



Observing Tucson And  
The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER

AUGUST 13, 2008

ISSUE 1256

Tucson Observer Archives<sup>®</sup>

## LGBT Activists Call Democratic Platform Most Inclusive To Date

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The final version of the Democratic Platform is being hailed as the most LGBT-inclusive to date by queer activists and politicians alike despite the fact that the words Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender do not appear in the text of the platform, according to those who have read the document.

Though the official platform has yet to be released to the public, LGBT advocacy groups say the wording that was adopted explicitly discusses adopting a national HIV/AIDS strategy, repealing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, and passing hate-crimes and comprehensive employment non-discrimination legislation. The document reportedly also marked some historic firsts by including "same-sex couples" in the Democratic Party's definition of families, pledging to fight discrimination based on "gender identity" and opposing the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits federal recognition of same-sex partners who are legally married.

"This has been the most inclusive drafting process of a party platform in history," Rep. Tammy Baldwin said, noting the approximately 1,600 listening sessions that took place across the country to incorporate the ideas and concerns of average voters. Baldwin said the platform was far stronger on LGBT issues than the one adopted in 2004 because it went "from rhetoric to

policy and substance and reflected the positions that have been championed by Senator Obama" throughout the campaign.

Jon Hoadley, executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats, said the exclusion of the words Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender had more to do with the inclusion of equivalent terms typically used in legislation. "Sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples - this is the type of language that appears in legislation and policy across the country," Hoadley said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, also noted that the inclusion of Transgender people in the platform never became a point of discussion. "Gender identity got put in the draft of the platform, and then there was never any serious debate about taking it out," she said, crediting all the grassroots work and education efforts taking place around trans issues.

Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council, said that after talking to both the Democratic and Republican parties about their platforms, she was particularly pleased with the outcome of the Democratic platform. "For the first time, we're not just talking about family values, we're actually valuing families in this platform," Chrisler said, reported advocate.com.

## Calif. Judge: Gay-Friendly Ballot Wording OK

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) A judge in Sacramento has ruled that the revamped wording on a ballot initiative that would ban same-sex marriage in the California constitution is acceptable, reported 365Gay.com.

The ballot question originally had been described as a measure to limit marriage between a man and a woman. Last month Attorney General Jerry Brown changed the description to say the proposed amendment would eliminate the right of same sex couples to marry and that it could result in California losing tens of millions of dollars in taxes.

The Project Marriage Coalition, the umbrella group that collected enough names to have the question placed on the ballot went to court, accusing Brown of twisting the wording to influence the vote.

At the hearing attorneys for Brown's office said the original definition was written before the California Supreme Court in May struck down the

state ban on same-sex marriage. Hundreds of Gay and Lesbian couples began lining up for marriage licenses the following month when the ruling took effect.

In a written ruling Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley said that the title and summary accurately summarizes the proposition. "There is nothing inherently argumentative or prejudicial about transitive verbs, and the Court is not willing to fashion a rule that would require the Attorney General to engage in useless nominalization," Frawley wrote.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) opposes the amendment and has said he will campaign against it. Brown, a Democrat, also opposes the amendment. Despite the legal wrangling over the initiative a poll released in July suggests the measure is likely to be defeated. Fifty-one percent of likely voters said they would vote against the proposed amendment while 42 percent would support it.

## Massachusetts Grows Used To G/L Marriage



BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - When Michele Frost and Mary Helen Walker (above) enrolled their 3-year-old daughter, Shea, in preschool, it required a change in the school application form. But it was no big deal: Officials simply changed the words "mother" and "father" to "Parent 1" and "Parent 2," reported McClatchy newspapers in freep.com.

When they got their marriage license, city employees behind the counter were more interested in the child than they were in questioning the two Lesbians about their relationship. "We have been greeted so warmly," said Frost, 42, who moved from Chicago to Quincy, Mass., just south of Boston, three years ago. "We've just had a great experience."

Nearly five years after the state's Supreme Court ruled that a ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional, the vitriolic battle that brought international attention and apocalyptic fears to Massachusetts is all but dead. Since the first marriages on May 17, 2004, more than 11,000 couples have tied the knot. They're busy mowing lawns and hauling kids to soccer practice.

Polls have shown consistent public support for Gay couples. And with overwhelming support for Gay marriage in the state legislature - the last effort to put a proposal on the ballot to make it illegal failed 151-45 - the opposition has, for the most part, gone home. "The biggest surprise about the whole thing is that there really has been no loss," Republican state Rep. Paul Loscocco said. "It's been fairly much a nonevent."

While same-sex marriage is firmly entrenched in Massachusetts, Gay activists in the Bay State say the future of the movement nationally could depend on what happens in California. In May, the California Supreme Court made the state the second to legalize Gay marriage. But voters will get the final say in November, when they decide whether to back Proposition 8, which would ban same-sex marriage. A Field Poll released last month showed that 51% of likely voters would oppose the initiative, while 42% would support it.

"As goes California, so goes the rest of the country," said Joyce Kauffman, a lawyer in nearby Cam-

bridge, Mass., who's active in promoting Gay and Lesbian issues. As Californians prepare to vote, Loscocco is advising them to keep their minds open. He certainly did. When the Massachusetts court made its decision in November 2003, Loscocco railed against it as an act of judicial tyranny. Now he calls Gay marriage an opportunity "for people to come out of the shadows," a bold experiment that's consistent with America's great laboratory of ideas.

Kauffman said the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and California represented "an amazing advance in the law" and signaled "a sea change of attitudes toward the Gay community." She predicted that more states will follow suit.

Not only has much of the controversy faded in Massachusetts, Gay marriage is regarded as a big tourist draw now, and the state is making it clear that it wants to compete with California for wedding business.

Gay activist Marc Solomon, whose sunny office overlooks the gold-domed statehouse on tony Beacon Hill, said it was a loud wake-up call for Massachusetts when California legalized Gay marriage. Because California went farther than Massachusetts, allowing out-of-state couples to marry in the state, Solomon and his backers immediately wanted to repeal a 1913 law that banned such marriages.

That happened July 31, when Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick, whose 18-year-old daughter publicly announced in June that she's a Lesbian, signed off on the repeal. State officials acted after a study concluded that allowing out-of-state couples to marry in Massachusetts would draw thousands of Gays and Lesbians to the state, create 330 jobs and boost the economy by \$111 million.

The Massachusetts Family Institute opposed the move. The president of the group said that state legislators suffered from "Gay marriage envy" after California legalized it. The institute has been among the most vocal critics, along with the Archdiocese of Boston, which said Gay marriage "threatened the oldest and most foundational of human institutions." In 2004, Pope John Paul II joined the debate, voicing his opposition.

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# UPDATE

## Turnabout For TIHAN In Less Than Two Weeks!

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.

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.

In Pima County, Arizona, it is estimated that more than 6,500 people are living with HIV. There is a great need for the people of Southern Arizona to respond with greater compassion, generosity and concern for all affected by HIV/AIDS. TIHAN's services and programs work to help those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

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.

## Upcoming Event At Antigone Books

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us for an event at Antigone Books (antigonebooks.com), 411 North Fourth Avenue on Friday, August 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Katherine Adam, co-author of The New Feminized Majority (Paradigm, \$16.95), will read from and discuss her book. For those in the progressive community, Katherine Adam and co-author Charles Derber's book provides a welcome ray of hope. The authors argue that a rising feminized majority - made up of both women and men - is emerging as a pivotal force in American politics. Characterized by cooperation, empathy, an appreciation for equality, and a preference for nonviolent solutions, this new majority can help Democrats change America for the better.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period and refreshments will be served.

