Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Jell-O Raises Over $46,000

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by Wendell Hicks, Executive Director
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

TUCSON - This past Sunday, May 4th, the 21st Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction put on a terrific party with great participation from the community raising over $46,000.00 for prevention programs and client services offered by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation in an effort to reduce new HIV infections in southern Arizona, increase education and knowledge on how to reduce the risk of HIV, and continue to support those living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.

The wrestling teams did an outstanding job of raising funds bringing in a total (thus far) of over $11,330.00! THANK YOU wrestlers! A huge thank you to Dave Huff, Frank Schepis and Danny Scott, owners of Woody's for hosting this famous event. Their generosity and commitment to creating a healthier community by raising much needed funds for services and prevention education for HIV and AIDS has been outstanding. The day began at 2pm with Bunny Fu Fu and Janee Star hosting the pre-event party complete with carnival games, a silent auction and great food served by Chef Gerry Oldenski of DynaSet. The amazing Lucinda Holliday took the stage at 4pm, with Barbra Seville and assistance by Diana Flair, Ajia Simone, and Tempest Du Jour. We thank them for the gift of time and entertainment, and for their ongoing dedication to raising funds and awareness for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Warm thanks go to Joe Roos who again served as the referee to keep all the wrestlers safe and Bob Fischella who was our trusty "hoser-off-er"! Robin Stancliff donated her amazing photographic talents to document the day, as well as photographing our six hostesses and arranging headshots with each of them which were all auctioned off! Thanks also go to La Cocina Restaurant and Tolteca Tlacuilo at Old Town Artisans, for donating the Jell-O and dye and to the great Jell-O making crew, headed up by Willie Gradillas who turned out over 50 5-gallon buckets of orange and yellow Jell-O. And a special thanks to Chad Froeschke with WhiteSpace Design for designing our great ads and graphics for this year's materials!

Jell-O is pleased and honored this year to receive outstanding event sponsorship contributions from many local businesses helping to underwrite this year's festivities. Title Sponsor Woody's, Heavyweight Champion Sponsor: Fascinations, Cruiserweight Champion Sponsors: Venture 'N and GayTucson.com, Patron Sponsors: Colors Food & Spirits, IBT's, Speedway Veterinary Hospital, the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce and Reveille Men's Chorus, and Supporting Sponsors: Farmers Insurance (Tim Brown), Professional Bartenders Unlimited, Stand Firm Personal Training, The Historic Y Hall, iap consultants, Will's General Auto Repair and Tucson Pride. This year's Raffle Sponsors included: Flamingo Hotel & Casino, the Wait Staff at Emeril's Las Vegas, VisiTicket through Las Vegas Power Pass, and Providence of Arizona Inc. In addition there was generous media coverage from ION Arizona Magazine, Arizona Pride Guide, and 'N Touch News, and as always The Observer. Thank you!

The Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza has become one of the hottest tickets in town and would not be successful without the dedication of the committee: Steve Barreto, Eddie Gallego, Willie Gradillas, Dave Huff, Harry Lewis, Dave Locke, Natalie Perry, Joe Roos, Frank Schepis, Danny Scott and Helga Wöcherl. The committee energizes this event and the community's involvement. SAAF is grateful for all their contributions and dedication to make Jell-O the amazing event that it is!

Congratulations to the winner of the raffle this year, David Zinke! The ticket was sold by Dan Borysewicz from the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation! Thanks so much for participating and enjoy your trip to Las Vegas!

As always, the event had a great group of loyal volunteers on the scene to help everything run smoothly. Jell-O would not be possible without the strong support from community volunteers, staff, bars, entertainers, and others- SO A BIG JELL-O THANK YOU to everyone! In addition, the crowd in attendance was incredibly supportive and enthusiastic, and once again everyone opened their hearts and gave and gave for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in our local community. It is in large part due to community fundraising efforts like the Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza that SAAF is able to continue to provide critical programs and services for the community.

To everyone involved with this event, THANK YOU! Jell-O was a success because of you!

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Stonewall Democrats Converge On Tucson For National Meeting, May 8-11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Democrats are converging on the Old Pueblo for a national conference and Board meeting that is hosted by the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats May 8-11.

This event will be taking place at the Holiday Inn Airport, 4550 S. Palo Verde and will feature training programs designed for Democrats locally, statewide and nationally, including topics involving media, fundraising, organizing campaigns, and youth programs.

Here is the schedule of events:

Thursday, May 8, an invitation-only reception for major donors on at the home of Tucson's Vice Mayor Nina Trasoff with special guest, former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts.

Friday, May 9: Banquet at the Holiday Inn Airport including community service awards and a keynote address by Governor Roberts.

Saturday, May 10: Dance and Silent Auction. Tucson's renowned LGBT band, Too Much Information and a silent auction. The silent auction will include art and services for sale, and will be highlighted by the auction of personal lunches with Vice Mayor Nina Trasoff and Councilmembers Karin Uhlich and Rodney Glassman. Dance tickets are $20 and can be purchased in advance or at the door.

Gov. Barbara Roberts

Special dinners are being held on Saturday night as well as a Sunday brunch. Contact Les Krambeal at leskrambeal@yahoo.com for more information.

Conservatives Urge Congress To Maintain Gays And Lesbians In Military Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A conservative lobby group is urging Congress to reject legislation that would repeal "Don't Ask, Don' Tell", the ban on Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military, reported 365Gay.com.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act which would repeal the decade old DADT has bipartisan support and hearings are expected to be held this year.

Americans For The Military, part of the conservative Center for Military Readiness, is circulating a petition online to pressure members of Congress to maintain the ban.

"Our nation's military should not be used as a tool to advance the goals of Gay activist groups," the petition to members of Congress says.

"Forcing a sexual agenda on the armed forces would hurt discipline and moral ... As an American I ask that you uphold this law to help to protect and preserve our military."

In an online video, Center President Elaine Donnelly called for an "online army to support the troops".

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays calls the campaign "misleading, offensive" and said that it is disrespectful to America's military personnel.

"It is outrageous that some in our country would answer the service and sacrifice of their fellow citizens by calling for them to be fired simply because of who they are," said PFLAG executive director Jody M. Huckaby.

"Ms. Donnelly has recycled the same tired, misleading and disproven rhetoric that has been used for years to keep too many qualified Americans out of our armed forces. All the while, an estimated 65,000 LGBT Americans continue to proudly report for duty in our nation's military and keep Americans, including Ms. Donnelly, safe and secure."

While Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military are banned convicted felons are being accepted in growing numbers.

Last week the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee released data showing that the Army and the Marine Corp, under pressure to increase their numbers, have sharply raised the number of recruits who have felony convictions.

The information, released by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, shows that the number of soldiers admitted to the Army with felony records jumped from 249 in 2006 to 511 in 2007. And the number of Marines with felonies rose from 208 to 350.

The bulk of the crimes involved were burglaries, other thefts, and drug offenses, but nine involved sex crimes and six involved manslaughter or vehicular homicide convictions. Several dozen Army and Marine recruits had aggravated assault or robbery convictions, including incidents involving weapons.

Meanwhile, under DADT two

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A family memory Tucson GayMuseum ©
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Saving Tucson's History since 1967

UPDATE

Wingspan Senior Pride Series, May 10

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Everyone is invited to "A Colorful Life: Hannah Blue Heron" this coming Saturday from 2 - 4:00 p.m. at the Ward VI Council Office, 3202 East 1st St.

This is a Wingspan Senior Pride series highlighting local LGBT celebrants in which they share their amazing colorful life-journey with us. Eight-two year old young, Hannah Blue Heron (aka Sister Mary Teresa) will share her life as a nun, a "hippie", a feminist, a writer and as a composer of music.

Please "come out" for an entertaining afternoon and support our efforts to begin gathering the collective Southern AZ LGBT his/herstories!

Cianciotto Reception May 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please help welcome Wingspan's new Executive Director, Jason Cianciotto, by attending a public reception on Thursday, May 15, 5 to 7:00 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E 7th St.

Jason's tenure began on April 16 and he has brought with him a wealth of policy and advocacy experience, having recently served as research director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute. Jason's relationship to Wingspan is a personal one, as he is a former member of Wingspan's youth group and was one of the organization's first paid employees. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Wingspan (520) 624-1779.

OnLine Gay Marketing And Web 2.0 Seminar May 17

TUCSON - Marketing to the Gay Community on the Internet? Looking for valuable insights? A competitive edge?

Matthew Skallerud, the founder of GayWired.com, will lead a presentation at Wingspan's Anzaldua Room, 425 E. 7th St., 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., about some of the latest trends in making outreach to consumers using the latest Web 2.0 tools including MySpace, FaceBook, Blogs, Gadets & Widgets, YouTube, RSS/XML and more.

Find out how and why other companies are utilizing these technologies to get the word out to consumers online, and discover more about some of the unique opportunities in the GLBT Web 2.0 space in targeting Gays & Lesbians online. For more information, go online to pinkbananamedia.com/seminar.cfm.

25th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial May 18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 25th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial will take place on May 18 at Himmel Park in solidarity with memorials and events worldwide.

