Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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Connecticut Legalizes Same-Sex Marriages

The Connecticut Supreme Court Legalizes Same-Sex Marriages

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HARTFORD, Connecticut (Observer Update) - Connecticut's Supreme Court ruled Friday (October 10) that Gay and Leesbian couples have the right to marry, making the state the third behind Massachusetts and California to legalize such unions through the courts. The ruling comes just weeks before Californians go to the polls on a historic Gay-marriage ballot question, the first time the issue will be put before voters in a state where same-sex couples are legally wed.

The 4-3 ruling is the first time that a state that had willingly offered an alternative to marriage was told by a court that civil unions aren't enough to protect the rights of Gay couples. Connecticut was the first state to voluntarily pass laws to affirm civil unions. Colchester, who was a plaintiff with her partner, Carole Conklin. "I'm just ecstatic. It's such a relief, the joy of it," said another plaintiff, Jody Mock of West Hartford, who sued with partner Elizabeth Kerrigan.

In the majority opinion, Justice Richard N. Palmer wrote that denying marriage to same-sex couples would create separate standards. "Interpreting our state constitutional provisions in accordance with firmly established equal protection principles leads inevitably to the conclusion that Gay persons are entitled to marry the otherwise qualified same sex partner of their choice," Palmer wrote.

The Family Institute of Connecticut, a political action group that opposes Gay marriage, called the ruling outrageous. "Even the legislature, as liberal as ours, decided that marriage is between a man and a woman," said executive director Peter Wolfgang. "This is about our right to govern ourselves. It is bigger than Gay marriage."

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said the ruling goes into effect Oct. 28 when it is implemented by action of the of the Superior Court. There will be no appeal, he said. Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she disagreed with the ruling. "The Supreme Court has spoken," she said. "I do not believe their voice reflects the majority of the people of Connecticut. However, I am also firmly convinced that attempts to reverse this decision - either legislatively or by amending the state Constitution - will not meet with success." State Sen. Michael Lawlor, chairman of the legislature's Judiciary Committee, said he expects the General Assembly will pass a Gay marriage law next year codifying the Supreme Court ruling. "It's important that both the legislature and the court weigh in," he said. "The court is saying that it's a constitutional requirement that marriage should be equally available to Gays and straights and the legislature should weigh in saying whether or not it's constitutionally required, it's the right thing to do."

The court was sharply divided in the decision, with three justices issuing separate dissenting opinions. Justice Peter T. Zarella wrote that he believes there is no fundamental right to same-sex marriage, and the court's majority failed to discuss the purpose of marriage laws, which he said is to "privilege and regulate procreative conduct." Zarella added, "The ancient definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman has its basis in biology, not bigotry. If the state no longer has an interest in the regulation of procreation, then that is a decision for the legislature or the people of the state and not this court."

Who are the Supreme Court Justices of the State of Connecticut and how did they vote? Here's a little bit of information, reported Timothy Kincaid of Box Turtle Bulletin. Voting for Marriage Equality: The majority opinion was written by Justice Richard N. Palmer. He was appointed associate justice in 1993 by Governor Lowell Weicker of the "Connecticut Party" (Weicker left the Republican Party to run independently). Palmer is a Democrat. Justice Flemming L. Norcott was appointed associate justice in 1992, also by Weicker. Norcott is a Democrat. Justice Joette Katz was

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Ten Years After Shepard Murder, No Federal Hate Crime Law

CHEYENNE, Wyoming (Observer Update) - Matthew Shepard's mother still mourns lost opportunities to battle hate crimes and promote a greater tolerance of Gays in the 10 years since her 21-year-old son was beaten, tied to a wooden fence and left for dead in a frigid Wyoming pasture, reported the Associated Press.

Though Congress has not passed a federal hate crime law, Judy Shepard is buoyed by enhanced punishments for crimes based on sexual orientation in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

"Ten years have gone by and not that much has changed, and I think that's just really disappointing," said Shepard, who with her husband formed the Matthew Shepard Foundation to promote equality for the Gay community. "We passed up a golden opportunity to set things in motion and make a change and set an example and let it go," she said.

In a case that outraged Gay activists and their advocates around the country, Matthew Shepard died October 12, 1998, five days after he was kidnapped, robbed and pistol-whipped by two men he met in a bar. Both men are serving life in prison for the murder, which police said was partly motivated by the fact that Matthew was Gay.

Matthew's death after he was left in the cold – bloodied with severe head injuries – for 18 hours has produced an outpouring of films, books and plays, but it hasn't seemed to budge the rate of anti-Gay violence.

FBI statistics show hate crimes motivated by anti-Gay bias have remained at a stable level since Matthew's death. Both in 1998 and in 2006, the latest year for which data is available, roughly 1,200 such crimes were reported – about 16 percent of all reported hate crimes.

Matthew's mom has other disappointments on her list: The lack of a federal hate crime law; state laws restricting marriage to heterosexual couples; discrimination against Gays in the workplace; and the government's refusal to grant Gay couples the benefits afforded straight couples. "What's OK about that?" Shepard asked. "Nothing."

Generally, hate crime laws enhance penalties for bias-motivated crimes, increase funding for the investigation of such crimes or require better record-keeping. Wyoming is among five states – along with Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina – that don't have any type of hate crime law. Fourteen states have adopted hate crime laws that don't cover sexual orientation or gender identity, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington, D.C.-based group that promotes equality for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people.

Proponents have pushed for federal action for the past 10 years, coming closest last year when measures to expand the definition of hate crimes to cover sexual orientation passed both houses of Congress. The proposals ultimately fell short, partly because of a veto threat by President Bush.

Under current federal law, hate crimes apply to acts of violence against individuals on the basis of race, religion, color or national origin. Federal prosecutors would have jurisdiction only if the victim is engaged in a specific federally protected activity such as voting.

The bill that passed the U.S. House last year would have extended the hate crime category to include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. It also would have given federal authorities greater leeway to participate in hate crime investigations and provided $10 million over two years to help local law enforcement officials cover the cost of hate crime prosecutions.

The U.S. Senate version, dubbed the Matthew Shepard Act, was attached to a spending bill for the Iraq war. Sixty Senators voted to support the amendment, but the legislation was later dropped by the House because of its attachment to the defense policy bill.

The White House argued that state and local laws already covered the new crimes defined under the House version of the bill and there was "no persuasive demonstration of any need to federalize such a potentially large range of violent crime enforcement."

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said it was a victory to get a hate crime bill passed in both chambers. He's hopeful for greater success with the next Congress and a new administration. Democratic presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama has committed to signing such a bill, while Republican nominee Sen. John McCain has yet to support it, Solmonese said.

Shepard, meanwhile, travels away from her home in Casper about six months of the year for her work with the foundation. Despite legal and legislative obstacles for Gays, she believes American society has made strides over the past 10 years in accepting the Gay community.

"Socially, we've made really, really great progress in educating the general public about Gay and Lesbian issues, so I feel really good about that," Shepard said.

She's hopeful the November

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UPDATE

Pride In The Desert October 18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The date for this year's Pride on Parade and Celebration is Saturday, October 18, with the parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. in Reid Park.

Pride in the Desert is an all-day festival at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park that attracts more than 6000 participants each year. The festival features live local, regional, national and international entertainers on our main stage. In addition, we have multiple entertainment venues, commercial and nonprofit exhibitors, a food court, youth and children's areas, and much more. Now celebrating 31 Years of Pride in the Desert, this event continues to grow.

This year's main stage headliner will be former American Idol contestant Kimberly Caldwell. Caldwell is a singer, actress, and television personality who gained national recognition during her time on the second season of the television phenomenon, "American Idol," and is also known for her work as an entertainment correspondent and host for the TV Guide Network.

Rounding out our entertainment on the main stage, Tucson Pride are very pleased to welcome local acts as well as acts from across the state and around the nation. This year's roster includes: 8 Inch Betsy; Clint Crishner; Namoli Brennett; Sabra Faulk and Amber Norgaard; Liz Stahler; Too Much Information; and Courtney Robbins, as well as presenting on a second stage of live entertainment, the CoffeeHouse Stage! Scheduled entertainers on the CoffeeHouse Stage include: Desert Voices; Lisa Otey & Diane Von Duerzen; Arthur Migliazza; Reveille; and T-Squares.

For more information, go online to tucsonpride.org.

AIDSWalk Tucson Sunday, October 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - AIDSWALK Tucson 2008's theme is "everybody's walk". This is a reminder that every day, people in our community walk with HIV and face unique challenges living with this disease. On Sunday, October 19th AIDSWALK Tucson will host its 20th annual 5Kwalk and 10K fun run in support of people living with or affected by HIV. The event will also host a variety of information on how we can all make an effort to stop or reduce the risk of new HIV infections in our own community.