## Defeat Proposition 102 Meeting 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](http://votenoprop102.com).

## Survey: LGBT Want Suburban Life, Diverse Society

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Nearly 80% of LGBT think it's important to integrate into the greater culture, and at least 64% are open about their sexual orientation to at least one family member, according to survey results released Logo TV network, [advocate.com](http://advocate.com) reported.

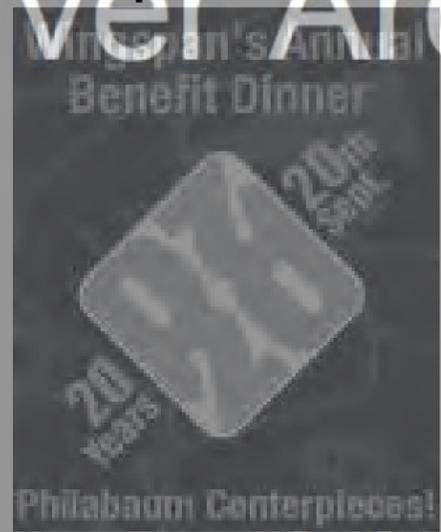
A majority of survey takers also said they would prefer to live in suburbia as opposed to a city, though 58% said they would prefer to live closer to other gay people. Marriage equality, the environment, health care, and the economy are the top four issues that LGBT voters are concerned about. Two thirds of younger Gays expect to be in a long-term relationship with children, while fewer than one third of Gays older than 35 expect the same.

"We're trading in West Hollywood for West Texas and big disposable incomes for disposable diapers," Lisa Sherman, Logo executive vice president, said in a press release. "Most important, we're integrating without aban-

doning our community or sense of identity. These developments are good for LGBT people and good for America."

The survey, in partnership with Tru Research, included people ages 21-45 in New York and Dallas as well as research by Simmons Market Research Bureau that included 1,800 LGBT people ages 21-59.

## Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner September 20



TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 2008 Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner will be an evening of fun, reflection, and motivation as Wingspan celebrates 20 years of service to southern Arizona's LGBT community. This remarkable event, September 20, 5:30 p.m., will bring together more than one thousand community members, as we remember the past and rally together for the future.

This year's gala, themed "Looking Back, Moving Forward," will take place in the Grand Lobby and Grand Ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Avenue, and will feature a gourmet dinner, silent auction, live entertainment and more.

Helping celebrate this momentous occasion is keynote speaker Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, whose tragic death on October 12, 1998 challenged millions of individuals to eradicate hate. His murder was a wake-up call to the discrimination faced by our community and a call to action to demand change. As executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Judy tours the country speaking out against hate in all forms, making her a key figure in the LGBT civil rights movement.

Tickets are \$125 individually, \$1250 per table of 10, and are available now. Please call Erin Russ at (520) 624-1779 x115 to reserve your seats, tables or your Philabaum glass centerpieces.

## GLBT Commission Meeting August 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues will take place Tuesday, August 19, 5:30 p.m., in the EOO conference room, first floor, 100 North Stone Avenue.

The mission of this commission is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals.

The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999.

For more information, call the City Clerk's office (520) 791-4213 or go online at [tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards.php?board=40](http://tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards.php?board=40).

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



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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

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**Saturday, August 16**  
**Miss NCC Review Show**  
Saving Our History Since 1967  
**Tuesday, Aug 19**  
**Martini & Massage 6pm**

# Around The Old Pueblo

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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 mountain. 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 Monday, August 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.

On Sunday, October 19, the

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be hosting the 20th annual AIDS WALK Tucson featuring a 5K walk, 10K fun run, food, entertainment, community education, and a quilt opening ceremony on the central mall of The University of Arizona campus. AIDS WALK 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 AIDS WALK 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 AIDS WALK or to learn about our traveling Registration sites please visit [aidswalktucson.com](http://aidswalktucson.com) or our myspace page at [myspace.com/aidswalktucson](http://myspace.com/aidswalktucson) or contact (520) 791-WALK (9255).

Wingspan's Puertas Abiertas offers support and social activities for LGBT Latino/as in southern Arizona. Get involved this month as we gear up for Latino Pride in September! August 21 - Mexican Loteria/Bingo at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., for more information, contact Felipe Hernandez, (520) 624-1779 (ext. 116).

Shue as Elizabeth Shue. One high school drama teacher is about to make a huge number 2.

"The hit, the very palpable hit" of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, "Hamlet 2" is an irreverent comedy centering on one teacher's overzealous quest to mount a high school musical. The film is directed by Andrew Fleming (Dick, Threesome) from an original screenplay he wrote with Pam Brady (South Park: Bigger Longer & Uncut, Team America: World Police); the stars are Steve Coogan (Night at the Museum), Catherine Keener (The 40-Year-Old Virgin), David Arquette (the Scream movies), Amy Poehler (Saturday Night Live), and Academy Award nominee Elisabeth Shue as herself.

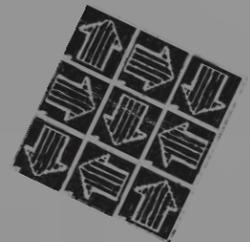
Mr. Coogan portrays Dana Marschz; the last name is pronounced...oh, any attempt is close enough, really. Dana is a failed actor-turned-high school drama teacher. Short-changed in the talent department, Dana still harbors ambitions and passions. At work, that is; his personal life, with his dissatisfied wife Brie (Ms. Keener) and their boarder Gary (Mr. Arquette), leaves much to be desired. At Tucson's West Mesa High School, Dana sees himself as an inspirational teacher. But his adaptations of popular films, as performed by his top students Rand and Epiphany (Skylar Astin and Phoebe Strole, both stars of Broadway's Spring Awakening), are not resonating. When his latest - re-creating Erin Brockovich - is dismissed by the 9th grade drama critic and his department is targeted for closure, Dana must reach deep into himself for creativity.

After much perspiration, he conceives a sequel to Shakespeare's Hamlet - a musical-theater extravaganza that will disdain both political correctness and dramatic credibility. Rallying and rousing his class, Dana casts a wider net by recruiting transfer



students like Ivonne (Melonie Diaz of Be Kind Rewind) for key roles. With rehearsals underway, objections from school officials and the community are soon raised, but Dana will not be denied his freedom of artistic expression. After all, "to thine own self be true." Dana gets unexpected support from ACLU attorney Cricket Feldstein (Ms. Poehler) and his favorite actress, Elisabeth Shue. Above all else, he fervently believes that his opus must be staged, and nothing can break his optimistic spirit.

For more information, go online at: [filminfocus.com/focus-movies/hamlet-2/movie-splash.php](http://filminfocus.com/focus-movies/hamlet-2/movie-splash.php).



## 'Hamlet 2'; Opens August 22

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Hamlet 2," a hit at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, this irreverent and politically incorrect comedy will screen on August 21 at Century Park Place, 5870 E. Broadway ([fandango.com/centuryparkplacemall20\\_aapqi/](http://fandango.com/centuryparkplacemall20_aapqi/))

theaterpage), (520) 745-2321, and opens in theaters on August 22. From the Co-Writer of South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut and Team America: World Police comes "Hamlet 2" starring Steve Coogan, Catherine Keener, David Arquette, Amy Poehler and Elizabeth

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- 5pm Karaoke on the Patio with Troy
- 9pm "Saturday Starrletts" w/ Bunny FuFu & Jane Starr
- 11pm CIRCUIT SATURDAY (DJ Q) & PARTY ON THE PATIO w/ DJ Mike Lopez

## Sunday's

- 4pm KARAOKE on the patio with Troy
- 9pm DJ Hurricane Spinning Top 40
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# Tucson Observer Archives

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**Saturdays @ 10am**

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**Karaoke @ 9pm**  
**\*\*Saturday\*\***

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**TUESDAY: OPEN 3-2AM**  
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**COLLEGE NIGHT**  
**THURSDAY: Y- NOT KARAOKE**  
**9PM-2AM**  
**FRIDAY: NOCHE de CALOR**  
**THE HOTTEST LATIN**  
**THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER**  
**9PM-2AM**  
**SATURDAY: BEER PONG**  
**TOURNAMENT 8:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY: BEER BUST 5-10PM**  
**LATIN MUSIC AND ALBUQUERQUE**  
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## 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.