The theme, "Never Give Up, Never Forget", creates a hopeful outlook despite the alarming statistics. This will also be the 10th AIDS Candlelight Memorial in Tucson. SAAF's AIDS Timeline will be displayed alongside locally crafted quilts. Individuals will be sharing the journey by means of music, song, dance and reflections. Seh Welch, Director of HIV/AIDS Services and co-founder of ACT-UP, will be Master of Ceremonies. The Memorial will start at 6 pm. The lighting of the candles will begin around 7:30 pm (dusk). Please bring a blanket and/or lawn chair.

The memorial is sponsored by Native Images, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Tucson's Human Relations Commission, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), The Volunteer Center of Southern AZ and Wingspan. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, a program of the Global Health Council, is among the world's oldest movements for HIV/AIDS remembrance, awareness and community action.

The Candlelight Memorial is more than just a memorial. This is an opportunity to educate about AIDS, advocate for policy change, foster partnerships and community dialogue, and improve skills for community mobilization. With 33 million people estimated to be infected worldwide and Tucson ranked 73rd in major US metro areas in the number of AIDS cases, the Candlelight serves as an important community intervention, breaking down social barriers, and giving hope to future generations. For more information, contact Courtney Jordan, ext 102 (520) 881-3300, E-mail: cjordan@voluntersoaz.org.

Tucsons Helping Out By Helping Others

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Talk about a "Turnabout," sequins and boas are back in the "drawers," and the dresses and gowns have been placed in their closets, auctions, both silent and loud took place while many were hosed down to clean themselves up from their Jell-O Extravaganza.

This past weekend in the Old Pueblo marked two important annual events, "Turnabout" for TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network) and the 21st Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza for SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation).

"Turnabout for TIHAN" is the signature fundraising benefit for the programs and services of TIHAN and marked its 11th event this year.

In 1937, Reno Gannon, a bartender at Tucson bar Rumor Hazzit, returned from a vacation in Mexico with an exciting new idea for a fundraising event. The concept? Jell-O wrestling! He spoke with the bar owners and the first event was held that year, to help people living with HIV/AIDS. In the past 9 years alone, Jell-O Wrestling has raised more than $210,000 for the programs and services of SAAF.

Both events held were to raise awareness and most importantly, funds for each so they can continue their programs and services to the community living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

With the potential budget shortfalls by governmental entities, on the local, county, state and federal levels, SAAF and TIHAN will have to rely more on donations.

So if you didn't or weren't able to go to either event for whatever reason but still want to take part:

Go online to TIHAN (tihan.org) and click on the link "donations to TIHAN." For those without Internet access, call (520) 299-6647 to make a credit card donation or send a check, made to "TIHAN" and mail it to 1011 North Craycroft #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

To donate to Jell-O Wrestling, go online to saaf.org and click on the link and for those without Internet access, make the check payable to SAAF, put "Jell-O Wrestling" in the memo line and mail to: Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Attn: Events Coordinator, 375 S Euclid Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719

You'll be glad you did and each organization will be grateful for the help.

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http://www.tucsonobserver.com

P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
Bill Morrow
Hunter Johnson
Horoscope:
Charlene Lichtenstein
Contributing Columnists
Mark R. Kerr
Jimmy Petrol
Jack Melichar

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Saving Our History Since 1967

Helping Out To Keep The Voice From Going Silent

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - As everyone is well aware, for the past thirty-two years, the Observer has produced a free, weekly, print edition of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS news to inform the Tucson and Southern Arizona community.

For the past dozen years, the Observer has been available, free, online to the cybersurfing world and for the past month, the Observer has been interactive (with a comments section too), with its own blog, located at tucsonobserver.blogspot.com.

This new part of the Observer provides the reader, more on the news and issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. In addition, the Observer has opened up a store with Café Press to offer various shirts, mousepads, mugs and more.

So drop by and find local and statewide updates, links to important stories, relevant and just plain funny video, Community Action Alerts and more!

While doing this, the management and staff would like you to consider that it is being done for the community, to inform, update and empower the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, straight supportive and those who seek the real news, not the stuff doled out by the corporate media.

When perusing one of the three outlets of The Observer, also take into mind that no monetary profit is made on this, just the intent of giving everyone the profit of knowledge, hope and a sense of community.

Why then are these points brought up? For the fact that the current economic times presently have created a "storm" for The Observer. During the recent months, the print edition has had to scale back from 20 to 16 pages and it may have to scale back much further.

Many of the advertisements in the publication were for individuals in the real estate business and as one knows, that market has taken a dramatic downturn thanks to the policies of Alan Greenspan and the Bush Crime Family but digressing, with that hit to the Arizona economy, which leads the nation in real estate troubles, another affect is the loss of those advertisements which help pay for the weekly printing of the paper and the maintenance of the website and most importantly, the archives of the paper, marking Tucson's LGBT history for the past 32 years.

When the effort to preserve Tucson's LGBT history began, the paper appealed to the community for help to raise the funds to have the paper converted to pdf files for everyone now and in the future to read, see, enjoy and most importantly, to not forget those who advanced the cause of equality in the Old Pueblo as well as the many advancements Tucson now has, making it one of the most tolerant cities in the nation, according to a recent survey.

So one says, well everyone will stop reading print editions and get their news online. Probably so and the Observer is trying to make the conversion to that, a little slow perhaps but with the new blog, the Observer is beginning to move in that direction but for the time being, it's a three pronged approach - print edition, website and blog.

In the past, community benefits were held to raise funds for the paper as well as other service organizations and there has been talk of another such event to be held shortly but another effort has started to appeal to the community for assistance again to help The Observer continue its work, providing free news and information on LGBT issues and events, locally, nationally and internationally.

Donations can be made to "The Observer," and sent to P.O. Box 50733, Tucson Arizona, 85703. If one wishes to donate online, they can do so by going on the blog and clicking the respective paypal link the paper has set up.

There is no rich "sugar daddy," trust funds, sweetheart deals which fund the paper, it is the community, businesses owned by such and the other inevitable ads with the reading wondering "why?" but digressing yet again.

With all that has happened, currently ongoing and the inevitable cyclical affect of history, a voice for the LGBT, HIV/AIDS and straight supportive community needs to be maintained. Silence is not golden for us all know, as the author Larry Kramer and ACT-UP said, coining the phrase, "silence equals death."

Wingspan Invites You To Quit Tobacco Now!

TUCSON - Join the Monday series of free quit tobacco classes for LGBT people and allies. Two separate series of classes are scheduled. One will be begin Friday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m.; the other on Monday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. All classes will be held at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Class #1 starts Friday, May 2, 5:30-6:30pm; meets weekly for six weeks. Class #2 starts Monday, May 12, 7:30-8:30pm; meets weekly for six weeks. This class includes support for quitting and, for a limited time only, you'll get free nicotine replacement (patches, gum, or lozenges) for three full months.

There's never been a better time to quit. To register, contact Michael Woodward, Wingspan Health & Wellness Programs Manager, at (520) 624-1779, x117 or mwoodward@wingspan.org.

Conservatives Urge Congress

Continued from Page One

people every day are dropped from the military for being Gay.

In the 10 years that DADT has been in force more than 10,000 personnel have been discharged as a result of thed policy, including 800 with skills deemed 'mission critical,' such as pilots, combat engineers, and linguists.

The number of Gay men and Lesbians turned way by military recruiters is unknown.

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

Last month, Lawrence J. Korb,former Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan, told a joint hearing of the House Armed Services Air and Land Forces Subcommittee and the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee to "get rid of outmoded social restrictions," such as DADT. "First, repeal the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy," Korb told the joint hearing. "The Army and Marine Corps cannot afford to place unnecessary obstacles in the way of qualified men and women who want to serve."

