Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER AUGUST 6, 2008 ISSUE 1255

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Out Of State G/L Couples Can Now Marry In Massachusetts

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed legislation Thursday (July 31) allowing out-of-state same-sex couples to marry in the Bay State. "The law could draw thousands of couples to Massachusetts." The bill, repealing a 1913 law that said marriage licenses could not be issued to couples whose weddings would not be recognized in their home states, cleared its final hurdle earlier this week in the legislature, reported pageoneq.com.

Gov. Deval Patrick signing the legislation at a noon ceremony at the State House In Boston, Massachusetts

Patrick signed the legislation at a noon ceremony at the State House. The old law was originally passed when interracial marriage was legal in Massachusetts, but not in most other parts of the country.

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned state bans on interracial marriage, the Massachusetts law fell into disuse. However, when the Massachusetts high court struck down the state ban on same-sex marriage in 2003, then-Gov. Mitt Romney (R) dusted off the old law, threatening to charge local clerks if they issued marriage licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples.

In a 2006 challenge to the out-of-state ban, the Supreme Judicial Court upheld the law, but noted that since Rhode Island did not have a specific law defining "couple" in its marriage law, Gays and Lesbians from that state could marry in Massachusetts. Rhode Island is believed to be the only state without a definition of what constitutes a couple. The court also said that the Massachusetts legislature could repeal the 1913 law. For the past two years, LGBT rights groups and Gay-friendly lawmakers worked to gather support for repeal.

Laws usually go into effect 90 days after they are signed, but the repeal bill contained a clause stating that it would go into effect as soon as the governor put his pen to it.

California, the only other state to allow same-sex marriage, has no out-of-state limitation, so Gay and Lesbian couples from across the country have been going there to wed. With same-sex marriage opening up in Massachusetts it is expected a large number of couples from Eastern states will opt for Massachusetts.

An analysis by the state Office of Housing and Economic Development found repealing the law would draw thousands of couples to Massachusetts, boosting the economy by $111 million, creating 330 jobs and generating $5 million in taxes and fees over three years.

The study assumes New York would provide the largest number of Gay couples - more than 21,000 couples - with New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine bringing the total to more than 30,000 in the first three years after the ban was lifted.

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Observer Recommendations Primary Election 2008

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Monday, August 4 was the deadline for people in Arizona to be registered to vote in Arizona's primary election which the polls will be open Tuesday, September 2.

This election will determine the party's standard bearers for various political offices from the federal (Congressional) level to local posts.

Unlike Arizona's presidential primary that took place on February 5, this primary election is an "open" one, meaning that registered independents, others, or no party preference are eligible to vote in this election by requesting a party's ballot either at the polls or prior.

During this time, now until September 2, candidates and campaigns are trying to convince voters to cast their ballots for their bid for office, either at the polls or prior through early voting which started on July 31.

With that mind, the Observer has compiled a list of recommended candidates for office (using statements, position papers and voting records), who are running in contested elections, that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS communities will benefit from if these individuals are successful in their primary contest as well as the November general election.

For this list of recommendations, there are no Republicans to recommend since it was the GOP who hasn't changed their tune on issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities.

Case in point, Arizona's Republican led state Legislature sponsored and passed legislation placing a proposed state constitutional amendment to define marriage as "a union between one man and one woman" on the November general election ballot despite current law and court precedent. When the GOP becomes more open-minded and supportive of issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, this publication will consider such races but until then, here is the list for the September 2, primary election.

Arizona Corporation Commission: Kara Kelty (D), Sandra Kennedy (D), Paul Newman (D).

Arizona State House - Legislative District 27: Phil Lopes (D), Olivia Cajero-Bedford (D).

Arizona State House - Legislative District 29: Tom Prezelski (D), Matt Heinz (D).

Pima County Board of Supervisors - District 2: Ramon Valadez (D).

Pima County Board of Supervisors - District 3: Sharon Bronson (D).

Constable - Justice Precinct 6 - Robert W. Cox Sr. (D).

For polling place information or to request an early ballot, call the Pima County Recorder's office (520) 740-4330 or go online to recorder.pima.gov and

Anti-LGBT Violence On Rise, New Report Says

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs said Tuesday that the number of violent crimes against LGBT people is up significantly in 2008, reported 365Gay.com. The coalition supports local LGBT organizations in their work to end violence.

Since the February murder of 15 year-old Lawrence King and the brutal beating of Duanna Johnson, there have been at least 13 brutal and violent LGBT hate crimes throughout the country. The organization added that the reported crimes only may be a small number of the total, since many LGBT people are reluctant to go to police, and many of the attacks that are reported are not listed by authorities as hate crimes.

The NCAVP said that the growing hate crimes may indicate a frightening trend of increases in both the number and severity of anti-LGBT violence.

"This is extremely disturbing and saddening. We are witnessing what appears to be an increase in both the occurrence and severity of violence motivated by racism, homophobia, and transphobia," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

Many of the incidents occurred in late June and July, when LGBT visibility is high during Gay pride celebrations.

The report documents the following reported incidents:

June 18, Memphis, Tenn. Police security camera footage is obtained and released by the attorney for a Transgender woman, Duanna Johnson. The video shows Memphis Police officers beating Duanna Johnson in the booking area of a local jail. The beating took place in February after Johnson refused to respond when officers called her "faggot" and "he-she." One officer punched her with handcuffs wrapped around his knuckles, splitting her skull open. He then maced her.

June 28, New York City. A Gay man is harassed on a subway platform and beaten on the subway after boarding at Christopher Street.

July 1, Memphis, Tenn. The body of a Transgender, African-American woman, Ms. Whitaker, is found near a daycare center.

July 2, Greeley Colo. Police sergeant Kell Hulsey and his son Dan Hulsey are accused of attacking a man they perceived to be Gay, beating him bloody with a bottle. A witness to the attack said: "I heard him say 'I'm a Greeley cop and I'm a mean (expletive),' and then he hit him." Kell Hulsey then allegedly fled the scene. He was put on administrative leave but as of July 9, no charges had been filed.

July 7, Queens, NY. Father Braxton is beaten while protecting a group of LGBT youth living at Carmen's Place, a shelter for homeless youth that he coordinates.

July 12, Central New York. A man who is a self-described neo-Nazi is arrested for allegedly breaking into the home of 65 a year-old Gay man at midnight while he slept. The victim was able to flee his home before it was torched and completely destroyed by the assailant.

July 17, Greeley, Colo. The body of Angie Zapata, an 18-year-old Latina Transgender woman is found. She was beaten to death with a fire extinguisher. 31-year-old suspect Allen Andrade was arrested on July 31 and charged with first degree murder as a hate crime.

July 17, Dallas Tex. Jimmy Lee Dean is beaten in an anti-Gay assault by two men not far from his home. His injuries were so severe that he was in intensive care and could not be interviewed or identified until July 22. The suspect is not currently being charged with a hate crime.

July 25, Upstate New York. A man from out-of-state was visiting family and was severely beaten by two men who shouted anti-Gay slurs while kicking him, breaking 10 bones in his face.

July 27, Knoxville, Tenn. Two people killed and seven wounded in a shooting that took place at a Unitarian church. The shooting appears to be at least partially anti-Gay motivated.

July 29, Staten Island, NY. A large group of men verbally and physically assaulted and then stabbed a man they perceived to be Gay.

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UPDATE

Turnabout For TIHAN August 24

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Turnabout for TIHAN," taking place Sunday, August 24 is an annual show put on by Tucson's LGBT clubs and their bar staff.

The staff request donations from their friends and customers in order to do a "turn-about" from male to female (or vice versa) and put on a show to benefit the work and programs of TIHAN, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (tihan.org).

This year's show will take place at the Doubletree Hotel at 445 South Alvernon Way. The doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the show starts at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are only $15.00. Admission includes the show and finger food hors d'oeuvres at 4:30 p.m. The evening also features a raffle with some great prizes. For more information on how you can participate in the fun, contact Scott Blades at (520) 299-6647. Tickets are on sale now through the TIHAN office (credit card orders can be taken), or at participating bars.

Nick Ray Named Wingspan Development Director

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan is delighted to welcome Nick Ray as the new Director of Development. While Nick has relocated from New York for this job, his relationship with Wingspan goes back more than a decade. In an earlier spell in Tucson, he served on Wingspan's Board of Directors and was the founder (and chair for 4 years) of the annual benefit dinner, growing it from an initial attendance of 225 to 640 in its 4th year.

Before coming to Wingspan, Nick worked as a Senior Policy Analyst at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute. During his three years with the Policy Institute, he researched right wing efforts to deploy homophobia to win support from African Americans, and also authored an impactful study on the epidemic of homelessness among LGBT youth. This second project garnered widespread media coverage and has been used by staff at Wingspan and other community centers, forming the foundation of trainings with homeless youth service providers across the country.