**Parrotfish** by Ellen Wittlinger: High school can be challenging enough by itself, add to it having only been homeschooled previously, then after Thanksgiving break, coming back and announcing you're no longer "Angela," a girl, but rather "Grady," a boy! That's just what Ellen Wittlinger did in this very well written book covering the very difficult issue of being transgendered and a teen.

**Eve** was Angela's best friend. They even homeschooled together. Now that Grady has emerged and Eve has other girlfriends at the school, she is confused. It is not cool to be friends with the school freak. However, she loves this person like a sibling. New friend Sebastian, the school geek, introduces Grady to the Parrotfish. The female born of this fish can change its sex to male and become superior to the birth males. The school staff has very different opinions of the issue and how to handle it. The principle says wait until you're in college to confront this issue in your life, but the gym teacher offers protection and resources for support groups. As Grady soon learns, people's views of this issue are anything but predictable. The popular couple, school Athlete, Russ and the beautiful Kita are the very proof of this. Russ starts asking Grady for relationship help and Kita and Grady are spending enough time together to cause feelings of guilt. The denial, hurt, compassion, and finally acceptance from his family is brilliantly relayed throughout the story. - Reviewed by Brandon M.

**Zookeeper: A Novel** by Alex MacLennan. 2006: An enjoyable first novel from a writer I hope to read more of. Sam Metcalfe, a Zookeeper, is a 40ish, single man whose life is dictated by the needs of others, his sister and her bright, but rebelling son, his best friend, who is having a hard time juggling her restaurant business with needs of her Alzheimer-inflicted mother and Dean the super-model local news personality boyfriend on the fast track to celebrity. Added to this is his job at the National Zoo, where he often ponders life, what it might have been, where it is going. While on an exploratory trip to the rainforest, to study his beloved Howler Monkeys, Sam begins to question his circumstances. When he returns home he discovers that putting his needs first is no crime and that is in fact a necessary move to make if he wants to participate fully in life. - Reviewed by Rich D.

**Wide Awake** by David Levithan. 2006 (Teen): "I can't believe there's going to be a Gay Jewish president." So begins Wide Awake, the latest novel by the prolific David Levithan. Set in the near-future United States, Wide Awake presents a vision of a post 9/11 country, rocked by the Greater Depression, Denial Education, the Opus Dei Trials, Prada Riots, and Reign of Fear. For 16-year-old Duncan, his boyfriend Jimmy, and their idealistic coterie, the election results are more than a ray of hope. The victory of President Abraham Stein and running mate Alice Martinez hails the return of sanity, love, and community. Could it be this easy? Alas, no. Enter Kansas, and its Decent Party governor, who contests the results. With the election and all it stands for threatened, Duncan and friends travel to Kansas to take a stand. Throughout Wide Awake, Levithan juxtaposes the macrocosm of national identity with the microcosm of Duncan's world, effectively exploring concepts of relationship, duty, patrio-

tism, and love. Readers are treated not only to the author's trademark charm, idealism, and eloquence, but also to enjoyable lessons on the United States Constitution, political history, Judeo-Christian religions, and social responsibility. The one misstep in this otherwise enjoyable and provocative story is Levithan's stereotypical portrayal of the Kansas governor. In a novel that ceaselessly explores the complexity of its subject matter and characters, the contrived behavior of this individual seems out of place. - Reviewed by Cathy J.

**Geography Club** by Brent Hartinger. 2003 (Teen): In Brent Hartinger's enjoyable first novel Russel Middlebrook is a fun and funny high schooler with a problem. He's Gay, closeted and tired of trying to navigate the minefield of high school alone. In his first tentative attempts to find a community, he discovers a few other Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students at his school. They really need a safe space to meet and talk, so they get the idea to create a school Geography Club. It seems like a great idea. After all, no one will want to join a Geography Club. Will they? Russel finds a boyfriend and experiences some popularity by being on the baseball team. Life's far from perfect for him but Russel's starting to feel pretty good. Then fissures begin to appear between the members of the Geography Club. Next, rumor turns Russel's life upside down. The resulting events cause him to examine the costs of popularity, the complexities of love, and the true nature of inclusion. - Reviewed by Shawn F.

**The Order of the Poison Oak** by Brent Hartinger. 2005 (Teen): This is the second novel to focus on Russel Middlebrook from Geography Club. This time he and his two best friends are working at summer camp. Russel just wants to get away for the summer to someplace where he's not known as "the Gay kid," and have a fun problem-free summer. Of course, things are never that simple. He and one of his best friends fall for the same guy, and his attempts to help his other best friend find a girlfriend seem to be doing more harm than good. Then there are the kids. Russel finds his campers more challenging than he could have imagined, but through his relationships with them and the other people at the camp he both learns and teaches about betrayal and forgiveness, the nature of real beauty and the complex relationship between joy and pain. - Reviewed by Shawn F.

For more information, go online to their website, [library.pima.gov/community/glb/index.cfm](http://library.pima.gov/community/glb/index.cfm).

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[tucsongaymuseum.org](http://tucsongaymuseum.org)

# COMMENTARY....

by Wayne Besen

## Why I Am Proud To Be A Liberal

It is campaign season, which means conservatives will try to paint Democrats as "liberals," as if it were a dirty word. I, for one, am proud to be a liberal and believe we should stand up against these conservative smears.

"Gay rights are the canary in the coal mine for freedom and prosperity." One of the great fallacies in modern lore is that liberalism stands for nothing and liberals have no core beliefs. The right wing, from the Pope to the President, has impugned the left by unfairly portraying it as a valueless movement mired in moral relativism. This could not be further from the truth.

Indeed, the left is the backbone of freedom, the defender of personal liberty, the guarantor of free speech and religious worship and the nurturer of democratic movements across the globe. Far from believing in nothing, wherever liberal democratic values prevail, civilizations flourish and free people thrive.

The cornerstone of liberalism is the idea that each person is endowed with the precious gift of liberty and can freely choose his or her own path - for better or worse. We believe this is crucial to greater enlightenment, personal growth and ultimate fulfillment. It also offers the best opportunity for people to realize their dreams and achieve their spiritual promise.

Liberalism encourages exploration and education. It reveres science and celebrates the inquisitive mind. Indeed, liberal values are often superior to those held on the right, because they are tenaciously subjected to rigorous examination. Beliefs that are questioned and still prevail are the ones that stand the test of time.

Like conservatism, liberalism has very strong core principles. But unlike conservatism, liberalism is not afraid to question "the way it is." The fulcrum of this philosophy is that all ideas will be constantly examined, scrutinized, studied and debated. If new information emerges to counter the culture's prevailing values or understanding, it will be rightfully taken into account. Far from moral relativism, liberalism searches for the ultimate value in which to build a moral foundation: Truth.

Right wing movements across the globe often seem uninterested in truth if it contradicts their obdurate belief systems. Reality averse, they are woefully unable to adjust to new understandings, burgeoning ideas and cultural awakenings. For example, despite overwhelming evidence that women are the equals of men, they still can't drive or vote in some Muslim countries. In America, Gay people are still treated as second-class citizens, even though mountains of science and empirical evidence suggest that homosexuality is as biologically ingrained as eye color or handedness.

Liberals believe in the power of "reason," while conservatives are often just plain reactionary. This is why the GOP is the party of the "southern strategy" and anti-Gay subterfuge. Republican power is directly related to fertilizing fear and fomenting fanaticism.