As we look back in U.S. history it was more than 27 years ago when we first started learning about what we know today as HIV. The infection rate was rapidly growing, infecting people and leaving others with little information on how transmission of HIV occurred and how one could reduce their risk. The 1980's were scary times to say the least- communities had to quickly learn how to support people through stages of death and dying. This explosion of HIV began to cause fear, anxiety, and panic of what was to come. The Government was reluctant to make any kind of public announcement about the virus for several years. Eventually in the late 1980's and 1990's medications became available- research had started asking the questions: What is HIV? How does HIV get transmitted? Is there a "pill" we can take? Slowly, information started to become available to the public, and at the same time, many myths were also formed- some that we still fight today (such as 'Is HIV a gay disease? Can I get it from saliva or a drinking fountain?' etc...). Infections as well as deaths continued to rise. And universally we understood that this was not just a problem in the U.S., but globally. Communities did what they could to help take care of loved ones and get educated. Through the 80's and 90's medications and accurate information made great strides, but there was still a lot to learn to help reduce infection rates. By the late 1990's and 2000 good information and trainings were out, helping communities learn how to support people living with HIV, death rates were down, and infections continued to see a climb but at a much slower pace. Medications were available that were helping to slow down the progression of HIV/AIDS as well as helping to combat the side effects from HIV medications. The attention and much of the funding started to help support the global effort on HIV/AIDS. Since then, communities have been left to support people in their local communities needing services, support and or prevention education.

That brings us to today and the work of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). One of the most important days of the year for SAAF is AIDSWALK. It's an opportunity to walk in someone else's shoes, support each other and loved ones, and to take the responsibility of getting information that you can share with others on how to reduce your risk for HIV. Every day, people in our community with HIV walk the walk of life- thanks to the many years of medication advancement, and education. It's because of southern Arizona's supportive community that others are able to access services, medication, food, housing, prevention education outreach or intervention to help make a step towards a community with no more new HIV infections.

YOU CAN HELP in this effort on Sunday, October 19th, 2008. Join us for AIDSWALK 2008 and learn how much your support of this great community makes a difference. The events that take place on the UA Campus mall are guaranteed to inspire and motivate you to take action. Whether you've joined us before or not, this is a truly special day of remembrance, support, and prevention. For more information on AIDSWALK 2008, please visit aidswalktucson.com or call the AIDSWALK hotline at (520)791-WALK (9255).

Motorcyclists Wanted For Pride Parade

TUCSON - This is an open invitation to motorcycle riders to join the Tucson Gay Pride Parade on October 18, 2008.

The parade starts at 10:00 am. Staging area is Southwest corner Broadway and Country Club, the parking lot behind the shops and the restaurant "Elle". The motorcycles will be 3rd position, only behind the color guard and the Grand Marshall. Be advised there will no porta potties, so take care of business before arriving. we have riders coming over from San Diego and coming down from Phoenix.

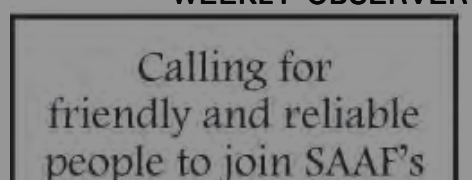
Come on Tucson...saddle up your bikes and show your Pride. Registration and fees have been already covered. All we need is YOU...Questions, comments, commitments and any thing else you may need can be directed to April at mizpo@yahoo.com, 520-891-2288. Ride safe, see you all at the parade.
April - 520-891-2288 or mizpo@yahoo.com

Circumcision Provides Little HIV Protection For Gays

ATLANTA, Georgia (Observer Update) - Circumcision, which has been shown to reduce heterosexual men's risk of contracting HIV, does not have the same effect for Gays, a new study indicates, advocate.com reported.

Circumcised men were 14% less likely to be infected with HIV than those who were uncircumcised, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of more than 53,000 Gay and Bisexual men in eight countries.

The study's authors wrote that circumcision is "not statistically significant" protection from HIV for men who have sex with men. "Overall, we're not finding a protective effect associated with circumcision for Gay and Bisexual men," the CDC's Gregorio A. Millett said. The full results of the study appear in the Journal of the American Medical Association.



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

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
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Legal Questions Remain Over Contributions To Yes On 102

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - As the contributions flowed for yesformarriage.com, legal questions pile up for the proponents of Proposition 102, the proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between "one man and one woman," Arizona law and court precedent notwithstanding.

As reported in this publication (Issue 1261, September 17, 2008) questions arose over contributions reported by yesformarriage.com (Filed ID#200810206), the main proponents of Proposition 102.

Donations by corporations, non-profits and limited liability companies were reported on recent financial statements filed by yesformarriage.com with the Arizona Secretary of State's office bringing other state financial laws into question.

Arizona law, A.R.S. 16-919, Section A, which reads: "It is unlawful for a corporation or a limited liability company to make any contribution of money or anything of value for the purpose of influencing an election, and it is unlawful for the designating individual who formed an exploratory committee, an exploratory committee, a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee to accept any contribution of money or anything of value from a corporation or a limited liability company for the purpose of influencing an election." This is backed up further in 16_914.01: Reporting of contributions by committees acting on ballot measures; civil penalty; definition, which States in section E. "For the purposes of this section, "single source" includes principals of the same partnership, corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or association."

Of the numerous donations to note on August 20, the Pete King Corporation (Arizona Corporation Commission File Number: _0068559_8), mailing address - P O Box 9158, Phoenix, AZ 85068, made a $100,000 contribution and on September 5, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix (Arizona Corporation Commission File Number:-File Number: _0181891_5), mailing address - P.O. Box 60336, Phoenix, AZ 85082, made a $100,000 contribution as well to yesformarriage.com.

Neither the Pete King Corporation or the Crisis Pregnancy Centers have formed a political committee or are a "Super PAC" (Arizona Revised Statutes 16-902, 16-902-01 or 16-902-02), avenues corporations, non-profit, limited liability or otherwise can form and register, if they want to influence elections.

For the Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC) of Greater Phoenix donation, there are even more legal questions since according to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) website, they're not in good standing since they have not filed an annual report for the past three years, as stated in A.R.S. 10-1621 - 10-1630, required by corporations, non-profit or otherwise to do so to be in good standing in Arizona. According to their website, cpcphoenix.org, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Phoenix are "a non_profit, life_affirming ministry whose mission is "saving lives and protecting futures." Our goal is to impact the community by offering programs and services that boldly speak the truth in love while offering choices, support, and hope."

As of September 29, according to Patricia Ballinger, attorney for the Arizona Corporation Commission, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix, Inc. is shown to be in good standing in the Arizona Corporation Commission records since it has filed all past_due annual reports but the question over the donation remained since if the CPC is a "non-profit organization," classified as 501©3 under federal tax law, then that brings into question their status since federal tax laws state that such entities, " ... with this classification are prohibited from conducting political campaign activities to influence elections to public office. Public charities (but not private foundations) are permitted to conduct a limited amount of lobbying to influence legislation."

None of that came into consideration, according to Joseph Kanefield, State Election Director for Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer, who stated in a letter dated October 8 that the " ... status of each of these contributors with the Arizona Corporation Commission does not weigh into their analysis. Any person can give a contribution to a ballot measure in Arizona."

Kanefield's letter seems to follow earlier statements by his boss and proponent of Proposition 102, Republican Secretary of State Jan Brewer, who commented during the legal tussle surrounding the ballot language that "mentioning existing Arizona law 'confuses people.' 'The bottom line is, we're dealing with the constitution, and they want to kind of muddy it up with the statutes,' she said. 'And I don't agree with that.'"

Complaints with the federal Internal Revenue Service, the Arizona Department of Revenue and the Arizona Attorney General's office were filed simultaneously with the complaints to the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Arizona Secretary of State's office.

Investigations with the Internal Revenue Service, the Arizona Department of Revenue and the Arizona Attorney General's office are continuing as of press time.

