Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Milestone For Gays And Lesbians; A Boon For Massachusetts

Robert Schlicker, Kathy Arminio and Kim Angotti (PHOTO: Washington Post)

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PROVINCETOWN, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - The news flashed to Kathy Arminio as an instant electronic bulletin from a Gay rights advocacy group: New York Gov. David A. Paterson (D) had issued a directive ordering state agencies to recognize same-sex weddings performed in other jurisdictions, the Washington Post reported. Within seconds of learning about it in May, Arminio, 51, called Kim Angotti, 38, her partner of six years, with the question she had long wanted to ask: "Do you want to get married?"

Angotti called their friend Robert Schlicker, 30, to spread the news. Schlicker called his partner of more than five years, Michael Oswald, 47, and soon the two couples – two women and two men, all best friends from Rochester, N.Y. – were planning to turn an August vacation together into a double marriage ceremony in this nationally renowned Gay destination on Cape Cod's northern tip.

Paterson's directive – extending same-sex marriage rights to such matters as tax returns and pension benefits – was soon followed by another move here in Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage became legal in 2004. In July, the legislature passed a repeal of a 1913 statute prohibiting out-of-state residents from marrying in the state unless they intended to reside here. Gov. Deval L. Patrick (D) signed the repeal at the end of July and took the unusual step of making it effective immediately.

The two steps, taken independently by New York and Massachusetts within about two months, marked an unexpected summer milestone for proponents of same-sex marriage, even as more than 40 other states have enacted constitutional amendments or statutes limiting marriage to a man and a woman. California is the only other state that has legalized same-sex marriage, though that decision by the state's highest court will be subject to a statewide referendum in November. "I didn't anticipate it happening this fast," Oswald, an analyst for Xerox in Rochester, said of the changes here. "It wasn't even on my radar screen." He added: "It was just serendipitous."

The recent changes have prompted a flood of Gay New Yorkers coming to Massachusetts to get married – and that seems to have made same-sex marriage big business for the Bay State. There are no firm figures on how many Gays from New York have come here to marry in the few weeks since the law took effect. But anecdotal evidence suggests the numbers are huge and likely to grow. Hotel rooms are full, flower shops are doing a brisk business, and everywhere, it seems, pedicabs adorned with "Just Married" signs are hauling Gay couples down the town's main strip.

Justices of the peace, who perform most of the same-sex weddings, say they are booked solid, often racing directly from one ceremony to the next. Claire Watts, who performed the wedding for the four friends from Rochester, said she had presided over 30 Gay weddings so far in August, and "the calls just keep coming."

Another justice of the peace, Rachel Peters, said: "I'm really busy. I have a full-time job, and this has become a full-time job." Peters, a police officer, said she had to take extra vacation days to perform all the same-sex weddings for out-of-staters, almost all New Yorkers. Town Clerk Doug Johnstone said Provincetown has become "the premier destination for Gay marriage." He said the town first saw a boom in same-sex weddings after they became legal here in 2004, even though out-of-state couples had to express an intent to reside in Massachusetts – although how to define that intent was left vague and was often at the discretion of local officials. "Now, with the repeal of the 1913 law, we're seeing another little boomlet," Johnstone said.

Continued on Page Five

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Saving Our History Since 1987

GOP And McCain Accused Of Ignoring Domestic AIDS Issue

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - HIV/AIDS groups are accusing Republican presidential candidate John McCain of ignoring the growing rate of new HIV cases in the U.S., reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The Republican National Convention concluded with no mention of the domestic AIDS epidemic and only passing reference to the epidemic overseas. Neither McCain nor his running mate, Gov. Sarah Palin, mentioned AIDS in their remarks to convention delegates.

The Republican Convention was held one month after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new estimates indicating that the HIV infection rate in the United States is 40 percent higher than previously thought. Every year, more than 56,000 Americans become infected with HIV, a rate that has not fallen in eight years and is higher than it was for most of the 1990s, according to the CDC. "The complete failure of the Republican leadership to even acknowledge AIDS is deeply troubling," said Phill Wilson, Founder and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute. "At a time when the AIDS epidemic is worse in our nation's capital than in many parts of Sub Saharan Africa, how can AIDS not be a featured as a priority by the Republican Presidential nominee?"

First Lady Laura Bush did make reference to AIDS in her address to the convention when she noted the number of Africans receiving AIDS treatment through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a program spearheaded by President George Bush. No speakers addressed the AIDS epidemic in the United States and the Republican platform offered no plan to address the issue.

"John McCain must commit to developing a national AIDS strategy for the U.S. designed to reduce the HIV infection rate and increase access to AIDS treatment," said David Munar, President of the National Association of People Living with HIV (NAPWA). "AIDS remains a serious threat in this country and every new infection adds significant financial burden to an already over-burdened health care system. If we want to save health care costs, we must use effective prevention tools and ensure early detection by making HIV testing a routine health care procedure," he added.

More than 1,000 individuals and over 300 organizations, including public health departments, faith based communities, civil rights groups, health care centers and AIDS organizations throughout the country, have endorsed a call to action for a national AIDS strategy. "Striving for progress against HIV/AIDS in the U.S. is a non-partisan issue all Americans can and should get behind," said Rebecca Haag, the executive director of the AIDS Action Council.

"The next President has an important opportunity to build on the lessons of our international response to AIDS and achieve better outcomes in the epidemic at home. AIDS remains one of the most serious public health challenges facing our nation. As we begin to debate broader healthcare reform, including stronger prevention efforts, we should look at how programs like PEPFAR can provide a model for how to effectively address HIV/AIDS in our own country. With better planning, implementation and accountability, the U.S. can, and indeed must, make better progress," said Haag.

The absence of discussion about the domestic AIDS epidemic at the GOP convention was in contrast to the Democratic convention held the previous week. At that convention, former President Bill Clinton called for "a renewal of the battle against HIV and AIDS here at home."

Several Democratic members of Congress also voiced support for development of a national AIDS strategy. When they spoke to Democratic delegates on the first day of the convention, both Michelle Obama and actor and activist Danny Glover said that a national AIDS Strategy is needed. The Democratic party platform includes a call for a national AIDS Strategy, and Sen. Obama has pledged to develop a national AIDS strategy if elected.

Tucson Citizen Comes Out Against Prop. 102

TUCSON (Observer Update) - In the September 8 edition of the Tucson Citizen, the editorial board published a piece coming out against Proposition 102, the proposed amendment to the state constitution on marriage. The following is the editorial:

Our Opinion: Vote no on Gay marriage ban. Proposed constitutional amendment would codify discrimination

How can you tell that supporters of Proposition 102, yet another attempt to amend the Arizona Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages, are fighting a losing battle? Look at the image of the two tuxedoed gents at right. It's one of a series of Hallmark cards being rolled out to celebrate same-sex weddings. Hallmark Cards

Continued on Page Four

UPDATE

SASD Meets September 15

TUCSON- Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) will meet Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m., at Pima Democratic Headquarters, 4639 E. 1st Street, (one block South of Speedway) just West of Swan).

Guest speakers will be General John Adams and Amanda Simpson, delegates to the Democratic Convention. They will discuss the event. Come join us. Be informed and get involved. For more information call Maurice at 323-3393 or sasdtucson@yahoo.com

Defeat Proposition 102, Sept. 13 - 14

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Want to help defeat another anti-Gay ballot measure - again? Attend the Arizona Together Opposed to Prop 102 messaging training. In partnership with the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC), message training dates are as follows:

Phoenix, Saturday, September 13 , 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Scottsdale Congregational Church, 4425 N. Granite Reef Road (in Scottsdale).

Tucson, Sunday, September 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., the campaign office for Grijalva for Congress, 452 South Stone Ave., in Tucson.

Please RSVP at info@aztogether.org and for more information, call (602) 650-0900.

New Warrior Training Adventure (For GBT Men), Sept. 19-21

TUCSON - The NWTA (New Warrior Training Adventure) experience is about taking a look at our lives as men and how our lives work and don't work. This two and half day experience, from September 19 through 21 at C.O.D. Ranch, Oracle, offers men a powerful and challenging opportunity to look at all aspects of their lives in a richly supportive environment.

This weekend is for Gay, Bi, and Transsexual Men who will learn how to be fully accountable for their choices and consequences; how to begin integrating the dark and soulful qualities of our masculine nature; and how to stand up and take full responsibility for our lives. Men will learn to step forward as men without apologizing for who we are, and accept and believe that we are enough and what we do is enough.Men will begin to understand that our achievements are a function of our creative energy and not a measure of who we are as men. It's also a weekend of building a community of men and working together to build relationships with men. The New Warrior, is the initiated man who sets about living his life passionately and compassionately, because he has learned to face his demons, intends to live his personal life mission with integrity, and is open to the support and service of other men.

For more information, contact Tom Sayler-Brown (520) 591-2828, tsbtucson@yahoo.com or go online to azwarriortraining.com.

TIHAN Team Member Orientation, September 11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) is seeking a diverse group of volunteers that represent a cross section of our community to join existing volunteers in meeting the program and service needs of our CarePartners, people living with HIV/AIDS. TIHAN's goal is to have our volunteers reflect the ethnic diversity of the people we serve. With your help, we will continue to grow – not to become bigger, but to become better.

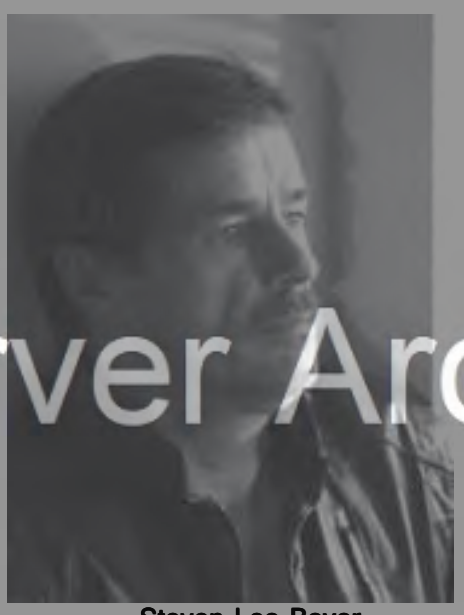
TIHAN has a variety of volunteer opportunities that will allow you to give as much or as little time you can (quarterly, monthly, or weekly). We are seeking both professional and non-professional volunteers who have a sincere interest in making life better for a sometimes forgotten group of special people, our CarePartners. Please join TIHAN, Thursday, September 11, 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. at 1011 N. Craycroft #301, and make a difference!

For more information, contact Kim Talerico (520) 299-6647, kim@tihan.org, tihan.org.