Indeed, the great appeal of modern conservatism, or other forms of authoritarianism, is that people don't have to think for themselves. They can mentally "check out" of this world and place their worries in the hands of a commanding politician or a higher deity.

Modern conservatives are often discomfited by the complexities of life and demand answers to the world's many unanswerable questions. They arrogantly and disingenuously claim to have absolute truth, while liberalism boldly proclaims that it does not have such ubiquitous powers of understanding. Liberalism is for those who are unafraid to fully embrace the magnificent journey of life and tackle the great mysteries of our time.

If one looks at modern conservatism in the United States, it is easy to see that it is a movement of intellectual and spiritual atrophy. In the political realm, conservatives essentially call for judges who are "strict constructionists," which is shorthand for saying "the Constitution is a dead document."

What a monumentally ridiculous notion to put forth, that American jurisprudence has not evolved in more than two centuries! Do strict constructionists believe that women and African Americans should have their rights restricted because the nation's founders treated women as second-class citizens and owned slaves?

Likewise, modern conservatives have also rendered the Bible (or Koran) "dead documents." In conservative houses of worship, traditionalists put forth the untenable belief that holy books are literal. They call these books "God's Plan," as if the Creator hasn't had a new thought in a couple of thousand years.

Modern conservatives will claim that liberals are sacrilegious for holding such beliefs. To the contrary, liberals are often extraordinarily religious or spiritual people. However, they diverge with conservatives in that they believe the strongest faith is one that is subject to healthy skepticism and painstaking examination. In encouraging people to explore all faiths - free of guilt, shame, coercion or fear - liberalism also offers people the greatest number spiritual options.

Many of my columns deal with Gay themes because equality for Gay men and women is the civil rights issue of the new Millennium. However, Gay rights mean nearly as much to heterosexuals as they do for homosexuals. The very peace and prosperity of nations can be easily predicted by looking at how they relate to their Gay citizens.

If a country treats Gay people with dignity and respect and offers them equality, it signals that the country bases its decisions on sound education, rationalism and science. This inevitably leads towards success in all spheres of life.

Countries that ostracize and penalize homosexuals tend to be superstitious, authoritarian and anti-intellectual. This almost uniformly leads to poverty, war, oppression and ultimately tyranny.

A cynic might argue that the United States is not as Gay friendly as other countries, yet, it is the richest country in the world. True, but nearly all of America's cities and states that are centers of profit and creativity offer acceptance for homosexuals. States most hostile to Gay people are relatively backwards, with lower levels of education and income. Places that offer acceptance signal that they are

Continued on Page Seven

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# Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

## Virtual Intelligence

There are few scientific experiments that the layman can fully appreciate; the level of knowledge-base that is required to work in the sciences has become so great that most work is beyond our general understanding.

Of course, there are the many that believe themselves to be such intellectual giants that they can pontificate on any subject, no matter how esoteric, with incisive and amazing results. Many people, for example, who have never seen an explosion, have not the slightest inkling of the complex mathematics of trajectory, compression or mass, believe that they are able to analyze the collapse of the Twin Towers by watching a video.

Of course, nobody can tell this sort of monkey anything. The idea that they may possess an intellect that is too empty of information, knowledge or humility to be of any scientific use is an affront to the generations of Americans that have always been told they are special and have come to expect to be a winner via the wholesale distribution of trophies in schools. There is no wonder that this great, powerless, overeducated portion of American finds it within his expertise to expound loudly on subjects which only a few much more intelligent, experienced and informed monkeys truly understand.

So it is that I regularly hear from people that want me to publicize the news that they are the smartest monkey in the room. Oh, they pretend that they want me to talk about how they have discovered that the Twin Towers were dynamited, global warming is a hoax, or some such other astounding stretch of the imagination, but what they really want me to acknowledge is that they alone have got it all figured out.

This amazing mental viewpoint, that people with no experience whatsoever, working in a complex field, can ferret out a truth that escapes even the most jaded, but experienced and specially educated monkey, is so common today as to merit special comment.

While most of us smile knowingly at these lay-theorists, we tend to ignore their mental gymnastics for what they really are; a litmus test for our societal mental-health.

It is not just the kindergarten intellectuals who overstep their analytical abilities, but every one of us that is a product of this modern, self-congratulatory society.

The sad fact of universal lit-

eracy is that once literate, it is impossible to convince a monkey that it does not, in fact, understand everything it can read. When faced with technical terms, equations or concepts that are unfamiliar or unfathomable, the literate monkey tends to digress to the familiar. The rules of discussion (a scientific use of language) fall to the easily manipulated rules of debate and the ideas that are supposedly under discussion become secondary to the oratorical abilities of the participants.

Even the terms "debate" and "discussion" are misunderstood by the general public. People clamor for a political debate, when in fact the rules of debate have nothing to do with discovering truth or analyzing information.

Debate relies on principles like "discredit the source", which of course can often be done even though the information said "source" provides is accurate. Truth is not the goal of debate.

Clearly, a debate is the last thing the public might really want; the fact that we clamor for it is symptomatic of our lack of understanding. If it were otherwise, when we heard someone in the public arena utilize the principles of debate we would know them as liars and cheats; we would ignore them and refuse to have anything to do with them. What a society we have that has raised the vile principles of debate to veneration and acceptability!

So it is that we have hoisted ourselves by our own petards, neatly using our intellectual abilities to prevent us from rational thought.

Today, just for today, I will not pretend to understand everything that is going on around me, to realize that the machinations of the economy, the government and the religions are beyond my poor abilities.

Instead, I will focus on the facts of human nature. I will not pretend that I care a toot for anyone outside of my own little group. I will not pretend that I want the truth, but rather admit that I am interested primarily and exclusively with getting more for me by whatever means I can find to use. This, of course, means discovering our own amoral hearts. Which means, oh mighty monkeys, who have sovereignty over the earth (for now) that we will do anything to anyone if it suits us.

Yes, you will.

Unless, of course, admitting it makes you blanch.

## Why I Am Proud To Be A Liberal

Continued from Page Five

open-minded and looking towards the future. Locales that reject homosexuals indicate that they are stuck in the past — at their own peril.

In essence, Gay rights are the canary in the coal mine for freedom and prosperity. Unfortunately, the bird is hacking, signaling a period of increased oppression and a dangerous erosion of freedom. It is up to us to rescue this nation from the perilous path it is now on. It is time we proudly stand up for what we believe in. If we don't defend our values, our opponents will define them.

Progressive does not mean passive. Our compassion does not mean that we lack passion. Our respect

for other beliefs does not signify that we don't hold strong beliefs of our own that we are willing to fight for. Indeed, our power comes from our ability to adjust to reality. We are secure in our values, yet humble enough to adapt if our viewpoints are proven obsolete. Wherever liberal democracy takes root, a strong and proud record of economic, moral, social and political achievement follows.

(Besen, a writer, author, spokesperson for LGBT issues is also the founder of Truth Wins Out, an organization devoted to debunking the lies and myths purported by the "ex-Gay" movement. This article is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

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# POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

## Proposition 102 Update

Proposition 102's proponents is the Center for Arizona Policy (azpolicy.org) (CAP), an ultra-conservative, homophobic organization, which has written, despite their convenient memory lapse, Arizona's laws on marriage, known as Arizona DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act), ARS (Arizona Revised Statutes) 25-101 and 25-112.

CAP has radio broadcasts mainly on right wing, religious radio stations across Arizona and have been purporting lies about same-sex marriage, how Arizona is under legal threat despite the court ruling in Standhardt V. Superior Court, which CAP and their minions claim this precedent setting case was just a technicality.

CAP also compares committed, loving, same-sex relationships to a Heinz commercial in England and claim that New Jersey and New Mexico allow same-sex marriage despite the fact only California and Massachusetts currently do so.