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GAY PRIDE WEEKEND
FRIDAY OCTOBER 17th
12pm-8pm-HAPPY HOUR
9pm-DJ HURRICANE SPINNING INSIDE &
-DJ MIKE LOPEZ ON THE PATIO
SATURDAY OCTOBER 18th
-JOIN US AT THE PARK AND VISIT OUR 2 TENTS!!!
ON THE TOP OF THE HILL GET BAR INFO ON
UPCOMING EVENTS & GIVEAWAYS, PLUS VISIT
THE IBTS DRAG SHOW TENT!
AFTER THE PARK COME TO THE CLUB
9pm-CIRCUIT SATURDAY WITH DJ Q
-PARTY ON THE PATIO WITH DJ MIKE LOPEZ
*$5 cover on saturday october, 18th 9pm-close
IBT's
HALLOWEEN
FRIDAY OCTOBER 31st
JOIN US FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
BIG IN OUR COSTUME CONTEST!!!
GRAND PRIZE
-2 TICKETS TO MADONNA'S
STICKY & SWEET TOUR IN
L.A. NOVEMBER 6TH
-ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FOR 2
-2 NIGHT HOTEL
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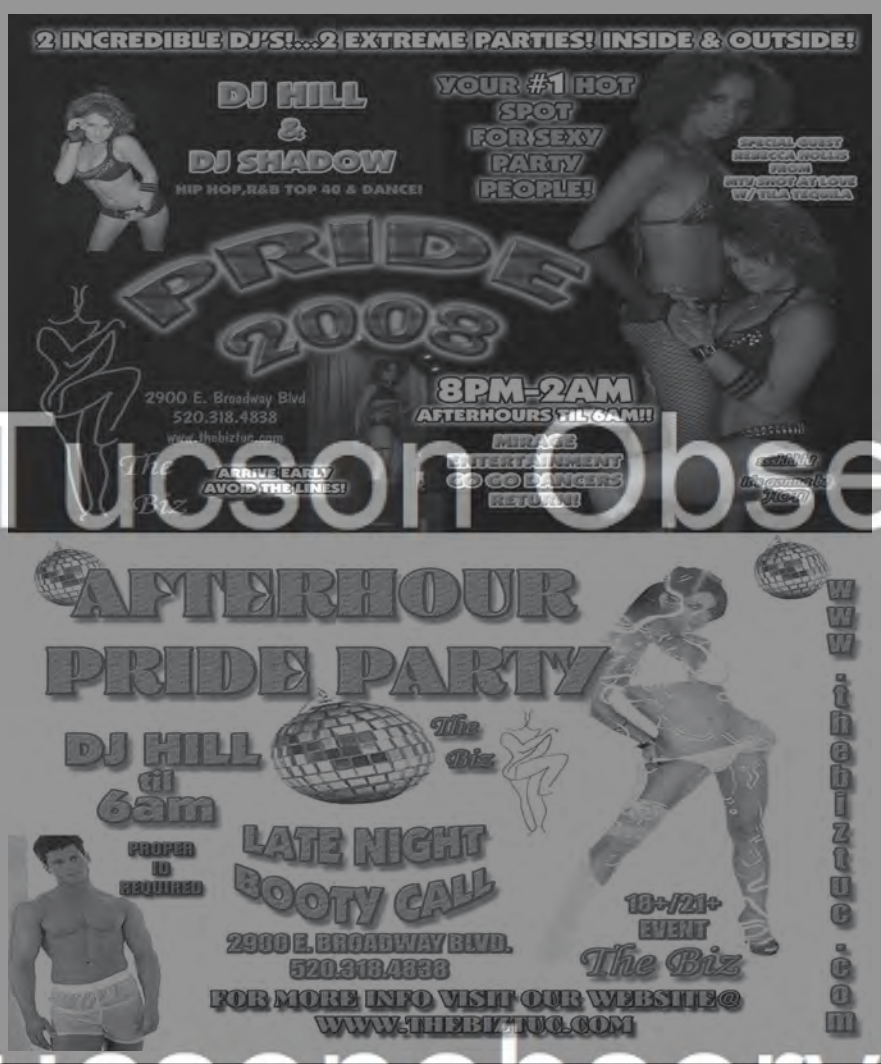

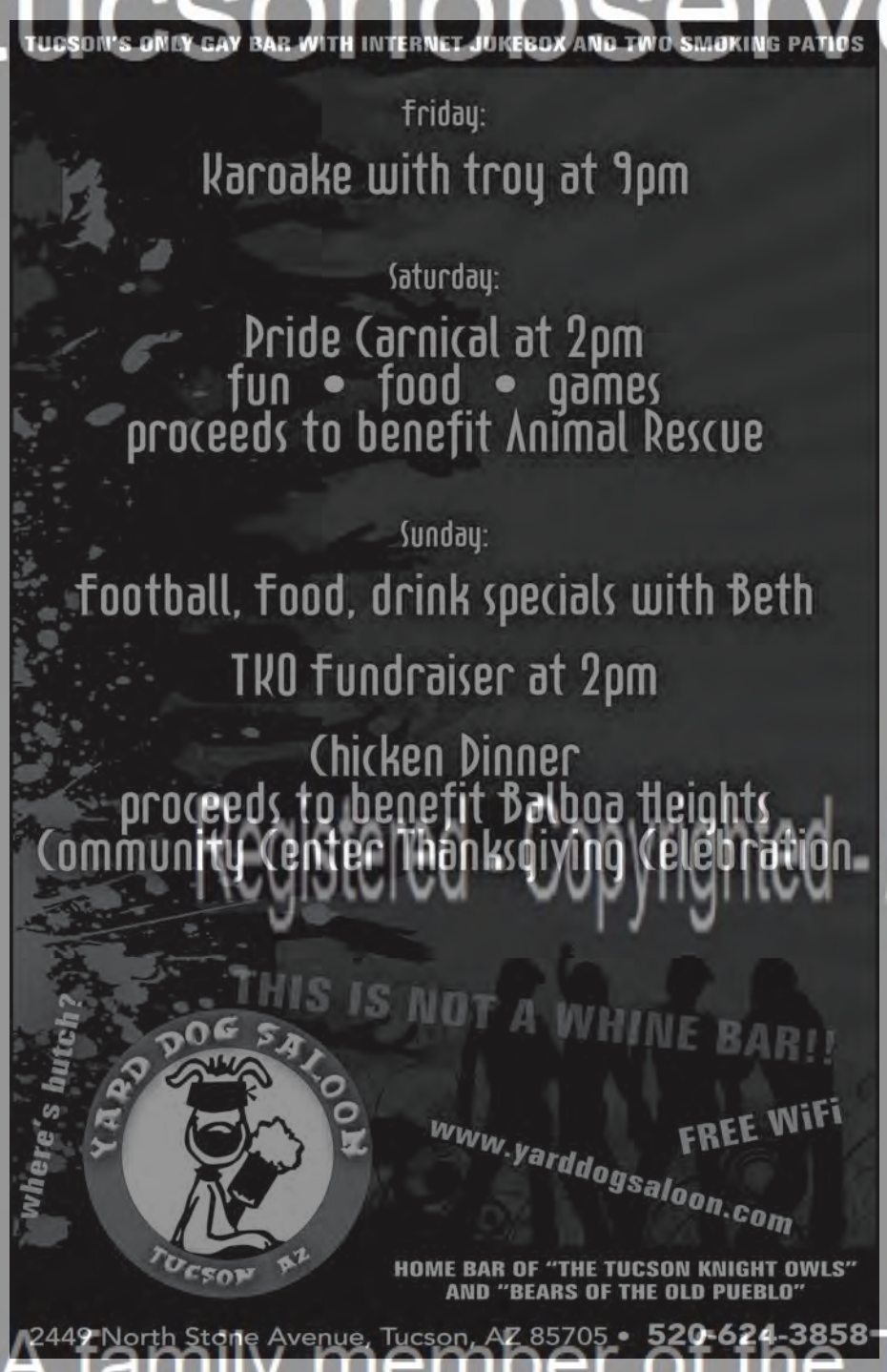

White Supremacist Gets Four Life Terms For Gay Man's Murder

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (Observer Update) - Darrell Lynn Madden, who killed Gay man Steven Domer as an initiation into the United Aryan Brotherhood for Madden's friend Bradley Qualls, was sentenced to four life terms in prison yesterday. Qualls was also killed by Madden 10 days after Domer's murder as the result of a disagreement about it, according to authorities.

The Oklahoman reports: "Madden, 38, pleaded guilty Thursday in the slaying of Steven Domer in a plea deal that means the self-proclaimed white supremacist will likely die in prison. Madden was sentenced to consecutive life terms for kidnapping and killing Domer. He also earned two more life terms for assaulting and spitting on guards at the Oklahoma County jail. In all, Madden must serve five life terms, including the one imposed in June after he pleaded guilty to killing the man who helped him kidnap Domer on Oct. 26, 2007. District Attorney David Prater said he told defense attorneys Madden owed the family an apology. Madden agreed, he said."

Domer's brother Mort offered Madden forgiveness for his brother's killing when Madden made his apology. Said Domer: "[The evil in his eyes wasn't there today. It looked like a little boy's eyes. It was sad." reported towleroad.com.

Protesters Descend On Kentucky McDonald's

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (Observer Update) - A McDonald's restaurant at which Gay customers were harassed and insulted for their orientation was visited by dozens of protesters on Friday (October 10).

Carrying signs saying "Homophobia Served Here" and "NOT Lovin' It," the protesters called for McDonald's to treat all customers fairly. The group was responding to an alleged incident on July 26 in which two men – Ryan Marlatt and Teddy Eggers – and three other friends were waiting for their food at McDonald's when they claim employees referred to them as "faggots." Marlatt and Eggers asked for the cost of their meals to be refunded by a manager, but the men say the manager refused. Following the incident, Marlatt and Eggers said they tried unsuccessfully to contact the restaurant's general manager and the McDonald's corporate office in Illinois. "For any business to treat its Gay customers this way is beyond the pale," said Becca O'Neill, one of the organizers of the protest, in a release. "All we want is for all customers, Gay and straight, to be treated with decency and respect. Nobody should fork over their hard-earned money for a meal and be treated this way."

Marlatt and Eggers traveled from their home from Indianapolis to join the demonstration. "We are very moved by all of your support today," Eggers told the crowd. "When my friends and I were here at this McDonald's in July, we experienced the worst sort of verbal abuse and hostility. Today we're seeing a much better side of Louisville – a side that won't stand for hate and discrimination." This is the second piece of Gay-related bad PR for the fast-food chain recently. According to the virulently antiGay American Family Association, McDonald's caved into its demand that a company executive resign from a Gay and Lesbian business organization, advocate.com reported.

Arkansas To Drop Unmarried Foster Parent Plan

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (Observer Update) - Arkansas plans to reverse course and allow unmarried or same-sex couples to take on foster children on a case-by-case basis, even as voters prepare to decide the issue in November, the state Department of Human Services said, reported 365Gay.com.

