitable works and build up your good karma points for future use. Go with your gut. Queer Bulls are especially intuitive now and get to the bottom of things. Ahem.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

What is it about friends that has your social schedule in a whirl? I don't know but expect this week to be one crazy fun thing after another. You enjoy all types of companionship and make a few new pals as the week wears on. Enjoy the camaraderie while you can pink Twin. Before you know it you will be back to burning the midnight oil at work. Oh goodie.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

All your hard work will not be in vain, Gay Crab. Now, as Sun moves into Aries, you cash in on the all the accolades and (hopefully) the bonuses. But don't rest on your reputation, tempting as it might be. This week heralds in a time of increased energy and application. Get further ahead of the corporate game. Stop when you reach the top. Add a cherry.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

It is a good time to get out there and see the world. Not only will there be opportunities to travel, you might also find an interesting travel mate to share the load. Plan a great getaway when Sun enters Aries, especially something adventuresome and rugged. If time or money are tight, find rugged adventure closer to home. Anyone we know?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins are ready for anything and anyone. What is it that makes you so sexy now? Don't ask why. Just use this fleeting time to make the right love connections. Those who are on the prowl for new romance find that they have more animal magnetism than usual. Will you decide to attract or repel? It is up to you. Just avoid the general static.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Relationships take precedence over work this week. It's about time proud Libra. You find that life is happier with someone to share it with. So make the most of the partnership you have or set out to find your true soulmate. Sun in Aries makes you sizzly and attractive. Hurry before the cosmos shifts and you go back to being just another troll.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Get back to work Proud Scorp. Sun in Aries makes you much more efficient than usual and in a high energy mode. Not only can you tackle any onerous job, you do it in a zesty and forceful way. At this rate, you can soon rule the cubicle set. Don't be lazy. There will be time to kick back and relax next week. For now, continue to run in the rat race..

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Fun is the name of the game this week. Lucky Gay Archers find that they are in the epicenter of the party wherever they go. In fact, they really ARE the party. So what are your ultimate plans? Will you dissipate your best ideas on nonsense and frivolous games or will you muster your creativity and create a personal masterpiece? Sigh, let's guess....

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

If you are surveying your general surroundings with an eye towards improvement, this is a good time to do so. Pink Caps need to see what they need to do to make their personal space more comfortable and inviting. And speaking about inviting, how about arranging some home based tete a tetes with family and friends. Show them your stuff ... and then some.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians are usually full of opinion. Let your best ideas float into the atmosphere while Sun lolls in Aries. It seems that you are filled with the usual utopian dreams but they do appear now to have a bit of gravitas, practicality and possibility. Speak your mind and fellow followers will listen... and follow. Where will you lead them? Uh oh. Please don't run for president.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Although you are not the most practical of folks, when Sun enters Aries you suddenly become a mogul with moxie. Do your fiscal research and ask the right advisors before you make your big move. Then buy and sell with calculated risk and a clear financial strategy. And you can even just save some stray pennies for a rainy day. Oh, do I feel a drop...?

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, April 1st
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Gay Reading Group meets at Wingspan. For info, contact Doug at 529-0014

Wednesday, April 2nd
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Bruce. 743-3890

Thursday, April 3rd
#1 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.
#2 Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.

Friday, April 4th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and totally enjoy putting your acting/miming and pantomime skills to the test! For directions and reservations [(a limited space event, please plan ahead and phone early)], place a telephone call to Lee and Merlin, your gracious yet competitive emcees and moderators, at 207-5336.

Saturday, April 5th
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Potluck at Casa Adobes Church, located at 6801 N. Oracle Road.

#2 Saturday April 5th Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

Sunday, April 6th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com , or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Monday, April 7th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lee and Merlin host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Wednesday, April 9th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin at 745-0304.

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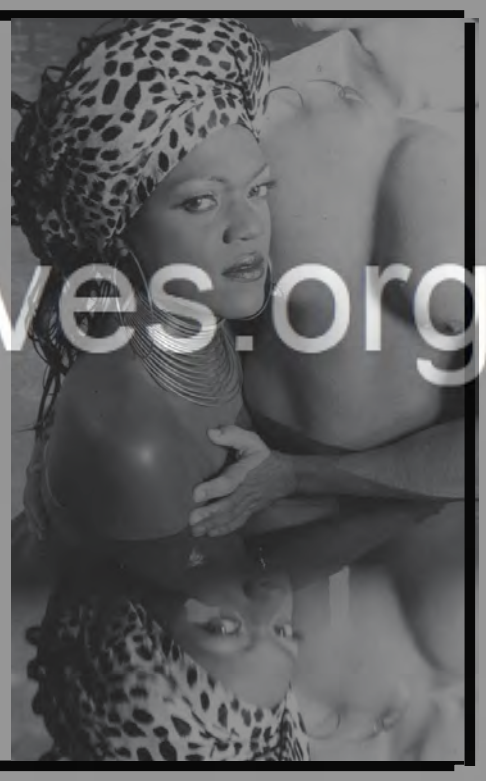