To listen to these "commentaries," go to CAP's web page (azpolicy.org/radioarchive.php)....

According to the article dated July 29 in the Arizona Daily Star, entitled "Lawmaker's actions on Gay nuptial vote probed," the so-called reporter scribbled, "While the Arizona Court of Appeals has previously rejected a constitutional challenge to the law banning Gay marriage, social conservatives say the recent decision by the California Supreme Court to overturn that state's statutory prohibition on same-sex marriages means Arizona needs to more strictly define marriage."

Arizona law (Arizona Revised Statute 25-101) reads: "25-101. Void and prohibited marriages:

"A. Marriage between parents and children, including grandparents and grandchildren of every degree, between brothers and sisters of the one-half as well as the whole blood, and between uncles and nieces, aunts and nephews and between first cousins, is prohibited and void.

"B. Notwithstanding subsection A, first cousins may marry if both are sixty-five years of age or older or if one or both first cousins are under sixty-five years of age, upon approval of any superior court judge in the state if proof has been presented to the judge that one of the cousins is unable to reproduce.

"C. Marriage between persons of the same sex is void and prohibited."

Arizona law (Arizona Revised Statute 25-112) reads: "25-112. Marriages contracted in another state; validity and effect

"A. Marriages valid by the laws of the place where contracted are valid in this state, except marriages that are void and prohibited by section 25-101.

"B. Marriages solemnized in another state or country by parties intending at the time to reside in this state shall have the same legal consequences and effect as if solemnized in this state, except marriages that are void and prohibited by section 25-101.

"C. Parties residing in this state may not evade the laws of this state relating to marriage by going to another state or country for solemnization of the marriage."

Then there is the 2003/2004 court decision, Standhardt v. Superior Court, (online at cofad1.state.az.us/opinionfiles/SA/SA030150.pdf) upholding the Arizona law.

Just as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Arizona Senator John McSame does on this and many other issues, so will supporters of Proposition 102, lather, rinse, lie and repeat! ...

According to their website CAP is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization for which all contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. So can a non-profit delve into the political arena, especially with voter guides which many of the candidates, primarily Republican, for various county, state and federal political office respond to their questions?

On CAP's website, they have a fact sheet on Proposition 102, supposedly espousing the truth on the measure but failing to point out that Arizona law (ARS 25-101 and ARS 25-112) which are discreetly footnoted, were upheld by those "activist" judges in Standhardt v. Superior Court. To look at CAP's convenient look at history, go online at azpolicy.org/pdf/FS/f08-06%20Marriage%20Referendum.pdf. ...

To defeat this measure, yet again as was done in 2006, go online to votenoprop102.com or bisoninteractivesecure.com/aztogether/, the new Arizona Together website.



## 'Gay' Street Keeping Its Name

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Observer Update) - A request made by Second Baptist Church of San Antonio to change the name of Gay Street, which runs adjacent to the church's property, was denied by the city council on Thursday, reports WOAI TV on advocate.com.

The church wanted to rename the street "Second Baptist Way" in a supposed effort to reach out to the community. Many involved, though - including attorney Rosie Gonzales, who participated in the hearing - suspect the reason for the request had more to do with the controversial existing name than it did with outreach efforts. Gay Street was named after a prominent community activist, and those who live on the street and in the general area have requested the street keep its name as a tribute.

At the hearing at City Hall, the request was ultimately denied by a nearly unanimous vote. According to WOAI, city councilwoman Sheila McNeil requested that the name change be denied, and the council agreed.



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# Beijing Olympics Underway With Six Out G/L Athletes

BEIJING, China (Observer Update) - The Southern Voice reported that at least six openly Gay athletes are in Beijing striving for medals at the 2008 Olympics.

The list of openly Gay athletes includes Natasha Kai, a forward on the U.S. Women's Soccer team. A 25-year-old from Hawaii, Kai joined the U.S. national team in 2006. The U.S. Women's team dropped its first game against Norway, but came back to beat Japan 1-0. The team next plays New Zealand on Tuesday. Also competing in Beijing are veteran Olympians Judith Arndt, a German cyclist, and Imke Duplitzer, a German fencer. Arndt finished 41st out of 66 competitors in the women's road cycling race on Sunday. Gro Hammerseng and Katja Nyberg are a Lesbian couple from Norway who are competing in the team handball competition. Norway defeated China 30-23 on

Saturday (August 9) and defeated Angola 31-17 on Monday (August 11).

Diver Matthew Mitcham is representing Australia in two events: the men's 3m springboard gets underway on Aug. 18; the men's 10m platform starts on Aug. 22.



# rsletterslettersletters

TO THE EDITOR:

We were disappointed to read that the Tucson Observer did not endorse Donna Branch-Gilby for Pima County Supervisor in District 3, supporting the incumbent, Sharon Bronson, instead. To her credit, some years ago Supervisor Bronson and the entire Board of Supervisors voted to provide domestic partner benefits to county employees. We are very grateful for this. However, during the "No on Proposition 107" campaign in 2006, only Supervisor Richard Elias among the Supervisors publicly supported our efforts. By contrast, Donna Branch-Gilby, a former Chair of the Pima County Democratic Party, was very supportive of the work of the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats in opposing the proposition. This year, Ms. Branch-Gilby is wearing a "No on Prop 102" button and discussing this issue with workers and voters as she campaigns for County Supervisor.

"walks the talk" on conservation, having founded Milagro Co-Housing community which boasts solar energy, water harvesting and appropriate landscaping and open space preservation.

We support her because she supports us and hope that Observer's readers will support her too.

Kathy Altman  
Roger Funk  
Doug Noffsinger  
Ivy Schwartz



# McGreevey Owes No Alimony But Must Pay Support



TRENTON, New Jersey (Observer Update) - A judge ruled on Friday (August 8) that former Gov. James E. McGreevey of New Jersey, who resigned from office after admitting that he had an affair with a male aide, will not have to pay alimony to his former wife.

The ruling by State Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy granting Mr. McGreevey and his wife, Dina Matos, a divorce ended a frayed eight-year marriage that came apart when the governor stunned the state by announcing on national television that he was "a Gay American."

"No alimony - that's what I'm talking about," Mr. McGreevey's lawyer, Stephen Haller, said moments after the decision was read in court, the Star-Ledger of Newark reported on its Web site.

Branch-Gilby is also a leader in advocating for growth within the confines of our water supply, and in promoting open and accountable county government to make sure that every vote is counted and that every vote counts. She

