Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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More Than $100K Raised At Festival For Life

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By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Sunday, November 23, Tucsonans, young and old, straight and LGBTQ gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the University of Arizona Student Union, raising more than $100,000 during the 20th Annual Jerome Beillard Festival for Life.

Festival for Life is the annual live and silent auction and featured fine artwork, unique experiences, travel packages, jewelry and one-of-a-kind gifts. Hors d'oeuvres, a chocolate fountain, no-host bar, and entertainment from the Sons of Orpheus and Namoli Brennet made this annual event, one of the biggest annual fundraisers for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. The 2008 Featured Gallery, Old Pueblo Frameworks and Gallery will be presenting several local and national recognized artists such as Frank B. Walsh, Domingo Cheleuitte, and Jay W. Smith, all in support of the services and programs SAAF offers to those living with or who are affected by HIV/AIDS. As of press time, the preliminary total, according to event organizers was $101,229.

In 1989, the first "Festival" took place. Entitled the "Festival of the Trees," it was a fundraiser for the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (P.A.C.T). The event auctioned off nearly 200 decorated trees and wreathes for the holiday season. Over the years, the event grew and in 1992, Festival of the Trees became Festival for Life adding artwork, menorahs, and celebrity items. That year also had a special appearance by Miss Mary Wilson, formerly of the Supremes.

In 1995, P.A.C.T.'s co-founder and Executive Director, Jerôme Beillard, passed away from AIDS complications and Festival for Life was renamed to the Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life - honoring the work and spirit of a great man. Each year added amazing artwork, designer Christmas trees, gift baskets, celebrity items and sculptures. Each year also added local sponsors and community members all supporting the same cause.

In 1997, when the three AIDS Service Organizations merged to create SAAF - the Paper Prayer Benefit from the Shanti Foundation was added to Festival for Life. Local artists, students, and others create strips of art that represent an ancient Japanese tradition of giving a person who is ill a Paper Prayer as a gift to bring good health. Each year, Festival for Life continues to sells hundreds of Papers to Prayers to be used as cards and tokens of good health.

Over the years, the event has grown and changed, but the main attraction continues to be the collection of fine artwork on display in the live and silent auction for which this year's even may be over but people can still donate to SAAF. Either mailing a check, made payable to "SAAF," to: Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Ave., Tucson, AZ 85719-6644 or go online to saaf.org/SupportSAAF/GivingOpportunities.php#AuthorizedNet. For more information, call SAAF at (520) 628-7223.

'Buying For Equality' Consumer Guide Released Ahead Of Holiday Shopping Season

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - -The Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC), has released its 2009 "Buying for Equality" guide, aimed at helping consumers identify hundreds of businesses and brands that support equality and fairness in the workplace for the LGBT community. The guide includes listings from a record 260 companies that received a perfect 100 percent score on our 2009 Corporate Equality Index, an annual report on company policies related to diversity & inclusion training, non-discrimination policies and access to healthcare for LGBT employees and their families. To download or request a copy of the guide visit: www.hrc.org/buyersguide.

"With this year's economy, we need to make sure every dollar we spend goes to businesses that have earned the right to call you a customer," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Every day, we make choices that send a powerful message about our values, our principles and our ideals. We do it every time we make decisions on how to clothe and feed our families or what investments to make. Where we spend and invest our dollars has remarkable potential to positively affect the LGBT community because it reinforces what many companies know: fairness is good business."

According to a Witeck-Combs/Market Research.com study, the buying power of the LGBT community is

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Obama Posts Campaign Pledges On LGBT Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President-elect Barack Obama has laid out his commitment to LGBT civil rights in an eight-point plan posted on his transition Web site, change.gov.

It calls for passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act; a gender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act; repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell; repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act; opposition to any attempt to reintroduce an amendment to the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, support for inclusive adoption rights; and an expanded war on HIV/AIDS.

The program is identical to Obama's positions during the campaign and LGBT rights groups said it shows that the president-elect is committed to keeping his word.

The Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Act would add sexual orientation to the list of categories covered under federal hate crime law. It passed the House in 2007 and the White House threatened to veto it. In an effort to get around a veto, the Senate version was tied to the 2008 defense authorization bill. It passed but then went to conference, where it was stripped out.

Obama was a co-sponsor of the bill. On his transition Web site, Obama notes that in 2004, crimes against LGBT Americans constituted the third-highest category of hate crime reported, making up more than 15 percent. As a state senator in Illinois, Obama helped pass tough legislation that made hate crimes - and cthe onspiracy to commit them - against the law.

Obama, in his eight-point plan, also supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and says it must include gender identity. ENDA passed the US House in 2007 without protections for the transgendered, but was not taken up by the Senate. The legislation would make it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring, firing, promoting or paying an employee. ENDA as originally introduced by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass) included transpeople, but Frank removed those protections in committee, saying it would be impossible to pass the bill if it included gender identity. More than a dozen LGBT groups immediately distanced themselves from the legislation. Frank has since said he would fight to ensure an inclusive ENDA is passed.

Obama's support for an inclusive ENDA virtually assures it will include gender identity when it is reintroduced in the next session of Congress. "While an increasing number of employers have extended benefits to their employees' domestic partners, discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace occurs with no federal legal remedy," Obama says on the transition site.

Legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the ban on Gays serving openly in the military, was taken up in committee this year for the first time, but did not make it to a vote.

DADT was enacted in 1993. Since then more than 12,000 servicemembers have been dismissed when it was learned they are Gay. According to statistics from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which advocates for Gays in the military, an average of two service members each day are dismissed under the law .

"The key test for military service should be patriotism, a sense of duty, and a willingness to serve. Discrimination should be prohibited," the Obama transition site says. "Obama will work with military leaders to repeal the current policy and ensure it helps accomplish our national defense goals."

The Web site also touts Obama's commitment to same-sex families, but he remains reluctant to support Gay marriage. "Barack Obama supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples." the transition site says.

"Obama also believes we need to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally-recognized unions. These rights and benefits include the right to assist a loved one in times of emergency, the right to equal health insurance and other employment benefits, and property rights," the Web site says.

He also supports adoption rights for all couples "regardless of their sexual orientation."

Obama's plan also offers a comprehensive plan for combating HIV/AIDS.

"In the first year of his presidency, Barack Obama will develop and begin to implement a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS strategy that includes all federal agencies. The strategy will be designed to reduce HIV infections, increase access to care and reduce HIV-related health disparities," the Web site says.

Part of that plan would see a diminished role for the Bush administration's dependence on abstinence education, as well as distributing contraceptives in prisons and lifting the federal ban on needle exchanges.

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A fair member of the Tucson Gay Museum

UPDATE

Desert Voices Welcomes New General Manager

TUCSON (Observer Update) - As they prepare for the opening of their 20th season on Dec. 6th (7:30 pm) and 7th (3:00 PM) at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church in midtown Tucson, Desert Voices, Arizona's premiere LGBTS chorus, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Scotland to the position of General Manager.

Since arriving in October, Jeff has initially concentrated his efforts on marketing and fund development. Originally from Massachusetts, Jeff began a career in the field of corporate communications after graduating from the University of Massachusetts. Just prior to moving to Tucson, he spent 10 years at the living history museum, Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, MA where he worked in Public Relations and was one of those responsible for the development of their interpretive program. Since arriving in Tucson, Jeff has pursued a career in performing arts and has appeared at Invisible Theatre, Beowulf Alley, and Live Theatre Workshop. You may also recognize Jeff from his many television commercials and several independent films. At this time, he is very pleased to become part of the Desert Voices Chorus and their mission to build community through music.

Jeff joins DV's current staff - Chris Tackett (Artistic Director), Alex Tentser (Accompanist), Becky Cohen (Office manager and Chorus Goddess), and the many volunteers who make Desert Voices the exciting chorus that it is. Desert Voices, almost 50 members strong this year, invites the Tucson Community to join them for their concerts, December 6th and 7th, featuring guest star, Namoli Brennet. Each year, Desert Voices carefully prepares musical programs that reflect the diversity of our community while providing concerts that inspire as well as entertain. For more information, call (520) 791-9662 or go online to desertvoices.org.

World AIDS Day Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson World AIDS Day Committee supports the World AIDS Day Campaign efforts and public announcement to encourage leaders at all levels to stop AIDS. In order to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS, our community must show leadership and empowerment in helping Southern Arizona to realize a community with no new HIV infections.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this day of remembrance through World AIDS Day. Since 1988 many of the challenges surrounding HIV and AIDS have changed. Although many of these changes have been positive (and are highlighted below), the fight is not over. Instead, this anniversary is a reminder of the work that is still left to be done. This year's event will include numerous activities and ways for the community to be involved in showing support, solidarity, and leadership for the fight against HIV/AIDS. Below is a schedule of events for Monday, December 1, at Club Congress, 264 E. Congress (Free admission).