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ROCKY POINT: Gorgeous 2bd, 2ba condo located in Las Conchas. Beautiful ocean view, full kitchen, spacious rooms, nicely furnished, rooftop balcony, steps to beach, BBQ, pool. Quiet location, minutes to everything. Pictures available. Contact Ed at 465-1165 or 990-4731. etcuts@aol.com 1238

1 BEDROOM STUDIO AIR CONDITIONED APARTMENT. One person. No pets. $450/mo. Includes all utilities. Gay Friendly. Northwest area. 579-0547 1235

EMPLOYMENT

WEEKEND COOK FOR HOWL AT THE MOON. Please come in and fill out an application. 915 Prince Road. 293-7335

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WIZZA IS A FATHER! Beautiful Golden Doodle CKC Puppies. From AKC champion lines. 8 weeks old. Home Raised. $850.00. 297-3127 1236

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BUZZ BRIEFS

Julius and Big Daddy, the roosters who chose each other as companions, have found a permanent home on a farm in Alabama, reports foster mom Brenda Lee in Los Angeles. The roosters came to L.A.'s A Dog's Life Rescue organization last year as a couple, and continued to eschew "normative chicken social conventions," wrote Lee's partner, Jayna. Big Daddy, who is much larger, "is Julius's protector, and at night he roosts over Julius like a mama hen sitting on a brood of chicks," Jayna wrote. The women agreed to foster the fowl until a place could be found with rooster-friendly zoning codes. It took eight months, Lee said. ...

"Harvey will be coming out soon," an extra assured the crowd in front of City Hall on a recent Sunday. They had gathered to be in a scene in "Milk"- the movie about the life and death of Harvey Milk - in which the San Francisco supervisor delivers an impassioned speech. It was really Sean Penn, of course, who plays the martyred supervisor, who would be appearing. But, this extra explained, because he's a "method actor," he wants to be called Harvey. This was the last day calling for such a large cast. "Milk" had been filming all over San Francisco for eight weeks and wrapped Monday with a scene shot on a set on Treasure Island of Milk watching "Tosca." The movie is due in the fall, positioning it for Oscar consideration. ...

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), encumbered by a scandal since last summer, did not file for reelection by his state's deadline Friday (March 21), keeping a promise he made and officially marking the end of his congressional career. Craig's political future has been in doubt since his arrest and guilty plea on disorderly conduct charges filed after an incident in a men's restroom at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport last June. ...

Kyle Hawkins is back coaching lacrosse, but worlds away from his last gig as the head coach at the University of Missouri. And the fact he's Gay isn't just a non-issue with his new team, but also the way they discovered him. Hawkins is now the director of men's lacrosse and head coach for the HTHC Hamburg Lacrosse Warriors of the German Lacrosse Association. He accepted the position in early January. Out lacrosse coach lands in Germany. ...

If Dina Matos McGreevey presses a claim that she was duped into marrying New Jersey's Gay ex-governor, she'll likely endure a mountain of embarrassing evidence exposed at the trial. "This week was just the tip of the iceberg," Union County Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy cautioned the warring former first couple at a hearing this week. Matos McGreevey, 41, will try to prove in her divorce trial that she's a wronged woman who was tricked into marriage to cover for a closeted homosexual with grand political ambitions. That constitutes fraud and entitles her to damages, she contends. Her estranged husband, Jim McGreevey, will call witnesses like Teddy Pedersen, a young former campaign aide who says he had regular sexual trysts with the McGreeveys for about two years before McGreevey was sworn in as the Garden State's 51st governor in 2002. ...

A 59-year-old social worker says he plans to run against Oklahoma Representative Sally Kern. lawmaker whose anti-Gay remarks have provoked calls for her resignation. Democrat Ron Marlett said he will oppose Republican Rep. Sally Kern in this fall's election for her Oklahoma City-area seat in the state House.

Barbara Walters, Israeli Filmmaker Win GLAAD Awards

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Barbara Walters was honored by the Gay media watchdog group GLAAD for her reporting on Transgender children and she said the award was among the most important she had even received.

"You can forget all the Emmys," Walters said in accepting the award for television newsmagazine journalism at the 19th annual Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Awards. "This means more to me."

The veteran television personality won for the story "My Secret Self: A Story of Transgender Children," which aired on ABC's "20/20" and examined the lives and struggles of young children who experienced conflicted gender identity, feeling their true sex was the opposite of their physical one.