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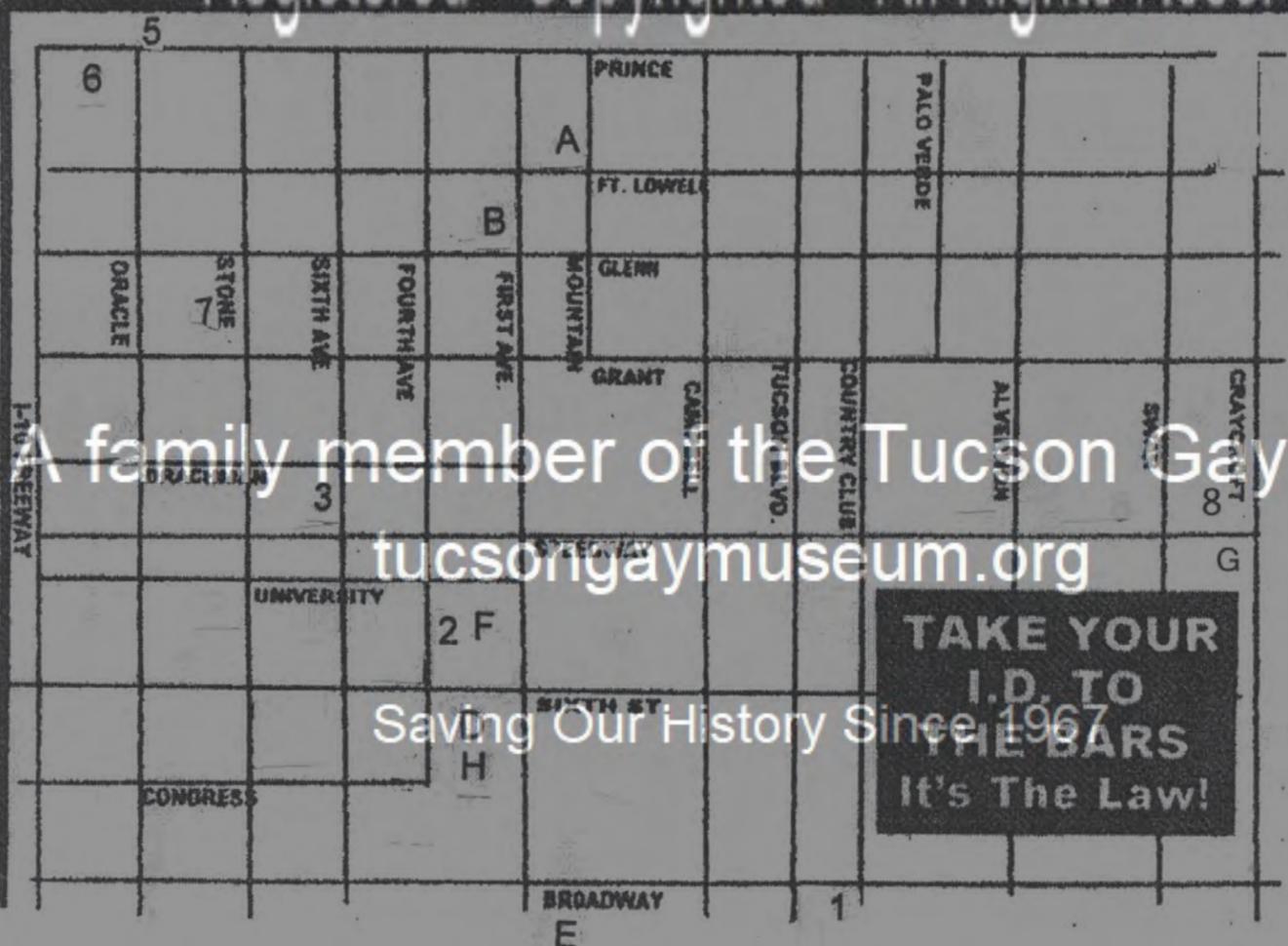
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# HOROSCOPES

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Summer is not the only thing that is hazy and lazy. Life grinds down to a halt as Saturn conjuncts all personal planets. Call it a needed time out and conserve your energy until next week. Then full speed ahead!

## ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams want to outshine the competition on the job but can't seem to gain any traction in the climb. No matter what you try, you seem to reach a dead end or a stream of disapproval. No matter. Don't despair. Things are temporarily on hold. Just box up your great ideas, enthusiasm and rampant ambition and unwrap it next week. Then open your Pandora's Box!

## TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

There is something fabulous swimming in your head but it can't get out. Could it be a burst of under appreciated genius just waiting to make its stage entrance? Anything is possible but no one will notice. Queer Bulls could chalk it up to creative block. This is not the week to grace the universe with your artistic sense. Mull, dream and wait. Razzle dazzle 'em next week.

## GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Your home may be a source of frustration. Pink Twins ache for changes, improvements, motion or even a light breeze or new air freshener around the house. Alas, it is not to be. But all things come in good time. Before you know it, you will be able to implement all your carefully crafted plans and make your humble surroundings a palace.

## CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Although you are filled with brilliant ideas, it will be difficult to gain an appreciative audience this week. Gay Crabs may be surrounded by nay sayers, dullards and a few egotists. Don't toss your pearls of wisdom before these swine. Take a cat nap and wake refreshed and raring to go go. Find a new audience next week. Then you make headlines. Uh oh....

## LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

If your money situation was tight, expect more of the same now. If you thought you had a few extra bucks in the till, you find the drawer locked or empty. Proud Lions have to satisfy their extravagant tastes with more mundane (and much cheaper) amusements. Be creative or austere now. Splurge and buy drinks for the house later.

## VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Many of your personal projects will be put on hold for the time being. That is because nothing you do will move them forward or in the right direction now. This may not be a bad thing though. Queer Virgins will be better off taking a breath to pause, reflect and reprioritize. There is too much on your plate to handle everything effectively. Start a diet.

## LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Is there something under the surface that itches and annoys? If so there is not much that you can do to scratch the itch this week. Cool down, chill out and relax. There is plenty of time to get your karma chugging and your psychic baggage opened and dumped. For now just meditate good thoughts and channel the benign spirits.

## SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

If you feel too caught up in the whirlwind of the group dynamic, you have a chance to sit and catch your breath. Things slow down to a crawl. So much so that you may find it a bit too solitary and staid. So queer Scorps who find that their pals command too much time and attention should enjoy them while they can. Life is pretty boring otherwise.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Your otherwise stellar career progress appears stalled and dead-ended. All your best moves do not have the intended effect. But look on the bright side; This gives you a chance to take a step back, survey the landscape and make necessary adjustments in your plans. Gay Archers will be reinvigorated next week. Prepare for your coup d'etat.

## CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Although this might seem like an opportune time to summer travel, pink Caps are advised to briefly stick to the tried and true and avoid any wayward twists and turns. You find that there are too many barriers and delays. Or perhaps there are too many loose details to tie up. Adventure is not all its cracked up to be.... this particular week.

## AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

As much as you think of yourself as a sex symbol, the cosmos shine an unflattering light on your best assets. Aqueerians can't seem to attract the lovers they want and manage to get too involved in wasteful, uninteresting liaisons. As much as you love to strut your stuff, why not try to blend into the background and look sultry ... in very low light.

## PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies try their best in certain relationships but even your best efforts may not move the needle. Things appear to stagnate and fester. Instead of tossing it all out, remain patient. Learn from your past frustrations and attempt do better. Before you know it you will have your choice of the best of the best. Now that is a nice change of pace!

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# Ad Integration At Chaiken's Discretion In 'L' Word Final Season

HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - Ilene Chaiken, writer and creator of the Showtime series The L Word, has been given complete control over "brand integration" for the show's last season, which starts this fall, Advertising Age reports on advocate.com.



Showtime programs do not take commercial breaks, but on this season of The L Word, Gay-friendly companies - or those hoping to attract more Gay and Lesbian consumers - will have the opportunity for their brands to be integrated

into story lines as a form of advertising. By pairing with The L Word, many advertisers will have the opportunity to reach a desirable demographic group - the roughly 312,000 viewers of the popular series are generally 18-49 years old, affluent, and female. The "integration package" being offered to companies hoping to capitalize on this opportunity is reported to be worth \$300,000, according to a source for Advertising Age.

Chaiken notes that the integration being offered is "a rare, perfect opportunity for showcasing brands," especially to women, because The L Word viewers are "affluent, avid consumers

plugged into pop culture." The popular travel site Orbitz, which is known for being Gay-friendly, told Advertising Age that its inclusion in the fifth season of the show boosted traffic to its Lesbian travel microsite by 25%.

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# Married With Children: An Option For More Gay Men

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - The cost remains high, and a good lawyer is essential. Yet despite complications, the idea of becoming a biological dad with help from a surrogate mother is gaining allure among Gay men as the status of "married with children" grows ever more possible, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com.