Nick leveraged this research in a number of ways to raise funds from individual donors and foundations. The homeless youth report was also instrumental in helping advocates of the homeless secure an additional $10.5 million of federal funding this year. Nick is excited to be joining a dynamic team of staff, volunteers and directors who are all motivated by the challenge of continuing Wingspan's great programming across southern Arizona.

20th Annual AIDSWalk Tucson Registration Now Open

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Sunday, October 19, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be hosting the 20th annual AIDSWALK Tucson featuring a 5Kwalk, 10K fun run, food, entertainment, community education, and a quilt opening ceremony on the central mall of The University of Arizona campus.

In a letter of support for AIDSWALK recently written by AIDSWALK Honorary Co-Chair, Congressman Raúl Grijalva, he stated "AIDSWALK has been important as a way our community comes together for the benefit of persons with HIV/AIDS who are in need". This best sums up this year's AIDSWALK theme: "Everybody's Walk!"

Individual walkers and teams are encouraged to visit aidswalktucson.com now to register in advance. Walkers may also create a fundraising page and encourage family, friends and co-workers to join with them in this important quest. One of the more brutal side-effects of HIV/AIDS, or any other debilitating disease, can be poverty. It is only with the backing of the Tucson community that SAAF can provide supplemental assistance to improve quality of life for individuals who need help. One hundred percent of donations raised at AIDSWALK stay in Southern Arizona.

This year as every year, AIDSWALK calls the community to "Remember. Support. Prevent". On October 19, twelve AIDS Quilt panels help the community to remember loved ones that we've lost to AIDS. Nearly 100 sponsors and over 5,500 walkers will raise funds to help support those living with HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona, and education and outreach at the event helps to prevent new HIV infections. The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation provides care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona, including case management, housing, transportation, a food pantry and a mobile meals program, medical and dental assistance and support groups. Equally important, SAAF provides outreach to groups at high risk of HIV/AIDS through seven different culturally targeted prevention programs as well as general community education to help reduce the risk of HIV.

AIDSWALK 2008 will be a day of meaningful community gathering but not without fun and festivities. Be a part of it! Form a team, challenge others to a fundraising contest, and just spread the word. Your personal support of AIDSWALK helps provide critical services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and also helps to fund critical prevention programs for people at risk for HIV. HIV/AIDS doesn't discriminate. This is everybody's walk.

For more information about AIDSWALK or to learn about our traveling Registration sites please visit aidswalktucson.com or our myspace page at myspace.com/aidswalktucson or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255).

Countdown To Defeat Prop 202, August 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come to the second gathering of community members and grassroots organizers to discuss the campaign to defeat Proposition 102, the Anti-Marriage Amendment, Saturday, August 23, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Main Downtown Library, 101 N. Stone (Main Meeting Room - Lower Level).

Proposition 102, if approved by Arizona voters, will amend the Arizona Constitution by adding the following article related to marriage: "Marriage - Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state."

Your input on defeating this hate measure is valuable! For more information, go online to votenoprop102.com.

Alleged Europride Assailants Denied Bail

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Observer Update) - Three teens accused of stabbing two Gay men during EuroPride festivities in the Swedish capital have been denied bail.

The trio was ordered held in custody for a hearing set for August 15, reported pageoneq.com. One of the two victims remains in hospital in serious condition. The other was treated and released.

The men were attacked and robbed after they kissed while leaving a EuroPride event July 29. The three accused are charged with assault causing grievous bodily harm, robbery and committing a hate crime.

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Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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The Observer

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Around The Old Pueblo

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer will be performing on August 22, 8:00 p.m. at the Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress.
Suzanne vaulted onto the national comedy scene in the early 1990's as the first openly Lesbian comedian and she has been thrilling both mainstream and Gay and Lesbian audiences ever since.For tickets or more information, either call (520) 740-1000 or go online to the Rialto Theatre's website, rialtotheatre.com.

Enjoy a trip up, August 17, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to the cool temperatures of Mt. Lemmon. Meet at the NE corner of Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy at the McDonalds at 11:00 a.m. to caravan/car pool up the mountian. There is a $5 per vehicle park pass required. If you want to meet later in the afternoon, take the Catalina Highway off Tanque Verde Road in Tucson. Drive 4.2 miles to the Forest boundary and continue 25.6 miles (through Summerhaven). Marshall Gulch Picnic Area is a quarter mile beyond the village. Look for the rainbow flag at our picnic area. For more information, contact Peter Lake, (520) 245-6659.

Mid-July heat, monsoon rains - a typical Tucson summer. But a not-so-typical upcoming season for Desert Voices! On August 11, begins year number 20, our Platinum Season, and what exciting plans are in the making. Join us Mondays, August 11 & 18, 7:00 pm, Water of Life MCC, 3269 N. Mountain Ave (just north of Ft. Lowell), meet current chorus members and learn about the season. Desert Voices are always looking for new singers. Meet with Chris Tackett, our artistic director, have a quick voice check to determine your range, and then get ready to be a part of an exciting musical year. Any questions? Call (520) 791-9662.

Homos Libros

TUCSON (Observer Update) - It's an exciting time for LGBT-themed publishing. More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of LGBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. What follows are reviews of recent books released by the LGBT Services Committee of the Pima County Public Library.

Fire Logic by Laurie J. Marks. In the book Fire Logic by Laurie J. Marks, the House of Lilterwess has fallen to the invading Sainnites. The leader of the land of Shaftal has died without passing on the elemental power which had kept Shaftal in peace and prosperity for centuries, and the country is falling into chaos. Emil, the soldier, must leave his scholarly pursuits to return to war. Zanja, the boundary-crosser of the Ashawala'i people, must try to protect her people as well as herself in an increasingly dangerous and violent world. Karis the half-giant possesses formidable earth powers, but can she come out from under the heavy hand of her addiction long enough to see how she might use them to protect all she loves? When Zanja realizes that she loves Karis will she get the chance to express it? A wall of danger and war stands between them.

This book portrays a society in which relationships between women, between men, and between men and women are treated equally, and either a man or a woman may fill any job, but the effect of war on the people is at the forefront of the action. This is a nuanced book with many shades of gray which explores how warfare changes a people and what they must do so that they do not become the invaders they hate. - Reviewed by Shawn F.

Earth Logic by Laurie J. Marks. The events in the book Earth Logic by Laurie J. Marks take place a few years after those in Fire Logic. It has now been 30 years since the Sainnite invaders first set foot in Shaftal and there's no indication that they will be leaving. The half-giant Karis and her tribe of friends have experienced a few peaceful years, but the tides of war are changing the land again. Shaftal had been without a G'deon, their true leader, for a generation. Plague is devastating the Sainnese and Shaftali people alike, and the Sainnites keep escalating the cost of the war. Karis and her friends find themselves drawn into conflict with a group of Shaftali fanatics who claim to speak for the Lost G'deon of Shaftal and with Sainnites who cannot imagine any path but endless war, victory at any cost. What will it take for a new path to be forged for the war-torn land of Shaftal?

The fate of one of the major characters in this book is quite mysterious and remains so throughout. The conclusion is ultimately satisfying but a long time coming. Perhaps, that particular line of events tipped a bit far into symbolism. However, I found myself turning over the many possible meanings of the events long after I finished reading the book. Earth Logic continues the explorations begun in Fire Logic. How does a person make moral decisions in a time of war, and what is the path to peace? The tribe of friends who comprise the core characters of this book continue to provide a path for exploring many types of relationships between people. - Reviewed by Shawn F.

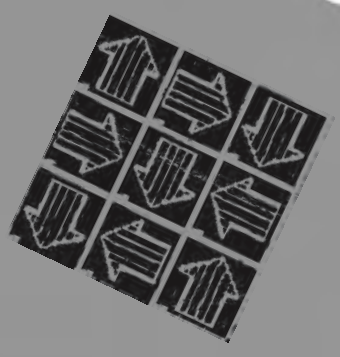
For more information, go online to the GLBT Services Committee website, library.pima.gov/community/glbt/index.cfm.

Suzanne Westenhoefer In Tucson August 22

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer will be performing on August 22, 8:00 p.m. at the Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress.

Suzanne vaulted onto the national comedy scene in the early 1990's as the first openly Lesbian comedian and she has been thrilling both mainstream and Gay and Lesbian audiences ever since. Her acclaimed career includes appearances on popular late night television shows as well as performances across the U.S. in popular theaters, clubs, and fundraisers. Fearless. Bold. Sparkly. Hilarious. That's Suzanne Westenhoefer in a nutshell. She's made a career out of telling the truth. And, the truth is, life is funny (and no one is off limits). From her sister's obsession with "Passion of the Christ" to her girlfriend's Herculean thighs, Suzanne tells stories that leave audiences in stitches. Suzanne works mostly unscripted, so when she hits the stage it's an unpredictable, original night of comedy magic.