Howl at the Moon
sports pub & dance club
915 W. Prince Rd.
1st stoplight west of Oracle
SW corner of Prince & Fairview
293-7339
howlatthemoontucson.com

"Runner Up—Best Cover Band" 2006 Tucson Area Music Awards
Saturday, Sept 13
rock
blues
dance
9 pm $5 cover
Bailamos
Saturday 9/20
no cover
latest cumbias, baladas, & corridos
- plus a little old school! 9:30 pm
presented by "Mobile Sounds"

IN MEMORIAM



Steven Lee Boyer
June 22, 1955-August 18, 2008

On August 18 Steve Boyer passed away peacefully in his sleep due to heart failure. He was 53 years old.

Steve had been active and well known in the AIDS community in Tucson. He had been a Board Member for SAAF, where he also worked for a while as a peer counselor.

Those who knew him knew him for his intelligence, quick wit, dry sense of humor, and candor. He had a soft heart, and he loved his Coors Regular.

After his first bout with cancer and chemotherapy he decided to start writing a book about his 15 years as a survivor of AIDS. I found the Introduction to that book which he started. I quote him here as it exemplifies his outlook on his HIV:

"If you are seriously ill and don't have a sense of humor, you need to make getting one your number one priority. A good sense of humor will help keep the degrading, humiliating, embarrassing and frustrating situations that you will experience from being more traumatic than they actually are".

It is sad that he never finished writing the book. He never let his HIV status stop him from doing things with his life. He remained focused on life and living, up until the end.

For the past eight or nine years, I was privileged to have Steve as my closest friend. I grew to love him very deeply. He was a caring person, always there for me and for others as well. He was an amazing man. He excelled at anything he set his mind to do.

Since I have known him he completed a course of study in accounting at Pima College, set up his own income tax business, took up golf, tennis, bowling and his most recent passion: photography.

Steve is survived by: an older brother Glenn and his daughter, a twin sister Jeri and her two sons, and a younger brother David and his wife Lani and their three children. And, last, but not least, his oldest and dearest friend of thirty years, Antony Graci.

It was Steve's wish that he be cremated and buried in Camp Verde beside his mother who died last October. There will be a small family gathering at the gravesite. He did not want a memorial service.

Anyone wishing to do so, may make a donation to SAAF or Tihan in Steve's memory. If anyone wishes to pay respects to his family, you may send condolences in care of: Mr. David Boyer, 595 S. Park Circle, Camp Verde, AZ 86322.

May God grant him the peace and serenity he has so rightfully earned in this life.

Love Always, Tony M.

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

If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org
SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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Around The Old Pueblo

TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) is seeking a diverse group of volunteers that represent a cross section of our community to join existing volunteers in meeting the program and service needs of our CarePartners, people living with HIV/AIDS. TIHAN's goal is to have our volunteers reflect the ethnic diversity of the people we serve. With your help, we will continue to grow – not to become bigger, but to become better. TIHAN has a variety of volunteer opportunities that will allow you to give as much or as little time you can (quarterly, monthly, or weekly). We are seeking both professional and non-professional volunteers who have a sincere interest in making life better for a sometimes forgotten group of special people, our CarePartners. Please join TIHAN, Thursday, September 11, 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. at 1011 N. Craycroft #301, and make a difference! For more information, contact Kim Talerico (520) 299-6647, kim@tihan.org, tihan.org.

Did you know the Arizona State Museum, is the oldest and largest anthropology museum in the Southwest, established in 1893, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is the state's official archaeological repository and the largest non-federal archaeological repository in the country and is the University of Arizona's anthropology museum and is one of the oldest research units on the campus. That's where we'll be going for a fascinating intro by Maurice. The museum is located in two historic buildings on the UA campus, just east of the main gate at University Boulevard and Park Avenue in Tucson. We'll meet Sunday, September 14, 1:00 p.m., in the north building. $3 per person suggested donation. For more information, contact Penelope Starr, (520) 624-1779 x122.

A new, free series sponsored by the Office of LGBTQ Affairs, UA Career Services, and the Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce. LGBTQ and Allied Professionals talk about their career paths as "out" people in various fields. City Council member Karin Uhlich will kick off the series. Karin is also the Executive Director of the Southwest Center for Economic Integrity. Drinks and dessert will be provided; please bring your own lunch. Everyone is welcomed - allies are encouraged to attend Thursday, September 18, noon to 1:00 p.m. at the University of Arizona, Career Services, SUMC (4th floor). For more information, contact the UA Office of LGBTQ Affairs, (520) 626-1996 or go online to dos.web.arizona.edu/lgbtq.

Tucson's Desert Coyotes, the LGBT and straight-supportive bowling league started their fall season at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16th Ave., on Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The league consists of teams of three individuals who bowl three games per week. Presently, there are openings on several teams and the league is looking to fill the vacant slots. If you want to bowl, just show up a few minutes prior to the start time and the league secretary will get you on a team. There is a weekly league fee and an initial sanction charge to begin with. For more information, contact Santa Cruz Lanes, (520) 622-2186.

Tucson Latin Pride 2008 - Interseccion Panel Discussion, September 24

TUCSON - Wingspan Anti-Violence Programs and the U of A Office of LGBTQ Affairs announced Tucson Latin Pride 2008 - Intersección Panel Discussion, September 24, at the Chavez Building of the U of A Campus.

This week marks the first-ever, historic Latin@ Pride in Tucson - a time for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Latin@s and their allies to gather and celebrate community. Please join us for an engaging panel discussion about the intersección of being Latin@ and LGBTQ. What are the challenges? What are the joys? Everyone welcomed - all allies are encouraged to attend. Free. "I am the dialogue between myself and el espiritu del mundo. I change myself, I change the world." Gloria Anzaldúa

For more information, contact Oscar Jimenez, (520) 624-1779, ext. 124.

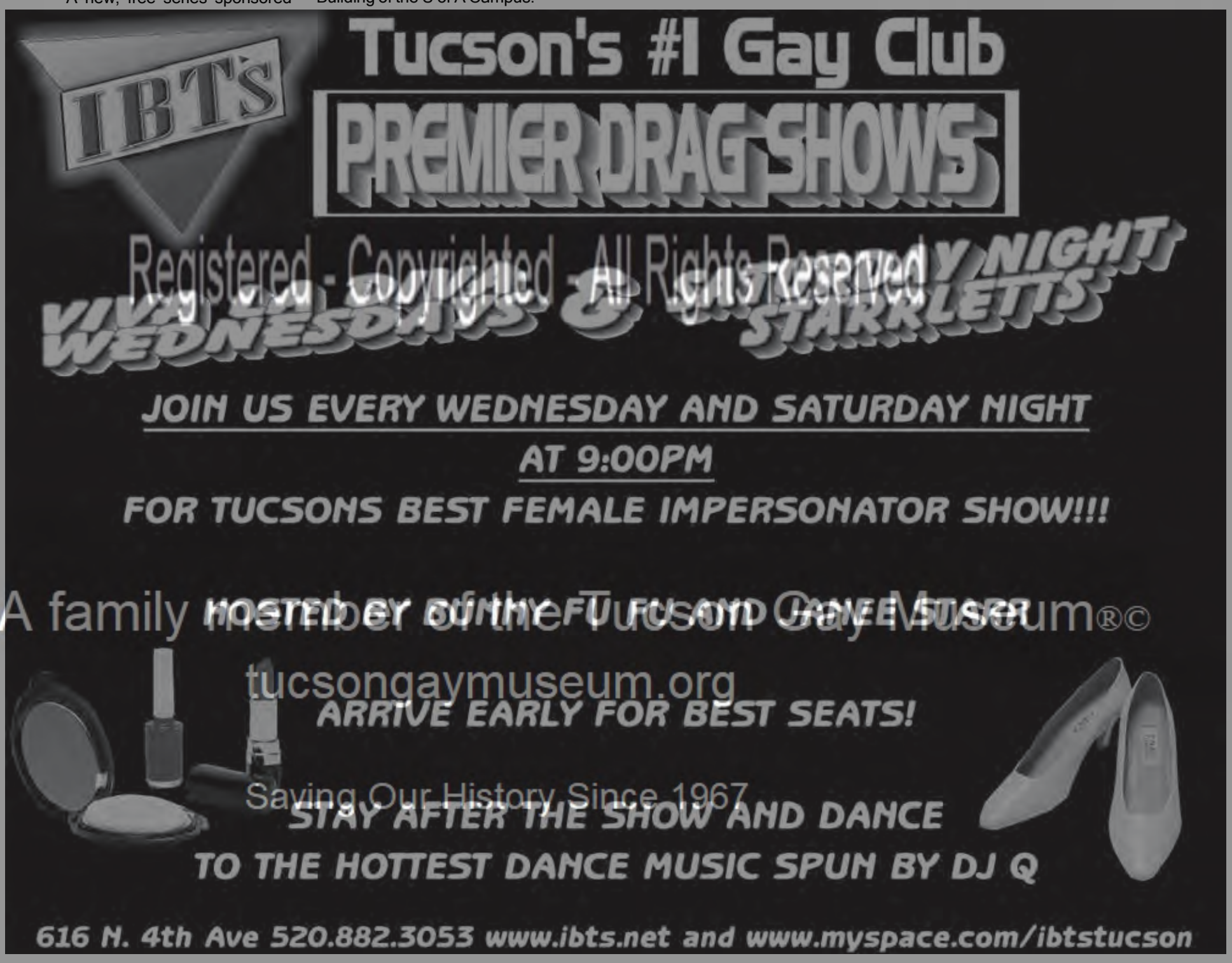
Judy Shepard To Speak At Wingspan Dinner, September 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Renowned human rights activist Judy Shepard will be the keynote speaker at Wingspan's Annual Benefit Dinner, September 20. Shepard is the executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, established in memory of her son whose brutal murder sparked international outcry about the tragic violence faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people. The goal of the Matthew Shepard Foundation is to replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance.

"We're excited to bring Ms. Shepard to Southern Arizona," says Carol Lohmann, Wingspan board president. "For the past decade, she has been a leading voice in LGBT people's struggle for freedom, equality, safety, and well-being." In 1998, while a student at the University of Wyoming, Matthew Shepard was brutally attacked because he was Gay. On October 12, four days after his attack, he died. While the Shepard family mourned in private, the tragedy set off an unprecedented public outcry, with vigils held across America. The incident galvanized millions of people, and focused the nation's attention on the growing epidemic of hate crimes.

"This year marks the tenth anniversary of Matthew Shepard's tragic murder," says Oscar Jimenez, Wingspan anti-violence programs manager. "Unfortunately, this violence continues to affect our community. Earlier this year, our nation was reminded of this pervasive violence when Lawrence King, only 15 years old, was gunned down by a classmate in Oxnard, California, because, like Matthew Shepard, he was Gay. We still have much work to do to ensure that LGBT people can feel safe in our communities." In 2008, Wingspan celebrates its 20th year serving Southern Arizona's LGBT community. Adds Lohmann, "It's only fitting that we celebrate such a milestone by presenting a dynamic speaker who presents message of hope and what each of us can do to make a difference."