Tommy Starling, Jeff Littlefield and daughters

With same-sex marriage now legal in California even to nonresidents, and Massachusetts extending its 4-year-old Gay-marriage policy to out-of-staters, in-wedlock parenting is suddenly a realistic option for Gays and Lesbians nationwide, even if their home state won't recognize the union. Fertility clinics and surrogacy programs report increased interest from Gay men, while couples who already have children are getting married – or considering it – to provide more security for those kids.

"We wanted our daughter to know her parents were married – that was the big thing for us," said Tommy Starling of Pawley's Island, S.C., who wed his partner of 12 years, Jeff Littlefield, on July 11 in Hollywood. Among those at the ceremony was their daughter, Carrigan, who was born in California two years ago. Starling said he and Littlefield had tried previously to adopt a child in South Carolina, but encountered anti-Gay hostility and instead opted to become parents through a surrogacy program run by Los Angeles-based Growing Generations. Since 1996, it has matched hundreds of Gay men with surrogate mothers who are paid to carry an implanted embryo produced from a donor egg fertilized with the client's sperm.

"Our journey to parenthood was not easy, cheap or fun," Starling and Littlefield wrote in an account of their family. "The result, however, has been the most amazing experience in the world; being called Daddy and Dad by our loving daughter."

For Lesbian couples, biological parenthood is usually a far simpler

proposition than for Gay men, since there's no need for surrogacy and there are various options for becoming pregnant. A Lesbian couple faces neither the cost of surrogacy, which can run as high as \$150,000, nor the legal complications which call for a carefully negotiated contract with the surrogate mother.

"All the realms involved with men are much more complex," said Gail Taylor, president and founder of Growing Generations. But Taylor believes the option of marriage will, over time, lead to more biological Gay dads. "For future generations, knowing they can fall in love, get married, have a child – absolutely, that will become a way of life more than it is," she said.

Starling, 36, and Littlefield, 52, face the likelihood that their marriage will not be recognized anytime soon in South Carolina, one of 26 states with constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriages. In contrast, Joe and Brent Taravella, who are raising three children in South Orange, N.J., already have a civil union and are optimistic that New Jersey will soon join California and Massachusetts in legalizing same-sex marriages.

"As a couple with kids, you really see the importance of it, trying to get as many protections as you can," Joe Taravella said. They have a 2-year-old daughter through a surrogacy handled by Growing Generations, and twins born in May 2007 through a surrogacy arranged by a New Jersey lawyer, Melissa Brisman. "My relatives were screaming with excitement when they found out we were going to be parents," Joe Taravella said. "I think we still have something to prove, to show America we can do a great job with these kids."

Brisman, who specializes in reproductive legal issues, said laws dealing with surrogacy vary widely from state to state, as do the options for same-sex couples who become parents. "Legally, being able to get married will help in some states but not others," she said. "I would never tell clients to get married. ... But I tell them straight out, 'If you do get married, it's going to be easier.'"

The Taravellas (Brent has taken Joe's last name) both donated sperm – a fairly common practice among Gay male couples who say they don't care which partner is the biological dad. Some other couples decide to have two biological babies simultaneously, each providing sperm and using two surrogates. Among the enterprises offering such services for prospective Gay fathers is the Fertility Institutes, which has offices in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Mexico, and plans to open a branch soon in New York City even though New York is among a half-dozen states banning paid surrogacy.

"It's not going to happen in New York as the law stands now," said the Fertility Institutes' director, Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg. "You can't bring the surrogate into the state, but we can make the arrangements, fly the client elsewhere." Overall, Steinberg says inquiries from Gay men to his offices have increased 30 percent in the past six months. "There are more couples that had been holding off because of the marriage situation who are now starting to show up," he said. "We've definitely seen an upswing."

For now, adoptions, rather than surrogacy, remain the most common way for Gay men to become fathers, but Steinberg believes a shift is under way. "Adoption is not getting any easier – surrogacy is getting easier," he said. "You rarely hear horror stories about surrogacy." In fact, there are occasional surrogacy cases which become anguishing – including lawsuits by surrogate mothers seeking custody of the child, and wrenching cases in which triplets or quadruplets are conceived, and a debate ensues over whether any of the fetuses should be aborted.

Lawyers say airtight contracts can head off such problems, but legal costs run high. Beyond that, there usually are medical costs in the tens of thousands of dollars, and fees to the egg donor and surrogate that together can exceed \$25,000.

Dr. G. David Adamson, director of Fertility Associates of Northern California and president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, says Gay couples considering the option of surrogacy should receive thorough medical and psychological counseling, as well as candid legal advice. "What we've tried to do is have consent forms that make it very clear what the intentions of the people are," he said. "Who's going to be the mom, who's going to be the dad, what might happen if relationship ends, if someone dies."

"If you don't have an exit strategy, the usual result is that you have potentially several years of litigation, which is extremely damaging to the child," Adamson added. "It's incumbent on everyone to be very thoughtful about entering these arrangements." The challenges of Gay fatherhood can seem relatively less daunting in Gay-friendly communities such as New York, where Jeffrey Parsons and Chris Hietikko are raising a 2-year-old son, Henry. They've also remained in touch with the surrogate mother, a Lesbian who lives with her own family in Oregon.

"As Gay men, so much depends on where you live, what your social support system is like," said Parsons, a 41-year-old psychology professor at Hunter College. "Our child will go to school with other kids with Gay parents," he said. "I had a job option upstate, but I knew he'd be only kid like that there." Parsons, who has been conferring with Hietikko about getting married, says he's a rarity among Gay men his age – even as a youth, realizing he was Gay, he was convinced he'd become a father.

More typical are men like Jeff Littlefield, who said that in his 20s, "I'd completely given up on the idea of ever having a child." Littlefield was raised in Utah as a Mormon. In that family-focused culture, he regretted the prospect of not providing his mother with a grandchild. When he and Starling did have their daughter, they rushed out to introduce the infant to her ailing grandmother – who died just a few days later. The girl's name, Carrigan, is her grandmother's maiden name. "My mom was able to hold her," Littlefield said. "It was magical."



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**NON-BAR CALENDAR**

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.

Tuesday, August 19  
Tucson's Commission on GLBT Issues will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the EOO Conference Room, 100 N. Stone Avenue. For more info call the City Clerk's Office (520) 791-4213.

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 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Come to the second gathering of community members and grassroots organizers to discuss the campaign to defeat Proposition 102, the anti-Marriage Amendment. 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Main Downtown Library, 101 N. Stone (Main Meeting Room - Lower Level).

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 24<sup>th</sup>  
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 t4:30 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.

Friday, August 29  
Antigone Books hosts Katherine Adam, co-author of The New Feminized Majority and will read from and discuss her book. Katherine Adam and co-author Charles Derber's book provides a welcome ray of hope. The authors argue that a rising feminized majority - made up of both men and women - is emerging as a pivotal force in American politics.

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.

Saturday, September 20  
The 2008 Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and will bring together more than a thousand community members as we remembver the past and rally together for the future. The gala themed "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will take place in the Grand Lobby and Grand Ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Avenue and will feature a gourmet dinner, silent auction, entertainment and more. For more info or reservations call Erin Russ at (520)624-1779x115.

**Times In Gay Sex Harassment Suit**

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The New York Times finds itself embroiled in some Gay drama, reported queerty.com.

Longtime copy editor Charles Cretella has been suspended for two weeks after allegedly sexually harassing a newer hire. But Cretella claims he's getting the shaft - and now he's suing: [Cretella], a part-time copy editor who's been with the Gray Lady since 1968, was suspended for two weeks without pay for inappropriate behavior toward a new hire, a 33-year-old man, according to papers filed last week in Brooklyn Supreme Court. But in the suit, Cretella, 57, claims he was the victim, enduring the new man's come-ons and mood swings, then suffering a false accusation of harassment in 2006 that cost him a promotion to a full-time position. "I'm a team player," said Cretella. "Thirty-eight years, never any complaints."