VOTED TUCSON'S #1 GAY CLUB
IBT's
Saturday's
5pm Karaoke on the Patio with Troy
9pm "Saturday Starletts"
Hosted by Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr
11pm CIRCUIT SATURDAY (DJ Q) &
PARTY ON THE PATIO w/ DJ Mike Lopez
Sunday's
4pm KARAOKE on the Patio
9pm DJ Hurricane Spinning Top 40
S.I.N.DAYS DRINK SPECIAL!!
$1.50 Well Cocktails & Domestic Beer
$2.50 Call Cocktails & Premium Beer
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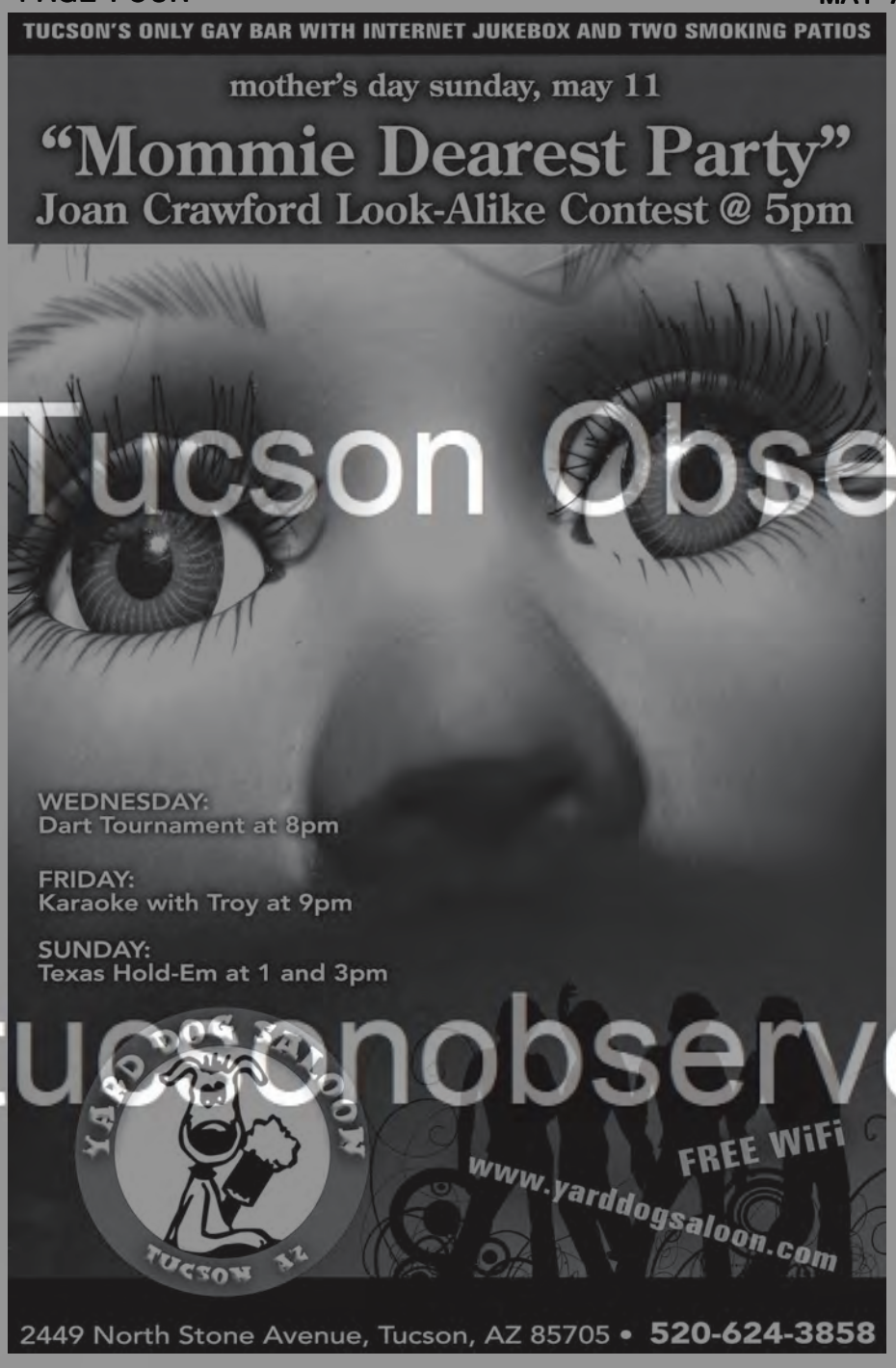

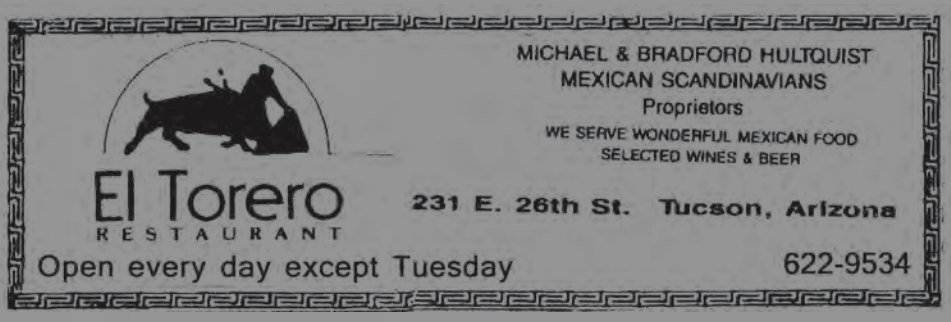

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

This Is The New International Symbol For Gasoline!

COMMENTARY. . . .

by Frank Rich

The All-White Elephant In The Room

By Frank Rich

Bored by those endless replays of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright? If so, go directly to YouTube, search for "John Hagee Roman Church Hitler," and be recharged by a fresh jolt of clerical jive.

What you'll find is a white televangelist, the Rev. John Hagee, lecturing in front of an enormous diorama. Wielding a pointer, he pokes at the image of a woman with Pamela Anderson-sized breasts, her hand raising a golden chalice. The woman is "the Great Whore," Mr. Hagee explains, and she is drinking "the blood of the Jewish people." That's because the Great Whore represents "the Roman Church," which, in his view, has thirsted for Jewish blood throughout history, from the Crusades to the Holocaust.

Mr. Hagee is not a fringe kook but the pastor of a Texas megachurch. On Feb. 27, he stood with John McCain and endorsed him over the religious conservatives' favorite, Mike Huckabee, who was then still in the race.

Are we really to believe that neither Mr. McCain nor his camp knew anything then about Mr. Hagee's views? This particular YouTube video - far from the only one - was posted on Jan. 1, nearly two months before the Hagee-McCain press conference. Mr. Hagee appears on multiple religious networks, including twice daily on the largest, Trinity Broadcasting, which reaches 75 million homes. Any 12-year-old with a laptop could have vetted this preacher in 30 seconds, tops.

Since then, Mr. McCain has been shocked to learn that his clerical ally has made many other outrageous statements. Mr. Hagee, it's true, did not blame the American government for concocting AIDS. But he did say that God created Hurricane Katrina to punish New Orleans for its sins, particularly a scheduled "homosexual parade there on the Monday that Katrina came."

Mr. Hagee didn't make that claim in obscure circumstances, either. He broadcast it on one of America's most widely heard radio programs, "Fresh Air" on NPR, back in September 2006. He reaffirmed it in a radio interview less than two weeks ago. Only after a reporter asked Mr. McCain about this Katrina homily on April 24 did the candidate brand it as "nonsense" and the preacher retract it.

Mr. McCain says he does not endorse any of Mr. Hagee's calumnies, any more than Barack Obama endorses Mr. Wright's. But those who try to give Mr. McCain a pass for his embrace of a problematic preacher have a thin case. It boils down to this: Mr. McCain was not a parishioner for 20 years at Mr. Hagee's church.

That defense implies, incorrectly, that Mr. McCain was a passive recipient of this bigot's endorsement. In fact, by his own account, Mr. McCain sought out Mr. Hagee, who is perhaps best known for trying to drum up a preemptive "holy war" with Iran. (This preacher's rantings may tell us more about Mr. McCain's policy views than Mr. Wright's tell us about Mr. Obama's.) Even after Mr. Hagee's Catholic bashing bubbled up in the mainstream media, Mr. McCain still did not reject and denounce him, as Mr. Obama did an unsolicited endorser, Louis Farrakhan, at the urging of Tim Russert and Hillary Clinton. Mr. McCain instead told George Stephanopoulos two Sundays ago that while he condemns any "anti-anything" remarks by Mr. Hagee, he is still "glad to have his endorsement."

I wonder if Mr. McCain would have given the same answer had Mr. Stephanopoulos confronted him with the graphic video of the pastor in full "Great Whore" glory. But Mr. McCain didn't have to fear so rude a transgression. Mr. Hagee's videos have never had the same circulation on television as Mr. Wright's. A sonorous white preacher spouting venom just doesn't have the telegenic zing of a theatrical black man.

Perhaps that's why virtually no one has rebroadcast the highly relevant prototype for Mr. Wright's fiery claim that 9/11 was America's chickens "coming home to roost." That would be the Sept. 13, 2001, televised exchange between Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, who blamed the attacks on America's abortionists, feminists, Gays and A.C.L.U. lawyers. (Mr. Wright blamed the attacks on America's foreign policy.) Had that video re-emerged in the frenzied cable-news rotation, Mr. McCain might have been asked to explain why he no longer calls these preachers "agents of intolerance" and chose to cozy up to Mr. Falwell by speaking at his Liberty University in 2006.

None of this is to say that two wacky white preachers make a Wright right. It is entirely fair for any voter to weigh Mr. Obama's long relationship with his pastor in assessing his fitness for office. It is also fair to weigh Mr. Obama's judgment in handling this personal and political crisis as it has repeatedly boiled over. But whatever that verdict, it is disingenuous to pretend that there isn't a double standard operating here. If we're to judge black candidates on their most controversial associates - and how quickly, sternly and completely they disown them - we must judge white politicians by the same yardstick.

When Rudy Giuliani, still a viable candidate, successfully courted Pat Robertson for an endorsement last year, few replayed Mr. Robertson's greatest past insanities. Among them is his best-selling 1991 tome, "The New World Order," which peddled some of the same old dark conspiracy theories about "European bankers" (who just happened to be named Warburg, Schiff and Rothschild) that Mr. Farrakhan has trafficked in. Nor was Mr. Giuliani ever seriously pressed to explain why his cronies on the payroll at Giuliani Partners included a priest barred from the ministry by his Long Island diocese in 2002 following allegations of sexual abuse. Much as Mr. Wright officiated at the Obamas' wedding, so this priest officiated at (one of) Mr. Giuliani's. Did you even hear about it?