Schedule (as of press time subject to change): 3:00 p.m. Youth Urban Art, Music, Community Tabling begins, 4:00 p.m., Opening remarks, 4:10 p.m., Ballet Folklorico Destino, 4:50 p.m., Speaker, 5:00 p.m., Odaiko Sonora, 5:30 p.m., Performance Art in the The Copper Room: Cabaret Boheme, 5:40 p.m., Speaker
5:50 p.m., The Human Project, 6:00 p.m., Performance Art in the The Copper Room: 7 up Performance Art, 7:00 p.m., Performance Art in the The Copper Room: Boys R Us, 6:30 p.m., Speaker, 6:50 p.m., Key Ingredients of African Soul and Eno Washington, 7:20 p.m., Speaker, Council Member Nina Trasoff, 7:30 p.m. Closing remarks. Other Musicians - 5:00 p.m., Marianne Dissard, 6:00 p.m., Tom Walbank, 8:00 p.m., Denise Lang, 9:00 p.m., Garboski.

For more information, visit myspace.com/worldaidsdaytucson or call one of the participating collaborators below: Club Congress, (520) 622-8848, COPE Community Services, (520) 798-1772, Native Images (520) 882-6120, Pima County Health Department (520) 243-7770, Positively Beautiful (520) 204-2250, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), (520) 628-7223, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), (520) 299-6647.

Roadrunner Regional Rodeo January 16 - 18

IN MEMORIAM

Dani Reid
5/10/49-11/22/08

The GLBT community of Tucson, as well as Southern Arizona, was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its Icons in the entertainment field. Dani Reid, who entertained us all for many years passed away a victim of throat cancer. Dani was a multi-talented entertainer from his famous illusion of Judy Garland, to the wonderfully comical Shirley Temple and hundreds of other characters in between. Dani performed in the late 80s and in the 90s primarily in Tucson and made many appearances in Phoenix during that period. For those who were fortunate to have seen him on stage, Dani was a true legendary entertainer,

He was born Daniel E. Reed in Decatur, Illinois on May 10, 1949 and later took Dani Reid as his stage name. He died November 22, 2008 with his partner of 14 years, Neil Carsner at his side in Jackson, Michigan.

The funeral will be held at Queen Of The Miraculous Medal Church, in Jackson, Michigan. Cards, pictures and other remembrances may sent to Neil Carsner at 503 Union Street, Jackson, MI 49203 or e-mail to danneil@tds.net.

As the Irish would say (as Dani was), May you be in Heaven a half an hour before the Devil even knows you're gone!

Have You Been To Woody's Lately?

TUCSON (Observer Update) - So have you been to Woody's, located at 3710 North Oracle lately?

Woody's has wrapped up a year long $75,000 remodel that has upgraded the bar to a comfortable lounge with an upscale look and a casual ambiance catering to Tucsons GLBTS community.

The new features include a new staging and sound and lighting to feature the best in entertainment, leather seating in a cozy lounge, a 28 ft bench seating, 4 37" LCD HDTV's, hand blown italian glass pendant shades, custom flooring and back bar, featuring 10 beers on draught and 160 varieties of spirits.

The patio now has 4 casitas set among groupings of large queen palms each furnished with an upholstered loveseat and chairs with coffee table soft lighting and privacy for your party. A full menu 7 days a week. Tucson's largest GLBTS covered and heated patio.

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http://www.tucsonobserver.com

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:
Mark Kerr
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Informing the Community
The Observer

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APA: G/L Marriage Bans Harm Mental Health

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Amendments that restrict civil marriage rights of same-sex couples – such as Proposition 8 that recently passed in California – have led to higher levels of stress and anxiety among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender adults, as well as among their families of origin, according to several new studies the American Psychological Association (APA) said, reported 365Gay.com.

One quantitative and two qualitative studies on the impact of anti-LGBT legislation appear in a special issue of the Journal of Counseling Psychology, published by APA. That issue of the journal, to be published in January, will be titled: "Advances in Research with Sexual Minority People." The quantitative study was based on an online survey of 1,552 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual adults from all 50 states and the District of Columbia examining "minority stress," or the chronic social stress that minorities experience as a result of social stigmatization.

Participants were grouped into those living in the seven states with an amendment on the ballot in November 2006 that did pass; those living in the 18 states with an amendment that passed before 2006; and those in the 23 states, plus D.C., with no amendment. Those living in Alabama, where an amendment passed in June 2006, were excluded because of the timing, as were those living in Arizona, where an amendment was defeated that year.

The survey results documented increased minority stress, as well as more general psychological distress, among LGB individuals following the passage of a marriage amendment in 2006, compared to LGB people in states without an amendment on the 2006 ballot. The researchers, led by Sharon Scales Rostosky, Ph.D., at the University of Kentucky, found that those participants living in states that passed a measure in 2006 reported increased exposure to negative media messages and negative conversations. "The results of this study demonstrate that living in a state that has just passed a marriage amendment is associated with higher levels of psychological stress for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual citizens," Rostosky said. "And this stress is not due to other pre-existing conditions or factors; it is a direct result of the negative images and messages associated with the ballot campaign and the passage of the amendment."

The qualitative studies, while much smaller in scope, give voice to some of the people directly affected by anti-Gay marriage amendments. The first study, "Balancing Dangers: GLBT Experience in a Time of Anti-LGBT Legislation," focused on 13 LGBT people living in Memphis, Tenn., who were interviewed at length about their experiences during the 2006 ballot campaign. The researchers, led by Heidi M. Levitt, Ph.D., at the University of Memphis, grouped the respondents' reactions into eight major themes, or "clusters." These included, for example: "Initiatives lead to constant painful reminders that I'm seen as less than human by our government and public laws," and "The irrationality of anti-GLBT initiatives and movements is baffling, painful and scary: We are not who they say we are."

Participants reported feeling not just alienated from their communities, but fearful that they would lose their children, that they would become victims of anti-Gay violence or that they would need to move to a more accepting community. Some of these anxieties were mitigated by social support. For instance, one interviewee said he became "petrified ...of being raped or roughed up or killed, you know, for doing nothing, basically. I worry about being picked out as a Gay guy because my mannerisms are not entirely masculine." Another said the marriage amendment supporters were using the Bible "like a brick on us. They are beating us with it."

Social support from religious institutions, families, LGBT friends and heterosexual allies led most of the participants "to greater feelings of safety, happiness and strength," the researchers wrote. And in the third study, 10 family members of LGBT people living in Memphis were interviewed regarding how anti-LGBT initiatives and movements had affected their family. Their responses were also grouped into clusters of similar themes. "Some participants identified so deeply with their family member's experience that they felt equally attacked by these movements and policies," the researchers wrote. "They considered themselves members of the LGBT community and experienced rejection by others for being a GLBT family member."

"Typically, we tend to think of anti-LGBT policies such as marriage bans and Proposition 8 as affecting only LGBT people. However, our research suggests that others in addition to LGBT people are also impacted by this legislation and sometimes quite negatively. For example, we learned that some family members experienced a form of secondary minority stress. Although many participants displayed resiliency and effective coping with this stress, some experienced strong negative consequences to their mental and physical health," said Jennifer Arm, M.S.

Brent Mallinckrodt, Ph.D., editor of the Journal of Counseling Psychology, said the three articles provide empirical evidence of the harmful psychological and emotional effects of such measures. "This information is especially timely, as we see the emotionally charged reactions from LGBT people in the wake of the Proposition 8 passage in California," he said. "Psychologists serving LGBT clients and their families need to be aware of the real impact of these political forces on the everyday lives of the people most directly affected."

'Buying For Equality'

Continued from Page One

estimated to be $759 billion in 2009. During difficult economic times, our nation's businesses know that every dollar spent by consumers figures into the success of their organization.

This is the fourth year the Human Rights Campaign has published the widely-popular "Buying for Equality" consumer guide. The guide has been viewed and downloaded off of HRC's website more than 275,000 times. This year, HRC included businesses that did not respond to survey request over the past three years. Each non-responder was provided a score of "?" and placed into the red section of the relevant buying category. HRC looks forward to building positive, working relationships with these businesses and encourages readers of the Buyer's Guide that contact these companies to report their responses to HRC.