Judy Shepard will speak at Wingspan's Annual Benefit Dinner, September 20, 2008, at the Tucson Convention Center. Tickets are on sale for the 11th Annual Benefit Dinner, Wingspan's largest annual fundraising event, which attracts 1,100 of Southern Arizona's social, political, and business luminaries. For more information, go online to Wingspan's website, wingspan.org.



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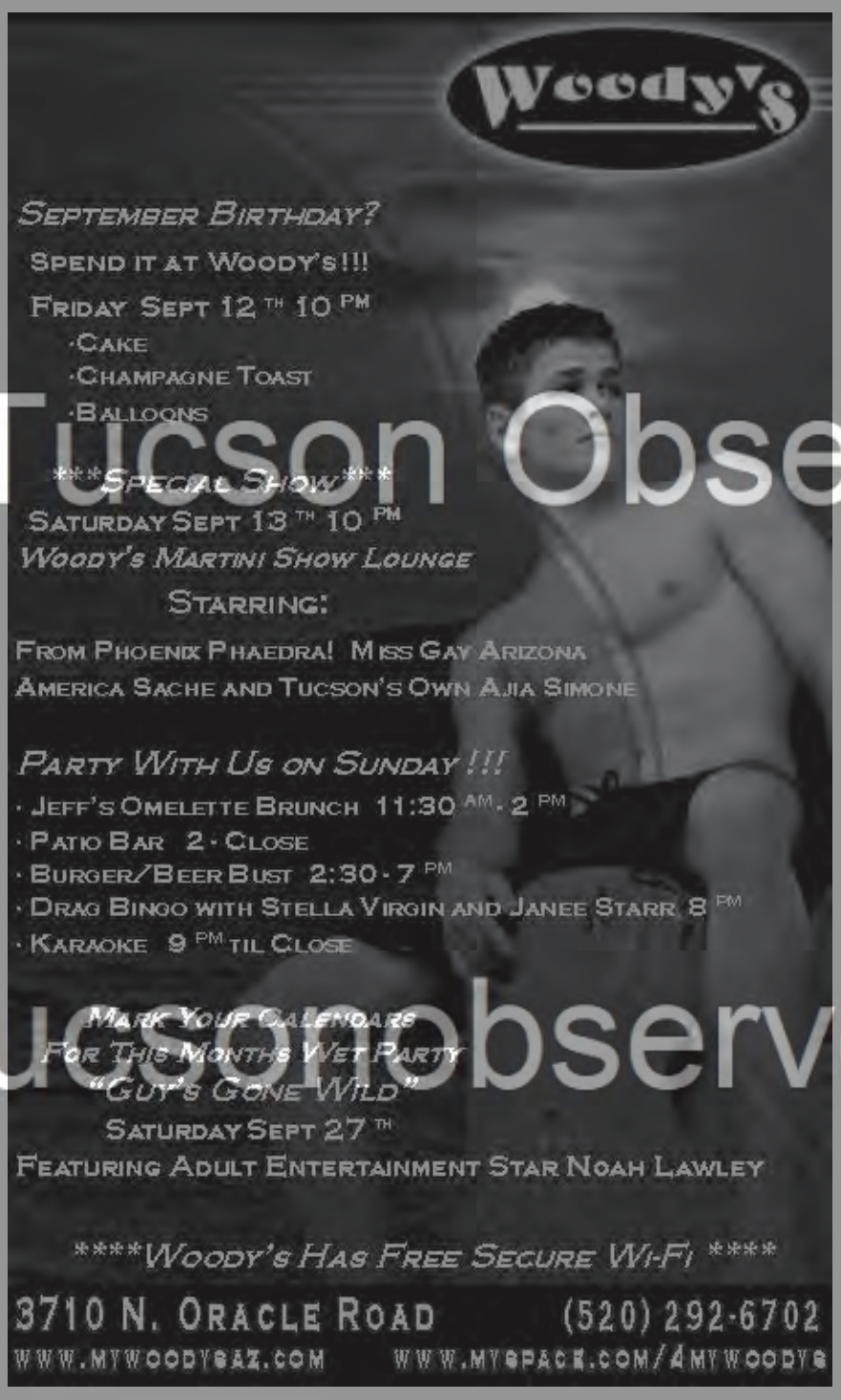

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UPDATE

Prime Timers Celebrate 15th Year In Tucson

In 1983, a retired college professor in Boston placed a small classified advertisement to see if there were some other older gay/bi men who felt as he did. Woody Baldwin saw the gay community worshiping a "culture of youth", and having little interest in, or understanding of, older gay/bi men and their needs. Woody's curiosity was answered when over forty men showed up. Banding together, they founded Prime Timers as a non-profit social organization dedicated to serving older gay/bi men and their younger friends.

From that quiet beginning a generation ago, Prime Timers has become recognized as the preeminent gay/bi social organization in the world. Today chapters may be found across the USA, Canada, the UK, Europe and Australia. Woody Baldwin now lives in Austin, Texas and remains the organization's guiding force.

In 1993 a group of Tucsonans founded Tucson Prime Timers as the Southern Arizona chapter of Prime Timers. Tucson. Prime Timers is staffed entirely by volunteers and offers endless opportunities for social, cultural and recreational enrichment. Each month the club hosts dozens of events including luncheons, day trips, parties, dinners, Sunday brunches, pot lucks, bowling, movies, theater, concerts, opera, museums, historic site visits and Gay Pride events. Additionally there are frequent two to five night escorted trips, gay cruises and conventions.

Tucson Prime Timers welcomes gay/bi men over the age of 21. Although the majority of members are retired, many are still decades away from being members of "the leisure class". Tucson Prime Timers come from all walks of life. Some are snowbirds and others live in the Tucson area or nearby Mexico. A visit to www.tucsonprimetimers.org or a call to 520 742-1271 is all that's needed for anyone wanting more information about Tucson Prime Timers.

Tucson Citizen Comes Out Against Prop. 102

Continued from Page One

Inc. isn't exactly a radical, subversive group; its profits depend on accurately discerning the mood of Americans. The Hallmark folks get it. They know which way the wind is blowing on the issue.

Our state has shown that it, too, gets it. In 2006, Arizona became the first state in the nation to vote down a Gay marriage ban because, as surveys later indicated, it was unfair and none of the government's business. The 2006 amendment would have denied domestic benefits to unmarried couples.

But supporters of Prop. 102 don't get it. The proposition is unnecessary: There's already an Arizona law banning Gay marriage. And despite claims by its advocates of the modesty of the proposal's intentions, its passage would hurt the state.

Supporters of the amendment argue that it's necessary to keep "activist judges" from overturning Arizona Revised Statute 25-101(C): "Marriage between persons of the same sex is void and prohibited." You don't have to be a left-wingnut jurist, however, to see that a ban is wrong. The justices of the California Supreme Court, which earlier this year overturned that state's Gay marriage prohibition, aren't "activist." Six of the seven justices were appointed by Republican governors, and they saw the law for what it was - discrimination.

The California court didn't rely on an arcane technicality to overturn the ban. Its ruling simply was based on recognizing that "the right of an individual to establish a legally recognized family with the person of one's choice" is part of the California Constitution. Free choice: not a radical concept.

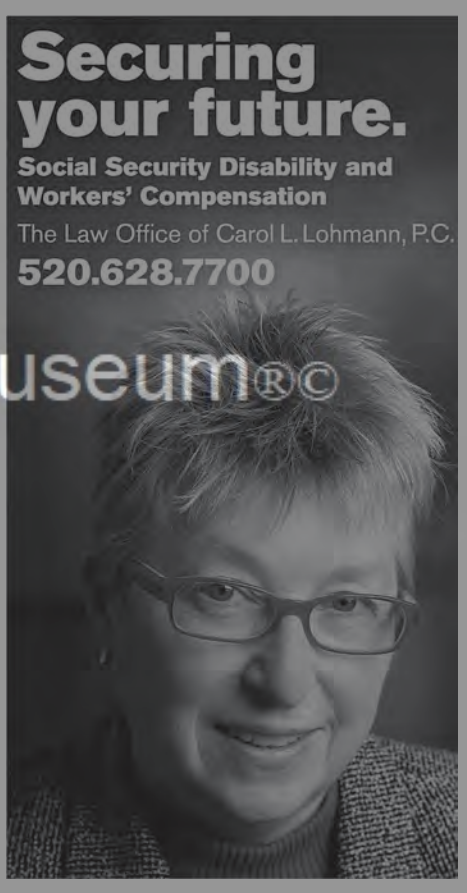
The Hallmark cards also illustrate that tolerance is good business. A UCLA study estimates the same-sex wedding business will pump more than $600 million into the California economy over the next three years. That kind of impact shouldn't be lost on recession-wracked Arizona.

The rest of the nation already identifies us as the land of Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the Minutemen: hostile, extremist and small-minded. Confirming that perception by passing Prop. 102 only makes the state less attractive to tourists and to companies and entrepreneurs thinking of locating here.

Constitutions historically have been altered to expand rights. Think of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which secured civil rights for former slaves. Or the 19th Amendment, which gave women the vote.

But, as Sen. Paula Aboud chronicles in a guest column (also featured in this week's edition), a conservative fringe group bullied Arizona legislators into putting Prop. 102 on the ballot, even though it would imprint the state constitution with the language of intolerance.

We need to send a message to the rest of the U.S. that discrimination is not what Arizona is about. We need to send a message to legislators - think of it as dropping them a card - to stop monkeying with our constitution and to get to work on real issues facing the state. On Nov. 4, vote "no" on Proposition 102.



Milestone For Gays And Lesbians; A Boon For Massachusetts

Continued from Page One

For the town, that boomlet means an influx of cash at a time when the state is suffering from high unemployment and the effects of a sluggish national economy. "There's got to be some residual economic benefit," Johnstone said, considering the meals, the hotel rooms for family members and friends, and the rings – a bonanza for local jewelry companies. Massachusetts requires a three-day waiting period for couples getting a marriage license, and when they are coming from out of state, that translates into three extra days to eat, shop and otherwise spend money.

A report prepared for the Massachusetts economic development office estimated that 32,000 same-sex couples are likely to come to the state to marry over the next three years, pumping about $111 million into the economy. The report said the state stands to gain about $5 million of that from sales taxes and the cost of marriage licenses. The report also predicted that about 44 percent of New York's estimated 48,761 Gay couples will come to Massachusetts to wed and that more than 7,000 will come from other nearby states, including New Jersey, New Hampshire and Vermont – even though those states have not explicitly said they will recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

"We definitely think this is an economic opportunity for Massachusetts. There's a lot of enthusiasm for this market," said Betsy Wall, director of the state's tourism office. "I think it's good for tourism across the board to be known as a state that's open and welcoming to everybody."

On the beach at Provincetown's Sandcastle Resort, Maria Servedio, dressed in a black tuxedo and hat, married her partner of a dozen years, Elisa Catalioto, who wore a white wedding dress and took Maria's last name. They came from Upstate New York. "More Gay people need to stand up for their rights, because we're human beings," Maria Servedio said. "We've lived together for years. Why shouldn't we have the same rights as everybody else?"