There is not just a double standard for black and white politicians at play in too much of the news media and political establishment, but there is also a glaring double standard for our political parties. The Clintons and Mr. Obama are always held accountable for their racial stands, as they should be, but the elephant in the room of our politics is rarely acknowledged: In the 21st century, the so-called party of Lincoln does not have a single African-American among its collective 247 senators and representatives in Washington. Yes, there are appointees like Clarence Thomas and Condi Rice, but, as we learned during the Mark Foley scandal, even Gay men may hold more G.O.P. positions of power than blacks.

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Saving Our History Since 1907

Arizona Marriage Amendment Update

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1042, the proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as between "one man and one woman," in that order, that had been "fast tracked" by the Republican leadership in both chambers of the Arizona Legislature, hasn't gotten started.

As previously reported, the Speaker of the Arizona House, Jim Weiers, Republican of Phoenix gave the green light to use SCR 1042 as a strike-everything bill, dumping support for Vietnam Veterans and inserting the proposed marriage amendment language.

After a false start due to a legislative technicality, SCR 1042, sitting in the Arizona House, was gutted, amended and headed for sure-fire passage, sending it back to the Arizona Senate for a concur/refuse vote on the new wording, then access on the November general election ballot for voters to consider, as they already did in 2006, defeating then Proposition 107.

From April 10 through April 22, a flurry of legislative activity took place, getting the revised bill from the House Judiciary Committee through the House Committee of the Whole but then ... nothing.

SCR 1042 has been placed on the House Third Reading calendar from April 23 on but no vote, according to the Arizona Legislative website has taken place.

According to various news reports in the Phoenix-area newspapers, the Republican leadership won't bring SCR 1042 to the floor until all the votes to support it are present. As of press time, the bill was scheduled on Monday, May 5 to be voted on but wasn't, so the wait continues.

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The All-White Elephant In The Room

Continued from Page Four

A near half-century after the civil rights acts of the 1960s, this is quite an achievement. Yet the holier-than-thou politicians and pundits on the right passing shrill moral judgment over every Democratic racial skirmish are almost never asked to confront or even acknowledge the racial dysfunction in their own house. In our mainstream political culture, this de facto apartheid is simply accepted as an intractable given, unworthy of notice, and just too embarrassing to mention aloud in polite Beltway company. Those who dare are instantly accused of "political correctness" or "reverse racism."

An all-white Congressional delegation doesn't happen by accident. It's the legacy of race cards that have been dealt since the birth of the Southern strategy in the Nixon era. No one knows this better than Mr. McCain, whose own adopted daughter of color was the subject of a vicious smear in his party's South Carolina primary of 2000.

This year Mr. McCain has called for a respectful (i.e., non-race-baiting) campaign and has gone so far as to criticize (ineffectually) North Carolina's Republican Party for running a Wright-demonizing ad in that state's current primary. Mr. McCain has been posing (awkwardly) with black people in his tour of "forgotten" America. Speaking of Katrina in New Orleans, he promised that "never again" would a federal recovery effort be botched on so grand a scale.

This is all surely sincere, and a big improvement over Mitt Romney's dreams of his father marching with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Up to a point. Here, too, there's a double standard. Mr. McCain is graded on a curve because the G.O.P. bar is set so low. But at a time when the latest Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll shows that President Bush is an even greater drag on his popularity than Mr. Wright is on Mr. Obama's, Mr. McCain's New Orleans visit is more about the self-interested politics of distancing himself from Mr. Bush than the recalibration of policy.

Mr. McCain took his party's stingier line on Katrina aid and twice opposed an independent commission to investigate the failed government response. Asked on his tour what should happen to the Ninth Ward now, he called for "a conversation" about whether anyone should "rebuild it, tear it down, you know, whatever it is." Whatever, whenever, never mind.

For all this primary season's obsession with the single (and declining) demographic of white working-class men in Rust Belt states, America is changing rapidly across all racial, generational and ethnic lines. The Census Bureau announced last week that half the country's population growth since 2000 is due to Hispanics, another group understandably alienated from the G.O.P.

Anyone who does the math knows that America is on track to become a white-minority nation in three to four decades. Yet if there's any coherent message to be gleaned from the hypocrisy whipped up by Hurricane Jeremiah, it's that this nation's perennially promised candid conversation on race has yet to begin.

(Frank Rich writes a regular column for The New York Times. This article was reprinted from commondreams.org.)

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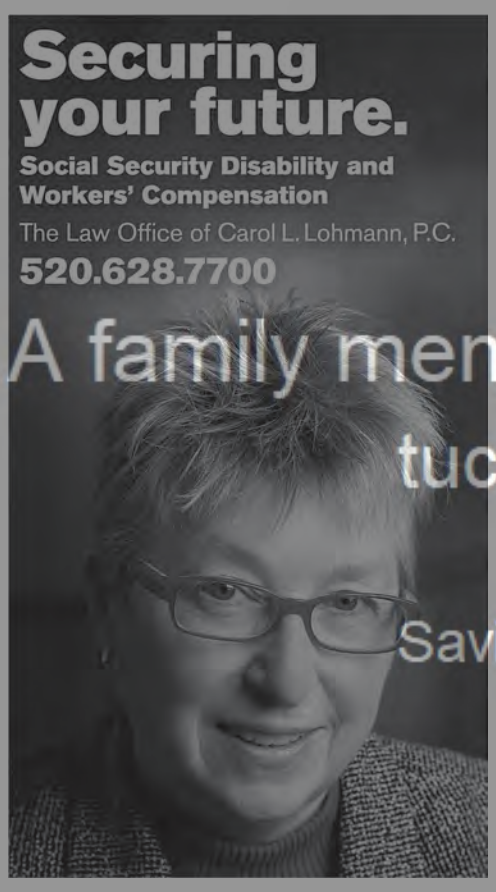

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Arizona Employment Non-Discrimination Initiative Update

While waiting to see if Cathi Herrod, Peter Gentala and the virulently hateful, anti-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender) Center for Arizona Policy (CAP) gets their Arizona Legislative "handout" to the tune of a potential $500,000 savings by having their proposed state constitutional amendment defining "marriage," on the November general election ballot, despite current law and court precedent, some other news on ballot measures to report on.

As previously reported, several city, town and county governmental entities in Arizona have ordinances on the books protecting the employment rights of their LGBT citizens, protecting them from discrimination because of whom they are, perceived or otherwise.

Tucson was the first city in Arizona and one of the first in the nation to adopt such a measure, covering both the public and private sector and with full enforcement capabilities in February 1977.

An effort, launched April 4, to gather signatures of registered voters to place an initiative on the Arizona November general election ballot, protecting the rights of its citizens from discrimination in employment is ongoing.

Led by current state Representative Kyrsten Sinema, D-Phoenix, a group called "Free to Work Arizona" are trying to gather the required amount of valid signatures of registered voters to get their proposal on the ballot.

This initiative (Number I-19-2008) would make it unlawful for Arizona employers to refuse to hire, discharge or promote a person solely because of the person's religion, age, race, disability, or sex.

It also exempts employment decisions based on sex (defined as gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation) for churches and church schools for jobs that are directly related to religious functions or that are directly involved in educating students.

Unlike Cathi Herrod, Peter Gentala and CAP's attempt to get their "handout," valid signatures of registered Arizona voters, a minimum of 153,365 under Arizona law, are needed to get a place on the ballot for consideration by those casting votes in the general election.

Deadlines are another factor as well for the initiative, with Thursday, July 3 as the last day to file the petitions to the Arizona Secretary of State's office in Phoenix. Afterwhich the petitions are sent to the County Recorder's offices for review to ensure that there are enough valid signatures required.

With the timeframe of the filing of the proposed initiative and the deadline to submit petitions so narrow, volunteer circulators can only gather so many signatures. This effort will have to require the services of paid petition circulators who can devote more time to gather the numbers needed to get "Free to Work Arizona" on the November ballot.

Sinema said in an interview that Petition Partners, the only incorporated, full-time and full-service petitioning firm in the state have been hired but more is needed to reach the requirements set out in Arizona law.

To help the effort out, Free to Work Arizona is collecting donations, contact Cynthia Lewis at cl_lewis@msn.com for information.

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EDITOR:

I'm Burnt!

The other day I'd finished a Ryan White title two meeting when I stopped at the back of the room and found a CDC pamphlet for providers to help them deal with "Burnout". As I was thumbing through the pages it occurred to me that I've never seen something like this for those of us who are HIV positive. Sure we have our support groups started by us and driven by us. But what do providers know about our burnout?

On the drive home this thought kept turning over in my mind. Sure providers and caregivers have to deal with burnout and I support them getting all the help they need. Yet, I've been positive for 21 years and I've seen more doctors, psychiatrist, nurse practitioners, nutritionist, phlebotomist, therapist, surgeons, counselors, neurologist and case managers than one can possibly imagine. I get tired sometimes of having to go to this appointment and that, having that exam done, tests run or the next blood drawl. I am tired of waiting rooms with magazines from two years ago, the chairs so worn and hard that I stand because my butt can't deal with it anymore. Do these rooms really have to be so gloomy? I really get fed up with doctors not hearing me and telling me what I should be doing instead of listening to me when I say how damn painful it is to give myself one more shot. I'm tired of worrying that the Ryan White Treatment Modernization act will wipe away any shred of humanity I have as easily as "Care" was dropped from the title. Sound like I am bitching? Yes, I am. I'm burnt, burnt so badly that at times the only way I feel I can be empowered is refuse to take my medicine or to do the things that are really good for me.