For tickets or more information, either call (520) 740-1000 or go online to the Rialto Theatre's website, rialtotheatre.com.



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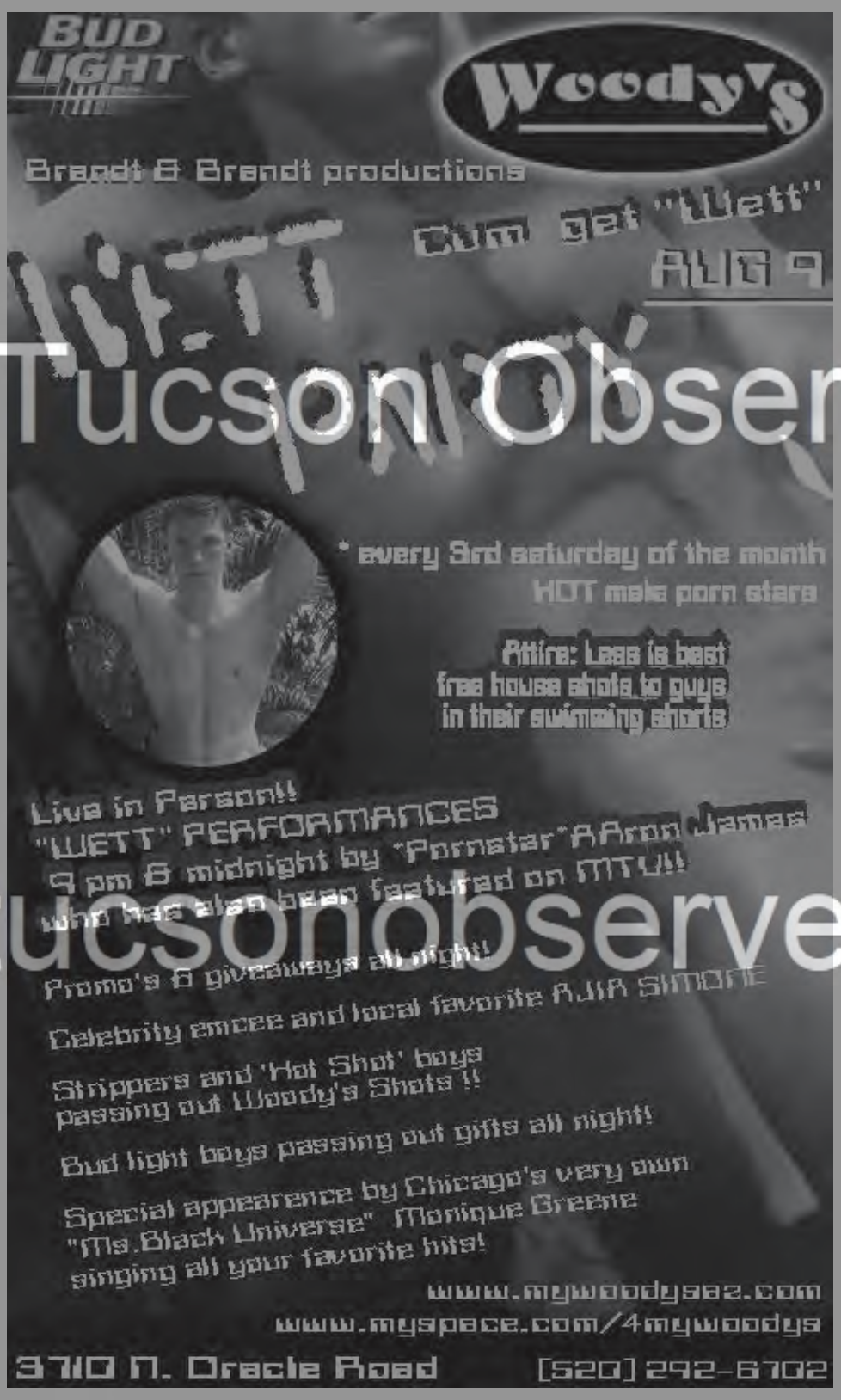


Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) Gets 100th House Co-Sponsor

WASHINGTON, DC-August 4, 2008-Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) became the 100th Congressional co-sponsor of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA, H.R. 2221) on August 1, reported out4immigration.org.

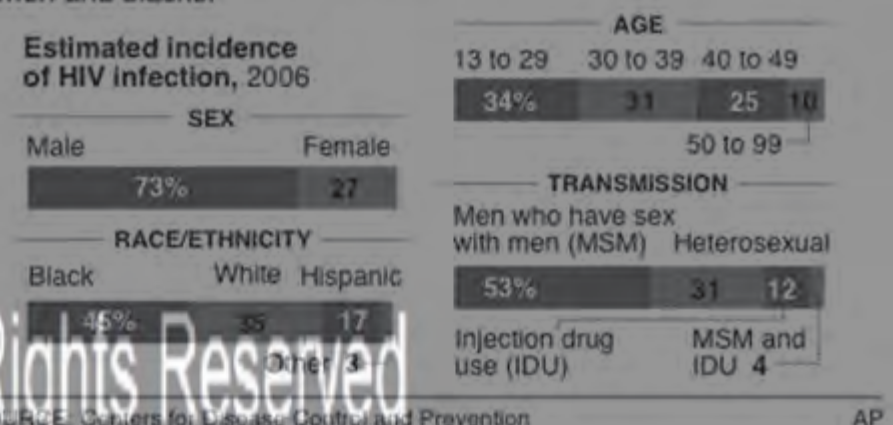
The UAFA is a bill before Congress that would make a small change to existing immigration law to close a loophole barring Gay and Lesbian Americans in committed relationships with foreign partners from sponsoring their partner for a green card. These same-sex binational couples are denied the right that opposite-sex couples have been afforded for decades - the right to legally keep their families together in the United States. "We need the UAFA to become law because the United States does not recognize same-sex relationships at the federal level," explained Michael Lim, Vice President of the national grassroots organization Out4Imigration. "Gay and Lesbian couples are denied the protections of more than 1,100 federal laws that come with a federally recognized marriage - one of the most critical of these being immigration rights."

According to a Human Rights Watch report, there are more than 36,000 committed same-sex binational couples in the United States who would benefit from passage of the UAFA. Many more have been forced to live in exile - to leave behind their extended family, friends, community, homes and careers - in order to be with the person they love in one of the 18 countries that recognize same-sex couples for immigration purposes. Others, not having a safe alternative country to go to, have been forced to make heart-wrenching choices. "No one should have to choose between their partner and their country," said Lim. "But without legislation like the UAFA in place, that's exactly what's happening to Gays and Lesbians in the United States. "Out4Immigration is encouraged that we now have 100 co-sponsors of this legislation in the House and 14 for the bill in the Senate (S. 1328), but there is a lot more work ahead if these bills are going to come up for a floor vote. To those lawmakers sitting on the fence with this legislation, we ask them - if you were forced to choose between your country and the person you love, what would you do?"

UAFA was re-introduced in the House and the Senate by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) in May 2007. It has been proposed in Congress in every term since 1999 (formerly as the Permanent Partners Immigration Act). If it fails to pass before the end of this Congressional term, it will have to be reintroduced again in 2009. The legislation would add three words to existing US immigration law - "or permanent partner" wherever the word "spouse" appears. This would close the loophole imposed by the federal government that does not allow Gays and Lesbians to use the word "spouse" to define their relationship.