G/L Couples Turn Out To Fight Florida Adoption Ban Law

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (Observer Update) - Supporters of a bill in Florida that would make it easier for Gay couples to adopt children gathered in Tallahassee as part of "Fair Adoption Lobby Day."

Florida is the only state with laws that specifically prohibit people from adopting children because of their sexual orientation. The bill's (HB 45) backers said that with so many children – about 3,500 in a count last month–in need of permanent homes, and no reliable evidence to prove that putting them in homes with Gay parents is detrimental, that it's time for a change.

At a press conference on the issue, House sponsor Mary Brandenburg, D-West Palm Beach, pointed out that Gay couples are allowed by law to be foster parents. If that's all right, she said, "they should be able to become the forever parents."

Marriage Amendment Moves Forward In Pennsylvania Legislature

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - A Pennsylvania state Senate committee passed a proposal Tuesday (March 18) on a 10-4 vote to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions, the Associated Press reported on advocate.com.

Titled the Marriage Protection Amendment, the measure would define marriage as only the union of one man and one woman and would prohibit civil unions. Opponents tried to seek more hearings because the measure's wording could result in endangering the rights Gay and Lesbian couples now hold, AP reported. Supporters say the measure would maintain Gay and Lesbian couples' current rights, such as domestic-partner health insurance coverage and the ability to grant power of attorney.

A constitutional amendment requires approval from both the Pennsylvania House and Senate in two consecutive sessions and ultimate approval in a statewide referendum, which could not be held earlier than next year.

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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 meeting 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.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.

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 207-5336 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.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
WOODY'S - "Leather" Dance Party. Wear your best Leather Accessories for Special Drink Prices 9pm-close. Hottest Leather Contest $50 prize

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss NCC Entertainer of the Year! 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
THE BIZ - Rose's Travesti Show 10:00

YARD DOG SALOON - 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off. Turn you chili in at 2:00 pm. Judging takes place at 4:00 pm..

WOODY'S - Buffet Brunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Patio Bar open noon to close. Beer Bust 2-7 p.m. and Karaoke 9:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
WOODY'S - Flip Flops and Sorts Party 9:00p.m. to close. Drink spelcials for those dressed for fun.

FRI-SAT-SUN, APRIL 4-5-6
IBT'S - 4th Avenue Street Fair, come on in and get a cool drink while you're working the avenue. Premium drag shows on Friday at 9:00 pm. And Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
WOODY'S - Wine Tasting! Sign up now. More info later.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
IBT'S - Madonna CD Release Party.

SATURDAY, MAY 3
THE BIZ - Cinco de Mayo weekend celebration. Latino Carnival!!! More details to come.

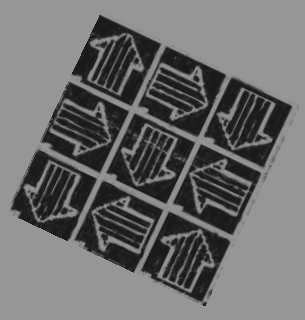
Arts and Entertainment

MARCH 22 - APRIL 13
Beowulf Alley Theatre presents Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" Thursdays, Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 1:30. A brilliantly inventiv3 play that moves back and forth between the 19th century and the present, populated by a varied and vastly entertaining cast of characters. 11 South Sixth Avenue downtown. Tickets $14-$19. 882-0555.

March 27 - April 13
The Rogue Theatre presents "Red Noses" by Peter Barnes. What happens when the Marx Brothers meet the Black Plague of 1348? Jabbing a finger into the ribs of politics, sex and religion, "Red Noses" is a poignant portrait of human resilience in the face of the great unknown. Thu-Sat 7:30 p.m. Sun 2:00 p.m. Tickets $18. Zuzi Theatre, 738 N. 5th Avenue at University..551-2053

March 29 - 30
Invisible Theatre presents Judy Gold in the Emmy Award-winning "25 Questions For A Jewish Mother" Two performances only 8:00 p.m. on March 29 and 3:00 p.m. on March 30. Emmy winning actress/comedienne Judy Gold embarked on a five-year journey across the United States, interviewing over 50 Jewish women of different ages, ethnicities and occupations. The end result is a moving and humorous portrait of what makes a Jewish mother, a Jewish mother. Berger Performing Arts Center, 1200 West Speedway. $42 and group discounts available. Very limited seating. 882-9721

April 5 - 26
Arizona Theatre Company presents "The Clean House by Sarah Rul. A mischievously comic look at the secrets we sweep under the rug. Temple of Music and Art downtown Tucson.. ATC's Night Out!! An evening of fabulousness for the LGBT Community. Thursday April 10th, pre-show party begins at 6:30 p.m. Mention their ad in this issue of Observer and get $5.00 off the single ticket price. 622-2823



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Keeping our History Since 1967

Company Cancels Domestic Partner Health Insurance For 9/11 Survivor

BOISE, Idaho (Observer Update) - Robert Ryan was one of the lucky ones, escaping the World Trade Center on 9/11 with his life. But he continues to suffer from mental and physical problems that require regular medical care and expensive medications.