The 1913 law was put in place as a segregationist measure, to prevent blacks and whites from states with Jim Crow laws from coming to Massachusetts to marry. It was enacted in response to heavyweight champion Jack Johnson's marriage to a white woman, then it lay dormant for decades until then-Gov. Mitt Romney (R) – an opponent of same-sex marriage – invoked it as a way to prevent out-of-state Gay couples from coming here to wed.

The repeal effort was led by state Sen. Dianne Wilkerson (D), who came to Massachusetts from Arkansas as a child with her parents, fleeing the Ku Klux Klan. For Wilkerson, the repeal was about not economics but justice. "I could not do to other people what was done to my family," she said in an interview in her office at the State House in Boston. Arminio and Angotti, and Oswald and Schlicker, married at sundown at Long Point, with a lighthouse and Cape Cod Bay as the backdrop. They stood in a circle of clamshells interspersed with blue and green, blueberry- and pear-scented candles. "I just wanted to do it – do it the right way," Arminio said just before the service.

There was an exchange of vows and rings, and music that each couple had selected, and then Watts, the justice of peace, pronounced them married. "I can't say husband and wife," Watts said. "So I say legally married, spouses for life."

Elisa and Maria Servedio (PHOTO: Washington Post)

Cops Hunt For Attacker In Salt Lake City Beating

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - Salt Lake City police are searching for a man suspected of beating a Gay man on August 9; it is unclear why they are releasing details of the attack now, advocate.com reported. The victim told police he had been with his sister at a lookout point overlooking the city when the suspect approached them, according to KUTV in Salt Lake. The suspect took a photo with the victim and then asked if he was Gay. When the victim affirmed that he was, the suspect, with a group of other men, began beating the victim.

The man in the attack has undergone reconstructive surgery to repair his orbital bone. The assailant is said to be a Polynesian man in his 20s.

The attack has several similarities to an attack in the city of South Salt Lake on July 4, according to the Deseret News. In that incident, David "DJ" Bell and his partner, Dan Fair, were severely beaten by a Polynesian family who believed Bell had kidnapped two of their young children. Bell was charged with kidnapping and is currently awaiting trial. Fair, who had his eye socket broken and has undergone several surgeries, was not arrested.

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Proposition 102 Update: The Bishop's Letter

In a pastoral letter to church members, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson and Bishop Thomas J. Olmstead of Phoenix said Proposition 102 "is in alignment with our deeply held moral beliefs regarding marriage. And without a constitutional provision, the pair said, the current laws that define marriage in Arizona as solely between one man and one woman could be overturned."

The Arizona Daily Star story ends with " ... Kicanas pointed out, however, that courts in Massachusetts and California have ruled Gays are constitutionally entitled to wed despite state statutes to the contrary."

Excuse me Bishop Kicanas and Bishop Olmstead, Arizona law, Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 25-101 and ARS 25-112, enacted in 1996 already covers the subject and prohibits the state from recognizing such marriages conducted in other states that perform these weddings.

In 2003 and 2004, the law was upheld in Arizona Superior Court and the Arizona Supreme Court in the case Standhardt V. Superior Court.

This letter by Bishops Olmstead and Kicanas is a violation of Commandment Number Eight (of the Ten Commandments), "Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbor."- This commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in relations with others. This also forbids lying.

In addition to the violation of Eighth Commandment, Olmstead and Kicanas' letter goes against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, specifically Catechisms 2464-2513 (I - Living in the Truth, II - To Bear Witness to the Truth, III - Offenses Against Truth, IV - Respect for the Truth, V - The Use of the Social Communications Media, VI. Truth, Beauty, and Sacred Art and In Brief (www.va/archive/catechism/p3s2c2a8.htm.)

Enough already! Donate to Arizona Together (arizonatogether.org) and most importantly to Vote No on Proposition 102 (votenoprop102.com), the local grass roots effort, which includes the same individuals who helped to deliver Pima County into the "No" column by such a wide margin, it was a major contributor to the overall victory to defeat the proponents (Cathi Herrod and the Center for Arizona Policy) in 2006 and will do again.

Voting for the November general election will commence, with the mailing out of the (vote by mail) ballots to registered Arizona voters who are already on the early voting (vote by mail) list and for this election, voters in Arizona must make important decisions regarding many ballot measures, allowing voters to study the language, as well as the arguments for and against each measure, and make an informed decision with a more relaxed timetable than is possible in a traditional polling place.

Voting by mail will encourage those to get others to the polls or who don't choose to cast their votes by mail to do so on November 4, to defeat Proposition 102. Go online to the Pima County Recorder's website, recorder.pima.gov, and follow the links and sign up to vote by mail and cast your votes to defeat Proposition 102. If you wish to send a check, here are the addresses: Arizona Together, PO Box 880, Scottsdale, AZ 85252; No on Prop 102, PO Box 87955, Tucson, AZ 85754-7955.

No On Proposition 102 Update:

No on Prop 102 is pleased to announce that Dr. Peter Likins, University of Arizona President Emeritus, and Beth Walkup, Tucson 's First Lady, have agreed to become honorary chairs for the campaign.

Dr. Likins and Ms. Walkup have been outspoken advocates for inclusion and equality of the LGBTQ community in Arizona . During his tenure at the UA, Dr. Likins facilitated initial discussions on domestic partner benefits for State employees and implemented tuition-waiver benefits for same-sex couples at the university. Ms. Walkup was a key spokesperson of the No on Prop 107 campaign in 2006. ...

Do you want to help distribute No on Prop 102 literature on door-to-door walks, make phone calls, participate in community outreach and coalition building? Would you like campaign materials to distribute at church, work or social gatherings? If so, please send an email to Becky Corran, bcorran@yahoo.com. ...

Are you interested in writing editorials and letters to the editor? Do you have a story you would like to share with the media? Would you like to be part of the media response team (media coaching provided)? Would you like to produce a Youtube.com video or create a blog? Do you have marketing (ad agency) or public relations experience? If so, contact Vicki Gaubeca, media committee chair, at vgaubeca@msn.com. ...

Join Southern Arizona 's interfaith coalition to advocate for LGBTQ inclusion and equality. This coalition is critical to the success of the No on Prop 102 campaign. The month of October will be dedicated to informing congregations about Proposition 102 and how our faith informs us about this proposition. If you are a person of faith, regardless of denomination, and want to join the efforts of this group, please contact Scott Morris at ScottMorr@aol.com. ...

Other communities across Arizona are organizing to defeat Prop 102, including Flagstaff, Prescott and Bisbee. For more information about these groups or to start your own, contact Becky Corran, bcorran@yahoo.com. ...

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Palin Church Promotes 'Pray Away The Gay'

Sarah Palin

ANCHORAGE. Alaska (Observer Update) - NATIO Gov. Sarah Palin's church is promoting a conference that promises to convert Gays into heterosexuals through the power of prayer, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com.

"You'll be encouraged by the power of God's love and His desire to transform the lives of those impacted by homosexuality," according to the insert in the bulletin of the Wasilla Bible Church, where Palin has prayed for about six years.

Palin's conservative Christian views have energized that part of the GOP electorate, which was lukewarm to John McCain's candidacy before he named her as his vice presidential choice. She is staunchly anti-abortion, opposing exceptions for rape and incest, and opposes Gay marriage and spousal rights for Gay couples.

Focus on the Family, a national Christian fundamentalist organization, is conducting the "Love Won Out" Conference in Anchorage, about 30 miles from Wasilla. (This didn't work for Ted Haggard did it?)

Palin, campaigning with McCain in the Midwest, has not publicly expressed a view on the so-called "pray away the Gay" movement. Larry Kroon, senior pastor at Palin's church, was not available to discuss the matter Friday, said a church worker who declined to give her name.

Gay activists in Alaska said Palin has not worked actively against their interests, but early in her administration she supported a bill to overrule a court decision to block state benefits for Gay partners of public employees. At the time, less than one-half of 1 percent of state employees had applied for the benefits, which were ordered by a 2005 ruling by the Alaska Supreme Court.

Palin reversed her position and vetoed the bill after the state attorney general said it was unconstitutional. But her reluctant support didn't win fans among Alaska's Gay population, said Scott Turner, a Gay activist in Anchorage.

"Less than 1 percent of state employees would even apply for benefits, so why make a big deal out of such a small number?" he said.

"I think Gay Republicans are going to run away" if Palin supports efforts like the prayers to convert Gays, said Wayne Besen, founder of the New York-based Truth Wins Out, a Gay rights advocacy group. Besen called on Palin to publicly express her views now that she's a vice presidential nominee.

"People are looking at Sarah Palin as someone who might feasibly be in the White House," he said.

Wasilla Bible Church

Around The Nation

BOSTON, Massachusetts - A man accused of taking part in what police call a homophobic attack on four people has been ordered not to enter Boston's heavily Gay South End. Fabio Brandao pleaded not guilty to four civil rights violations, four counts of assault and battery, and three counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Municipal Court Judge Eleanor Sinnott has set an Oct. 10 pretrial conference. Until then, he is free on $10,000 bail, but in addition to being ordered not to enter the South End, has been given a 10 p.m. curfew. The attack took place on Aug. 24. Brandao, 28, was arrested on Friday. Several other men alleged to have participated in the beating remain at large. The names of the victims are being withheld.

NEW YORK CITY - A homeless man apparently used a pillowcase to suffocate a college honors student he had just met, then hung out at the young man's apartment to watch a gory horror film before stealing electronics from the apartment and selling them, police said. Kevin Pravia, 19, was found by his roommate in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. The Pace University sophomore was last seen being helped into a taxi early Saturday after a party in Manhattan. Jeromie Cancel, 22, was arrested Tuesday on murder charges. Investigators said that while Cancel was being questioned in an unrelated case, he admitted suffocating Pravia and stealing his cell phone, laptop computer and iPod. Police said Cancel, who smiled for television cameras as he was being led in handcuffs out of a police station, was homeless. Police didn't know whether he had an attorney. Cancel's father, Jesus Soto, told WNYW-TV that his son had stolen possessions from him in June, and that he called police when Cancel showed up at his apartment.