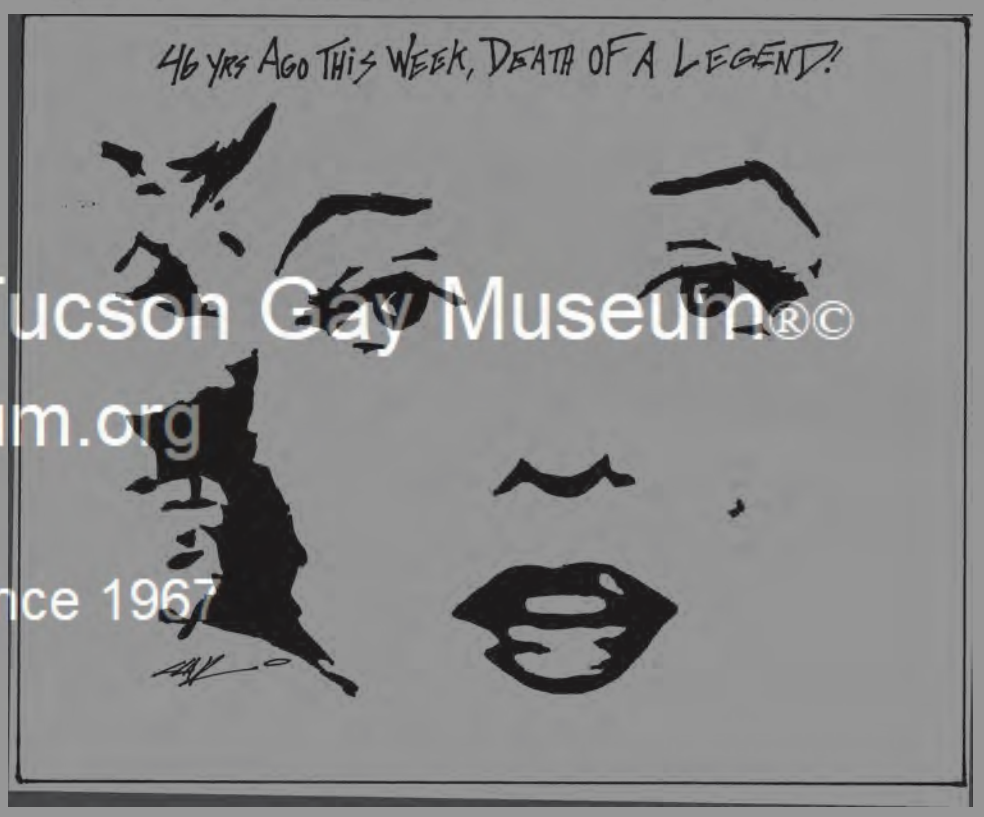
HIV cases remain high among men

In 2006, there were roughly 56,300 new HIV infections in the U.S. Cases remain high among men who have sex with men and blacks.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK



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Number Of New HIV Infections In U.S. Much Higher Than Government Reported

ATLANTA, Georgia (Observer Update) - The number of Americans infected by the AIDS virus each year is much higher than the government has been estimating, U.S. health officials reported, acknowledging that their numbers have understated the level of the epidemic, reported the Associated Press on rawstory.com.

The country had roughly 56,300 new HIV infections in 2006, about a 40 percent increase from the 40,000 annual estimate used for the past dozen years. The new figure is due to a better blood test and new statistical methods, and not a worsening of the epidemic, officials said. But it likely will refocus U.S. attention from the effect of AIDS overseas to what the disease is doing to this country, said public health researchers and officials.

"This is the biggest news for public health and HIV/AIDS that we've had in a while," said Julie Scofield, executive director of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.

Experts in the field, advocates and a former surgeon general called for more aggressive testing and other prevention efforts, noting that spending on preventing HIV has been flat for seven years. The revised estimate by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the methodology behind it were to be presented Sunday, the opening day of the international AIDS conference in Mexico City.

Since AIDS surfaced in 1981, health officials have struggled to estimate how many people are infected each year. It can take a decade or more for an infection to cause symptoms and illness. One expert likened the new estimate to adding a good speedometer to a car. Scientists had a good general idea of where the epidemic was going; this provides a better understanding of how fast it's moving right now. "This puts a key part of the dashboard in place," said the expert, David Holtgrave of Johns Hopkins University.

Judging by the new calculations, officials believe annual HIV infections have been hovering around 55,000 for several years. "This is the most reliable estimate we've had since the beginning of the epidemic," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, the CDC's director. She said other countries may adopt the agency's methodology.

According to current estimates, around 1.1 million Americans are living with the AIDS virus. Officials plan to update that number with the new calculations but don't think it will change dramatically, a CDC spokeswoman said. The new infection estimate is based on a blood test that for the first time can tell how recently an HIV infection occurred. Past tests could detect only the presence of HIV, so determining which year an infection took place was guesswork, upon which the old 40,000 estimate was based.

The new estimate relies on blood tests from 22 states where health officials have been using a new HIV testing method that can distinguish infections that occurred within the past five months from those that were older. The improved science will allow more real-time monitoring of HIV infections. Now, CDC officials say, the estimate will likely be updated every year. Yearly estimates allow better recognition of trends in the U.S. epidemic. For example, the new report found that infections are falling among heterosexuals and injection drug users.

Some experts celebrated that finding, saying it's a tribute to prevention efforts, including nearly 200 syringe exchange programs now operating in 36 states despite a federal ban on funding for such projects. But they also lamented the CDC's finding that infections continue to increase in Gay and bisexual men, who accounted for more than half of HIV infections in 2006. Also, more than a third of those with HIV are younger than 30. Some advocates say that suggests a need for more prevention efforts, particularly targeting younger Gay and bisexual men.

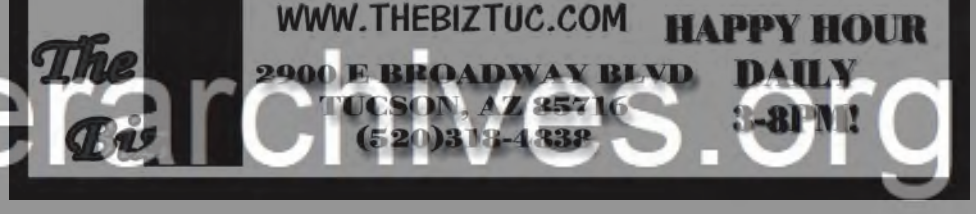
For years, AIDS was considered a terrifying death sentence, and since 1981, more than half a million Americans have died. But medicines that became available in the 1990s turned it into a manageable chronic condition for many Americans, and attention shifted to Africa and other parts of the world. President Bush signed a $48 billion global AIDS bill to continue a program that he called "the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in human history."

But some advocates complain that CDC's annual spending on HIV prevention in the United States has been held to roughly $700 million since 2001, while costs have risen. (That's about 3 percent of what the federal government spends on AIDS; much of the rest is on medicines, health care and research.) The new estimate is "evidence of a failure by government and society to do what it takes to control the epidemic," said Julie Davids, executive director of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project.

Whether more funding comes or not, the revised estimate clearly is a "wake-up call to scale things up," said Dr. Kevin Fenton, who oversees CDC's prevention efforts for HIV/AIDS. Some said more attention needs to focus on prevention among blacks, who account for nearly half of annual HIV infections, according to the new CDC report.

A recent report by the Black AIDS Institute concluded that if black Americans were their own nation, they would rank 16th in the world in the number of people living with HIV. "We have been inadequately funding this epidemic all along. We need to step it

Continued on Page Seven



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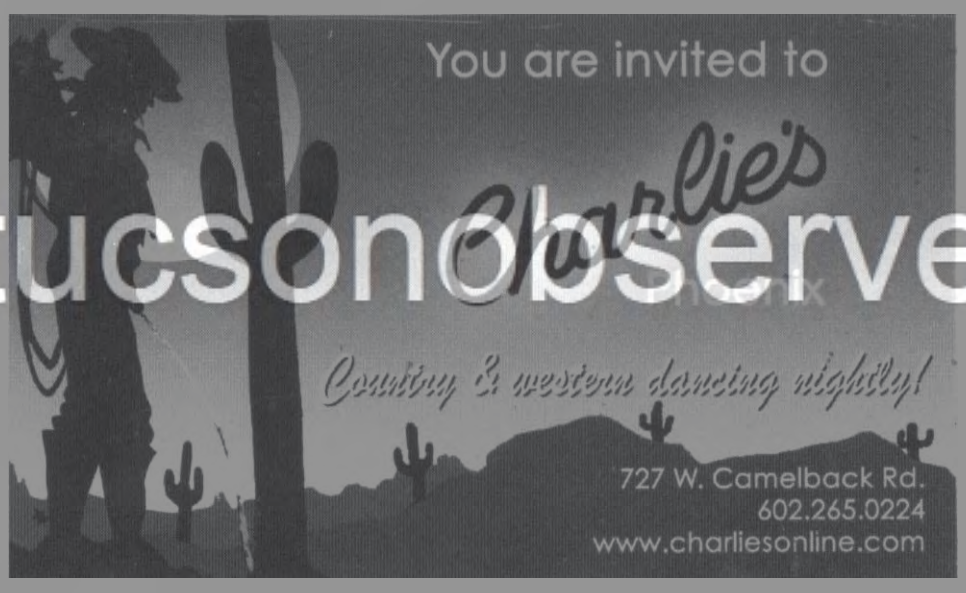

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Following The Yellow Brick Road

A couple of years ago, during the "boom", my household cut its expenses to the bone. We looked at the equity that had magically appeared in the house and thought perhaps it would do just as well to leave it there, rather than take it out to do something "else" with it. After all....magic is magic.

We quit spending in the manor in which we had become accustomed because we weren't really doing the things we wanted to do most. What we were doing is working all the time, trying always to increase our income, so that we could reach some economic level that would allow us to do those things that were always in our hearts to do "if only we could".

What started the ball rolling was a call to spend a year or so on a project that would yield no income for Jimmy Petrol during its course. It was something that was unanticipated and expected all at the same time; one of those things I would do "if only I could afford the time".