The agency said it would end its plan to formalize the prohibition, which has been in place since an executive directive was signed in 2005. The department said it will instead propose allowing state workers to place foster children case by case. "Recognizing that this is a sensitive societal issue, it's important to expand our recruitment base so that we can to find a family that best meets the needs of every child," agency director John Selig said. The change comes as a conservative group campaigns in favor of a November ballot initiative that would ban unmarried couples from adopting or fostering children.

The Arkansas Family Council says its measure specifically targets Gay couples, though it would affect heterosexual couples, too. Several children's advocacy groups asked the state to drop the policy because it was restricting the number of good homes available for foster children. Gov. Mike Beebe, who has previously supported the prohibition, last week backed off that support and said a change might be needed because of a shortage of foster homes in the state. Beebe spokesman Matt DeCample said that the governor supports the proposed change and that he changed his mind primarily because of a lack of foster care. "Pre-empting people right from the start is not going to help address that problem," DeCample said. A county judge earlier decided that a 1999 state ban on Gay and Lesbian foster parents was unconstitutional. To get around the ruling, the state broadened the ban to include all unmarried cohabitating couples, not just same-sex couples. The Arkansas Supreme Court upheld the county ruling in 2006.

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Iowa Supreme Court Schedules G/L Marriage Hearing

DES MOINES, Iowa (Observer Update) - The Iowa Supreme Court says it will hear arguments in a case challenging the state's law banning Gay marriage.

The court announced it will hear oral arguments in the case on Dec. 9. Both sides will be given 30 minutes to present their arguments. The hearing follows Polk County District Court Judge Robert Hanson's Aug. 31, 2007, ruling that the state's law defining marriage as only between a man and woman was unconstitutional.

The ruling stood long enough for one Gay couple to get married before Hanson stayed his decision later in the day. The national civil rights group Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit in Polk County in 2006 challenging the state's marriage laws on behalf of six same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in Iowa.

Following AFA Boycott, McDonald's Exec Leaves NGLCC

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - The anti-LGBT American Family Association has ended its five-month boycott against McDonald's after a company executive resigned from a Gay and Lesbian business group, reports the Chicago Tribune.

Richard Ellis has stepped down from the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and the AFA claims it's because of the stress it placed on the Oak Brook, Ill.-based company. The AFA claimed that by participating in the Gay chamber, McDonald's wasn't remaining neutral "in the cultural war over homosexuality." But a McDonald's spokesman says Ellis left the chamber because he recently left his post as vice president of U.S. communications for an executive position at McDonald's in Canada, and the Gay chamber is a U.S. association. Though not officially caving to the AFA, a McDonald's spokesman distanced the corporation from the Gay group.

"Richard's decision to be a member of the board was a personal decision, not a company decision," Jack Daly, McDonald's global chief communications officer, told the Tribune. Daly added that McDonald's is not a member of the chamber and that the company, which was previously a sponsor of the Gay group's fund-raising gala, has no plans to be a sponsor of the event next year, advocate.com reported.

California G/L Marriages Surpass Massachussetts

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - More same-sex couples have married in California since it was legalized in June than married in the four years since Massachusetts began marrying Gay couples in 2004, according to a new study by the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles.

An estimated 11,000 same-sex couples have married in California, with five counties accounting for nearly 80% of the matrimonies: Los Angeles (2,719), San Francisco (2,708), San Diego (1,689), Riverside (1,247), and Alameda (475). California is home to 14% percent of the country's same-sex couples, the largest percentage nationwide. Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, partially attributed the nuptial rush to the imminent vote on Proposition 8, which if passed, will constitutionally outlaw same-sex marriage in the state.

"After November 4, it's possible the door to having that experience of a legally recognized marriage will be closed," Kendell told The New York Times. "And faced with that, many couples have, to some degree, rushed to get married in order to assure that they are legally recognized." Demographically speaking, Williams Institute researchers have found that about 25% of Gay couples in California are raising more than 52,000 children. Lesbians are more likely to be living with partners but Gay men have longer lasting relationships. Among couples who sought official recognition either through domestic partnerships or marriage, men had been together an average of 12 years while Lesbian couples average nine years, advocate.com reported.

New LGBT History Website Launched

NEW YORK CITY, New York (Observer Update) - OutHistory (outhistory.org) is a freely accessible educational website in development about lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and heterosexual history.

The site incorporates elements of an encyclopedia, an archive, and a museum, but it's primary identity is as a history site. At its best, It assists users to think historically about LGBTQH life. What thinking historically means will become clearer as the site develops. The site's creators focus on the various, creative ways they can help all of us to understand the sexual and intimate relationships of human beings over time, within changing social and historical structures. Entries may or may not include original research, and all must strive for verifiable accuracy. Unreferenced or badly referenced entries may be removed, so please provide full references. Factual claims and statements must be clearly distinguished from analysis and interpretation. Personal opinions, personal experiences, and arguments may be included if presented as such and if they are clearly relevant to a particular entry, and help to enlarge the understanding of users about ongoing debates.

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

$101,801.64 A Simple Word

Registered voters in Arizona have been besieged over the corporate broadcast airwaves with a questionably edited television ad, with a mysterious Anglo hand holding a nondescript microphone eliciting comments from young couples (and one token old guy - despite federal law that prevents people, older than 60 from getting hitched) and in the mail, showing more pictures of young heterosexual couples and families, from the proponents of Proposition102, touting their measure of "20 simple words" about marriage despite Arizona law (Arizona Revised Statutes 25-101 and 25-112) and court precedent (Standhardt V. Superior Court), totaling "213 simple words" which have been in affect since 1996.

Ah yes, twenty simple words which voters gave the proposal a simple, one word response, "no" to, in 2006, when the same proponents of 2008's Proposition 102, the Center for Arizona Policy and the Dr. James Dobson's, Colorado Springs based, Focus on the Family when this was known as Proposition 107 but that was then as previously reported in this column and publication, the cost of Proposition 102 to taxpayers was $2,036,032.67, or $101,801.64 a "simple word."

So could the $2,036,032.67 of taxpayer's money be better spent and if so, on what? This question was posed to several current and former elected officials, candidates and community leaders and the responses were telling.

Arizona House Democratic Leader, state Representative Phil Lopes of Tucson stated that the money "could probably finance 10-15 homes for working families." He added that, "Affordable housing, even with the downturn in prices, is a major problem facing working families in Arizona. These monies could provide about 200 tuition scholarships for university students from low income families."

"For $2 million, we could provide health insurance to nearly 2,000 uninsured children in Arizona. As a medical provider, I feel that assuring ready access to health care for our children should take priority over efforts to foment hate and division in the community," said Dr. Matt Heinz, Observer endorsed Democrat running for the Arizona House of Representatives.

"$2 million," state Representative (and soon to be state Senator) Linda Lopez commented, "could have been spent better in any number of ways: provide safe child care for more working poor, provide more inspections of nursing homes to protect the vulnerable elderly, provide more vaccinations against debilitating diseases for children. What a waste if money to pay for legislation that's already law!"

Jason Cianciotto, Executive Director of Wingspan, wrote, "According to the Children's Action Alliance, a non-profit, non-partisan research, education and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the well-being of Arizona's children and families, there are 250,000 children in our state who do not have health insurance. A majority of these uninsured children qualify for AHCCCS or KidsCare, but their families don't know about the programs. It costs a maximum of $35 per month for an Arizona family to enroll their children, no matter how many, in KidsCare. If the $2 million spent by the state to put the supposed "marriage amendment" on the ballot again this year were spent on providing basic health insurance to children, a moral imperative that actually supports families, over 57,000 of those children would now be insured."

South Tucson Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom stated, "Can you imagine the number of hard working families who live paycheck to paycheck who could get some much need relief and help for a wide variety of financial needs to meet their ever increasing housing, living and food costs during these most difficult economic times?"

"More prosecutors could be hired and the effort to enforce the laws of Pima County and Arizona could be increased, protecting taxpayers in their day-to-day activities," commented Barbara LaWall, the current Democratic Pima County Attorney.

"Imagine what $2 million dollars could have done to help address the current home foreclosure crisis. That would have been a far better way to invest taxpayer money in protecting Arizona families," wrote Tucson Vice-Mayor (Ward 3 City Councilmember) Karin Uhlich, the openly Lesbian Democrat.

Uhlich continued, "All of us in elected office face a fundamental decision in our work: Will we pander for political gain and inflame issues that divide us? Or we will serve the public good and lead in ways that unite us? The Arizona legislature has invested huge sums to inflame and divide. I think 2008 will mark the year that kind of politics is soundly rejected in Arizona and across the nation. To secure our future we should encourage adults who wish to form loving families and invest every dollar we can in the economic well-being of families. That goal can unite us. That goal best serves the common good."

"It could help feed many needy and homeless families, especially the many helpless and impacted children who must go to bed every night on an empty stomach," Dan Eckstrom, Pima County Supervisor (Ret.), said when asked to comment.

Nothing is as simple as it appears to be, advertised as such or ends up but the proponent's of Proposition 102 is one that Arizona just can't afford, even at $101,801.64 a simple word.

COMMENTARY. . . .

Re-Elect Barbara Lawall

By Amelia Cramer

I'm writing to urge you to vote to re-elect Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall and to contact all your friends and allies to urge them to re-elect Barbara.