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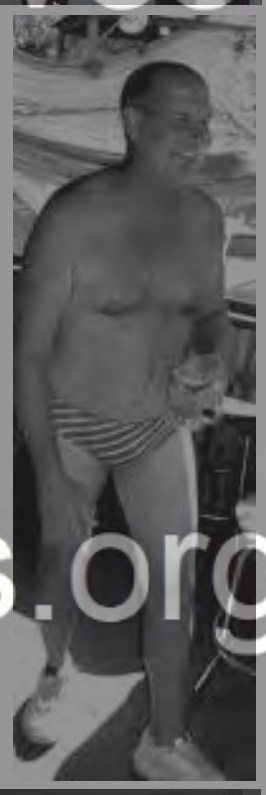

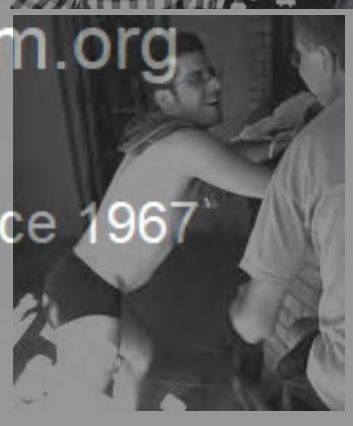

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Pink Carpet Rolled Out For Gay Aussie Gold Medal Diver

SYDNEY, Australia (Observer Update) - Olympic gold medallist Matthew Mitcham is oblivious to the interest in him as he mooches around Europe with partner Lachlan Fletcher.

When he returns in early October he will be interested to learn that he's the favorite in early betting to lead next year's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade. Like every Aussie gold medal winner, Mitcham will also receive $17,400 for allowing use of his image on Olympic stamps issued by Australia Post.

Mitcham, 20, will also earn another $17,400 in a bonus paid by Adidas. Contrary to reports at the weekend, sponsors are lining up to secure the flaxen-haired diver, who burst into tears when he nailed his final dive to win gold in the 10 metres platform in Beijing. So, too, are sports agents, who are keen to snap him up.

Judge Upholds Paterson's G/L Marriage Recognition Order

New York Gov. David Paterson

ALBANY, New York (Observer Update) - The New York supreme court ruled Tuesday (Sept. 2) that Gov. David Paterson acted within his gubernatorial powers when he issued an executive order requiring state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries, The New York Times reports. Same-sex marriage has yet to be legalized in New York State.

Justice Lucy Billings wrote in her opinion, "When partners manifest the commitment to their relationship and family, by solemnizing that commitment elsewhere, through one of life's most significant events, and come to New York, whether returning home or setting down roots, to carry on that commitment, nothing is more antithetical to family stability than requiring them to abandon that solemnized commitment." She added, "Nothing is more antithetical to family stability than requiring [couples] to abandon that solemnized commitment."

Paterson issued the executive order on May 14. The Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative group based in Arizona, represented 18 New York lawmakers and other opponents in filing a suit against the order in June, claiming that the order illegally bypassed the legislature's role in issuing the law. In July, Paterson and state attorney general Andrew Cuomo filed a motion to dismiss the case. Paterson said the order was to protect the state from being sued by New York couples who got married in other places and who would then seek recognition of their marriages upon their return. The state assembly passed a bill to allow same-sex unions in 2007, but the bill has yet to come up for a vote in the senate, according to the Times.

McDonald's Accused Of Firing HIV+ Man

DYERSVILLE, Iowa, - An Iowa Gay man says he was fired by a McDonald's franchise in Dyersville after it was learned he was HIV-positive, 365Gay.com reported. Daniel Carver, 46, has filed a complaint with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and has served notice to the franchise that he intends to sue for wrongful dismissal.

Federal law makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of physical disability, which includes HIV. Under Iowa state law it is illegal to discriminate against an employee because of race, religion, perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Carver worked for the franchise for about four months, but was fired in February. He alleges in the filing with the commission that after management learned he was HIV-positive, he was denied promotion, had his hours reduced and was subjected to derogatory remarks, violence and death threats.

The filing claims that Carver on one occasion was punched in the stomach by a manager and in another instance was slapped in the face by an employee who called him homophobic names. "In November 2007, I was threatened by other employees because of my HIV status and my sexual orientation, that I 'better watch my back or I might get shot,'" Carver said in his claim to the commission. When contacted, Carver said his lawyer advised him not to discuss the case. Neither the McDonald's Corp. nor Glenn and Lois Karpinske, owners of the Dyersville McDonald's, have commented on the case.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by State Senator Paula Aboud

Discriminatory G/L Marriage Ban Has No Place In Arizona

(The following is the opinion piece penned by state Senator Paula Aboud, D-Tucson, about Proposition 102 which also appeared in the September 8 edition of the Tucson Citizen.)

Once again, the citizens of Arizona have an initiative on the November ballot to change our state's constitution.

Two years ago, we voted "no" on Proposition 107; this year it's Proposition 102, a slightly different version.

It would amend the Arizona Constitution to deny the option of marriage to same-sex couples. Not only did we vote "no" two years ago, but state law also already defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

In fact, the Legislature voted "no" on this bill twice this year before it finally passed. So why is it on the ballot yet again?

It was forced upon legislators by extremist fundamentalist lobbyists representing a little-known group, the Center for Arizona Policy.

This group was in debt $500,000 from failing to pass this initiative in 2006 and needed money badly. In fact, the Senate president rebuked their tactics on the floor of the Senate, saying, "They have confronted members (legislators) in hostile ways and have threatened and coerced them, in my opinion."

Their strategies were appalling yet successful. (After pushing this bill through Legislature this year, they received $600,000 in contributions from national groups such as evangelical leader James Dobson's Focus on the Family.)

Arizona Senator Paula Aboud

Another force was a "directive" from the Republican Party to get it on the ballot.
Many seats are at stake in the Arizona elections. In a phone call to state Senate President Tim Bee, U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl coerced Bee to put the bill up for a vote.

Republicans needed this bill to get out their fringe voters this fall.

A third force is that of fear and discrimination. One such example is Sen. Sylvia Allen, who on the floor of the Senate described her moral superiority and the need to protect families.

She indicated that same-sex marriage will signal the end of civilization as we know it.

Ward Connerly, a conservative black Republican, has run successful legislation opposing affirmative action. Interestingly, his arguments involve honoring our constitution and fighting discrimination.

He says Gay marriage is "not 'eroding the concept of marriage.' If marriage is that fragile, that giving people who are Gay equal benefit (would cause harm), then we're in big trouble.

"I believe in the institution of marriage," Connerly says, "but I also believe in freedom. I believe in treating people equally."

Unfortunately, his Republican counterparts in our Legislature don't. They overruled the Senate president and suspended rules in order to force a vote on this bill.

And after several defeats, while on the verge of losing that vote once again, they blatantly broke Senate rules on the last day of the session by shutting off Sen. Ken Cheuvront's microphone in midsentence in order to pass this heinous legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Thayer Verschoor even admitted to me on the floor that he knew he was breaking the Senate rules. He chose dishonorable tactics.

Cheuvront is openly Gay. The former president of the Young Republicans now is a moderate Democrat and has served 12 years in the Legislature.

He is a powerful senator, smart, capable, hardworking - a contributor to his community and his state.

He works side by side with Republicans on key business, tax and health-care issues.

In other words, he's a friend of the Republicans.

On the last day of the session, they threw that respect and friendship out the window. They turned on him, verbally smearing Gays.

We are doctors, lawyers, CEOs, artists, athletes, teachers, etc., who are Gay and are denied the 1,000-plus benefits that heterosexual couples enjoy.

We, like Cheuvront, contribute to our communities, yet we can't enjoy the same rights as a couple who met and married after a drunken weekend in Las Vegas.

We pay taxes as others do, yet more than 1,000 benefits are denied to us. That's not equality, that's discrimination.

Perpetuating fear, extremists claim that "activist" judges will overturn our state law.

But it was California's GOP-nominated conservative judges who declared it unconstitutional to deny equal rights to LGBT citizens.

Those judges weren't Gay rights activists. They understand the words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men (and women) are created equal."

Opponents say, "Let the people vote." We did vote in 2006, they just didn't like how the people voted. Don't write discrimination into the Arizona Constitution. Vote no on Prop. 102 - again.

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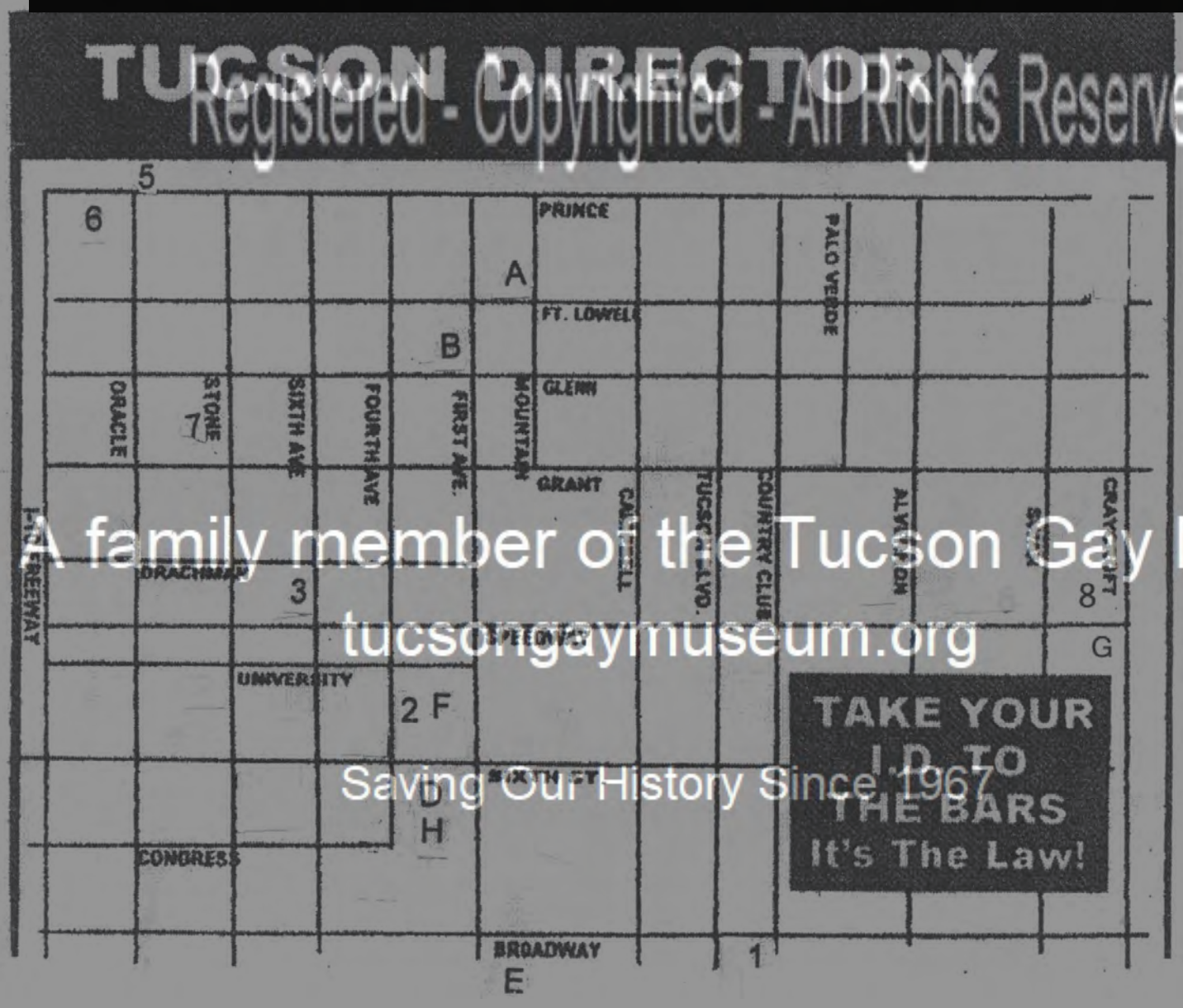