What happened was that I took a year-and-a-half to get this thing done; half that time I was far from Tucson and home, living in conditions that would be unacceptable to most anyone from the "first world"; I had placed myself in a position that would allow me only the living conditions of the "third world". When I was away from Tucson, I lived outdoors in the Mojave Desert. Fortunately, food still came from American sources, medical care still bought and paid for by fortuitous circumstance. But the time was long, the distance great and the work arduous.

The end result has more to do with the way we live now than with the project that set us on this aesthetic.

Today I spend my time doing mostly the things I have always dreamt of. There is a new little enterprise with a new, smart partner. There is a non-profit in the works that will provide an avenue for conservation and invention. There is a book in the works. Then another....and all of this is without the fears of failure or economic insecurity that used to plague me.

Of course, as in all things, I have fallen for the idol of excess; I have been away from home so much for so long that my "passport" has been confiscated by the other half of Petrol-Town's residents. I am homebound for the first time in years, having had to go out into the deserts and forests alone to find the strength to work only for us and our dreams.

There is plenty to do at home, too; there is an Inca/Spanish throne-room in the back yard, half-finished. The space it encloses is sacred to us, as it will make our home a castle, giving us a little desert paradise to burrow into while we work and plan our schemes and dreams.

Of course, my sentence of hard labor at the homestead will be short-lived; we will be holding court in the throne-room by the Holidays. Then it will be back into the general work-force for a little of the butter-and-egg money we all need; but at a different pace, and homebound has a pleasant ring to my travel-weary ears.

To have left the mainstream for hardship and risk, to throw the advise of Wall Street out the window, was madness, of course. What guarantee of safety; how to live in a world of uncertain and doubtful income?

Our answers turned out to be easy. We just quit paying more than we had to for anything. No more movies at the mall; the "cheap" theater is close by and quite acceptable. No more frivolous meals at expensive steak-houses; I burn a better steak at home. No more driving about willy-nilly, no more suits from retailers, no extravagant gifts without great need. Our car gets 38 MPG. We have no cable, no television to taunt us with Calvin Klein and Cadillac ads. Our phones are all Crickets, our Chiles are roasted at Food City and our spices will come from the garden by fall.

At first blush, we may appear insular. Rather, our travel, our world and our acquaintances have expanded; when we aren't busy chasing dollars we spend our time chasing rainbows.

We are happier in our house than I thought could ever be; the ability to pursue whatever we choose has had it's effect.

We're not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy.

Actress Heather Matarazzo Engaged

LOS ANGELES, California - Actress Heather Matarazzo's publicist announced that Matarazzo and her partner, Carolyn Murphy, are engaged, E! News Online reported Thursday (July 31).

"It was really cute. First Heather proposed to Carolyn, then Carolyn proposed to her," Lisa Jammal, Matarazzo's publicist, told E!

Matarazzo is known for her roles in Welcome to the Dollhouse, The Princess Diaries, and Logo's Exes and Ohs as well as a season-long stint on Showtime's The L Word, reported advocate.com.

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Shots from TIHAN's Sidewinders Baseball Benefit

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Number Of New HIV Infections In U.S. Much Higher Than Government Reported

Continued from Page Five

up," said former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, who is now an administrator at Atlanta's Morehouse School of Medicine.

The new estimate has been anticipated for a long time. The CDC began working on the new methods nearly seven years ago. Late last year, advocates said they had heard the figure was about 55,000 and pressed the CDC to release it. Agency officials declined, saying they were submitting their research for medical journal review.

"These are extremely complicated statistical methods," and CDC officials wanted the work to be thoroughly reviewed by outside experts, Gerberding said. The CDC's findings are being published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Until 1992, the number of diagnosed AIDS cases was used to predict how many people were newly infected each year. That method produced an estimate of 40,000 to 80,000. More recently, the CDC focused on infections among men who have sex with men, who account for about half of new HIV diagnoses.

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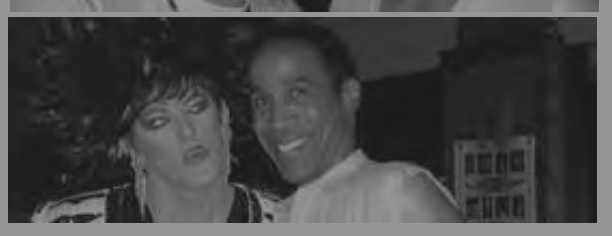
Daniel Craig Slated To Play Bisexual Roman Emperor



OS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - 'James Bond' actor Daniel Craig is all set to let go of his impeccable tux for ancient Roman robes as he steps into the role of bisexual ruler 'Hadrian' in his upcoming flick 'Memoirs Of Hadrian'.

Craige will be seen playing the art loving roman ruler, who ruled from 117 to 138 AD and is famous for building the wall dividing Scotland from the Great Britain. Craig will also be seen portraying the ruler's affair with a teenage Greek boy Antinuos after, which his wife refuses to bear him any children.

The movie will be helmed by veteran Brit director John Boorman, 75. Craig raised quite a few eyebrows when he suggested the 007 secret agent should be portrayed as a bisexual in the movie earlier this year.

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

"Paging Dr. Heinz!"

It has been said that "politics makes strange bedfellows" but what happened to this reporter turned that saying on its proverbial head.

On Wednesday, July 30, this report had to be taken to the hospital due to a heart incident and after many hours in the emergency room, was finally admitted to stay overnight for observation and after a few hours and one room change, this reporter was woken up by the hospital's doctor, Dr. Heinz, who was completing his rounds through the rooms.

Dr. Heinz was in fact, Matt Heinz, the candidate for the Arizona House of Representatives for District 29 and as in his pictures, literature and website, Heinz is tall, young, articulate with a full head of hair and a great smile, but still very likable despite these qualities.

Heinz asked many pertinent questions about this reporter, the situation and stated what was going to happen. All the health questions posed were answered in a succinct manner, showing a caring individual with a wonderful intellect as well as commitment to helping out to get this reporter back on the mend - a rarity for those in the medical profession.

This is nothing new for Heinz, if elected would bring a broad intellect, a commitment and passion for bettering health care in Arizona.

If elected, his goals would be to expand middle class access to the state's health program AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System) and to offer a sliding scale for payments in this system for those who could pay something for their health care.

Heinz wants to improve mental illness treatment by increasing insurance coverage, have more wellness education programs in schools and more legislative oversight on health insurance companies.

Dr. Matt Heinz

On issues of concern, Heinz is pro-choice, supports the development of renewable energy, believes in the right for workers to organize in a union, opposes Proposition 102, the proposed marriage amendment to Arizona's constitution, favors enacting laws protecting the rights of workers from discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, perceived or otherwise and allowing Gays and Lesbians to adopt children from the state's foster care program.

Voters in Legislative District 29 have the chance to send two wonderful, caring, intelligent individuals to serve in the Arizona House of Representatives.

One of which, as previously reported is current state Representative Tom Prezelski.

If voters in the primary and general election vote for Tom and Dr. Matt Heinz, the whole community will win in the long run.

To learn more about Matt Heinz, visit his website at heinz2008.com.