Scores in the "Buying for Equality" guide are determined through scoring criteria in the HRC Foundation's Corporate Equality Index (CEI), the only nationally recognized measure of LGBT workplace equality. The CEI is the primary method for companies to evaluate their diversity efforts toward LGBT employees, customers, and investors. To learn more about the CEI visit hrc.org/cei.

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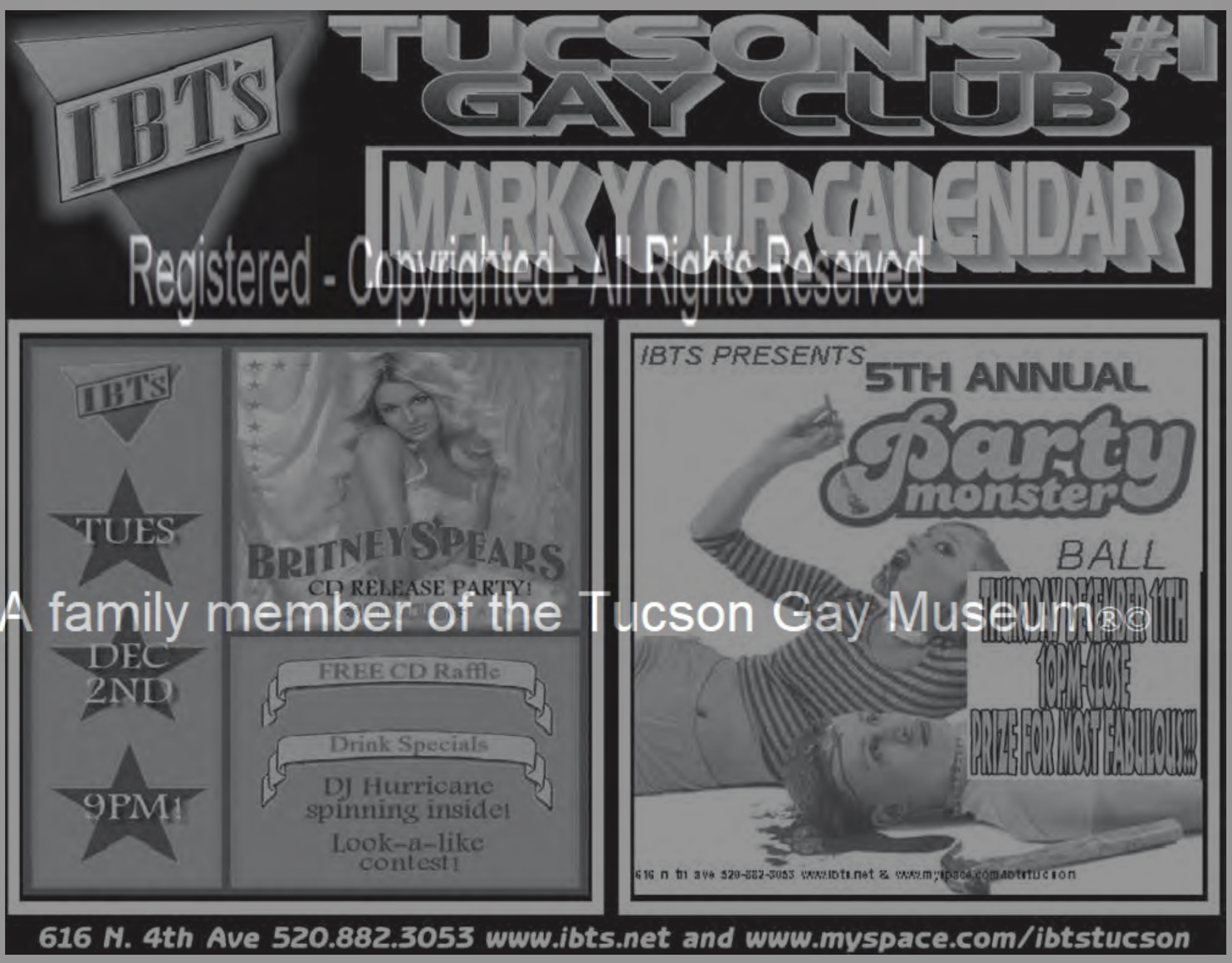

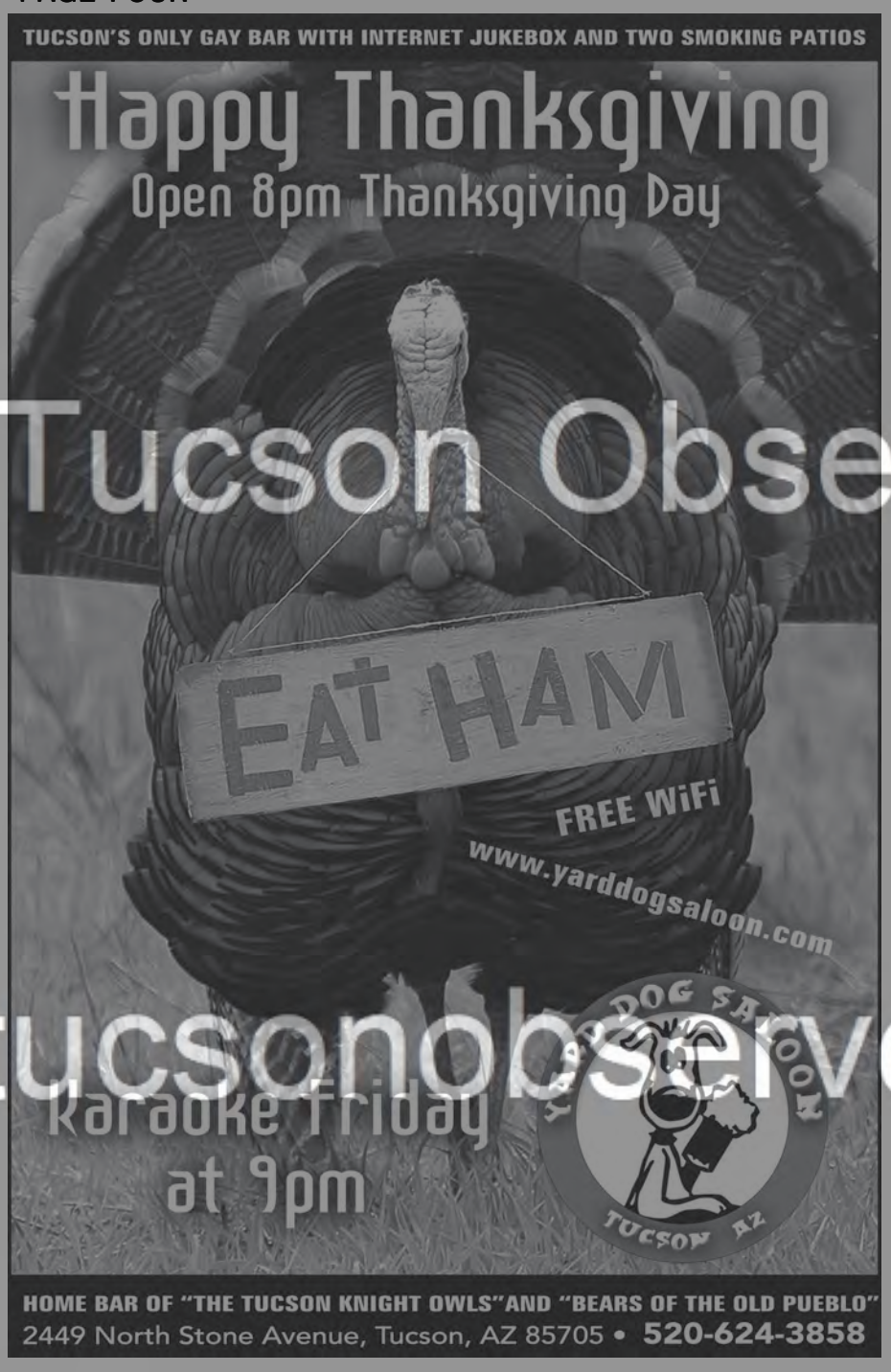

Mozart Requiem To Honor Youth Victims Of AIDS

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra (SASO) and Catalina Foothills High School Chorus are presenting Mozart's Requiem on December 3rd at Catalina United Methodist Church (2700 E. Speedway Boulevard) and December 8th at Catalina Foothills High School Auditorium (4300 E. Sunrise Dr) both starting at 7:30 p.m.

The primary intention of the event was to offer Tucson a preview of the Requiem before the chorus embarks on a trip to New York to do a performance of the work at Carnegie Hall on January 19th with additional choruses and another orchestra.