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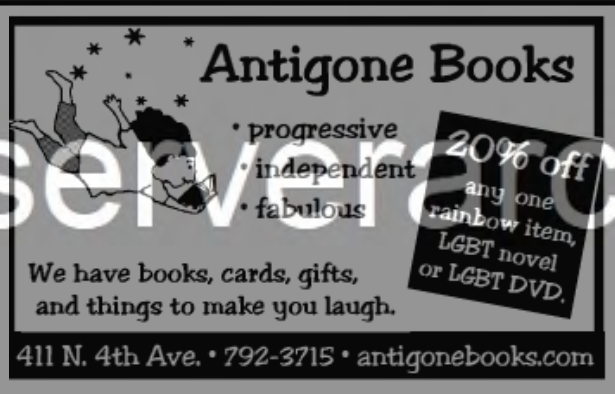

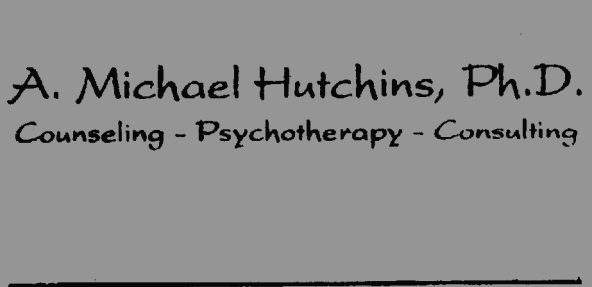

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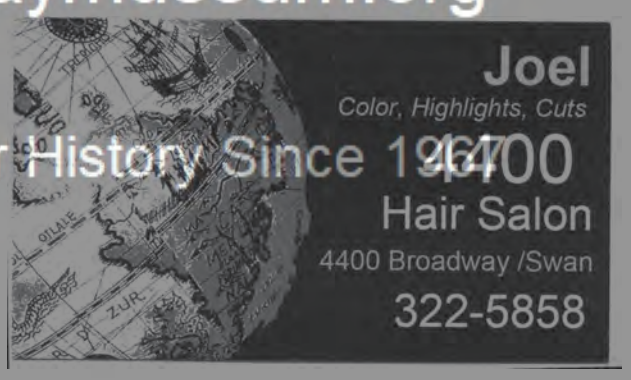

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Disenfranchise A Republican, Tell Them The Truth

i

Loud, bombastic and shrill, the followers of Rush Limberger and Georgie "Porgy" Bush have annoyed us with silly science and clever bumper stickers for eight years. Since tolerance is part and parcel of intelligent and forward thinking people, we seldom make use of snide or cutting remarks to make our points; rather we tend to investigate, discuss and discover....

However. This election season offers a true delight; an irresistible opportunity to annoy and disenfranchise a Republican. Palin, as the choice of the "More of the Same McCain" team, is the candy this baby has been waiting for.

Given the fact that she has even less "experience" then I do in matters of government (I once was platoon leader in the Army) and certainly less then the blackish fellow the Dems are running, along with the fact that she is more loud and obnoxious than bright, opens the floor to the ripest sort of repartee.

My Republican friends (I do not discriminate on the basis of intelligence or even lack of moral values) have been having a time of it; happily ignorant of the facts, they have walked one and all into the trap Mr. More of the Same has unwittingly laid for them.

Right upon seeing that the Bushies had opted for a babe to tempt the flock to the polls, I knew we were onto a good thing. Die-hard Republicans, happily chatting along about how well the entertaining Ms. Palin balances the Republican ticket, are easily blindsided by the facts. Once faced with them, most of my friends have simply vowed not to vote at all...see, it isn't possible for the great unwashed to vote for Chocolate.

My usual course it to simply begin to chuckle as they go on about this "balanced ticket".

If you have never laughed at a Republican, the response may be a little intimidating; they get mad. The idea here is to see this anger for what it is-fear. Seeing this childish display from the generally bombastic and self righteous makes me laugh all the more.

"What?!" they always exclaim, unused as they are to their own medicine. "Oh, nothing," I smile, lying. "You wanted to say something?" they suggest.

I begin easily, "It is just that Palin has the experience of a Girl Scout troop leader....compared to her Obama is an old hand. What kind of Commander in Chief is a Girl Scout Leader?"

They huff, and they puff, but they can't blow that house down. Especially since I am not easily led away from the point. I resist all the bluff about her bright, young thinking.

"Oh, come on." I say, in as condescending a voice as I can muster, "we both know that Palin can't ever be allowed to become president. It would be insanity to have a small town mayor facing down Putin. China will laugh up their sleeves at her. Ah, if only McCain were not so terribly old."

This always does it, if I stick to the point; Palin hasn't even seen Washington on a tour bus. Presidential? Not by Republican standards. No way. Not when we are at war and going to stay there for....what was it McCain said? A hundred years, if we need to?

The scuttlebutt among Republicans if that they won't even bother to go to the polls this year....since only a Republican candidate is worth voting for to them. Not only that, but the ones that can read are fresh from "Obama Nation" (get yours at Costco!)...which I find oddly close to "Abomination"....but who would be so low....oh, yeah I remember now...the Republicans.

My goal this year is to disenfranchise every Republican I know. Just laugh at them and watch them fume. What a joy that the GOP packaged the election so neatly; with the Palin pick, it has become a contest between an unlikely candidate and an impossible one.

Then again, McCain may know all this (is he that smart?)...which leads us to the grand-prize question....who is the speaker of the house? That is the real McCain running mate, the person that would become president when McCain keels over (once he gets a load of Lord Cheney's private army, Blackwater, the good man is likely to go slightly ape-shit and have a stroke). Not Palin. Not unless the republicans think Putin is a paper tiger....news flash, cowboys...Putin ain't no tin-horn megalomaniac from some backward Middle Eastern nation. Watch him kick the U.S. out of Georgia (the one over near Russia, silly...the one with the oil).

The fact that the United States has entered the war in Georgia tells us that The Texan in the White House can't tell the difference. Sarah Palin, all bluster and blow, won't either.

This just in! Russian warships on the way to Cuban waters! U.S. rescinds nuclear treaty with Russia! Bush baits the Great Bear on election eve! How large a conflict can Bush engineer? What cost, America?

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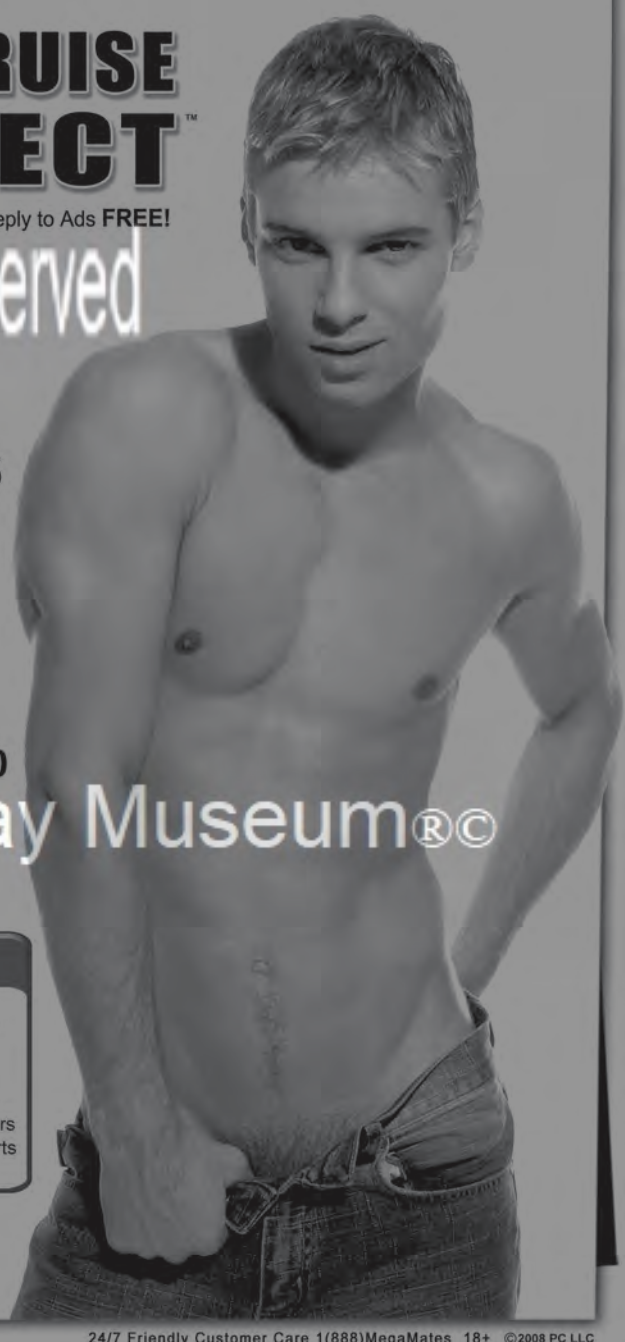