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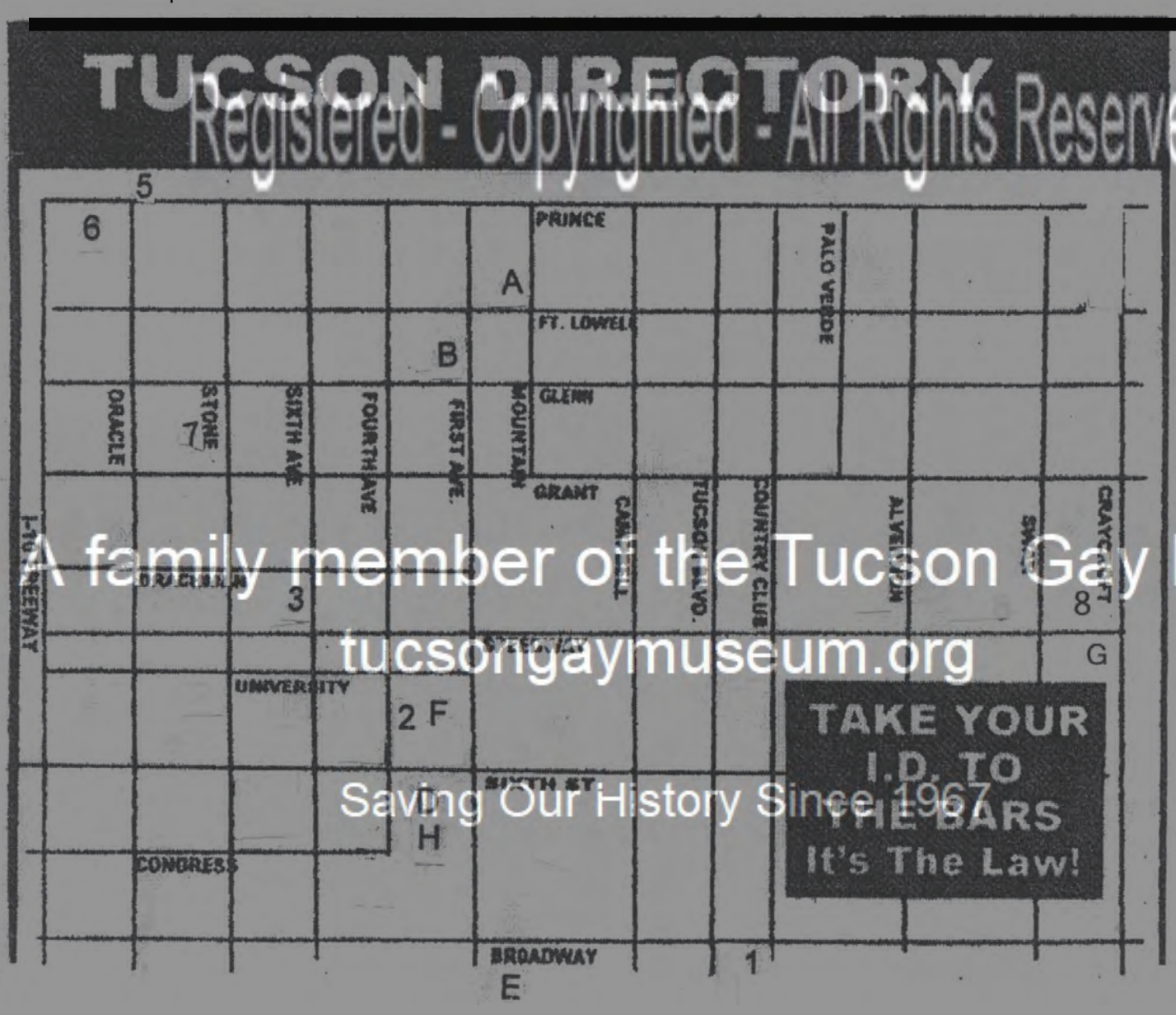

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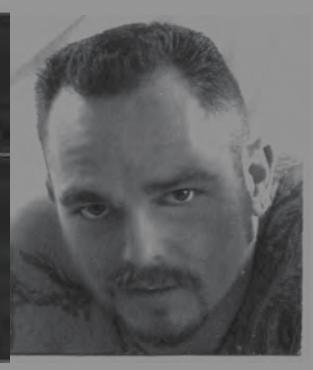

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Capitalize on your acumen as Venus glides into Virgo. Check your list of wants and wanted. Anything is possible and failure is not an option. Get going!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Gay Rams make their mark on the job and feel pretty darned good about their prospects. Capture and channel this high energy level and focus it on your options. Will you go for the money? Prestige? Ease? Commute? Coffee? Take your pick. Heck, why waste this all on dreary work? Give yourself a once over, diet and health-wise and strut it around town.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls gird their loins, adjust themselves and get serious about boogie-ing down! You get more party invitations than you might be able to handle this week. But don't let that stop you from going to the outer limits in anything fun and romantic. You will not disappoint. Of course there will be times when you won't know when enough is enough. And this is a bad thing?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Even lazy pink Twins muster the energy to get down to business around the house. Suddenly your surroundings are not up to your exacting standards. Not only are you filled with great ideas, you also have a pinch more design sense. Collaboration on the details is key. You can't get it all done by yourself. Someone has to work while you mix the drinks.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Finds ways to get yourself in front of the right audience when Venus enters Virgo. Gay Crabs become expressive, opinionated and downright compelling and can find unique ways to draw and engage a crowd. What a nice change of pace! Move quickly into the center of attention, pal. There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come... or something like that.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
This is an opportune time to turn a puny pile of change into a powerful money tree. Proud Lions must ask the right questions of the right advisors and steer into the right investment avenues. Think long term and take calculated risks. So what are you waiting for? You have plenty of time to squander your fortune on fast times and loose lovers next month.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Queer Virgins have extra charisma this week. Not only can they get away with a myriad of bad behaviors, they become trendsetters and even minor celebrities. This may be too much for you to manage effectively. When in doubt, be humble and take it in stride. In a couple of weeks your charm wears off and folks will see you, warts and all. And then what? Jerry Springer?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
There is something going on behind the scenes that proves to be profitable and delightful. Proud Libras discover a secret admirer or two when Venus enters Virgo. Well, maybe not so secret. In your gut you knew something or someone was afoot. At least try to act surprised when they make themselves known to you. And then what will you do?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Plan a few extra social events this week. Queer Scorps find themselves surrounded by compadres at every turn. Your presence is demanded at every gathering. This can become tiring but don't lose your steam. Keep smiling and dancing. The fates have plans: There are folks who you need to meet who will fill up your dance card through the cold months.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Despite your jaundice attitude at work, Venus in Virgo will turn some bad things around and give you opportunities to gain traction. Gay Archers charm the snakes, tame the sharks and feast at the big boys table. Make your assorted moves while the energy is right. Too too soon you will manage to say that one thing too much that will knock you off the pedestal.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
This is an especially a good time to travel and expand your horizons. You are primed for adventure and there is a potential romance waiting for you on distant shores. If money and time are tight, satisfy your wanderlust with a quick jaunt closer to home. The most important thing is to get out of your own skin and slip into someone else's. Feel a pinch...?

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Aqueerians feel sexy and sultry and everyone agrees. Is it the hot and humid August temperatures or Venus in Virgo? Whatever it is, make the most of it and enjoy every lusty moment before it evaporates. Make an effort to reach out and see who is there for you. But don't sit at home and wait for a delivery .... err unless that is your "thing".

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Relationships are the be all and end all for Guppies this week. Not only do you love being in one, others try to hook up with you. Make all types of partnerships -business and pleasure - more stable and secure. (The secret is to give more than you get.... for now.) Guppies who are in the "meet" market, snare a catch. Are you packing the right bait? Check your can.

Gay Bashing Cops Fired

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (Observer Update) - Indiana State Police fired two officers after allegations surfaced they assaulted a man outside an Indianapolis Gay bar, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com. "Their conduct is not the kind we tolerate."

The assault took place as the man was leaving Greg's, a well-known, local Gay club. The man reported the attack to Indianapolis Metro Police, who began a criminal investigation. There was not enough evidence to charge the police officers with a crime, but Metro Police turned over the file to the State Police, which conducted its own internal affairs review.

Officers Marcus Baxter and Curtis Swanson were fired Thursday (July 31), The Indianapolis Star reported. "They were probationary officers, and their conduct is not the kind of conduct we would tolerate," Maj. Carlos Pettiford told the paper. Pettiford said because they were probationary officers they could be dismissed at any time.

Hate Crime Charged In Denver Trans Woman's Death

DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - The Weld County District Attorney's Office formally filed a first-degree murder charge Thursday (July 31) against a man accused of killing a Transgendered woman after he allegedly found out the victim had male sex organs.

Allen Ray Andrade is also charged with a bias motivated crime, first-degree aggravated motor vehicle theft and identity theft. Angie Zapata, 20, was born Justin Zapata. Her bloodied, battered body was discovered in her Greeley apartment by her sister on July 17.

Andrade, 31, was arrested in Thornton, where he lives. Police responding to a noise complaint said they found him in Zapata's 2003 PT Cruiser, which had been missing.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Blaming Larry King

By John Corvino

A recent Newsweek article on Lawrence King - –the cross-dressing Gay 14-year-old fatally shot by a classmate last February - has prompted many accusations of "blaming the victim."

"The obvious: The murder of Larry King was wrong."

In it, author Ramin Setoodeh asks, "How do you protect legitimate, personal expression while preventing inappropriate, sometimes harmful, behavior? Larry King was, admittedly, a problematical test case: he was a troubled child who flaunted his sexuality and wielded it like a weapon - –it was often his first line of defense. But his story sheds light on the difficulty of defining the limits of tolerance."

And later: "For [many teachers and parents] the issue isn't whether King was Gay or straight - –his father still isn't convinced his son was Gay - –but whether he was allowed to push the boundaries so far that he put himself and others in danger. They're not blaming King for his own death - as if anything could justify his murder - –but their attitude toward his assailant is not unsympathetic."

Let's start with the obvious. The murder of Larry King was wrong. It's tempting, and maybe prudent, to end there. Because anything else said, particularly anything critical of King's behavior, will look like a "but": "The murder of Larry King was wrong, but..." No, – the murder of Larry King was wrong, period.

There is, however, more to be said, not with a "but," but with an "and." So here goes.

By most accounts, Larry King was something of an obnoxious presence at school, engaging in behavior that at least bordered on, and probably crossed the line of, harassment. Assuming these accounts correct, Larry King should be blamed. Not for his own murder, obviously, but for some of the behavior that preceded it. He wasn't perfect.