Because December 1st is World Aids Day, both groups decided to perform the first concert in honor of all the youth that died from HIV and donate half of the proceeds to Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF). In the past 5 years there has been a 25% increase of HIV contamination between the ages 18 and 25 in the United States. Dr. Linus Lerner, Music Director of SASO, hopes that this effort will help to alert and educate these kids, their parents, and the community and provide some funds to help the prevention and treatment of the disease. Wendell Hicks, director of SAAF, is also expected to give a short speech before the concert on December 3. Soloist for the Requiem will be Christi Amonson (Soprano), Robyn Rocklein (Mezzo Soprano), Adam Shelton (Tenor) and Nathan Krueger (Bass). Besides the Requiem, SASO will be performing Sibelius's Finlandia and the Catalina Foothills Chorus will be performing a few a capella selections.

Tickets for December 3 at Catalina United Methodist Church will be $15 for adults, $10 for students and free for kids 17 and under and will be available at the door. For more information call: Linus Lerner at (520) 360-5400. Tickets for December 08th at Catalina Foothills High School Auditorium will be $10 for adults and $3 for Students and will be available at the door. For more information call Christopher Jackson at (520) 209-8323.

'Down The Chimney' Dec. 6 & 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices, Tucson's premier GLBTS chorus celebrates its 20th season as its 50 voices unite under the direction of Chris Tackett with their biggest and brightest entertainment season ever.

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church will resonate with festive holiday favorites December 6 and 7 as they present the season opener, "Down the Chimney." Tucson's own rock star, Namoli Brennet will join the chorus and share a special gift, the debut of a new song written especially for their 20th season.

Ticket prices are 2 for $20; 1 for $15 and are available through the Desert Voices Box Office at 791-9662, at Antigone Books (411 N 4th Ave., Tucson) and from any chorus member. For more information, visit their website at desertvoices.org.

Observer Policy On Ads

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Recently there has been some questions in regard to advertisements that have appeared in the publication.

For those who read the print edition or web version of the paper, on the lower section of page two, each and every week the publication has been in existence, one week longer than the print edition now of the Christian Science Monitor, appears the following:

"Although the Observer has many fine advertisers, we do not accept the responsibility for any claims made pertaining to their products and/or services."

This has been the case for the entirety of the publication and if one has a question about any advertisers claims or policies, they need to be taken up with them. It is the advertising which pays for the publication of the print edition, maintenance of the website and the continual availability of the archive (marking the entire history of Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS rights movement since 1976), to the general public. Plain and simple, no glorious profits for the proprietors and staff, just the ability to keep the community informed.

If one is so inclined, they can donate, tip, contribute or whatever one wishes to "call it" at the website, tucsonobserver.com or the blog, tucsonobserver.blogspot.com, or people have the option of donating through the PayPal system but for those wanting to send a check, make checks payable to "The Observer," and mail them to P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703.

Microchips For PWAs In Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Observer Update) - Lawmakers in Indonesia's remote province of Papua have thrown their support behind a controversial bill requiring some HIV/AIDS patients to be implanted with microchips - part of extreme efforts to monitor the disease.

Health workers and rights activists sharply criticized the plan. But legislator John Manangsang said by implanting small computer chips beneath the skin of "sexually aggressive" patients, authorities would be in a better position to identify, track and ultimately punish those who deliberately infect others with up to six months in jail or a $5,000 fine. The technical and practical details still need to be hammered out, he and others said, but the proposed legislation has received full backing from the provincial parliament and, if it gets a majority vote as expected, will be enacted next month.

Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country and has one of Asia's fastest growing HIV rates, with up to 290,000 infections out of 235 million people, fueled mainly by intravenous drug users and prostitution. But Papua, the country's easternmost and poorest province, has been hardest hit. Its case rate of almost 61 per 100,000 is 15 times the national average, according to internationally funded research, which blames lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases.

Health workers and rights activists called the plan "abhorrent." "People with AIDS aren't animals; we have to respect their rights," said Tahi Ganyang Butarbutar, a prominent activist in Papua. He said the best way to tackle the epidemic was through increased spending on sexual education and condom use.

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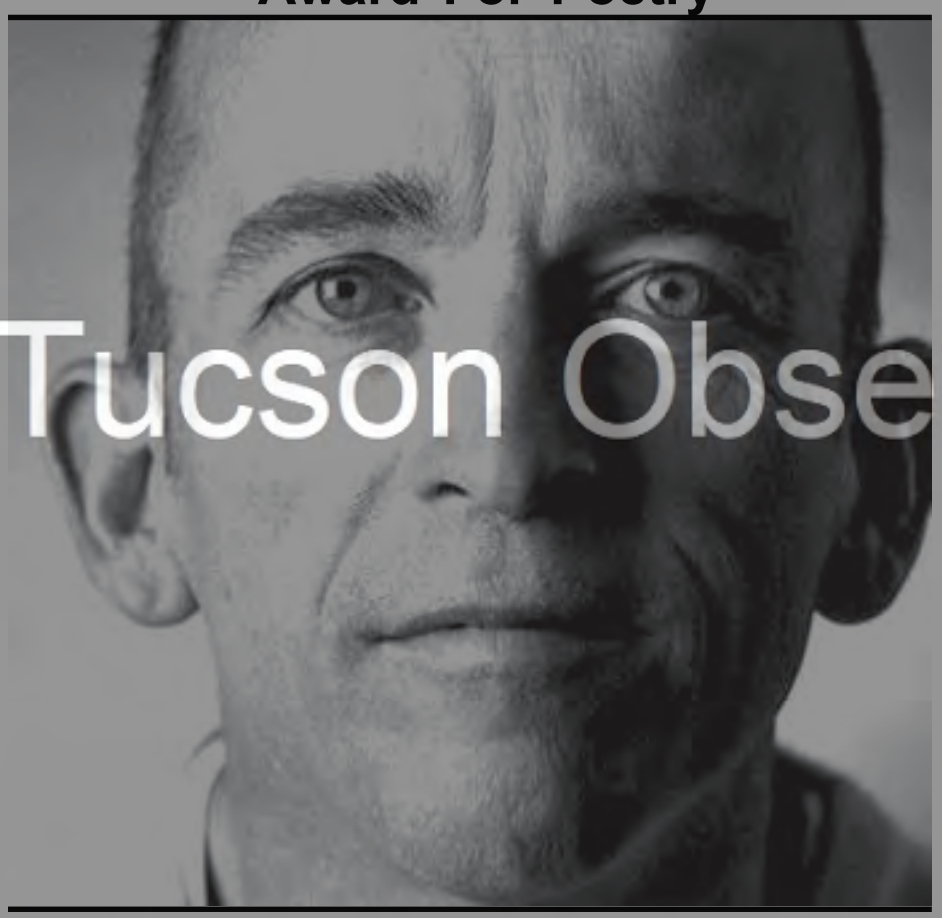
Mark Doty Wins National Book Award For Poetry



Poet Mark Doty

Tucson Observer Archives

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - An acclaimed Gay writer just got more acclaimed. Mark Doty's Fire to Fire: New and Collected Poems won the National Book Award for poetry at an awards presentation.

"Elegant, plain-spoken, and unflinching, Mark Doty's poems in Fire to Fire gently invite us to share their ferocious compassion," says a blurb on the website of the National Book Foundation, the organization behind the National Book Awards. "With their praise for the world and their fierce accusation, their defiance and applause, they combine grief and glory in a music of crazy excelsis. In this generous retrospective volume a gifted young poet has become a master." Fire to Fire is a collection of Doty's work from 20 years and seven books of poetry, and it includes new poems as well. The pieces touch on moral ambiguity, art, and sensuality.

Doty – who splits his time between Provincetown, Mass., and Texas, where he teaches at the University of Houston – has received much praise for his poems as well as memoirs, which include titles like Firebird, Still Life With Oysters and Lemon: On Objects and Intimacy, and Dog Years. Doty has been honored with the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for First Nonfiction, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, a Whiting Writers Award, a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award, and the T.S. Eliot Prize, advocate.com reported.

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New York State Insurers Ordered To Recognize Same-Sex Marriages

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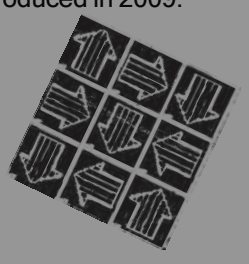
NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The New York State overseerer of insurance companies has told companies they must treat legally married same-sex couples the same as they treat opposite-sex married pairs, reported 365Gay.com.