I have the honor of serving as Barbara's chief deputy (the number two position in her office). Barbara is a brave elected official to appoint an openly-Lesbian GLBT civil rights activist as her chief deputy. In addition, Kent Burbank (former executive director of Wingspan) is Barbara's appointed Victim-Witness Program Director. Kathleen Mayer (openly-Lesbian) is Barbara's lobbyist and one of her senior homicide prosecutors. Brad Holland (openly-Gay) is Barbara's neighborhood prosecutor. The list goes of openly-GLBT staff members in Barbara's Office goes on and on.

Barbara has long been a supporter not only of GLBT individuals, but of our community as a whole. She attends our events and supports our organizations. She ensures that perpetrators of violence against GLBT individuals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Barbara fought for hate crimes legislation that includes crimes against GLBT people. She fought for protections for victims of same-sex domestic violence. She supported efforts to provide domestic partner benefits to Pima County employees. She has supported me in taking time to be with my spouse, Amy, when Amy has been ill.

Barbara is one of the nation's top prosecutors. She has received national, state and local recognition and honors for her excellent work. She runs her office with integrity. She always does the right thing, regardless of whether it may be popular.

Our community deserves the best in our elected leaders. Barbara LaWall is the best county attorney we could have.

Please join me in voting to re-elect Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall.

LETTERS

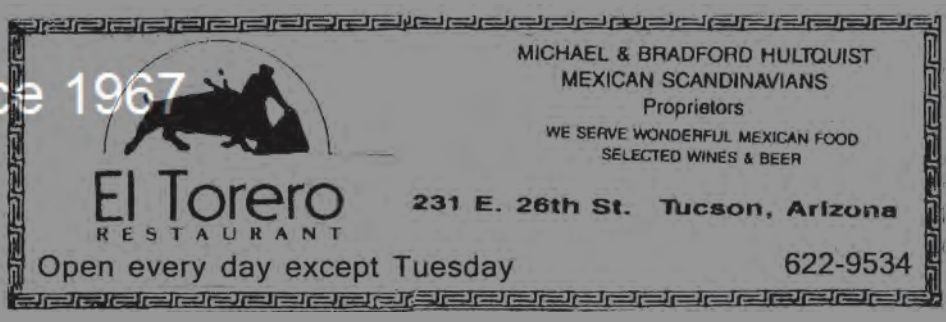
Friends,

I discovered with pleasure on the cover of issue 1262, truly a prominent space, a column by Paul Krugman. I have read and appreciated his contributions to the New York Times over years and found his economical know-how always impressive, his broad social engagement (to the contrary of most or many economists) humane and have liked the way he can put complicated things in language that doesn't exclude outsiders.

Furthermore, his columns often report facts that the Times never touched. At a lecture he gave years ago in Manhattan close to five hundred people showed up. He has a large following, despite the fact that he doesn't worry about saying things that aren't politically correct.

I find it extremely commendable that the Observer selects important and qualitatively excellent contributions from outside the gay world. And I hope you will keep doing it, maybe even a bit more so. Remnants of ghetto thinking are still around, sometimes even in us, and we can only banish this if we ourselves think, discuss and act accordingly, that is, are inclusive of other relevant standpoints.

Greetings,
J. H. - Tucson



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Connecticut Legalizes Same-Sex Marriages

Continued from Page One

also appointed associate justice in 1992 by Weicker. She is also a Democrat Lubbie Harper is an appellate court justice who sat on the panel for the case. He stepped in when Chief Justice Chase Rogers recused herself due to a possible conflict of interest. Haper was nominated to the appellate court by Governor Jodi Rell, a Republican, but is a Democrat.

Voting in opposition: Justice David Borden was the active chief justice at the time of the hearing. He was appointed in 1990 and is the only justice to have been appointed by a Democrat, Governor William O'Neil. He was replace in 2007 by Chief Justice Chase Rogers, an independent. Bordon is a Democrat. He argued that Gay people are not adequately disadvantaged politically to be considered a suspect class. Justice Christine S. Vertefeuille was appointed associate justice in 2000 by John Rowland, a Republican. Vertefeuille is a Democrat. Justice Peter T. Zarella was also appointed in 2001 by Rowland. Zarzella is the sole Republican voting on the issue. His separate dissent stated that marriage laws are for the regulation of procreation.

Interestingly, every justice deciding in favor of marriage equality was either appointed by a Republican Governor or by an independant Governor who had served for decades in the House and Senate as a Republican, even seeking the party's nomination for President. This is a situation that closely follow that of the California Judiciary where three of the four affirmative votes were from Republicans appointed by Republican Governors and in Massachusetts where three of four affirmative votes for marriage came from justices that were Republican Governor appointments. Which makes me wonder. Do those in the Republican Party who rant and scream about "activist judges" know that they are criticizing their own Governors?

The lawsuit was brought in 2004 after eight same-sex couples were denied marriage licenses and sued, saying their constitutional rights to equal protection and due process were violated. They said the state's marriage law, if applied only to heterosexual couples, denied them of the financial, social and emotional benefits of marriage. Supreme courts in Massachusetts and California also have ruled in favor of Gay and Lesbian couples, concluding the domestic partnerships were unequal to the rights given in heterosexual marriage.

Civil unions and a similar arrangement, known as domestic partnerships, are offered to same-sex couples in Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Oregon, Hawaii, Maine, Washington and the District of Columbia. Connecticut's ruling doesn't affect Arizona's law which prohibit's governmental and legal recognition of such marriages.

Now that the Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled same-sex couples have the right to wed, opponents of same-sex marriage are pinning their hopes on an infrequent ballot question in a longshot bid to block the unions. Every 20 years, voters can force a convention during which delegates can rewrite the entire constitution. It's a long, painstaking process that could cost millions and, by coincidence, it's on the ballot this November. "This is our one opportunity for the people to have a voice, for the people to be heard, for them to decide whether marriage will be protected as between a man and a woman," said Peter Wolfgang, executive director of the Family Institute of Connecticut.

Ten Years After Shepard Murder, No Federal Hate Crime Law

Continued from Page One

After being cruelly beaten, shown above is the wooden fence to which Matthew Shepard was tied and left for dead

election will usher in leaders who will pass federal hate crimes legislation.

"We're going to have a new president, whoever that may be, and new members of Congress, new senators, hopefully with open minds and open hearts, who have a better understanding of the Gay community," Shepard said. "It's not of matter of if, it's a matter of when."

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

LGBT Americans Have A Friend In Obama

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - Want to know what kind of president Barack Obama would be for gay Americans? Just listen to his longtime gay friends, reported alternet.org. That was the thinking of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) PAC, the political arm of the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender group.

So after endorsing Obama, HRC sent a camera crew to Chicago to interview gay folks – like activist Gail Morse – who knew him well way back before the rest of us. "We're going to have a partner in the White House. We're not going to have an enemy," Morse says in the "Friends" video. "He sees us as people with issues that government can address."

Like Obama, HRC has a lot of gay friends. And on the night Obama accepted the Democratic presidential nomination, HRC emailed the "Friends" video to nearly 900,000 of its friends and urged them to forward it to their own friends.

The video is part of HRC's all-out effort to persuade gay Americans that by helping Obama win they'll get a real friend in the White House, who could help Uncle Sam catch up with changes in the states. For example, with a breakthrough 4-to-3 court ruling on Oct. 10, Connecticut became the third state to embrace gay marriage. Obama doesn't support gay marriage, but he does support extending federal benefits to gay couples.

In addition to spreading its pro-Obama message online, HRC and its members have given Obama $1.6 million, and thousands of its members have volunteered for him. The bottom line: With the exception of marriage, the Democrat supports all major gay rights, including equal treatment in the military, at work and in federal programs such as Social Security.

HRC's efforts come as John McCain is surpassing previous Republican presidential nominees in reaching out. Republicans usually get a quarter of the gay vote. McCain clearly wants more. At his convention, McCain sent two top campaign aides to thank the gay Log Cabin Republicans for their endorsement.

And McCain has responded in writing to questions from a gay newspaper. While not announcing changes in stands, he signaled he'd support a review of the military's anti-gay policy, wouldn't discriminate against qualified openly gay people for Supreme Court or Cabinet appointments and would give "full consideration" to gay-supportive bills. "I hope gay and lesbian Americans will give full consideration to supporting me. ... I will be a president for all Americans," McCain told the Washington Blade.

HRC President Joe Solomese labels such steps by McCain and running mate Sarah Palin "troubling" because "they make (the GOP ticket) appear less dangerous to the (gay) community but without really taking a stand in support of our issues."

To steer the focus to policy positions, HRC has also produced videos on the Republican ticket. In one, HRC uses film clips to show McCain's votes against hate crimes legislation and protecting gay workers.

"We've been putting this election into context for people, getting the message out. Sarah Palin says, 'I've got a gay friend.' Well, we talked to a lot of gay people in Alaska (to make a video), and none of them can imagine that that could be possible," Solomese says.

HRC's appeal to gay voters is simple: Friends help friends.

(Deb Price of The Detroit News writes the first nationally syndicated column on gay issues and this is reprinted from alternet.org).