Yet there are many complicating factors. First, it is unseemly to speak ill of the dead, especially dead children, most especially dead murdered children.

Second, both King and his killer Brandon McInerney came from rather troubled backgrounds, and both were merely kids - –factors that mitigate responsibility generally.

Third, some of King's obnoxiousness was an understandable defense mechanism against others' cruelty. (For example: tired of being taunted in the locker room, he got revenge by ogling the boys as they changed clothes.)

And fourth, any criticism of King will strike some people as homophobic or trans-phobic, as some of it certainly has been. All of that said, one can criticize bad behavior without in any way suggesting that it warrants murder, much less premeditated murder. Such may be the case of Larry King.

The important thing now is not blame; it's learning from what happened. Doing so requires a candid look at what went on and why, with an eye to reducing the likelihood of similar tragedies. In assessing the case, Setoodeh focuses on whether Larry was allowed to push too far. He's certainly correct that if teachers had reined in some of King's misbehavior, he might well be alive today.

Isn't that blaming the victim? Not in itself (though other aspects of Setoodeh's treatment are admittedly troubling). To say that King's misbehavior was causally connected to his killing is not to say that King was in any way morally responsible for his killing. (Technically speaking, even King's showing up for school was causally connected to his killing: had he not been there, he would not have been killed as he was.) A causal factor is not the same as a justifying factor.

But King's misbehavior wasn't the only causal factor, and we must be careful not to ignore others. Among these was teachers' discomfort in discussing GLBT issues, leading them to feel a false dilemma between "We need to let him express himself" and "We need to prevent disruptive behavior."

Freedom of expression never justifies sexual taunting, Gay or otherwise, just as sexual taunting never justifies murder.

Moreover, there was teachers' failure to rein in other students' harassment of King - a causal factor Setoodeh scarcely considers. There were other factors as well, including troubled family backgrounds for both youths, and McInerney's access to a gun. Had any of these been absent, King might be alive today. Most of all, let's not forget McInerney's apparent belief that it's better to be known as a killer than suspected as a homo. Why did McInerney kill King? Perhaps the simplest answer is that he was embarrassed by King's sometimes unpleasantly expressed crush on him. His "solution" was to shoot King in the head, twice, as the latter was sitting quietly in an eighth-grade classroom. And that was wrong, period.

(John Corvino is a university professor, author and lecturer. His website is johncorvino.com and this oped is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

A Little Bit About Tri-Ess

Tucson, Arizona - What A City! For those of you who live here, you know what I'm speaking of. For those who have recently relocated for school, work, family or retirement, you will find Tucson is fortunate to have some very interesting groups and support within those groups.

There is Wingspan, a blanket organization for Gender tendencies/ issues. There are Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA) along with International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and last, but not least, The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess).

A little about Tri-Ess:

We are an International Organization of men who are cross-dressers. We have wives or a significant other. We derive and enjoy dressing-up in women's clothing, and presenting ourselves as a woman either publicly or in the privacy of another Tri-Ess member's home. We have chapters in every major city in America, Canada, Mexico and the Virgin Islands and are headquartered in Houston, Texas. We have our own magazine (The Mirror) and legal representation.

For those of attending college for the first year, you are probably anticipating a few good parties where you get so bombed that it will be the drunk of a lifetime. Please know that there are some of you, who, after being raised in a strict environment all your life, will not be able to handle this new and unbridled freedom.

I have sailed five of the seven seas and watched many of my new shipmates experience the same revelations. More than a few sailors having realized that they "might be" or "are" Gay and started looking for a yardarm or stern of a ship to jump off while at sea.

Young men and women, I assure you there is absolutely no need, whatsoever, to take such drastic measures. Once again, you are in Tucson where there is plenty of support and direction for you to tap into. Your parents, family or friends will, after awhile, realize that they are no more capable of changing you than they are capable of changing the face of some national monument.

Some may never accept. Most unfortunate for them. They lose out on a person who has the strength to accept himself or herself for who they are. Tri-Ess is interested in the more mature men in town who need a safe environment to express that 'someone else'. Men with families who need a place and time that will not interfere with the family are also invited to call and participate.

If you are interested in learning more about Tri-Ess and yourself, you may contact us by phone and we will discuss your situation at the level you are comfortable with. Please know that confidentiality is paramount. Also my out-going message is very masculine. Don't let it fool you. Please call (520)742-8580 and ask for Dorothy Thomas.

Gay Mormon Group's Meeting With LDS Delayed Indefinitely

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - An August meeting between a Gay Mormon support group and a social service agency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been indefinitely delayed, advocate.com reported. In a letter sent July 23, Fred C. Riley, the outgoing director of LDS Family Services, said the matter would best be handled by his successor, who hasn't been selected. LDS Family Services is an arm of the Salt Lake City-based denomination.

Riley was to hold the August 11 meeting at the request of church president Thomas S. Monson. It was seen by leaders of Affirmation, an international support group for Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Mormons, as a sign that church leaders were becoming more open to Gay Mormons and their families. Affirmation is not affiliated with the church. ''We feel badly about this but believe that for this to be the best experience for all parties and to ensure appropriate consistency and continuity of the process, it would be best to postpone the meeting until the new commissioner is named,'' Riley wrote to David Melson, assistant executive director of Affirmation.

Melson said Affirmation regrets the church's decision to put the meeting on hold. It was the result of a February appeal to Monson to open dialogue between the church and Gay members. ''We've now written to president Monson and asked if another general authority can be designated to meet with us,'' Melson said. It's unclear how soon the meeting could be rescheduled. Melson said he understood a replacement for Riley could be picked in three to six months.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 6th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Bruce at 743-3890, call for directions and reservations - if you like canasta, you will love Hand and Foot.

Thursday, August 7th
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30pm UNO. Contact Karol at 744-9017 – limited seating, call for reservations and directions.

Saturday August 9th
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.

Sunday August 10th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30PM MahJongg, limited seating, call Perry for reservations and directions at 321-4387.

Men's Social Network 7:00p.m. Dinner OUT at Village Inn. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160.

Monday, August 11th
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.

Wednesday, August 13th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marv and Steve 745-0304, call for directions and reservations - if you like canasta, you will love Hand and Foot.

Thursday August 14th
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. 7:00PM Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Michael at 326-3555 for reservations and directions.

Saturday, August 16th
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 Steve at 664-2076 for directions and information.

Sunday, August 17th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner OUT at Furr's Family Dining. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160.

Monday, August 18th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Men's Book Club 6:30p.m.Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

Wednesday, August 20th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack 887-3736, call for directions and reservations - if you like canasta, you will love Hand and Foot.

Thursday August 21st
Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30PM Call Jack at 887-3736 for reservations and directions.

Saturday August 23rd
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 Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, August 24th
Turnabout for TIHAN 2008 "Stonewall Riot" a benefit for the Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network at Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park, 445 S. Alvernon Way. Tickets $15.00. Doors open t 4:30 p.m. with fingerfood buffet. Show begins at 6:00 p.m. Lucinda Holliday and Barbra Seville are Emcees for this annual benefit show .

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner OUT at Mimi's. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160.

Wednesday, August 27th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin at 207-5336, call for directions and reservations - if you like canasta, you will love Hand and Foot.

Thursday, August 28th
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Michael at 326-3555 for reservations and directions.

Sunday, August 31st
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner OUT at Sweet Tomatoes. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160.

Mixed Results For Growth Hormone In AIDS Patients

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (Observer Update) - A hormone better known for illicit use among athletes can help treat troublesome complications from the AIDS virus, but with potentially risky side effects, a small study found, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com. Low-dose injections of human growth hormone, HGH, reduced fat deposits around internal abdominal organs by about 10 percent.

In addition, hormone shots lowered blood pressure and levels of blood fats called triglycerides. But they also resulted in elevated blood sugar levels. HIV patients often develop fat deposits and high levels of cholesterol, triglycerides and blood sugar, which put them at risk for heart problems. Doctors believe this results from HIV drugs and a faulty immune system caused by the infection. Medicines can treat some of these complications but fat buildups, which can affect other parts of the body, are harder to fix, although a healthy diet and lots of exercise can help.

The study results show that human growth hormone could be useful for HIV patients with abdominal fat accumulations and normal blood sugar levels, although it's "not a panacea," said study co-author Dr. Steven Grinspoon of Massachusetts General Hospital. He called the approach experimental and said new AIDS drugs with fewer side effects are needed.

While there were fewer side effects with lower doses, Emory University AIDS expert Dr. Jeffrey Lennox called the results "disappointing." He said they suggest that hormone shots have limited use at best for treating HIV-associated fat abnormalities. The study appears in the Journal of the American Medical Association and was among reports presented at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City.