So what do I need? I need a little understanding that there are days I just don't feel like doing much of anything. I need you to know that when you want me to come in for yet another appointment that I might just been too tired to do it. I need you to know that I realize you have burnout too. I need you to know that as exhausted and burned out you are I am too and I've been doing this HIV thing a lot longer than you.

Thanks,

Paolo Preston, MSW Prevention Specialist Methods Program - SAAF

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Deliverance

Oregon has decided to balance its state's budget. Good News? Well, backwoods values intact, the state has decided to honor the Southern tradition of the speed trap, a la Boss Hogg.

Commuter arteries around the state will be targeted with a special contingent of State Troupers whose mission will be to issue lots and lots of tickets to citizens used to the rush to work and home again at speeds somewhat above the posted limit. This wholesale disregard for the speed limit is an indication, perhaps, of a limit that does not meet the needs of the affected population. Everyone is speeding; instead of taking this as a sign that something is amiss with the limit, Oregon has detected the presence of a cash bonanza and intends to effect a commuter toll on its citizens without due process.

Oregon lawmakers will provide a bonus to participating lawmen in the form of one million dollars (U.S.?) in overtime. Lots of boat payments for Officer Otis and his cronies working the speed traps. And much safer than chasing crack dealers over dangerous fences and hedges; the risk of workman's comp. claims in such cases is terrible.

The benefit to the state is projected to be in the neighborhood of eight million dollars clear, after the assisting officers take their one million cut. Nice.

If Oregon is allowed to proceed with this ill-conceived method of impromptu commuter taxation, what sin can be safe?

I thought it would be a good time the canvass the members of the clergy with whom I have a special bond; what would they say to the idea that sin is now taxable?

"We already tax it." said my good buddy, the Reverend Arnold P. Grabbet of the Church of Everyday Saints. "That's how we get the best collection! A red-hot sermon that touches on all the little sins of the flock. Nothing fills the plate like an old time lecture on the dangers of sexual libation!" The Reverend went on to talk at length about the specifics of sexual sin he especially deplored, but I cannot relate his candid views to my sensitive and erudite readers without risk of offense. I did note, however, that his whiskey and water seemed to go rather quicker as he warmed to his subject, obviously one dear to his heart.

With a minimal exposure to the techniques used in churches, our officers can be trained to get confessions of many an otherwise un-taxed sinner.

Imagine Officer Otis, cruising the aisles of Trader Joes. He spies a possible miscreant lingering overlong at the dairy case, choosing carefully between the mayonnaise and the pressurized can of whipped cream. Using his professional knowledge of deviant sexual behavior, Officer Otis can approach and cite with ease.

"Hey, buddy," our conscientious patrolman might begin, "that whipped cream isn't for sexual purposes is it?" Here, a knowing smile and friendly nudge in the ribs may be called for. The experienced officer will know.

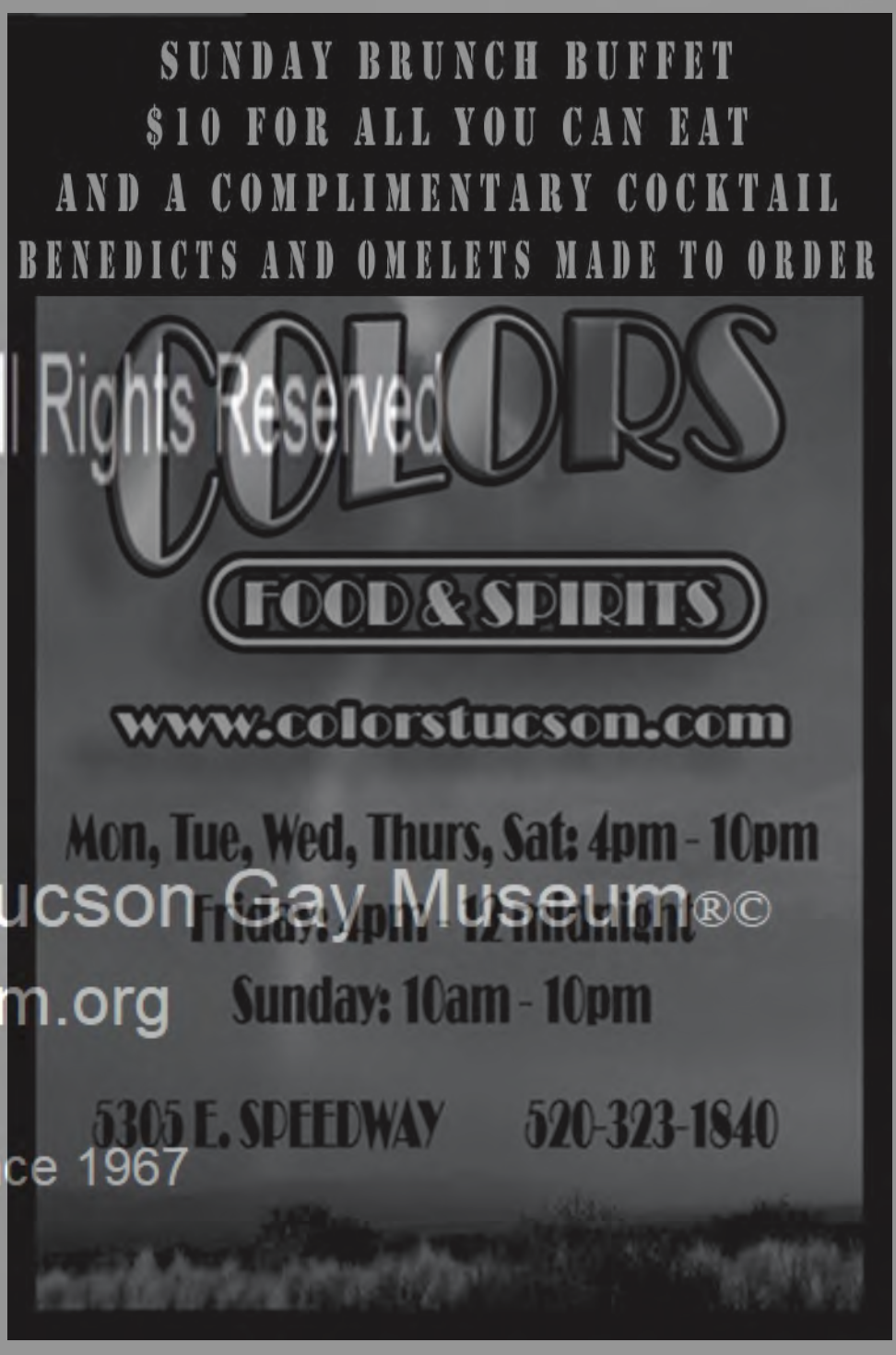
Continuing, "Ah, I know, it's all in fun. But what do you think your missus will say if she were to find out you were buying that stuff? Will she take the broad view, that it was just for the strawberries you have in the basket, or will it occur to her that she hasn't had strawberries since last season, and whipped cream! Oh, my, but she may be very suspicious if she sees the citation I am about to write you for deviant sexual behavior!"

Plainly, the average Joe or Janet will simply put down the offending sauce and meander away, thinking perhaps that whipped cream from another market will whip as well. Others, more guilty, may begin to dissemble and quail.

Hereupon, our trained officer can make the pinch; a citation being unnecessary among friends, he can simply collect a small sum, perhaps using a 'sliding scale'. Pocketing an honorarium, similar to the overtime to be collected by the Oregon State Troupers, the officer can remit the remainder to his desk Sargent. Each officer in the chain of command will have the opportunity to fulfill his overtime pay requirements on his own honor, the remittance offered by our deviant citizen thus making its way toward city coffers. Some small amount may arrive for the use of our governors.

The same technique can be used against truants, skateboarders and women who squeeze the tomatoes at the market with equal success. All that needs be done is to recognize the unimpeachable morality of our lawmakers and their law-enforcement apparatus, allowing them to look after the financial needs of our government.

It worked in Chicago in the 1920's. It can work here.



Personal Training

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There's Always Room For Jello

Photos By Bill Morrow

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Drug Resistant HIV Finds A New Foe, Says Researchers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Researchers have uncovered a new route for attacking HIV that may offer a way to circumvent problems with drug resistance, gfn.com reported.

In findings published April 28 in the online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) report that they have blocked HIV infection in the test tube by inactivating a human protein expressed in key immune cells.

Most of the drugs now used to fight HIV, target the virus's own proteins. HIV has a high rate of genetic mutation, however, and those viral targets change quickly. This leads to the emergence of drug-resistant viral strains, which can eventually prove fatal to long-term survivors of the virus who run out of drug options.

Doctors typically rely upon multi-drug regimens or switching drugs to outmaneuver the virus, but this is not always successful.

Research, like the one supported by the NIH, supports attacking HIV on a new front by developing drugs that target proteins of human cells, which are far less prone to mutations than viral proteins.

In the new study, researchers found that when they interfered with a human protein called interleukin-2-inducible T cell kinase (ITK) they inhibited HIV infection of key human immune cells, called T-cells. ITK is a signaling protein that activates T-cells as part of the body's healthy immune response.