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Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Facts And Footsteps

I have spent the last few weeks raising money for the AIDS Walk. This will be the third year I have participated, and it is, by far, the most difficult. It seems to me, and this may only be conjecture, that several factors - so many "walks" are bunched so closely together, the highest unemployment rate we have seen in some time, the Wall Street melt down and all of the other activities, both here and in Phoenix, - have joined forces to create a perfect storm. However, the only major changes since last year are the state of the economy and the Wall Street fiasco of greed and incompetence. While I would love to be able to lay all of these factors at the feet of Shrub (thank you Molly Ivins), every once in awhile, I allow the facts, rather than my acknowledged bias, to dictate what I write. Damned inconvenient things are facts!

It is amazing to me that the current occupant, the "decider," or the Ninny in Chief - call him what you will, has been able to take the healthy economy he inherited in 2000and with the help of McDeregulatorCain, flush it down the toilet. Many thanks, you idiots! (Oh, it feels so good to allow my prejudices to run wild!)

The other problem we fund raisers face if the psychology of the donors, particularly the old goats who love to point out that they are on a "fixed income." Fixed income my ***! (I know you kiddies will be surprised to learn that I am old enough to collect Social Security - after all, I don't look a day over 90!) I am quick to point out to the geezer group that we are not on a "fixed income," for we get a raise every year, which is more than a lot of people can say - so quit whining and get a life!

Finally, I want to remind you, boys and girls, that you have only a few days left to seize the opportunity of a lifetime. Never again will you be given the chance to support me , at the age of 67, in the AIDS Walk. Next year I will turn 68! If by some incompetence on my part I overlook you, do not hesitate to chase me down. I will be more than happy to relieve you of some cash!

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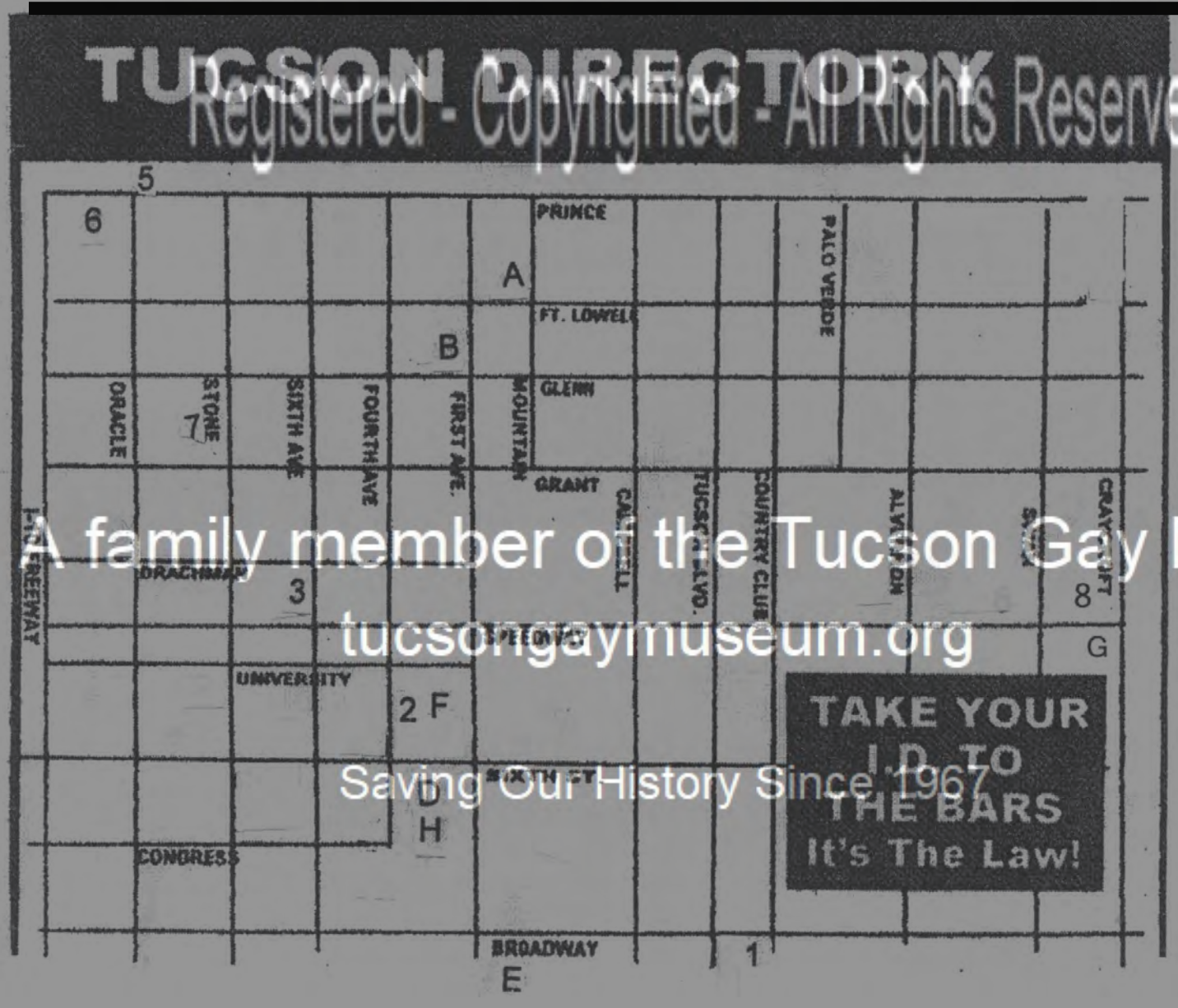

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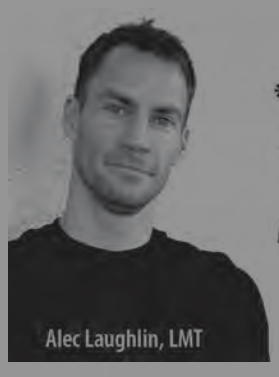

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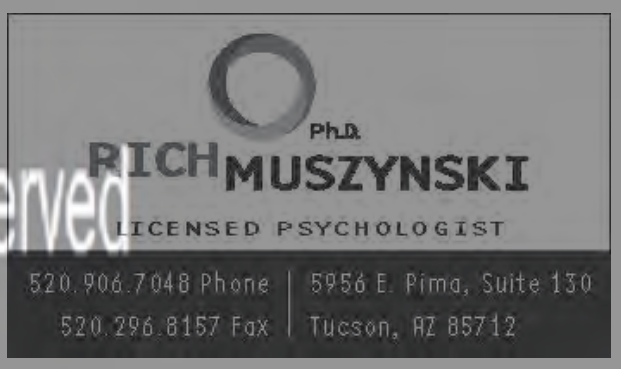

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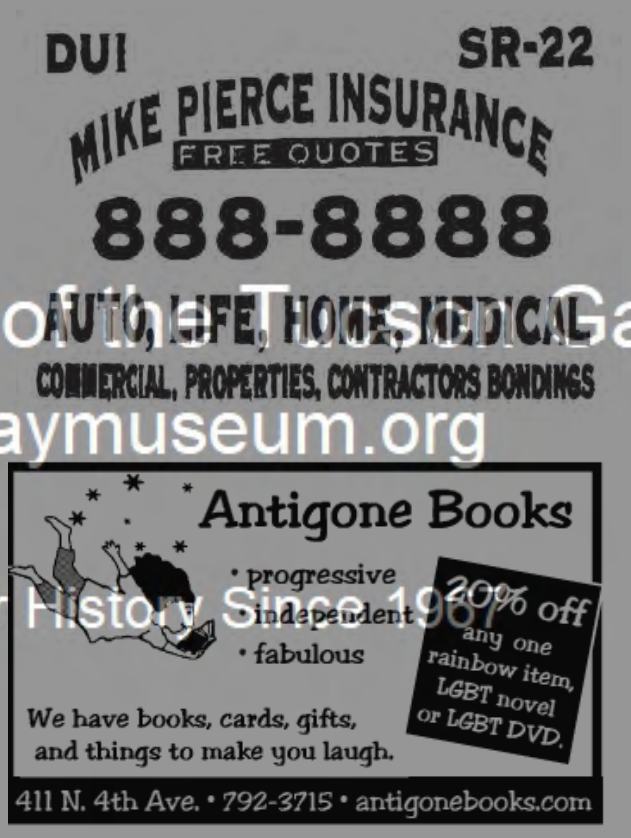

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

School Dazed

i

The Palin object was still leaning against the bannister when I got to the top of the palatial staircase. Her mood was dark, her jaw set, but I could see that something held her back; some unseen hand pulled against her like a heavier gravity...where I could tell she would prefer to face me with hands on hips, blustering like a lipsticked pig, she only leaned weakly against the rail.

Ignoring the fact that I was responsible for her current mental unease, I came quite close to her, invading her personal space like an oiled weasel and smiled my best court smile. I oozed the feudal spirit like Jeeves to Wooster.

"My Queen, what ails you? Has the Schoolmaster kept you up to late confusing you with the heady issues of inter-national protocol? Let me help you to your lair." I dropped my small bags on the landing and stepped into her like a Tango dancer. She started to bubble and protest as I dipped in and secured her waist with my arm, but a certain nausea overcame her and she simply fell into me instead, her modest weight bringing an involuntary grunt from my otherwise sealed lips.