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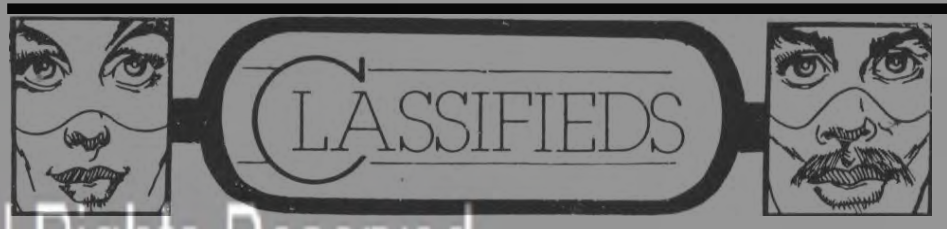

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YOUTHFUL 60 GWM. New to area. Would like to meet other GM in Green Valley area. Call 717-919-2688 1955

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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 Venture-N.

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 commited 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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. 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.

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,

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.:

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! MLB; WNBA; You call it!! Music with DJ/Hill starts at 9pm.

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; $2.25 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 with ID or payroll receipt.

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 3pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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 Domestic, $12 Imports (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands 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 3pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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 & Dos XX 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 3pm-2am. Happy Hour ALL Daytil 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 3pm-2am. Karaoke starts @9:30pm with 2 for 1 starting after the first singer! (Poker Pub will resume in the Fall).

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 - $3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

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 3pm-2am. With incredible Happy Hour pricing from 5-8pm. Noche de calor w/DJ Hill jugando la mejor en musicia latino! Todos los viernes por la noche, la musica comienza a las 9. Shot specials cada nora!!

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. $2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Free Country 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 3pm - 2am. Patio opens @9pm. BEER PONG tournament on the patio every Saturday night!! DJ Hill 9pm. Don't forget to catch the WNBA games every Sat on our 51" flat screens!!Lesbian Olympics 8pm in our sexy outdoor lounge.

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 Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm -2am VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 7
HOWL AT T HE MOON - Karaoke with K2 Tunes, 8:00 p.m.

IBT's - Boys Night Out featuring EFFEN Vodka. Drink specials include $4 Effen cocktails, $5 Effen Martini's. DJ Hurricane inside, DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. Sexy bartenders in their underwear! 11 p.m. until close..

Friday, August 8
HOWL AT THE MOON - Free Country Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9
HOWL AT THE MOON - Music you can dance AND listen to with DJ Libby.

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for the Brandt & Brandt Productions "The Wett Party" featuring adult entertainer Aaron James. 9:00 p.m. and Midnight. Promos and giveaways all night. Ajia Simone will MC. And a whole lot more!

YARD DOG - Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) Breakfast and Dog Wash 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Breakfast only $3.00; Breakfast and Dog Wash $7.00.

Tuesday, August 12
IBT's - It's IBT's "Returnabout" at 9:00 p.m. Drag show fundraiser. Hosted by Bunny FuFu and Janee Starr. All monies raised goes to TIHAN's 12th annual Turnabout Show. Come support a great cause and watch IBT's staff perform in drag!!

Friday, August 15
HOWL AT THE MOON - Free Country Dance Lessons 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 16
HOWL AT THE MOON - Miss NCC Review Show 9:00p.m. No Cover

Tuesday, August 19
HOWL AT THE MOON -Martini and Massage Night. Enjoy your favorite martini and a relaxing 15-minute table or chair massage by licensed massage therapists for only $20. No better way to wind down! Limited space - sign up at the bar.

Sunday, August 24
Community Event : Turnabout for TIHAN Doubletree Hotel, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday August 30
HOWL AT THE MOON - It's Reigning Men: Drag King Anson Reign and his entourage are back for an incredible night of entertainment. Don't miss this show!

Lohan Blasts L.A.P.D. Chief For Saying She Is Lesbian

LOS ANGELES, California - Lindsay Lohan said Friday (August 1) that police have no business getting involved in her personal life, a day after the police chief explained that the paparazzi were no longer an issue – in part because the 22-year-old actress had evidently "gone gay." "Police chiefs shouldn't get involved in everyone else's business when it comes to their personal life.

It's inappropriate," Lohan said in a video shot by paparazzi Friday and posted on TMZ.com. In the footage, Lohan and gal pal Samantha Ronson are trekking through the Los Angeles Airport on their way to catch a flight to Chicago.

The day before, Chief William Bratton said the paparazzi have become less of a problem thanks to Britney Spears, Paris Hilton and Lohan leading more moderate lifestyles. "If you notice, since Britney started wearing clothes and behaving; Paris is out of town not bothering anybody anymore, thank God, and evidently, Lindsay Lohan has gone gay, we don't seem to have much of an issue," he told KNBC-TV.

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Fire Breaks Out At 'God Hates Fags' Church

TOPEKA, Kansas (Observer Update) - Westboro Baptist Church, known for its vocal condemnations of homosexuality, website GodHatesFags.com and picketing of Gay pride parades and funerals, has sustained thousands of dollars in damage after a fire early Saturday morning. Impromptu protest followed as firefighters carried out their response, reported pageoneq.com.

"None of what they do is going to stop us from delivering our message," said church counsel Shirley Phelps-Roper of any "cowards" that would have set the fire on purpose, also saying that it was the "most aggressive act" towards the Phelps family to date. "There is evidence that hatred of our religion was the motivation, in part at least," states a "Civil Rights Hate Crime Complaint" written by pastor Fred Phelps Sr. to Attorney General Michael Mukasey. In a recently released YouTube presentation, Phelps also blames law enforcement, judges, and the "filthy, fag-riddled military" for what he considers an assault on his First Amendment rights.

Meanwhile, a neighbor is suspicious that the fire is a hoax meant to intimidate her into giving up her property. "They keep claiming that this property is theirs, and it is not theirs," said 91-year-old Leona McQueen. "They keep wanting to buy me, but I don't want to sell it. I don't know if whether they are trying to push me out." "It's a ridiculous accusation," Phelps-Roper countered. "The fire was started by someone as we slept. Thankfully the lord our god (sic) keeps us in all our ways."

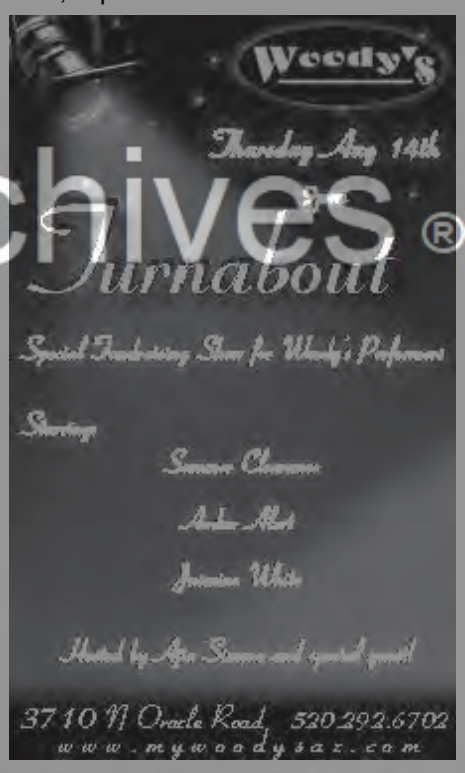
The cause of the fire has not been determined. No picketing signs were harmed. Video footage taken during the emergency response appears below, courtesy of The Topeka Capital-Journal.

PG&E Drops $250k To Keep G/L Marriage Legal In California

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company announced that it would donate $250,000 to the No on Proposition 8 campaign, the Los Angeles Times reports. Company officials also indicated they would attempt to garner support from other companies to defeat the anti Gay measure by assembling a business advisory council on the matter. Proposition 8 would amend the state's constitution to prohibit marriage between same-sex couples.

"We are thrilled to partner with PG&E," Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, said in a statement. AT&T and Wells Fargo have donated money directly to Equality California, which is working to defeat Prop. 8. Proponents of the measure have also made major donations. LGBT advocates called for a boycott of Hyatt hotels in San Diego after owner Doug Manchester poured thousands of dollars into the effort to pass the marriage ban.

Allan Hoffenblum, a GOP strategist, told the Times that PG&E would likely be unfettered by any organized boycott since it monopolizes most of the California market. "I can't in outrage call PG&E and say, 'Cut off my gas,'" he said, reported advocate.com.



LGBT Dems Back Obama; Log Cabin Unsure On McCain

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama was poised to receive the backing from the National Stonewall Democrats Thursday (July 31) when the organization planned to announce its endorsement for the candidate, reported the Washington Blade.

The board of directors for the National Stonewall Democrats unanimously decided to support Obama with a voice vote about three weeks ago, according to John Marble, spokesperson for the organization.

While gay Democrats rally behind their party's presidential candidate, the National Log Cabin Republicans have yet to make a decision on whether or not to endorse Republican presidential candidate John McCain in his bid for the White House. The gay GOP group did not endorse President Bush in his bid for re-election in 2004.

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