"This new insight represents an important contribution to HIV research," said NHGRI Scientific Director Eric D. Green, M.D., Ph.D. "Finding a cellular target that can be inhibited so as to block HIV validates a novel concept and is an exciting model for deriving potential new HIV therapies."

When HIV enters the body, it infects T cells and takes over the activities of these white blood cells so that the virus can replicate. Eventually, HIV infection compromises the entire immune system and causes AIDS. The new work shows that without active ITK protein, HIV cannot effectively take advantage of many signaling pathways within T cells, which in turn slows or blocks the spread of the virus.

"We were pleased and excited to realize the outcome of our approach," Dr. Schwartzberg said. "Suppression of the ITK protein caused many of the pathways that HIV uses to be less active, thereby inhibiting or slowing HIV replication."

Maryland's Governor's Inaction Leaves G/L Rights At Standstill

Martin O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (Observer Update) - As a progressive mayor in Baltimore, Martin O'Malley attended Gay pride parades and signed into law a measure to protect Transgender people from discrimination.

When he ran for governor, he said he supported civil unions and wanted to extend benefits to same-sex partners of state employees, as he had done for city workers. But two years into O'Malley's first term in Annapolis, neither has happened.

He largely stayed out of the debate over legal recognition for same-sex unions that fizzled in the General Assembly, and aides say his financially strapped administration probably won't grant benefits for at least another year. The lack of momentum for Gay rights in the State House is the latest disappointment for activists after a lawsuit to force the legalization of same-sex marriage failed in state courts.

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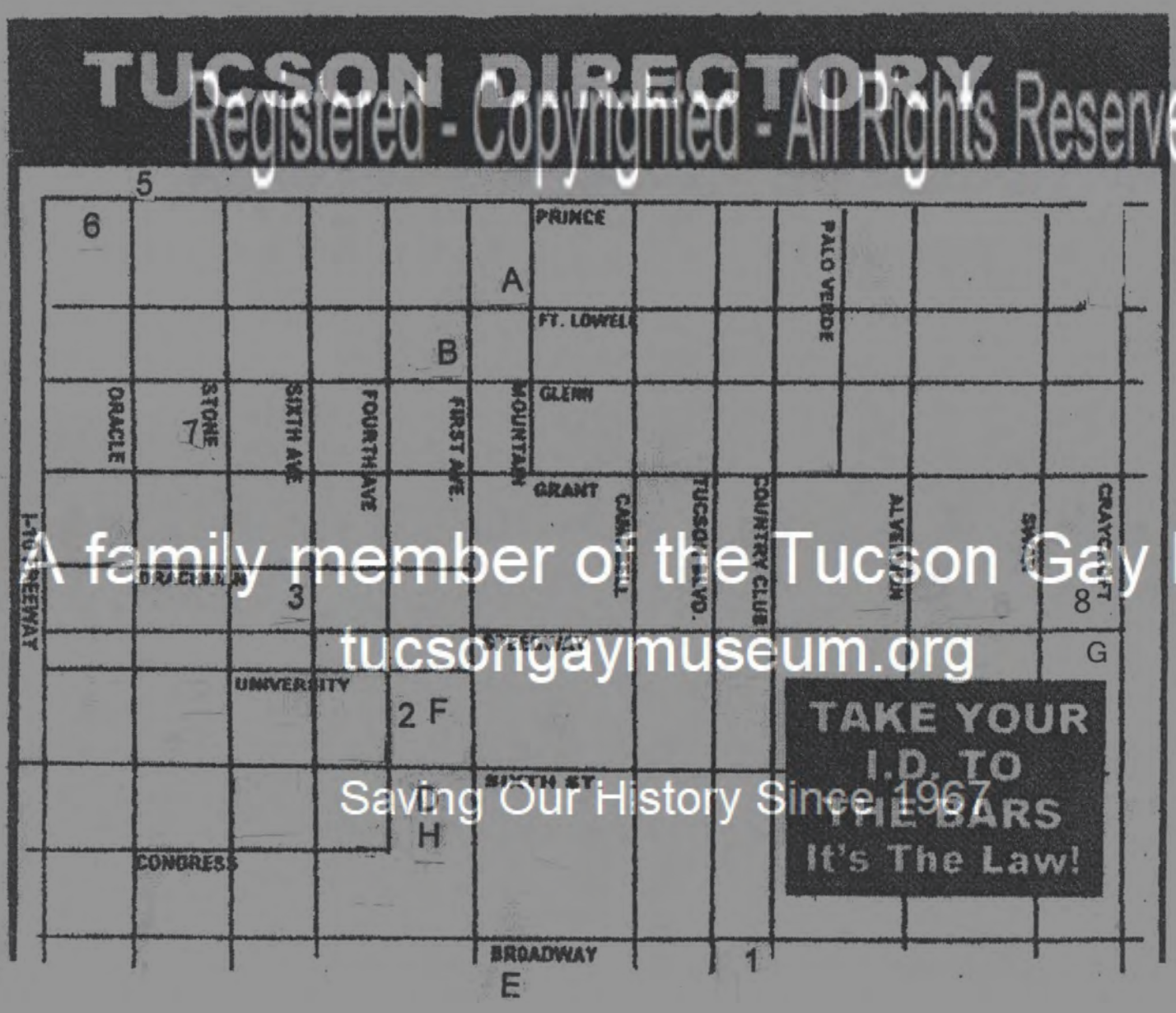

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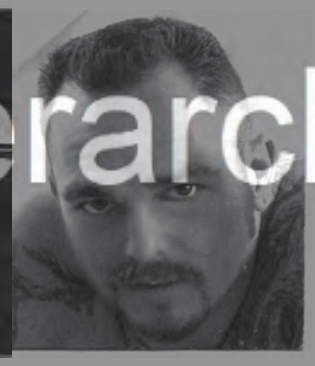

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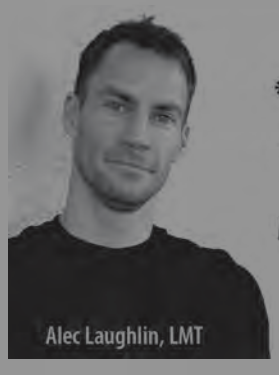

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HOROSCOPES

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Jolly Jupiter enters Aqueerius after a two year sojourn in Capricorn. Do you feel your world lighten and luck change? Check your rearview mirror, readjust your personal goals and step on the accelerator. You may just find a shortcut instead of the usual detour.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Don't expect to make your success wholly on your own. You find that pals are pivotal in your grand scheme. Get your big break by reaching out to new groups and being friendlier. Turn on the charm and see how far you can slide on your own oil. A kind word here, a helpful hand there will get you a leg up or even a leg over. Gay Rams have all the luck!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Despite your long and hard working efforts, your professional path appeared to be blocked or stagnant. Don't give up hope, queer Bull. This is no time to think about clipping coupons in early retirement. That barrier wall is now breached and the accolades (and the resulting rewards) can flow freely. Jupiter sez take a chance, Heck, I say take two.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins find their pot of gold farther afield than the nearest street corner. Don't be lazy. While it will seem easier to lie back, hang out and wait for the big delivery, Jupiter suggests that you gather your energies and venture forth to seek your fortune in the international arena, Expansion is the keyword and moxie is the currency. So manifest your own destiny.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If your eyes become too big for your stomach (and other nether regions), don't question why. Suddenly pink Crabs become the flavor of the month whose presence is demanded and adored by a range of important and semi-important folks. Enjoy the publicity feast before it reverts back to the usual famine. And ask for a doggie bag to tide you over.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Proud Lions should not seek their solitude now. In fact, you couldn't be alone if you tried. People want some sort of relationship with you whether for business or for pleasure. Maybe you can combine them and have it both ways. If so, assume the position. Single cubs might actually stumble upon their soulmates. Watch were you step.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Find new ways to expand your energy, stamina and optimism. Queer Virgins can jump into a healthier lifestyle with both feet. Do it sooner than later and see some magnificent results with relatively little exertion. And yet this expansion can take place on many levels so if you aspire to kick back and grab the "good life" you may experience a waistline expansion instead.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Capitalize on your surge of luck for the next couple of years. This fortuitous era will not only inspire you to create your own personal masterpiece, it helps you tap into your innate creativity and productivity. Gay Libras will gain recognition and acclaim and can parlay their gains into substantial nest egg ... or squander it all with a grand flourish!. Gee I wonder what you will do?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

The next couple of years can see a transformation in your relationship to your family or an upgrade in your current living situation. Proud Scorps will face a number of delightful decisions that encourage them to change their personal landscape. And why not? Plant a few new seeds, tend to your own garden and see what or who sprouts.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Not everything needs to end in an argument or an "oopsie" moment. In fact, Gay Archers will not only be able to sway others to their own peculiar brand of thinking, they will gain followers and fanatical adherents. Don't rest on your laurels. Move mountains and change borders while you aspire to be the ruler. Have a great idea? See how far you can take it now.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps might feel like they live in a state of fiscal bliss as Jupiter enters Aqueerius. Not only will you feel flush, you really can be. Longstanding sticky financial issues start to resolve. Your flow of money can be lassoed, hogtied and branded with a combination of good research, sound advice and good luck. Yahoo! Save it for a rainy day. Do I feel a drop...?