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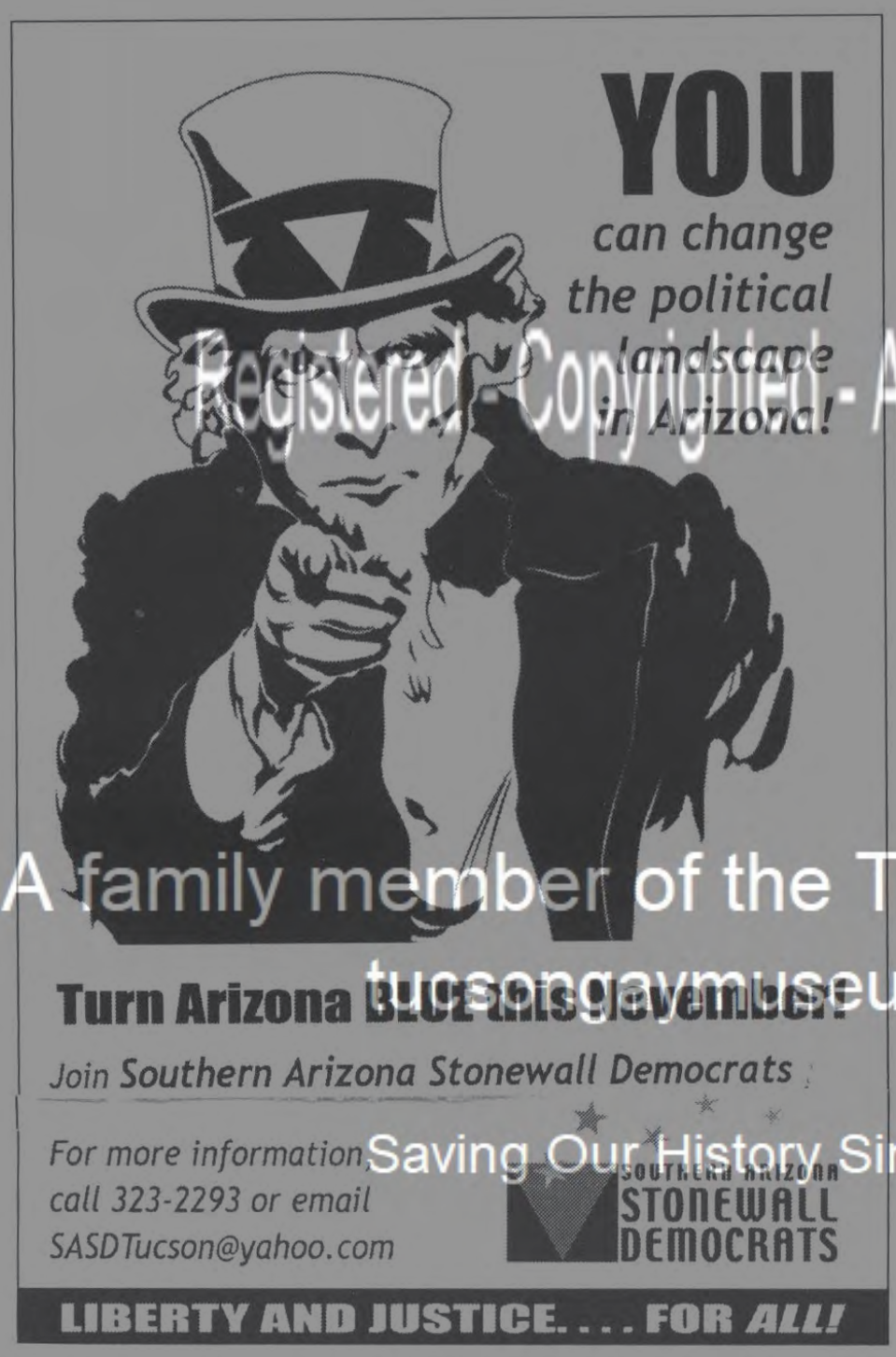

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HOROSCOPES

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The best thing about beating your head against the wall is that it feels so good when you stop. Or maybe the good feeling returns when Pluto redirects. Come through the pain and experience the enlightenment; The monkey on your back gets a job at a banana stand. Relax and collect the rent.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

In reality, we all live in provincial villages but Gay Rams are the ones who have been feeling trapped in it. Release and rejoice as Pluto redirects and helps you expand your vision beyond your own little squalid corner. Look around and see how you can make a more global impact on our community. Maybe that means a taking a fact finding trip to, say, the Riviera??

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Be proud of who you are; It's the mandate of no nonsense Pluto. Queer Bulls must not be at the mercy of the straight and narrow world for personal identity. It's time to unleash a sexual torrent that cannot be stopped (by you or anyone else.) Compromise isn't in the cards. Walk in the sun with your head held high. Wear sunglasses to avoid the glare and fool the paparazzi.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins hate being hemmed in. If you've been feeling restricted by relationships, maybe Pluto gives you the mental (or physical) room to roam. It is possible to alleviate the sense of suffocation with a few well placed words. Depending upon the words, this can mean a happier balance within the partnership or total freedom. Your choice, your move.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Energy has been difficult to sustain; do you use it up at work, at the health club or with lovers? Wouldn't it just be nice to simply have more overall oomph instead of parceling out the meager portion you can currently muster? Fret no longer Gay Crab; Pluto expands the capacity of your motor and increases your speed and efficiency. Now try for a new chassis. Ahem!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Earning your daily bread might be putting a damper on your good times. In addition, your love life needs a bit of jolt. Is it the quest for a perfect person or the reality that we are all human that has led you to a jaded assessment of romance? Hang up that moldy routine and add a bit of spice to your life. Only hole up in your cubicle on bad hair days, proud Lion.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Home has not been much of a refuge recently but now, as Pluto redirects, both home and family issues fall into harmony. Queer Virgins can overcome hardships or blockages and apply these lessons in any domestic squabble or home based project. And, with a bit of luck mixed into the deck, a little gambling risk can pay off. Psst, I hear the jokers are wilde!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Proud Libras have recently struggled to find just the right words. Ideas won't come and you may have been feeling like an old piece of dried toast. Thankfully you can wallow in butter with Pluto. Why not use this magnificent energy to push our political agenda one giant step forward? Speak Out while the speaking Out has impact. I can't hear you!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

There is no need to worry about overhead. As Pluto redirects, you can tackle any and all monetary concerns that have been hovering over your head like mad demons. Maybe the secret is to ask for help. Queer Scorps would rather walk on hot coals than admit need but before you singe your favorite shoes, try approaching family or close personal friends and ask for a favor.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers have been suffering from an incredible lack of self confidence recently. In addition, austerity has reared its ugly head making any small financial faux pas reminiscent of the Great Depression. Now as Pluto redirects, get Out there and make an impressive first impression. Adoring fans toss money your way. Just to make it worth your while.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps put their inestimable talents to work when Pluto redirects. Jump into any new project with both feet and land gracefully. They say that genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration but the fates now give you an extra psychic advantage to correctly pick the big winner. Of course, it can also mean that you simply take bigger risks. The bigger the better!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Your quest for individuality has been at odds with your feeling of "belonging". Suffer no more Aqueerian; Suddenly, your personal philosophy finds interested adherents. Pluto gathers the mob for your rule. One word of advice; Declaring yourself supreme ruler and choosing minions to do your laundry and housework may not be particularly well received.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

The ying has been fighting with the yang; That which balances your life and gives it spiritual meaning has been perverted by career demands and kiss ups. If you've felt compromised and cheap, don't fret; Pluto redirects help your personal best triumph over corrupting evil. The corporate mandate is thwarted. Plan a takeover and turn the boardroom into a tea room.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 10
#1 Men's Social Network Lunch out at Govinda's. Contact Merlin for more information and directions at 207-5336

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marv and Steve 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for lunch at 1:00 p.m. Buddy's Grill, East Grant & N. Swan. RSVP Ry at 576-8045

Thursday, September 11
#1 Men's Social Network. Bridge Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Contact Jim at 790-8735 for location and directions

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, 7:00 pm Triangle Tribe. Call Tom for more information at 591-2828

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with us at Golden Pin Lanes, at 1:30 p.m. 1010 W. Miracle Mile

Friday, September 12
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to help celebrate our 15th Anniversary in Southern Arizona with drinks and dinner at 5:00 p.m. at El Corral Restaurant, 2201 E. River Rod, RSVP Clem at 885-1270

Saturday, September 13
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to attend our monthly Membership Meeting held at Wingspan. A no-host Luncheon follows. Information at 885-1270.

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

Sunday, September 14
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for Brunch at 12:30 p.m. Thono Chul Tea Room, Ina Road just west of Oracle Rd. RSVP John at 298-6727.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at Kettle Restaurant. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com .

Monday, September 15
#1 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowl with us at 10:30 a.m. Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

#2 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our drop-in-lunch at 12:30 p.m. Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone Ave.

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, September 16
Tuesday, September 16
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcome. Mahjongg, contact Jerry at 325-7665 for Directions. We begin at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, September 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack 887-3736

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for an escorted day trip - picnic and Tour of Mount Kitt Observatory. Transportation $112. For reservations or info call Clem at 885-1270

Thursday, September 18
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with us at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile 1:30 p.m.

#1 Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30pm. Call Jack at 887-3736 for directions.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, Triangle Tribe 7:00 pm. Call Tom for more information at 591-2828

Friday, September 19
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for dinner at Opa! Greek Restaurant, 2990 N. Campbell Ave. RSVP Ray at 578-8045

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 remember 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)624-1779 x115.

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, September 21
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for brunch at the upscale & charming, Gay-owned Rio Café,. 2526 E. Grant Road. RSVP Dennis at 883-8257

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at 5 & Diner. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, September 22
#1 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with us at 10:30 a.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile

#2 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our drop-in-lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, September 23
Reservation deadline for Tucson Prime Timers escorted tour of Mexico's fabulous Copper Canyon. Call Clem at 885-1270 or see www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Wednesday, September 24
#1 Men's Social Network Bed and Breakfast tour of the Royal Elizabeth Bed and Breakfast at 204 S. Scott Ave at 11am then lunch at the Congress Hotel. For more information call Lee or Merlin no later than Monday September 22nd at 207-5336 for reservations.

#2 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.

Thursday, September 25
#1 Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Jim at 790-8735.

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Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.

WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

www.wingspan.org

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Accepting applications for P/T bartender. Experience preferred but not required if you've got the right personality and the right attitude. Pick up application at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Rd. 1263

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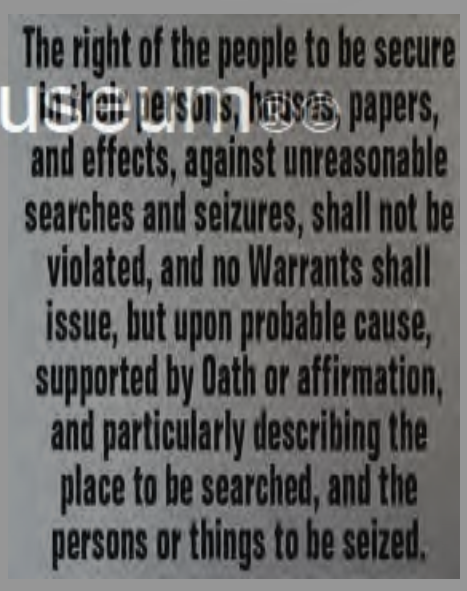

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 pm., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the 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 520 742-1271. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 19 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

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

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

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

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m. on Sundays only on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Visit the outdoor patio enjoy a cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! You call it!! NFL $5 Beer and Burgers 10am - 3pm Music with DJ/Hill starts at 9pm.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10;m. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt.

IBT's -Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. $2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7.Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. $3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Bucket o" Beer - $10 Domestic, $12 Imports (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am $1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. $2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm..

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am--8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

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

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. College Night - 50 cent canned beer!

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays $2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month $2.00).

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

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

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour ALL Daytil 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJHill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-'Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu& Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. $2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Karaoke starts @9:30pm with 2 for 1 starting after the first singer! (Poker Pub will resume in the Fall).

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Bicardi Thursdays - $3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Free Country Dance Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside.9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month. YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm - 2am. Patio opens @9pm. BEER PONG tournament on the patio every Saturday night!! DJ Hill 9pm. Don't forget to catch the WNBA games every Sat on our 51" flat screens!!Lesbian Olympics 8pm in our sexy outdoor lounge.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm -2am VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, September 12
WOODY'S - Celebrate your September birthday here beginniing at 10:00 pm. With cake, champagne toast and Balloons.