Although state law does not permit Gay marriage within New York State, a Rochester court ruled that valid out-of-state marriages of Lesbian and Gay couples must be recognized. The state's highest court upheld the ruling. In addition, Gov. David Paterson in June issued a directive instructing state agencies governing insurance and health care - to immediately change policies and regulations to recognize Gay marriages performed in areas where they are legal.

Nevertheless, some private insurers have declined to recognize same-sex marriages. In his directive to insurance companies operating in the state, Insurance Superintendent Eric Dinallo said legally married same-sex couples cannot be treated differently than other married couples. "Insurance is an essential part of our planning for daily life," Dinallo's directive said. "We expect insurance companies to provide the same rights and benefits to all legally married couples, regardless of the sex of the spouses ... As Governor David Paterson has explained, this is consistent with the position the State historically has taken with respect to marriages conducted in jurisdictions outside of the State of New York."

Large numbers of New York Gay and Lesbian couples have gone to Canada, Massachusetts and Connecticut where same-sex marriage is legal to tie the knot. LGBT rights groups are hopeful the incoming legislature will pass marriage equality legislation in the Empire State. Gov. Paterson has said he would sign the bill if it is passed. In 2006, the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, ruled that same-sex couples do not have a constitutional right to marry. It said that the issue, however, could be taken up by the Legislature.

A bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry in New York passed the Democrat-controlled Assembly last year but Republicans who then controlled the Senate refused to consider the legislation. November's election saw 40 years of GOP rule in the Senate come to an end. The marriage equality legislation likely will be reintroduced in 2009.



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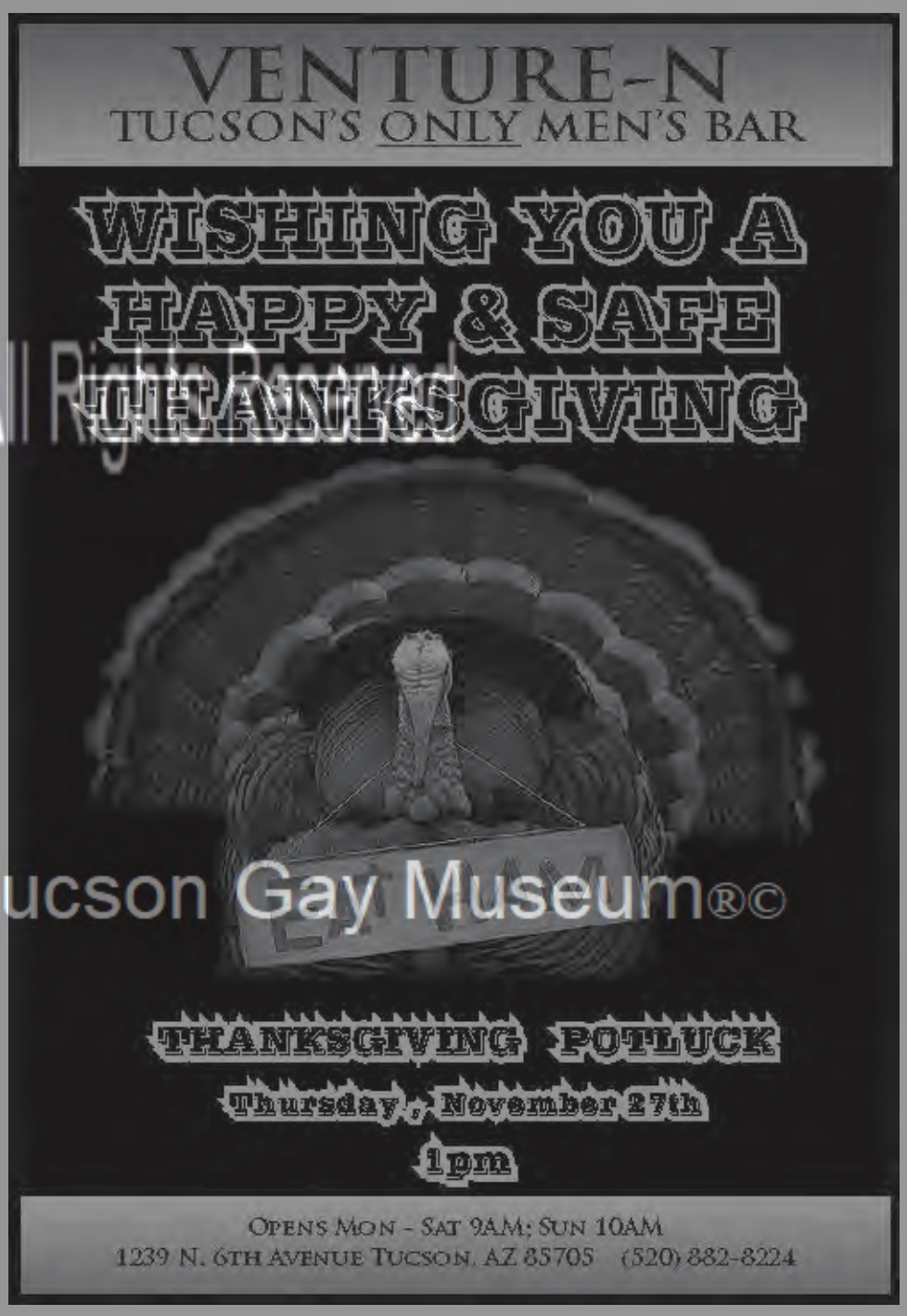


POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Know Your Neighbor

As previously reported, a review (and publication of businesses and individuals) of the campaign finance reports for the proponents (yesformarriage.com) of Proposition 102 (AZSOS 102062008) - the proposed and now state constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman, had commenced, joining economic boycott efforts that were had begun in Florida and California, where two other amendments were on their general election ballots.

Proponents of these measures decried this move to list those who believe that all citizens of these states and this country don't deserve equal rights under the law and constitution, adding that what if they published a list of those who gave money to fight these measures for which this reporter says to go for it and lets show those who do and those who don't support "equal justice under the law." So with that, continuing on, more individuals and businesses (focusing this week on Tucson so that the community, just like the Wingspan campaign in 2006, can get to "Know Your Neighbor.") who gave contributions, monetary, in kind or otherwise or who conducted transactions with the proponents of Proposition 102 in Arizona because LGBT consumers have the right to refuse service as well to businesses and individuals.

Tucson businesses that contributed to the effort for the passage of Proposition 102, according to the campaign finance reports (period August 14 - September 22, 2008) filed with the Arizona Secretary of State's Office, included: Kevin B. Howard Architects, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $3,000. Darryl Dunn, DVM, Tucson, AZ, 85732, 8/22/08, $2,000. Richard Johnson DDS, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/22/08, $1,000. Bell Landscaping, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/30/08, $1,000. 2385 Limited Liability Company, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 9/4/08, $2,500. Mayfield Financial and Estate Protection Services, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 9/4/08, $7,150,

Tucsonans who contributed to the effort, included: Dwight D. Allen, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $4,000. Richard and Gayle Boyle, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $15,000. Michael and Julie Burke, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 8/14/08, $500. James and Marilyn Busby, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 8/14/08, $5,000. Stanley Foutz, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 8/14/08, $2,500. Monty and M.V. Kennedy (MK Engineering), Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $5,000. Delbert and Rebecca Mack, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 8/14/08, $1,000. John and Joan McLeod, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $5,000. Michael and MaryAnne Olsen, Tucson, AZ, 85704, 8/14/08, $2,000. Ralph and Patricia Price, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $500. Gary and Pamela Rasmussen, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/14/08, $500. Mickey and Cheryl Stewart, Tucson, AZ, 85704, $1,000. Steven and Mary Broadbent, Tucson, AZ, 85704, 8/15/08. $5,000. Carol Clay, Tucson, AZ, 85716, 8/15/08, $300. Ira Larsen, Tucson, AZ 85716, 8/15/08, $300 (Interesting note both Ira and Carol have the same address, but different names and still support 102?).

Cole and Carol Theis, Software Development - Allied Computer Systems, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 8/16/08, $5,000. Alston Living Trust, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/19/08, $8,000. Joseph Ballantyne, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 8/19/08, $10,000. Marvin and Shirley Bates MD, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 8/19/08, $750. Ralph and Denise Beeston, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 8/19/08, $1,000. Kevin and Janelle Chugg, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/19/08, $750. Richard and Hannah Clark, Tucson, AZ, 85706, 8/19/08, $1,000. Lewis and Kathy Echols, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/19/08, $1,000. Arthur and Lyn Elrey, Tucson, AZ, 85711, 8/19/08, $100. Reed and Sheryl Hancock, Tucson, AZ, 85743, (IBM Engineer), 8/19/08, $1,500. Robert and Sharon Hileman, Tucson, AZ, 85713, 8/19/08, $500. Jeri Larimore, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/19/08, (Support Specialist LDS), $1,000. Roger and Karen Mason, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/19/08, $1,000. Amanda E., Elise M., Bruce and Debra Maxwell (all at the same address), Tucson, AZ, 85718, 8/19/08, $5,000 (total). William and Jean Pratt, Tucson, AZ, 85739, 8/19/08, $2,500. Ronald and Anita Watson, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 8/19/08, $1,100. Robert and June Black, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/20/08, $1,000. Jeff and Deborah Conover, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/20/08, $3,000. Carolyn Doten, Tucson, AZ, 85713, 8/20/08, $500.