If she noticed my unintentional complaint at all, it was to simply let more of her considerable bulk fall on my ready frame. I fairly carried her through the nearest open doorway and into her suite, where she came to rest on the foot of her bed like a tanker on a corral reef. She was asleep in seconds. There were several empty champagne bottles scattered about the room. My guess was that the Palin object had been having an early celebration.

During the night the real Eunuch arrived. I set "him" up in the small room and moved myself down the hall and bunked up with the cooks. It was easy to pass of myself as the "head eunuch" to Twinkie, who was used to having "people" who did things for her already.

Interestingly, Twinkie was quiet during all of the tutoring sessions. I hovered around to fetch refreshments and whatnot as required by my charge, who saw me as a fixture so much as to never challenge me in any way. Her attention was all on the tutors, who made great show of providing her with sheaves of papers, maps, spreadsheets and even satellite pictures while explaining what they all meant in clipped, intelligent fashion. Twinkie just sat there, goggling. At lunchtime, she would plop the papers into a pile on a table in her room and plop herself into a pile on the bed. At first she tried to read a large, ornate Bible she had brought along but she soon gave that up. The information the tutors were trying to get into her was not really biblical. For the rest of the time I saw her, she just sat in a comfy chair and tried to look like she was taking it all in. Every day, housekeeping straightened up the paper pile Palin brought from class. Every night I put it in the trash. Every night the Secret Service went through the trash and read every word of it, checking for ciphers and codes.

The day before the televised debates the Secret Service went through the building with electronics, checking for all the spy stuff like transmitters and bombs. Coming up empty seemed to worry them, and they clucked around trying to see if there was something wrong with the equipment and checked again.

I figured we were about to get a visit from the Presidential candidate himself. Presumably, he would want to talk to his running mate for a couple minutes before they let her out again. I could tell, as could the tutors, that she had absorbed exactly zip. Her regal manner, however, was unabated and she had begun to complain privately that she didn't think the tutors were very good teachers. What McCain could do with her, I could not imagine but I presumed she would be relegated to the Bible-Belt speaking tour and kept off the airwaves whenever possible.

The cooks were all abuzz with their own preparations. Knowing my luck could only hold so long, I volunteered to go with the chef to the market. Once outside the grounds, it was an easy thing to slip away and get back to Guantanamo. Once again, being able to produce American identification and associating myself with the Palin Educational Group, I was passed through without comment. I hopped onto a rather large and costly American Yacht docked there, extending my credentials as having just left the service of the Vice Presidential candidate to a happy and faithful Republican voter. We sailed some days later, leaving Havana, its cigars and its secrets behind.

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got pride?

HOROSCOPES

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Lovely Venus enters Sagittarius this week and brings fun, foolishness and general jolly mayhem. Our hearts do the back flip and love is large, delicious and a bit squooshie. We do everything in a big and glorious way. Prepare for the avalanche kids!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Don't plan on hanging around familiar surroundings when Venus enters Sadge. The emphasis will be on new horizons, fascinating places, interesting people and exotic cuisines that you cannot get from your local take-out. Learn a few new things. Proud Rams should make good use of this expansive energy to plant their flag in virgin territory. No names please!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Who is this love deity? Can it be the queer Bull who suddenly exudes such an enticing musky allure? Blame the flame on insatiable Venus who spreads...ahem... the sugar over everything. Make use of this hot time; Before you know it your steamy sexuality cools. Stir up the winds and fill your sails before you are drydocked.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Do you play well with others, pink Twin? The true test of your abilities come into the fore with Venus in Sadge. This week will test your ability to pair off with the proper stranger. If you are currently in a relationship, use this time to strengthen the bonds. If the bonds bind, it is also a good time to seek new entanglements. Just how much into bondage are you??

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you feel like the rat backed into a dark corner of a maze, welcome your strategic surge of mental agility this week. Gay Crabs make the most of this workable energy by either applying themselves on the job or pursuing a new, healthier, stress reducing course of action. Venus enables you to leap before you look but take my advice; always check the net for holes.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

This week will be one long jolly partyfest for all those proud Lions who really know how to have a good Gay time. (And that's about all of them...) You are compelled to overindulge. For those more settled types, use the upbeat energy to tap into your more creative side. Take an art class, write poetry or take to the stage. Just avoid limericks...

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

If life feels a bit warmer and cozier send a love note to Venus who lights your lamp this week. Queer Virgins are content to feather their nest with assorted, fun activities. The definition of fun is, well, open to definition. How does building on an addition sound? Or maybe buying a completely new bedroom set? I'll settle for the gala basheroo.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Venus enters Sadge this week and seems to amplify any proud discourse for the next couple of weeks. Of course it can also mean that you will just fan around the hot air. So whatever bon mots you are planning to plant, expect them to take on a zesty life of their own. So let's try to sound brilliant, urbane and knowledgeable, okay? Oh fuggetaboutit!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Your money is nicely highlighted and you find many imaginative ways of spending great gobs of it. If you spend on investments, you may find that the next weeks can be rather profitable. But those Gay Scorps who lack fiscal restraint find that their debits quickly outweigh their assets. Better get off your assets and learn a thing or five about the bottom line.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Venus in your own sign generates all sorts of festive opportunities for Gay Archers. This is the time to launch new projects and meet as many new people as possible. You are charisma incarnate with a gravitational pull to rival the earth. But remember that you can be tempted to do just about anything now - so think first and act second. I am counting on you.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps don't seem to have a care in the world this week. Behind the scene forces handle all your assorted backroom bubbemeisers. You triumph as hidden enemies are vanquished with ease. Nothing is hidden from you which means that all closeted Caps are outed. Good thing too, comrade - we can't stand deception and neither should you.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

If you are planning to be a wallflower, you might as well forget it, Aqueerius. Venus in Sadge tosses you smack into the center of the social pool now. Learn to love the invitations and attention; the folks that you meet now may just wind up to be lifelong compadres. Seek out the movers and shakers to move and shake you. Pack the breath mints.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

The struggle for professional success is finally won. Venus in Sadge shoots your personal corporate star into the next pinstriped galaxy. But when can too much be too much? When you lose sight of what is truly important to you in this life. Go for the gold, Guppie, but remember where the wealth is really buried. Yes - it's in the stock options!

Chicago LGBT School Plan Advances

CHICAGO, Illinois (Observer Update) - A proposed high school for LGBT students has gained the support of Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan. Duncan said he will recommend that the school board approve plans for the school, reported 365Gay.com.

"If you look at national studies, you see Gay and Lesbian students with high dropout rates ... studies show they are disproportionately homeless," the Chicago Tribune reported Duncan as saying. "I think there is a niche there we need to fill."

Called the Social Justice High School–Pride Campus, it would offer a core curriculum preparing students for college. If the proposal gains final approval, the school would have about 600 students. A location for the school has not been found, but Duncan said that will not be an issue. The earliest it could be up and running would be 2012.

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 15th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack. 887-3736

Tucson Prime Timers escorted day-trip to explore the wondrous Kartchner Cavern. Transportation cost $15. Reserve by 10/8 phone Clem at 885-1270 or www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Thursday, October 16th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

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

Saturday, October 18th
PRIDE IN REID PARK 10a.m. - 8pm. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. $12 ADVANCE - $15 AT THE GATE.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to visit their booth at Tucson Pride in Reid Park. A $1.00 donation will give you a chance to win a stunning example of renowned Tucson Master Potter Jerry Vaughn's work. See a photo of the piece on their website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org.

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, October 19th
AIDSWALK at the University of Arizona. Benefits the programs and services of SAAF.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for Sunday Brunch at the delightful, Gay owned Rio Café. 12 Noon. 2625 E. Grant road. RSVP Dennis at 883-8257 or at www.tucsonprimetimerss.org

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at Vero Amore. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, October 20th
#1 - Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with them at 10:30 a.m. at Golden in Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile.
#2 - Tucson Primer Timers invites you to their weekly drop-in luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone Avenue.

#1 Men's Social Network Men's Book Club. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 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.
#2 Men's Social Network 7:00p.m.Newsletter Night & Movie! Help us bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, and mail the MSN Newsletter, and enjoy snacks and this month's movie. For more information contact Arlan at 323-7414.

Wednesday, October 22nd
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for a 1:00 p.m. Luncheon at Dakota Café, 6541 E. Tanque Verde. RSVP Clem at 885-12170 or at www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin. For information and directions call them at 207-5336.

Thursday, October 23rd
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with them at 1:30 p.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile.

#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.
#2 Men's Social Network. Bridge generally played on the second and fourth Thursdays. Call Dick at 298-4392 for more information and directions.

Friday, October 24
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for cocktails at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Chad's Steakhouse, 3001 N. Swan at Ft. Lowell. RSVP John or Ed at 298-6727 or at www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday October 25th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for Drinks and Grub at Woody Bar, 3710 N. Oracle Road.

Sunday, October 26th
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for Sunday Brunch at 12:30 p.m. at Guadalajara Grill, 1730 E. Prince Road. RSVP Ray at 578-8045 or website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at China Super Buffet. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com

Monday, October 27
#1 - Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with them at 10:30 a.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile.
#2 - Tucson Prime Timers invites you to their weekly drop-in luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone.