His life partner Ralph Martinelli was a district sales manager for Konica Minolta, based in New Jersey, and Ryan was covered as a domestic partner under the company's health plan.

But that coverage came to an end after Martinelli was transferred last year to Konica Minolta's Idaho operation.

Konica Minolta (KMBS) says it only offers insurance to domestic partners or legally married same-sex partners in states where those relationships are registered.

Martinelli and Ryan have been registered domestic partners in New Jersey since 2005, and KMBS allowed Martinelli to cover Ryan when the couple lived in New Jersey.

Idaho has no such registry.

Due to the cost of medical insurance, Ryan says he may have to go without the care he requires if Konica Minolta continues to prevent Martinelli from extending benefits to him.

"I'm still working at the same company, doing the same job. Why shouldn't I be able to cover my partner in Idaho like I did in New Jersey? This would never happen to a married couple," said Martinelli.

"Konica wants everyone to think they care about their gay employees, but the way Konica is interpreting its policy is so restrictive that many employees are shut out of the coverage."

Typically, companies that wish to offer domestic partnership benefits to employees living in states that do not recognize same-sex relationships either accept a marriage, civil union or domestic partnership certificate from another state, or have the employee submit an affidavit attesting to the partnership.

Monday (March 24) the American Civil Liberties Union sent a demand letter to Konica's head office in New Jersey urging the company to interpret its policy on domestic partner health insurance so that more employees will have access to the insurance.

"Konica Minolta wants all the good will that comes with providing domestic partner insurance, but they clearly don't want to have to provide the benefits. Otherwise they would never be interpreting its policy in such a restrictive way," said Jack Van Valkenburgh, Executive Director of the ACLU of Idaho.

"Companies have been providing domestic partner coverage for many years now. The only possible reason for interpreting the policy the way that Konica does is to make it harder for employees to be able to provide coverage for their partners."

Martinelli said he and Ryan moved to Idaho so that Ryan, who experienced mental health trauma as a survivor of the attacks of September 11th, 2001, could find some relief away from the daily reminder of the attacks.

On September 11 Ryan managed the insurance licensing division at Morgan Stanley, and was in his office on the 74th floor of the South Tower of the World Trade Center when the first airplane struck the North Tower.

While he was evacuating, Ryan became separated from the employees he supervised, and later was trampled by a crowd after the second airplane hit his office building, only four floors above where he was working that morning.

After the attack he was unable to work due to the trauma, went on disability for one year, and spent his retirement savings to stay afloat.

He met Martinelli in 2004 and the couple registered as domestic partners in New Jersey the following year.

"Underlying all of this is the confusion and mistrust engendered by terms like 'civil union' and 'domestic partnership' as opposed to 'marriage,'" said Ed Barocas, Legal Director the ACLU of New Jersey.

"Same-sex couples are asked to prove that their relationships aren't imaginary every time they move, and employers take advantage of the lack of uniformity to treat people unfairly."

Konica Minolta has not responded to the ACLU letter.

NYC Gay Couple Protests Use Of Wedding Pics By Anti-Gay Polish President

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Longtime New York Gay activist Brendan Fey has delivered a letter of protest to the Polish consulate denouncing the use of wedding pictures of Fey and his husband Tom Moulton in an anti-Gay political message by Polish President Lech Kaczynski.

Kaczynski used the pictures in his conservative Law and Order Party's campaign against the European Unions proposed charter of rights during a national broadcast on Monday (March 17). The photographs appeared as Kaczynski blasted the charter, also known as the Lisbon Treaty, claiming that if it is ratified Poland would be required to allow Gay marriage.

Fey and Moulton were legally married in Toronto in 2003. It was not clear where Kaczynski obtained the picture. "I am outraged that the president and his party would use images of Tom and I, of a very sacred moment for us as a couple," Fey told Polish Radio Zet. "It is very sad for me when leaders of a nation such as the president of Poland urge people not to support the Lisbon Treaty because of the possibility of recognizing equally same sex couples and our families," Fey said. "Tom and I, we are both Catholic, in fact we met at church at Sunday mass."

Polish Consul Krzysztof Kasprzyk accepted Fay's letter of complaint. The Law and Order Party, led by Kaczynski's twin brother lost the last Parliamentary election to the more moderate Civic Platform Party which supports ratification of the charter. Nevertheless, Law and Order has been able so far to hold up the charter. In Warsaw, Prime Minister Donald Tusk denounced President Kaczynski's use of the photos.

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