Alan Lojka, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/20/08, $500. David and Patrice Minch, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/20/08, $1,000. Gus and Mary Pappas, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 8/20/08, $500. Don and Charlotte Penrod, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/20/08, $500. Junious Ross II, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/20/08, $1,000. Scott and Susan Shumway (Aerospace Engineer, Millennium Engineering), Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/20/08, $1,000. Keith and Jennifer Soderburg, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 8/20/08, $2,500. Stephen and Malia Trejo, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/20/08, $100. Stanford and Susan Vaterlaus, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/20/08, $3,000 (total). Charlotte Walker-Penrod, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/20/08, $500. Dale Williams (Owner - American Stamp & Coin Co.), Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/20/08, $1,000. Dale and Helen Anderson (Engineer - IBM), Tucson, AZ, 85747, 8/21/08, $1,000. Dale and Ann Christiansen, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/21/08, $1,000. Gary and Lee Clark, Marana, AZ, (Owner - Local Utility), 85658, 8/21/08, $5,000. J. Kirby and Brook Comaduran, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 8/21/08, $500. Kayte and Brent Crowther, Tucson, AZ, 85739, 8/21/08, $1,000. Jeff and Mary Gabittas, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 8/21/08, $500. Marie Hill, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 8/21/08, $750. Sarah Kai, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/21/08, $500. Anne and Allan Kowalski, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/21/08, $1,000. Lewis Leavitt, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 8/21/08, $1,000. Daniel and Katherine Raehl, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/21/08, $2,500. Micah Robinson, Tucson, (Engineer - IBM) AZ, 85747, 8/21/08, $1,000. M. Paul Turner, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 8/21/08, $1,000. Howard and Katherine Anderson (Engineer - Raytheon), Tucson, AZ, 85746, 8/22/08, $500. Charles and Alba Baley, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/22/08, $750. Lance and Tammy Curtis, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/22/08, $1,000. DeVere and Kathryn Doucet, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 8/22/08, $500. Benjamin and Shannon Holley, Tucson, AZ, 85746, 8/22/08, $500. James and Maxine Ijams, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 8/22/08, $400. Foid and Rebecca Janes, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 8/22/08, $1,000. Carrol Jensen (and Carl) (Homemaker Listed), Tucson, AZ, 85752, 8/22/08, $1,000. Leo and Nadine Johnson, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/22/08, $1,000. Shawna and Jon Ostler, Tucson, AZ, 85757, 8/22/08, $500. Marsha Phelps, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 8/22/08, $1,000. Vernon and Billie Phillips, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 8/22/08, $500. Kenneth and Vickie Slade, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/2/08, $1,000. Kenneth and Kathleen Wallace, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/22/08, $1,500. Mason and Kimberly Wardle, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/22/08, $1,000. Dean and Sharon Xanthos, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 8/22/08, $1,000.

This is just a microcosm of them and more will be following in subsequent editions, since this was not just a statewide initiative so more will be following and remember, as consumers, we have the right to refuse service to anyone as well. For those interested in even more details, the reports can be found online at azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/F751795F-624D-4502-83C4-FD8E16844FC8.pdf, azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/1660B06E-2440-4978-8490-1308210055EA.pdf, azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/F13C4158-61AE-4EF7-A8BD-6B85801F0145.pdf. For more information online about the ongoing economic boycott go to equalityboycott.com.

No Milk For Cinemark No Twilight For Gays

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Cinemark theatre chain CEO Alan Stock shelled out $9,999 to pass Prop. 8 in California, but will his theatre chain profit from ticket sales for the forthcoming release of Milk. Not if a group of people on the web have anything to say about it. NoMilkforCinemark.com is dedicated to convincing ticket buyers to see Milk at a competitor's theatre. The idea is that if the LGBT community agrees to buy tickets to see the movie somewhere else, Cinemark will lose revenue from what promises to be one of the most profitable pictures of the holiday season.

California's Briggs initiative, which would have resulted in the firing of Gay and Lesbian teachers throughout the state, plays a prominent role in the film.

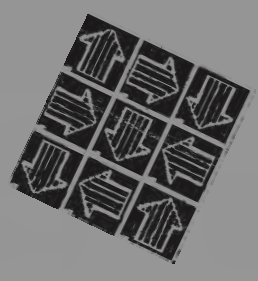
But LGBT movie goers are faced with another tough decision this holiday season. Twilight, based on the bestselling novel by Stephanie Meyer, opened in theaters. And, if Meyer is to be believed, 10% of all monies she makes off the movie will go to the Mormon church. Meyer has made no public statement regarding her feelings on Prop. 8, reported advocate.com.

Utah Senate Panel Clears First G/L Rights Measure

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - The first in a series of G/L-rights bills being pushed for the 2009 legislative session cleared a committee, but not without drawing staunch opposition from conservative activists.

The pushback over Sen. Scott McCoy's wrongful-death measure – one of the seemingly least controversial bills proposed as part of Equality Utah's Common Ground Initiative – could signal a tough slog for the Gay-rights group and the legislators carrying the six bills.

The initiative also calls for creating a statewide domestic-partner registry and forcing employers with family health plans to extend those benefits to unmarried partners. McCoy, D-Salt Lake City, wants to amend state law so that financial dependents – besides spouses, parents and children – could sue if a breadwinner suffers a wrongful death.



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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

Despite Challenges, Savor This Year's Blessings

Deb Price

President-elect Barack Obama's great love of Abraham Lincoln has me spending chilly evenings curled up with a history book or two. Turns out that honest, sad-eyed Abe knew the importance of staying in close touch with gratitude, of giving thanks even in the midst of turmoil and disappointment.

In October 1863, President Lincoln was locked in the middle of the terrible Civil War that was "testing," as he would put it a few weeks later in Gettysburg, whether a "nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal ... can long endure." In other words, not only was victory nowhere in sight, he didn't even know whether the nation would survive. Yet, Lincoln chose that moment to turn Thanksgiving into a national holiday to be celebrated every November.

Putting his well-hidden sunny side on display, he issued a proclamation accentuating the positive: "The year that is drawing towards its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source ... others have been added.... (H)armony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict...."

My first thought was, "Hey, that's a mighty big exception, President Pollyanna!" But upon reflection, I realized Lincoln was striking exactly the right tone. Thanksgiving Day comes at the end of autumn, when everything that can be harvested that year has already been taken. Winter's harshness is quickly closing in. Late November is the perfect time to express appreciation for the bounty that will provide comfort throughout the coming season, when spring isn't even a glimmer in Mother Nature's eye. Lincoln's upbeat declaration is a reminder Thanksgiving isn't the time for financial-ledger accounting of the year's results: If spring was too soggy and the apples had worms, that's a discussion for another day.

Thanksgiving is a time to focus on the year's blessings. And those of us who are Gay or Gay-friendly have plenty to savor:

Lt. Gov. David Paterson, who fondly recalls the Gay couple who helped raise him, unexpectedly stepped into New York's governorship and soon declared that his state would honor same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

Following the example first set by neighboring Vermont eight years ago, New Hampshire joined the ranks of civil union states. Almost no one rose to object.

Connecticut quietly opened the doors of marriage to Gay couples. Seeing that Massachusetts lives comfortably with Gay marriage, Connecticut voters passed on the chance to hold a constitutional convention and fight over the breakthrough.

An estimated 18,000 Gay couples married in California after a landmark ruling. Six million Californians voted in favor of Gay people keeping the right to marry. When they failed, the state's top court agreed to hear arguments in favor of nullifying the anti-Gay-marriage measure that narrowly passed.

With an increasingly progressive nation watching his every move, the president-elect posted a long Gay-friendly "To Do" list on his website. And nobody blinked.

Never in history have Gay Americans been so blessed. So in this season of bounty and conflict, let us pause to give heartfelt thanks.