Saturday, September 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - Tucson's own "Too Much Information" - live band playing classic rock & blues. Want a night out with great music and dancing? This is it. $5 cover 9 pm

WOODY'S - A Special show at 10:00 pm. In Woody's Martini Show Lounge starring from Phoenix Phaedra, Miss Gay Arizona America Sache and Tucson's own Ajia Simone.

YARD DOG SALOON - Today and every Saturday will be "Reverse Happy Hour" from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14
HOWL AT THE MOON - Sean's Koyote Kitchen is now serving Sunday Brunch from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. $5.00!

YARD DOGS SALOON - Every Sunday during the football season it's be Football and Food with Beth - drink specials - internet juke box and free secured WiFi.

Tuesday, September 16
HOWL AT THE MOON - Martini and Massage night is back! Tough day at work? Need a little TLC? How about a cocktail and massage? Feeling better now, aren't you? For only $20, enjoy a fifteen minute massage and the beverage of your choice. 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Saturday, September 20
THE BIZ - 2nd Annual TOGA Party tonight from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. DJ Hill will be spinning the music.

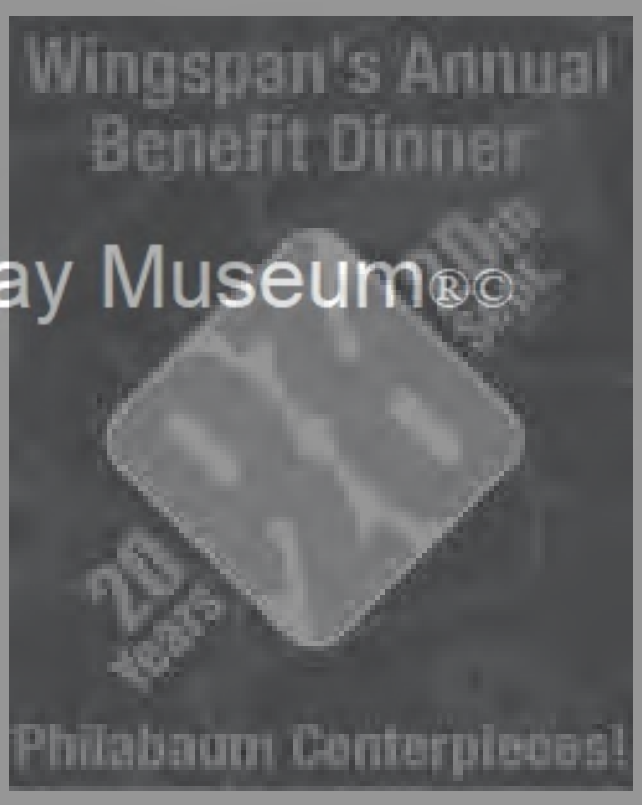
HOWL AT THE MOON - Bailamos! Latino Dance Night - Latest cumbias, baladas, and corridos plus a little old school. Presented by Mobile Sounds. 9:30 pm

Saturday, September 27
HOWL AT THE MOON - Drag Show presented by "Miss Native Americans", including Knokache and Samora Dehuni. A fabulous night of entertainment! 9:30 pm

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for this month's Wet Party featuring adult entertainment star Noah Lawley.

Sunday, September 28
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Tucson's Got Talent" weekly show with hosts Lucinda Holliday and Tempest du Jour. What's your talent? Sing, dance, drag, comedy,…whatever it is, come out and compete for prizes and to move on to the next level! Winners selected by audience applause and judges scoring. Starts at 9:30 pm.

Saturday, October 4
HOWL AT THE MOON - Seniors' Tea Dance 4 - 8 pm Drink and food specials plus lots of favorite oldies to keep you dancing!



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Number Of Companies With Top Rating For LGBT Workers Jumps

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has released the seventh annual Corporate Equality Index, which rates 583 businesses on a scale from 0 to 100 percent on their treatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) employees, consumers and investors. The 2009 edition of the CEI reports 259 businesses achieved a perfect score, a one-third increase over last year when the number was 195. The 259 top-rated businesses collectively employ more than 9 million full-time employees. These workers are protected from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression because of their employers' policies on diversity & inclusion, training, health care, and domestic partnership benefits.

"The 2009 Corporate Equality Index shows that corporate America understands that a diverse workforce is critical to remaining successful and competitive," said HRC Foundation President Joe Solmonese. "In the absence of a federal law that prohibits workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, it is up to employers to take the lead and implement policies that ensure all their employees are protected."

"We are very pleased to receive a perfect score on HRC's 2009 Corporate Equality Index. Our score reflects our support of the GLBT community and the inclusiveness of our workplace," said R. Kerry Clark, Chairman and CEO of Cardinal Health. "Diversity and inclusion are important aspects of our core values at Cardinal Health and critical to unleashing the power of our people in order to create value for our customers, employees and shareholders."

"Shell is pleased to have achieved a perfect score on the CEI-rating. This was a priority for us because it further demonstrates our commitment to inclusiveness in the workplace," said Marvin Odum, president of Shell Oil Company. "A 100-percent rating helps us to better attract, recruit and retain diverse talent to contribute to our overall business success."

Transgender workers have made major gains since the Corporate Equality Index was first published in 2002. That year, just 5 percent of rated businesses provided employment protections based on gender identity or expression. The 2009 Corporate Equality Index reports that figure has increased twelve-fold: 66 percent of rated businesses now prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression, a 28 percent increase over last year.

"Improving and establishing an equal workplace for a transgender person is essential for any company that wishes to attract, recruit and retain talented employees," said Meghan Stabler, HRC Business Council member and transgender activist. "Often we are singled out for discrimination and, very often, job termination, solely because of our gender change or gender expression regardless of work history. The significant increase in companies achieving 100 percent on the CEI shows that the business-employee climate is improving, but we know there is still significant progress to be made."

Since 2006, CEI participants have been asked to ensure that at least one of five types of medically necessary treatment was available to transgender employees without exclusion. For the first time this year, the CEI contains a more detailed review of documentation that businesses submitted in order to determine whether a broader range of medically necessary treatments would be covered by an insurance plan. In the section entitled "Ending Benefits Discrimination against Transgender Employees," the HRC Foundation found that 49 businesses have taken significant and substantial steps to remove discrimination from at least one of their health insurance plans. These businesses are highlighted in the report's appendices.

"The Corporate Equality Index has helped spotlight these health insurance exclusions for transgender employees and we have seen tremendous progress being made in removing them," said Daryl Herrschaft, director of the HRC Foundation's Workplace Project. "Our goal now is to continue to work with plan sponsors and insurers to develop model policies."

Other major findings in the 2009 Corporate Equality Index include: Of the 255 Fortune 500 companies rated in the CEI, 120 received perfect scores. The average rating of Fortune 500 companies was 83 percent. In 2006, the first year law firms were invited to participate in the CEI, 13 achieved a score of 100 percent. That figure has leapt to 64 in the latest edition, eclipsing banking and financial services firms. Ninety-nine percent of CEI-rated employers offer employment protections on the basis of sexual orientation. The report is available at: hrc.org/cei.

You cannot vote on Prop. 102 or for any of the candidates if you're not registered!
If you are new in town or if you have moved? You need to register.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 6
Forms are available at Wingspan and Antigone Books or on line at
www.servicearizona.com
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Hollywood Celebrities Support G/L Marriage Rights In Ad Campaign

HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - History-making married Lesbian couple Robin Tyler and Diane Olson have joined up with a coalition of celebrities and advocates in an ad campaign urging a "No" vote on California's constitutional same-sex marriage ban Proposition 8, which is on the November ballot, reported pageoneq.com.

"The California Supreme Court, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the mayors of the three largest cities in California are all against Proposition 8," notes actress Carolyn Hennesy in one of the spots. Engaged couple Heather Matarazzo and Caroline Murphy, actors Tyne Daly, Christine Lahti, Camryn Mannheim and Wilson Cruz, Air America comediennes Frangela, labor organizer Dolores Huerta and Rev. Neil G. Thomas are among those who also contributed their time and voices to the campaign, recently featured in The Advocate.

"If some of us don't have civil rights, then none of us do," said Angela Shelton, half of Frangela. "At least when we got rid of Jim Crow, I thought that was the goal." "As two black women," added counterpart Frances Callier, "we feel that it's really our responsibility, becaus ewe have a platform in terms of the radio, to go out there and speak about it."

Jillian Armenante & Family

"When I got married," Tyne Daly recalls of her marriage to African-American actor Georg Stanford Brown, "my marriage was illegal in seven states in this country...Government can't dictate hearts and minds. But it can decide law, and when laws [change], other things change."

Tyler and Olson, married in Beverly Hills immediately after the California Supreme Court's May 15 ruling went into effect, were plaintiffs in Tyler et al v. County of Los Angeles, filed on February 24, 2004 and later combined with other suits to become the case that led to the ruling, affirming the right to civil marriage to all Californian couples. The ads will be offered free to groups that show interest.

Donate Again Arizona

During the 2006 elections, Arizona became the first state (of 28) in the nation to defeat a proposed constitutional amendment barring governmental and legal recognition of same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships when voters turned down Proposition 107.

It took a monumental, grass roots effort, raising funds to inform Arizona voter about the proposition with television ads such as the following.

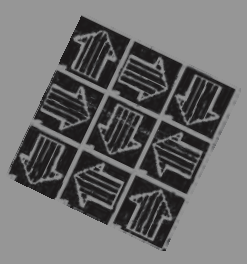
Cathi Herrod and the Center for Arizona Policy, with major funding from Dr. James Dobson and Focus on the Family (whose cure is to "Pray Away the Gay") ran a well funded campaign, with television commercials misleading the voters about Proposition 107.

Voters in the state said no to the hate being peddled by Herrod and her minions and it is time to come together again in 2008 to combat Herrod and her hate by donating to defeat their latest incarnation, Proposition 102 which will be on the November 2008 ballot thanks to Herrod's Republican friends in the Arizona Legislature.

It will take volunteers and lots of funds to mount another campaign as was done in 2006 but it must be done to preserve the state constitution, which should be an enabler of rights now and for the future. Taking away rights, as was done with prohibition, failed and those rights were returned in the 21st amendment, fourteen years later.

Donate to Arizona Together (arizonatogether.org) and most importantly to Vote No on Proposition 102 (votenoprop102.com), the local grass roots effort, which includes the same individuals who helped to deliver Pima County into the "No" column by such a wide margin, it was a major contributor to the overall victory to defeat Herrod and her hate in 2006 and will do the same this time as well.

If you wish to send a check, here are the addresses: Arizona Together, PO Box 880, Scottsdale, AZ 85252; No on Prop 102, PO Box 87955, Tucson, AZ 85754-7955.



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