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Jupiter will not only help you raise your public profile, it can catapult you into the numero uno place in various high level circles. Aqueerians would do well to work on their connections and expand their audience base. You become a social heavy weight. But refrain from totally over indulging. Expansion weight can occur on more than just a social level, my friend.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Just when you thought that everyone was out to get you, you realize that you have friends and supporters lurking in the background to help out when you need it. The burden is lifted. Let your imagination soar and use the next couple of years to expand your influence to those less fortunate and in need. Your karmic stock will hit new highs. Then sell!

State Supreme Court To Decide Could Federal Law Prevent A Lesbian From Having Children

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - Almost eight years after the first formal complaint, a final legal ruling, with LGBT and states' rights implications, will decide whether federal law can prevent state anti-discrimination law from assuring equal reproductive care for all prospective mothers, Raw Story (rawstory.com) reported.

Guadalupe "Lupita" Benitez and her partner Joanne Clark decided, after 11 years together, to build a family. In August of 1999, Benitez began fertility treatments with the only clinic covered under her employer's medical plan, North Coast Women's Care Medical Group.

The battle began when the primary fertility doctor treating Ms. Benitez, Dr. Christine Brody, went on vacation after 11 months of treatments, leaving her in the care of colleague Douglas Fenton. While Dr. Brody expressed her disapproval of lesbians having children, she continued to treat Benitez. In the previous months, Benitez said, she told Dr. Brody that she wanted her sexual orientation kept confidential; her chart, however, said that she would require donor sperm, and had never had a male partner.

During that same period, Benitez was not only prescribed fertility drugs and guided on home care procedures, but laproscopic surgery was also performed to prepare her for artificial insemination. Dr. Fenton would later refuse to perform any further procedure or refill Benitez's prescription on the grounds that there was discomfort among the NCWC staff, including Dr. Brody, over Benitez's sexual orientation; Drs. Brody and Fenton were fundamentalist Christians and attended the same church.

"For nearly a year," Benitez said, "my doctors accepted my insurance company's payments and my co-payments and they strung me along with the promise that they would help me become pregnant. "I was in my doctors' care for their medical assistance, not for their religious judgments."

Benitez would ultimately get help conceiving her son from a physician outside her medical plan's network, at a considerable extra cost, and with NCWC refusing to release all of her medical records.

Ms. Benitez, a resident of Oceanside, California, first filed a complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing on August 8, 2000. Backed by Lambda Legal, she would escalate the issue, filing a lawsuit (Benitez v. North Coast Women's Care Medical Group) on July 5, 2001. A resident of California, Benitez is protected by the Unruh Civil Rights Act, which mandates that a for-profit entity, such as a privately owned medical clinic, treat all its clients equally.

In the complaint, Benitez also alleged breach of contract, breach of implied contract, breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing, negligence, negligent infliction of emotional distress, intentional infliction of emotional distress, deceit and fraud, tortious interference with prospective advantage, and invasion of privacy.

NCWC countered that, since Benitez received their services while a member of her employer's medical plan, the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) exempted them from the Unruh Act. ERISA Section 514 supersedes state laws that relate to any employee benefit plan, but there are certain exceptions, including for criminal law. California's Fourth Appellate District Court, on March 4, 2003, ultimately ruled that the doctors were not exempt under ERISA, since the claim being made was against a medical provider over the administration of services, rather than directly related to the health insurer.

California courts would go on to uphold the ruling in October of 2004 and March of 2006, with the battle reaching the state's Supreme Court in September of 2006. Between February and April of 2007, 30 health care, policy, civil rights groups and California's Attorney General filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting Lambda Legal and Guadalupe Benitez in the right to equal access to health care.

On May 28, 2008, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in Benitez v. North Coast Women's Care Medical Group. Ms. Benitez is represented by Lambda Legal's lead attorney Jennifer C. Pizer and co-counsel Jon B. Eisenberg. Also on the case are Robert Welsh, Seph McNamara and Lee Fink of Los Angeles' O'Melveny & Myers LLP, and Albert Gross of nearby Solana Beach. More information on this case is available at the Lambda Legal website.

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Saving Our History Since 1985

COMMENTARY. . . .

by Wayne Besen

Between The Wild Party And The Wedding Party

When I first came out in 1988, if two young Gay people met, the reaction often was, "You too! I thought I was alone." As my twenty-year high school reunion approaches, I witnessed an identical response in a seminal New York Times Magazine cover story. At a coffee shop in Boston, two Gay men, Aaron and George, met for the first time.

"I thought I was the only one." "Me too!" they exclaimed.

What differed was that these two young men were relieved to meet because they were legally divorced and had not met peers who had experienced similar situations. While we have a long journey towards full equality ahead of us, it is a dramatically different world than the one I came out in.

In fact, more than 700 Gay men 29 or younger have married in Massachusetts through last June, the latest date for which statistics are available. While Massachusetts is still the only state that allows same-sex marriages, Gay men who are my age, 37, never dreamt these unions would occur in our lifetime.

Indeed, much of our social culture was built around men cheating on their wives. The rest stops, parks and bathhouses were all geared toward the "quickie." If a Gay man did not get home in time for dinner with his family, he'd find that his goose was cooked. The double lives and hypocrisy forced on Gay men by a repressive society took an awesome psychological toll.

The Gay bars in the 1970s-90's were geared for men in their 30's-50's who were often living a belated adolescence. Anyone who has seen a half-naked 50-year-old man at a circuit dance party twirling a glow stick with a pacifier in his mouth knows what I am talking about.

I sometimes hardly recognize the Gay community's social scene. When I first came out, many Gay bars had a back room, which was a dark crevice where men furtively had sex. Today, a dark room likely means a Gay couples' row house den with mood lighting. Contemporary Gay bars have largely gone from seedy to chic and - for better or worse - often attracting many straight people.

An older friend of mine who visited Boston half-jokingly complained, "There's something morally wrong with a city where it's easier to marry a boyfriend than find a Gay bar."

His observation was spot on. Boston Globe writer Robert David Sullivan told National Public Radio that he noticed the number of Gay bars in Boston had been cut in half in recent years.

Massachusetts is not the only place the Gay social scene has been transformed. Fortune Magazine named Gay bars as one of the 10 businesses it thinks is facing extinction. It joined a list of has-beens that includes record stores and crop dusting. Additionally, overt street cruising is out of fashion and demure glances have largely replaced outright ogling.

The decline in the public sex culture and Gay bars can be attributed, in part, to the rise of the Internet. However, a larger trend, captured by the Times magazine article, is at work. A good portion of men in their mid 20's have been out of the closet for more than a decade. (They were barely in) Having had a normal adolescence, they are already burnt out on Gay bars and ready to start families.

A couple of weeks ago, I visited Washington and met up with the friends I used to party with in the mid to late 90's. Today, they are all in long-term relationships and in bed by the time they used to wake up from their disco naps.

The changes in the Gay social scene have happened so fast that they are sometimes difficult to comprehend. It's as if someone slipped a roofie into the GLBT community's mimosa and while we slept Rudy Giuliani swooped down in drag and cleaned up our Times Square.

Sometimes, I fondly reminisce about the good old days. Then, I recall that that the endless party was a product of our oppression. The storied "days" were actually really late nights - and as I get older, I want to be up on Sunday morning in time to watch "Meet the Press."

Caught between the wild party and wedding party generations, the rapid pace of change can seem unsettling, yet reassuring.

"Am I the only one who feels this way?"

"You, too! Thank, God."

(Wayne Besen is an author, activist, columnist and public speaker. He is the founder and executive director for Truth Wins Out, an organization that counters the ex-Gay movement and right wing disinformation campaigns. This article is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

Shareholders Reject Bid To Strip G/L Protections At Wells Fargo

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - A motion by a Wells Fargo shareholder to remove protections for LGBT workers from the company's non-discrimination policy was defeated at its annual meeting, reported 365Gay.com.

The motion called for the company to "to formulate an equal employment policy ...that does not make reference to any matters related to sexual interests, activities or orientation." It said that homosexuality has been "condemned by the major traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam for a thousand years or more". The motion was crafted by Pro Vita Advisors, a group that helps promote conservative values.

The motion said that "While the legal institution of marriage between a man and a woman should be protected, the sexual interests of, inclinations and activities of all employees should be a private matter, not a corporate concern." The proposal was easily defeated.

Mildred Loving Who Won Landmark Interracial Marriage Ruling Dies

RICHMOND, Virginia (Observer Update) - Mildred Loving, a black woman whose challenge to Virginia's ban on interracial marriage led to a landmark Supreme Court ruling striking down such laws nationwide, has died, her daughter said Monday (May 5).

Peggy Fortune said Loving, 68, died Friday (May 2) at her home in rural Milford. She did not disclose the cause of death. Loving and her white husband, Richard, changed history in 1967 when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld their right to marry. The ruling struck down laws banning racially mixed marriages in at least 17 states.

They had married in Washington in 1958, when she was 18. Returning to their Virginia hometown, they were arrested within weeks and convicted on charges of "cohabiting as man and wife, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth," according to their indictments. The couple avoided a year in jail by agreeing to a sentence mandating that they immediately leave Virginia. They moved to Washington and launched a legal challenge a few years later.