Wednesday, October 29th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Peter. For information and directions call Peter at 881-8276

Tucson Prime Timers invites you join them for a 1:00 p.m. luncheon at Austin's Restaurant, 6121 E. Broadway. RSVP John or Ed at 298-6727 or www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, pleases contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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,

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-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust $2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, $3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping HIVAIDS 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-2am. Dart Tournament, 7pm $3 entry fee/Pot Match.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour ALL Day til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJ Hill 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-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm $2.50/Pitcher.

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-2am..

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-2am Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas $3 ea., 4-8pm.

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.

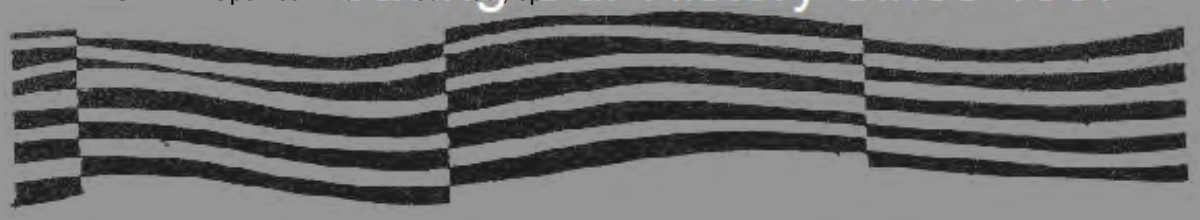
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust $2.25/Pitcher. 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, October 17 GAY PRIDE WEEKEND
IBT's - Noon - 8:00 p.m. Happy Hour. 9pm DJ Hurricane spinning inside and DJ Mike Lopes on the patio.

WOODY'S - Celebrate Pride - Pre-Pride Meet and Greet Party. 5:30 p.m. Wine Tasting; 6pm Live Soul with Simon Crown; 9pm Broke Straight Boys.com & "Just Us Boys" magazine Party. Free gift bags. Meet the boys from Broke Straight Boys. Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence special blessing at midnight.

Saturday, October 18
THE BIZ - Big Pride Party after the Park from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. 2 extreme parties inside and out. 2 Djs - DJ Hill and DJ Shadow. GoGo dancers and a big after-hours party til 6:00 a.m. with DJ Hill. For more info visit their website www.thebiztucson.com

HOWL AT THE MOON - Will open at 6:00 p.m. today. Drag King Show after the Pride event "It's Reigning Men" starts at 10:00 p.m.

IBT'S - 9:00 p.m. After the park come to the club. 9pm Circuit Saturday with DJ Q and party on the Patio with DJ Mike Lopez. $5 Cover this Saturday 9pm to close.

WOODY'S - Post Pride Party and Entertainment featuring "The Men" with Woody's Dancers. Community BBQ 5-8p.m.-- Burgers and chips. Midnight surprise drawing you won't want to miss.

YARD DOG SALOON - Gay Pride Carnival starts at 2:00 p.m. with food-fun and games. Proceeds to benefit Animal Rescue

SUNDAY, October 19
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Putin' On The Hits" talent search hosted by Lucinda Holliday and Tempest DuJour. Show starts at 8:30 p.m. Compete for the $600 Grand Prize.

WOODY'S - Bar opens at 10 a.m. After the AIDSWalk. Recovery Party patio bar opens at11:30 a.m. Peter's Bloody Mary Buffet 10 a.m. BurerBeer Bst 2:30-7:30 p.m. Ksaraoke with Michael D. 9p.m. to close.11a.m. until closing.

YARD DOG SALOON - Footbnall-food-driink specials with Beth. TKO fundraiser at 2:00 p.m. Chicken Dinner with proceeds to benefit Blboa Heights Community Center Thankssgiving Celebration.Bill's BBQ Chicken Dinner at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 25
WOODY'S - Monthly 'Wett Party' starring adult entertainer Tristan Mathews.

British Football Head Tackles Homophobia, Racism At Games

LONDON, England (Observer Update) - Rio Ferdinand is frustrated at the lack of progress in identifying the Tottenham fans who hurled racial and homophobic abuse at his former England teammate Sol Campbell. The chairman of England's Football Association has urged Tottenham to impose life bans on the fans who hurled racial and homophobic abuse at the former Spurs defender during a Premier League game at Portsmouth last month.

Police are also investigating Portsmouth's complaint about the incident, but are hampered by the fact that no action was taken during the game and that no culprits were identified. "The high-tech cameras should be able to pick up the people who are doing that kind of stuff and eject them from the ground," Ferdinand said. "That is the only way I can see to stop it happening. We are talking about a football match. There are young kids present who want to be entertained, not hear someone a couple of rows back slagging players off."

"The football authorities need to look at themselves," Ferdinand said. "(FIFA president) Sepp Blatter likes to speak up about things that are good for FIFA's image. I would love to see them stand up and dish out the right punishments for these incidents. "They make a lot of comments about what they are going to do but they never back up the words with actions. Croatia were fined a few thousand quid. What good is that going to do? If things like this keep happening, you have to take points off them."

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Signs For Same-Sex Marriage Ban Amended

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - More than 100 campaign signs near Phoenix urging voters to vote yes for an amendment that would define marriage in Arizona as between a man and a woman were themselves amended over the weekend, indicating that a "yes" vote would be a vote for hate, towleroad.com reported.

A spokesperson for the campaign said the damage has totaled nearly $6,000.

A spokesperson for the group that opposes Proposition 102 said they condemn the vandalism and that it has no place in a rational debate.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

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Vote No On Prop. 102: G/L Marriage Will Still Be Illegal

By Neil Schneider

Because most Arizona residents are focused on things that matter like the tanking economy, unemployment, getting loans, rising healthcare costs and immigration, I'd like to spotlight the efforts of the Center for Arizona (CAP) policy who is quietly spending $7 million dollars to "define" marriage in Arizona.

They will use today's Connecticut decision granting Gay marriage rights as a scare tactic, saying that activist judges may bring Gay marriage to Arizona. News flash to CAP, the world has changed and discrimination is out. Your thoughts on the issue are antiquated. Arizona's fair-minded voters will not support your archaic ideology.

Here is a brief refresher on the "definition of marriage" history in Arizona. In 2003 the Arizona Court of Appeals upheld current statutory Arizona law, which prohibits marriage between persons of the same sex.

In 2006, voters defeated Prop. 107, an amendment that would have affected thousands of Gay and heterosexual couples, by enshrining discrimination into the Arizona constitution. Arizona remains the only state to reject defining marriage in its constitution. There was no one trying to start Gay marriage in Arizona in 2006 and to this day, no one is.

The 2006 loss cost CAP dearly at the legislature and weakened Kathy Herrod's political strength. They underestimated the fairness of Arizona voters.

CAP's 2008 quest to bring this measure back to the ballot failed with lack of support through normal legislative channels, so in the 12th hour of the legislative session, Senator Jack Harper, R- Surprise, broke longstanding Senate rules and even turned off fellow Senators' microphones to get what CAP wanted. Harper turned off other Senator's microphones. On the playground, that is called cheating. A formal ethics complaint could not undo the damage, so the divisive Prop. 102 was allowed to reach the ballot with just 16 votes.

If Prop. 102 passes, you will see CAP immediately file lawsuits to stop cities, counties, universities and the state from providing any of the few benefits available to heterosexual or Gay domestic partners. As a small business owner who befriends and employs several Gay people, I will not stand for this and I will vote NO on Prop.102. Everyone knows a Gay person or a couple in a domestic partnership. If you don't think you do, wake up. Voting yes on Prop. 102 will directly affect them.

Follow the money. Mormon families have been given a directive from Salt Lake City to contribute time and money to pass Prop. 102. Families are giving $10,000 at a time. What is next on the agenda after Prop. 102?

Bishop Olmstead of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix has produced a Web video encouraging Catholics to support Prop. 102. Doesn't the Catholic Diocese have enough issues to worry about? What happened to the separation of church and state? It is outlined in the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

According to federal law, religious organizations cannot engage in political speech while they also accept tax-deductible contributions. Yet, a few weeks back 30 ministers intentionally violated federal law by being political in the pulpit. Mind you, these are the people who profess to be morally pure. It is time to send a message that churches don't control our government.

Let me expose the huge white elephant. It's astounding that this dialog has to happen. If there were a proposition on the state ballot to define marriage in Arizona between one WHITE man and one WHITE woman, there would be marches and riots in the street. Our country has come too far on human rights, let's not step backward. We cannot let a minority of people with $7 million dollars hijack the state constitution. They have already hijacked the state legislature.

Gay people should have a right to the benefits a state granted marriage license. If you deny any loving couples the right to marriage, you also deny them of the financial, social and emotional benefits of marriage. This is not "twenty simple words defining marriage" as their expensive glossy flyers say. Prop. 102 is twenty words enshrining discrimination into the Arizona constitution. Separate but equal went out forty years ago.

Fellow Arizona residents, with your no vote, we can guarantee that the Arizona constitution will grant rights, not take them away. We can keep church and state separate. Please vote no on Prop. 102.

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For more information and to purchase discount tickets, visit www.tucsonpride.org. Discount tickets also available at IBT's, Woody's, and Colors.
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