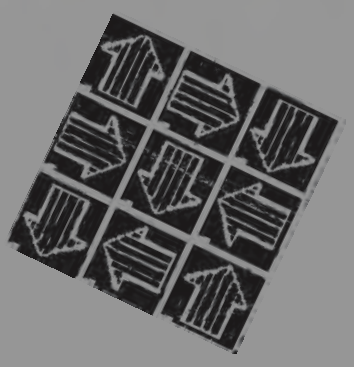
(Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News, from which this is reprinted.)

AIDS Advocate, Daschle, Tapped To Head HHS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - South Dakota's Tom Daschle, a former Senate majority leader, has been tapped by President-elect Barack Obama to head the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Among HHS's responsibilities is coordinating national HIV research and prevention efforts. Obama has pledged to develop and begin implementing a comprehensive national plan to fight the disease within his first year in office.

Advocates hailed Daschle's selection because of the former legislator's long-term support for funding HIV research, treatment, and support programs while in the Senate. He also is the cochair of the nonprofit One Foundation, which works to fight HIV and poverty worldwide. During a foundation visit to Rwanda, Daschle told reporters, "We have a moral obligation to assist those suffering from abject poverty and disease. Investments in the development of our world's poorest nations must be a pillar of our foreign policy going forward, no matter who is leading the next administration. I am encouraged by the tremendous impact that these programs have had in fighting the spread of disease across Africa."

While in Denver for the Democratic National Convention in August, Daschle visited a high school in the host city to help volunteers assemble AIDS caregiver kits.



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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Candace Gingrich

A Letter To My Big Bro

Dear Newt,

I recently had the displeasure of watching you bash the protestors of the Prop 8 marriage ban to Bill O'Reilly on FOX News. I must say, after years of watching you build your career by stirring up the fears and prejudices of the far right, I feel compelled to use the words of your idol, Ronald Reagan, "There you go, again." However, I realize that you may have been a little preoccupied lately with planning your resurrection as the savior of your party, so I thought I would fill you in on a few important developments you might have overlooked.

The truth is that you're living in a world that no longer exists. I, along with millions of Americans, clearly see the world the way it as – and we embrace what it can be. You, on the other hand, seem incapable of looking for new ideas or moving beyond what worked in the past.

Welcome to the 21st century, big bro. I can understand why you're so afraid of the energy that has been unleashed after Gay and Lesbian couples had their rights stripped away from them by a hateful campaign. I can see why you're sounding the alarm against the activists who use all the latest tech tools to build these rallies from the ground up in cities across the country.

This unstoppable progress has at its core a group we at HRC call Generation Equality. They are the most supportive of full LGBT equality than any American generation ever – and when it comes to the politics of division, well, they don't roll that way. 18-24 year olds voted overwhelmingly against Prop 8 and overwhelmingly for Barack Obama. And the numbers of young progressive

Big Bro Newt Gingrich

voters will only continue to grow. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning, about 23 million 18-29 year olds voted on Nov. 4, 2008 – the most young voters ever to cast a ballot in a presidential election. That's an increase of 3 million more voters compared to 2004.

These are the same people who helped elect Barack Obama and sent a decisive message to your party. These young people are the future and their energy will continue to drive our country forward. Even older Americans are turning their backs on the politics of fear and demagoguery that you and your cronies have perfected over the years.

This is a movement of the people that you most fear. It's a movement of progress – and your

Candace Gingrich

words on FOX News only show how truly desperate you are to maintain control of a world that is changing before your very eyes. Then again, we've seen these tactics before. We know how much the right likes to play political and cultural hardball, and then turn around and accuse us of lashing out first. You give a pass to a religious group – one that looks down upon minorities and women – when they use their money and membership roles to roll back the rights of others, and then you label us "fascists" when we fight back. You belittle the relationships of Gay and Lesbian couples, and yet somehow neglect to explain who anointed you the protector of "traditional" marriage. And, of course, you've also mastered taking the foolish actions of a few people and then indicting an entire population based on those mistakes. I fail to see how any of these patterns coincide with the values of "historic Christianity" you claim to champion.

Again, nothing new here. This is just more of the blatant hypocrisy we're used to hearing.

What really worries me is that you are always willing to use LGBT Americans as political weapons to further your ambitions. That's really so '90s, Newt. In this day and age, it's embarrassing to watch you talk like that. You should be more afraid of the new political climate in America, because, there is no place for you in it.

In other words, stop being a hater, big bro.

(Since 1995, Candace Gingrich has served as a key advocate for issues of importance to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. Her 1996 autobiography, The Accidental Activist, was a best seller in the GLBT community.)

18,000 Calif. G/L Marriages In Limbo Until March At Earliest

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - California's highest court agreed to hear several legal challenges to the state's new ban on same-sex marriage but refused to allow Gay and Lesbian couples to resume marrying before it rules, 365Gay.com reported. The California Supreme Court accepted three lawsuits seeking to nullify Proposition 8, a voter-approved constitutional amendment that overruled the court's decision in May that legalized Gay marriage.

All three cases claim the measure abridges the civil rights of a vulnerable minority group. They argue that voters alone did not have the authority to enact such a significant constitutional change. As is its custom when it takes up cases, the court elaborated little. However, the justices did say they want to address what effect, if any, a ruling upholding the amendment would have on the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that were sanctioned in California before Election Day.

Gay rights groups and local governments petitioning to overturn the ban were joined by the measure's sponsors and Attorney General Jerry Brown in urging the Supreme Court to consider whether Proposition 8 passes legal muster. The initiative's opponents had also asked the court to grant a stay of the measure, which would have allowed Gay marriages to begin again while the justices considered the cases. The court denied that request. The justices directed Brown and lawyers for the Yes on 8 campaign to submit arguments by Dec. 19 on why the ballot initiative should not be nullified. It said lawyers for the plaintiffs, who include same-sex couples who did not wed before the election, must respond before Jan. 5.

Oral arguments could be scheduled as early as March, according to court spokeswoman Lynn Holton. "This is welcome news. The matter of Proposition 8 should be resolved thoughtfully and without delay," Brown said in a statement.

Both opponents and supporters of Proposition 8 expressed confidence that their arguments would prevail. But they also agreed that the cases present the court's seven justices - six of whom voted to review the challenges - with complex questions that have few precedents in state case law. Although more than two dozen states have similar amendments, some of which have survived similar lawsuits, none were approved by voters in a place where Gay marriage already was legal. Neither were any approved in a state where the high court had put sexual orientation in the same protected legal class as race and religion, which the California Supreme Court did when it rendered its 4-3 decision that made same-sex marriage legal in May.

Opponents of the ban argue that voters improperly abrogated the judiciary's authority by stripping same-sex couples of the right to wed after the high court earlier ruled it was discriminatory to prohibit Gay men and Lesbians from marrying. "If given effect, Proposition 8 would work a dramatic, substantive change to our Constitution's 'underlying principles' of individual equality on a scale and scope never previously condoned by this court," lawyers for the same-sex couples stated in their petition.

The measure represents such a sweeping change that it constitutes a constitutional revision as opposed to an amendment, the documents say. The distinction would have required the ban's backers to obtain approval from two-thirds of both houses of the California Legislature before submitting it to voters. Over the past century, the California Supreme Court has heard nine cases challenging legislative acts or ballot initiatives as improper revisions. The court eventually invalidated three of the measures, according to the Gay rights group Lambda Legal.

Andrew Pugno, legal counsel for the Yes on 8 campaign, said he doubts the court will buy the revision argument in the case of the Gay marriage ban because the plaintiffs would have to prove the measure alters the state's basic governmental framework. Joel Franklin, a constitutional law professor at Monterey College of Law, said that even though the court rejected similar procedural arguments when it upheld amendments reinstating the death penalty and limiting property taxes, those cases do not represent as much of a fundamental change as Proposition 8. "Those amendments applied universally to all Californians," Franklin said. "This is a situation where you are removing rights from a particular group of citizens, a class of individuals the court has said is entitled to constitutional protection. That is a structural change."

The trio of cases the court accepted were filed by six same-sex couples who have not yet wed, a Los Angeles Lesbian couple who were among the first to tie the knot on June 16 and 11 cities and counties, led by the city of San Francisco.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Aubrey Sarvis

Don't Ask Don't Tell Getting Repeal Right This Time

Aubrey Sarvis

In 1992 then president-elect Bill Clinton announced that he was going to issue unilaterally an executive order that would end discrimination against Gays and Lesbians in the military. Big, big mistake.