After the Supreme Court ruled, the couple returned to Virginia, where they lived with their children Donald, Peggy and Sidney. Richard Loving died in 1975 in a car accident that also injured his wife. In a rare interview with The Associated Press last June, Loving said she wasn't trying to change history - she was just a girl who once fell in love with a boy. "It wasn't my doing," Loving said. "It was God's work."

The Loving case was cited in the 2003 Massachusetts case that led to same-sex marriage in that state.

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Humane Society of Southern Arizona
3450 North Kelvin Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 327-6088
http://www.humane-so-arizona.org

NON-BAR CALENDAR

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

Thursday-Sunday, May 8 - 11
The Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) host the National Stonewall Democrats for a conference and Board meeting at Holiday Inn Airport, 4550 S. Palo Verde. The conference features training programs designed for Democrats locally, state-wide and nationally, including topics involving media, fundraising, organizing campaigns and youth programs. For more information about SASD: sasdtucsosn@yahoo.com. For info on the National Stonewall Democrats visit their website at www.stonewalldemocrats.org

Thursday, May 8th
#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 Men's Social Network. Bridge Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Contact Michael at 326-3555 for location and directions

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowling, 1:30PM at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W Miracle Mile www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, May 9
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway

Saturday, May 10th
#1 Saturday Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday. Contact Marvin at 745-0304 for directions and information.

Monthly Prime Timers Membership Meeting at Wingspan.11AM. We Welcome visitors! No-Host Lunch follows. www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Tucson Prime Timers-6PM Meet us for Drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar 3710 N Oracle www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, May11th
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. This week it is at Furrs Family Dining. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com. Please contact Thom 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, May12th
Join the Monday series of free quit tobacco classes for LGBT people and allies. 7:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7t St. for more info cll Michael 624-1779 X117

MSN Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Trivial Pursuit. Please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336 for information and to reserve your place at this limited seating event.

Tucson Prime Timers welcomes visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM, The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone www.tucsonprimetimer.org

Wednesday, May 14th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin at 745-0304.

Thursday, May 15th
Welcome Wingsspan's New Executive Director Jason Cianciottoo at a public reception 5-7p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.
#1Men'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 Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30pm. Call Jack at 887-3736 for directions Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our Weekly Sunday Brunch. This week at 11AM, Rio Café, 2526 E. Grant Rd. www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowling, 1:30PM at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W Miracle Mile www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday May 16th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Pizza Night! Did you phone in your reservation on time? Then join Bruce for a great MSN Pizza Night! You need to call Bruce at 743-3890 by Thursday for reservations.

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

Saturday May 17th
MSN#1 Saturday April 12th Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

MSN#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076.

Tucson Prime Timers-6PM Meet us for Drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar, 3710 N Oracle www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, May 18th
25th Annual International AIDS Canadlelight Memorial at Himmel Park beginning at yp.m. Contact courtney Jordan 881-3300 X102

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at Jason's Deli. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com. Please contact Thom by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under $10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the schedule

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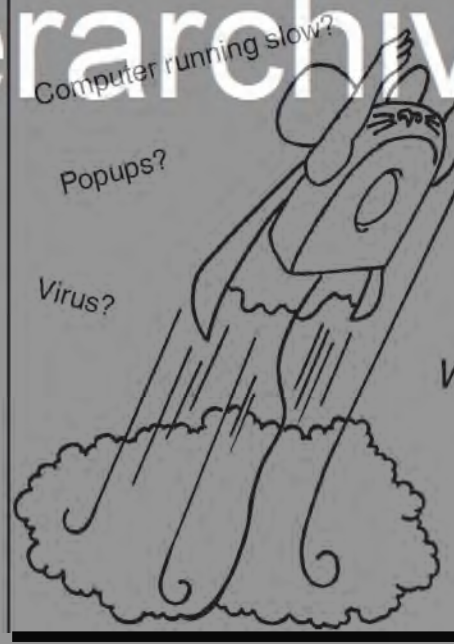

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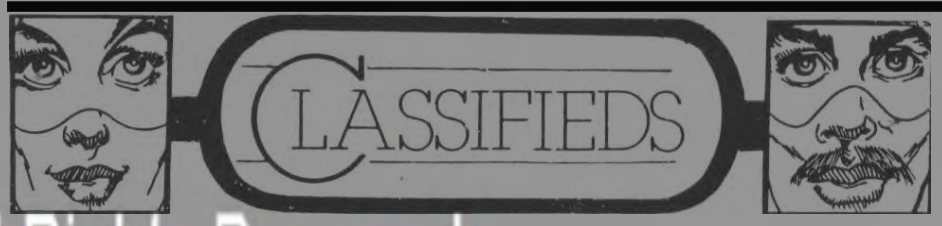

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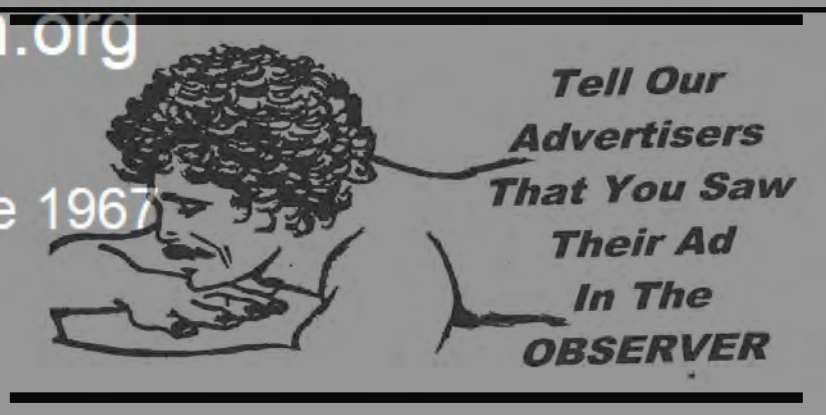

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 pm., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Yard Dog. We will be finalizing details on our Owl fling which is set for June 27th, 28th, and 29th at Rose Canyon Lake. Watch for more details after our next meeting.

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.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet 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.

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 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

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 (TIHAN) 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.

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 OUTtoberFEST. 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.

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. on Sundays only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740

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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. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees

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 3 - 8 p.m. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Bucket o" Beer - $10.00 Domestic, $12.00 Imports (5 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Guinness excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

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. 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. Happy Hour 3-8. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Alaskan Amber). Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m.

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 All Day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-'Em Poker 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 - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 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. Bicardi Thursdays - $2.50 Bicardi Rum - all flavors.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 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. $2.25 All Mexican Beers. Free Dance Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

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. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

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BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, MAY 8
HOWL AT THE MOON - Mid-week show with Amanda Nicole and guests. 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 9
HOWL T THE MOON - Line Dance Lessons 7:30 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 10
HOWL AT THE MOON - It's Reigning Men! Drag King Show featuring Anson Reign. Starts at 10 p.m with a meet-and-greet at 9:30 pm. Show starts at 10:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 11
YARD DOG SALOON - "Mommie Dearest Party" - Joan Crawford Look-Alike Contest at 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 16
HOWL AT THE MOON - Couples Dance Lessons with Amanda 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 17
HOWL AT THE MOON - Still Rock 'n Roll to me and the BB Cane Band! Show starts at 9:00 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 23
Line Dance Lessons with Libby. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 24
HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Libby plays a mix of oldies, disco, country, pop, rock/dance and your requests.

MONDAY, MAY 26
IBT'S - A Memorial event is in the works. Monday Morning Madness (MMM) is back!!! Watch for more details. The bar will open at 10:00 a.m. with a breakfast Buffet and Showtime at 11:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 30
HOWL AT THE MOON - Couples Dance Lessons from Amanda 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 31 - Adrienne Alexander's Farewell to Tucson Show. Show her the love. Special guests for a really big show. 9:00 p.m.

Q-BRIEFS

LESBOS ISLAND RESIDENTS CLAIM THEY OWN GAY NAME

LESBOS, Greece (Observer Update) - Campaigners on the Greek island of Lesbos are to go to court in an attempt to stop a Gay rights organization from using the term "Lesbian".

The islanders say that if they are successful they may then start to fight the word Lesbian internationally. The issue boils down to who has the right to call themselves Lesbians. Is it Gay women, or the 100,000 people living on Greece's third biggest island - plus another 250,000 expatriates who originate from Lesbos?

The man spearheading the case, publisher Dimitris Lambrou, claims that international dominance of the word in its sexual context violates the human rights of the islanders, and disgraces them around the world. He says it causes daily problems to the social life of Lesbos's inhabitants.

TWO MEN CONVICTED IN U.K. ROYAL GAY SEX BLACKMAIL

LONDON (Observer Update) - Two men who demanded £50,000 from a Royal Family member in exchange for tapes featuring Gay sex claims have been jailed for blackmail.

Ian Strachan and Sean McGuigan were jailed for five years each for attempting to extort money from the unidentified royal. His identity had been concealed during the two-and-a-half-week-long trial. Strachan, 31, and McGuigan, 41, both of London, had denied charges of demanding money with menaces.

Among the claims in the recordings were that the royal, referred to as witness A, performed a sex act on his employee, witness D, at a party. Strachan, who is originally from Aberdeen, in Scotland, and McGuigan had used the tapes to demand money from the royal after trying, unsuccessfully, to sell them to newspapers.

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BEST FEST

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