Cretella claims the other employee subjected him to heavy doses of harassment, like the aforementioned crotch grabbing, which went on for twenty minutes. Cretella's suit alleges that by overlooking him, the Times discriminated against him for his age and "perceived sexual orientation."

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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](http://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 (GPGCLCC)** P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: [webmaster@gpgclcc.org](mailto:webmaster@gpgclcc.org) or call (602)225-8444.

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

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**BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO** - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or

write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at [www.botop.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.desertvoices.org), or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

**AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus**, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. All alcoholics welcome.

**MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK:** Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 207-5336 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

**CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE** to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://teamarizona.org)

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT**, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meet-

ings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. [www.tucsonglbtchamber.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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; Dezer Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezer 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](http://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@yahoo.com](mailto:SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@yahoo.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](http://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.:



# 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 Domestic 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 Domestic 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Domestic 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, "Divalicious" 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 Domestic 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. Bicarid Thursdays - \$3.00 Bicarid 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 musica 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 Domestic 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Domestic 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 14

WOODY'S - Pre-Turnabout Show hosted by Ajia Simone aand starring the Woody's Team "Summer Clearance", "Amber Alert", Jasmisne White" and guests. Help the cast members meet thjeir fundraising goals for TIHAN.

Friday, August 15

HOWL AT THE MOON - Free Country Dance Lessons 7:30p.m.

Saturday, August 16

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

YARD DOG - 'Bears Beer Bust' at 4:00 p.m. Then it's "Luau VII" -Hawaian Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Two Sons Band at 9:00 p.m. with a big Costume Contest at 110:00 p.m. A Real fun-filled day!!!

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!

Monday, September 1

IBT's - Monday Morning Madness' - Bar opens at 10:00 a.m. Madness starts at 10:01 with entertainment and drink specials and loads of fun throughout the day and evening.

Tuesday, September 9

IBT's - Missy Elliott CD Release Party at 9:00 p.m.

## McInerney Pleads Not Guilty In King Slaying



Brandon McInerney, 14

VENTURA, California (Observer Update) - A 14-year-old Southern California boy has pleaded not guilty to the murder of his Gay classmate. Brandon McInerney entered the plea in Ventura County Superior Court on Thursday. McInerney is charged as an adult with first-degree murder and a hate crime for the February 12 fatal shooting of 15-year-old Larry King at their junior high school in Oxnard, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

King sometimes wore makeup and told friends he was Gay. Defense attorney William Quest said in court that the charges are "essentially a death sentence" for McInerney, and wants the boy tried on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

McInerney faces 51 years to life without the possibility of parole if convicted.



# COMMENTARY . . .

by Lisa Neff

## Unmarried - Partner Bliss

"Could I be the target audience for "Unmarried and Single Americans Week"?"

"Unmarried people include those who were never married, widowed, or divorced unless otherwise noted," states my most recent press release from the U.S. Census Bureau. The release is one of the nifty announcements the government puts out to help reporters come up with stories for holidays. If you've ever read a news report that offered an estimate on the number of hot dogs served for July 4, you can make a good guess that the figure came from the Census Bureau's "Facts for Features."

I'm scanning through the release as I wait for the rest of the crowd to dress for my partner's sister's wedding - a tropical-themed affair in the sweltering heat of east Iowa in August. For as long as I can remember, other women have taken far longer than I to dress up. They prepare. I step into a pair of pressed slacks, put on a top, rough up my hair, step into a pair of dress shoes and... ta-da.

So, I have much time to waste with the "Facts for Features" on "Unmarried and Single Americans Week," observed across the country from Sept. 21-27 this year if you want to note the date - or make one. This week of merrymaking began as the "National Singles Week" by the Buckeye Singles Council in Ohio in the 1980s to celebrate single life and singles' contribution to society.

The celebration matured into "Unmarried and Single Americans Week" to also include those who are not legally married but cringe at being considered "single" - the widowed, the lone parent, the engaged, the dating and the "partnered."

As I study the press release, I know that my partner's sister will know exactly where she stands after she says "I do" to her guy before a crowd of her 120 closest friends and relatives. She will not be celebrating "Unmarried and Single Americans Week." There is no gray area in her situation - it's as black and white as a traditional tux and bridal gown.

But I tell you, I'm perplexed: Could I be the target audience for "Unmarried and Single Americans Week"? I have been in my relationship with my girlfriend, partner, significant other for going on 16 years and I'm wondering if we're expected to join in the observation of "Unmarried and Single Americans Week."

My partner and I have watched numerous friends and relatives - Gay and straight - pair up and part. Some of the relationships were severed by annulments, some by divorce, some by pack-it-up splits.

We've hit a few rough patches - really, just a few - and stayed together not as "unmarried Americans" but as spouses committed to one another and a future. We sometimes talk about how we'll look, feel, behave when we're older and grayer. We've even used animation software to create cartoons of our old selves. We're looking forward to those sunshine years in our Florida sunshine.

We don't have any papers - no certificates, no licenses, no wills - to document our union. We never exchanged vows with a serious ceremony or a big party. And we know that we are

not legally married. But we certainly are not "single." Neither are we "unmarried," in my mind. But I read on in the "Facts for Features" release, which informs me that statistically speaking from the Census' perspective I am one of 92 million "Americans 18 and older" considered unmarried in the government's count.

With 15-plus years of commitment, I am included in the "60 percent of unmarried Americans 18 and older who have never been married." So is my spouse. I read on.

There are 6 million "unmarried-partner households" in the United States, including 5.2 million opposite-sex "unmarried-partner households" and 780,000 same-sex "unmarried-partner households."

I've complained about the "unmarried-partner" label in the past, to which a common reply was "Move to Massachusetts" and now can be "Go to

California." Before "Move to Massachusetts" I heard, "Go to the Netherlands."

Of course, how simple, lots of people go to Amsterdam to exchange their vows, lots of people take their weddings across the Atlantic.

Say, wouldn't it be interesting to read a "Facts for Features" press release from the Census Bureau that included how many miles members of same-sex "unmarried-partner households" had to travel to become members of same-sex "married-partner households"? And now, finally, I'm heading out for my partner's sister's wedding - and that "I do" moment when the Census Bureau loses two people in the "unmarried" category and the organizers of "Unmarried and Single Americans Week" lose two past celebrants.

May they be as happy in the marriage as my partner and I have been in our "unmarried" bliss. P.S. The next holiday up on the "Facts for Features" calendar is Halloween.

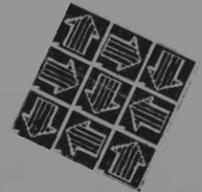
(Lisa Neff is a columnist and reporter for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

## Man Charged In Attack At Pride Event

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (Observer Update) - A Vancouver, man who police say has a history of mental illness, is facing multiple charges after nine people were hit on the head with a hammer.

The vicious spree happened on a street crowded with revelers several hours after the annual Vancouver Gay Pride Parade, which attracted hundreds of thousands of people to the area.

Police say Khalid Alzghoul, 31, faces 17 charges, including assault causing bodily harm, assault with a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon and a count of theft under \$5,000.



tucsonobserverarchives.org

TURNABOUT FOR TIHAN 2008

**"STONEWALL RIOT"**

a benefit for the  
**Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network**

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**AUGUST 24, 2008**  
TICKETS: \$15  
Doors Open at 4:30 with Fingerfood Buffet  
Show Begins at 6pm  
Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park  
445 South Alvernon Way

Featuring Emcees:  
**Lucinda Holliday**  
and  
**Barbra Seville**

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®

tucsongaymuseum.org

For more information and tickets, call 299-6647 or stop in at one of the sponsoring bars:

YARD DOG SALOON  
COLORS FOOD & DRINKS  
Woody's  
Fowl at the Moon  
IBTS

Saving Our History Since 1967

Turnabout FOR TIHAN