Although the LGBT community cheered, we were in the minority. The bigots and the hysterics made a louder noise, drowning out the measured voice of reason. When Clinton came into office, he was opposed on this issue by the Joint Chiefs, including its chairman Colin Powell, by many in Congress, and, according to an ABC News - Washington Post poll of May 1993, by 55 percent of the American people. Of course, the Right exploited the issue and it took months for the brouhaha to die down. During those months Clinton saw a lot of his political capital evaporate.

After hearings that gave a number of people the opportunity to vent their homophobia, Congress decided on a "compromise" measure. It passed the statute we know as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which declared – against all evidence and various studies commissioned by the Pentagon and others – that homosexuality was incompatible with military service. So instead of the old regulation, which could have been changed by executive order if the ground had been properly laid, we got a law that now only Congress can repeal.

Fifteen years after the law was passed, the new president-elect Barack Obama is determined to avoid the mistakes the Clinton transition made in regard to this particular issue. As president, Clinton thought he could walk into the Oval Office, sign an executive order, and the discriminatory regulation would disappear. It didn't work that way, and it still doesn't. President-elect Obama wants to open the military to Gays and Lesbians but he's got to do more than snap his fingers to accomplish that goal. An executive order won't cut it this time.

In an astute analysis entitled "The Ghosts of 1993" and published on his much acclaimed website fivethirtyeight.com, Nate Silver asks, "What high-profile policy change has the support of 75 percent of the American public, and could be implemented by changing a very few simple statutes at essentially no cost to the American taxpayer?" You've got it. In response to his own question, Silver writes, "That would be a repeal of Public Law 103-160, the 1993 measure more commonly known as 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' which prohibits openly Gay persons from serving in the United States military."

To get rid of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" we must proceed deliberately and according to a plan, which will not require grandstanding but which will require leadership, lining up the votes one by one and reaching out to the Pentagon to ensure their cooperation. Public sentiment (in contrast to 1993), is leading the way. An ABC News - Washington Post poll identical to the 1993 poll was taken last July. It showed 75 percent in favor of open service with only 22 percent opposed. (One might note that the percentage of those opposed is virtually the same as President Bush's approval rating.)

The new Administration needs to hear from the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs about implementation and how to do it right this time. The Department of Defense was not on the train fifteen years ago and the train crashed. No one wants to replay 1993. We've seen that movie. We're watching another movie now. I like this one a lot better. The politics as well as the people have changed dramatically in the last fifteen years. One hundred forty-nine members of the House have signed on to a bill, H.R. 1246, that would repeal the ban. More than a hundred retired admirals and generals have urged Congress to lift the ban. When Mr. Obama said last September that DADT was a bad law that should be repealed, and that he wanted to work with the military to figure out how to make that happen, he created barely a ripple.

The economy is collapsing around us and the specter of a serious depression looms. We are fighting two wars with not enough troops. The globe is warming and the ocean is rising. No one expects DADT to be the first item on the new president's agenda. But we do expect it to be on the agenda. And we expect action sooner rather than later. Make no mistake about it, this can be done in the 111th Congress.

If the new president can't accomplish this, what are the chances for the rest of his program? To quote Nate Silver again, "if Obama can't get a DADT repeal passed, then good luck with something like universal health insurance, which though also supported by solid majorities of the public, is not at 75 percent support, and will be met with much, much more vigorous resistance from lobbying groups."

(Sarvis is the Executive Director of the Servicemen's Legal Defense Network, online at sldn.org.)

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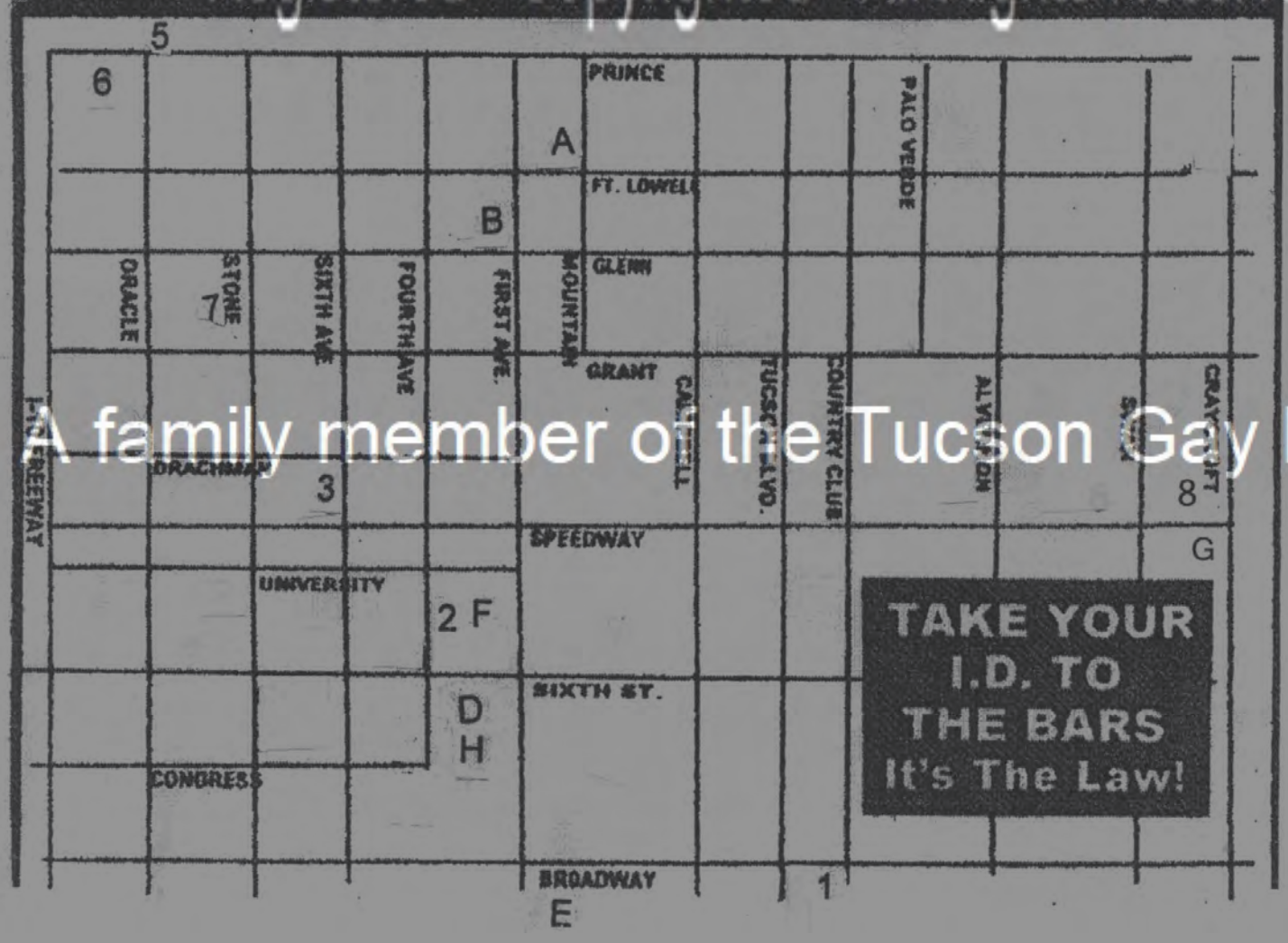

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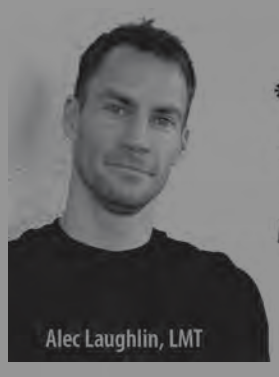

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Who's Who Of Capitalists

Most of us have been taught to believe we are all little capitalists, living happily in the best of all social systems...a capitalist society. But we cannot be capitalists, by definition we are something else entirely. The basic idea behind capitalism is that people with lots of money (capital) spend it to build or make something out of raw materials and labor, to sell for a profit. What this means is that you cannot be a capitalist unless you have a lot of money. If you aren't a capitalist (and you ain't) you are either materials or labor. Unless you are a cabbage, you're labor, period.

The only capitalists you will ever know are the ones that fund your paychecks. And those checks will be as small as possible, to insure the capitalist that funds them gets the highest return on his capital investment as possible. Which all means that you are labor, and that you do this labor for the smallest amount the capitalist (the guy with the big money) can get away with. That is capitalism....the belief that capital should earn most of the economic return. The idea is that capital is the thing that makes it all happen, so it should get the biggest piece of the pie. Since you are all workers (or "labor") and not cabbages, the goal of the capitalist is directly counter to your own goal, which is to labor as little as possible for the most money possible.

This natural tension between capital and labor is the basis for the capitalist's penchant for calling socialists bad names. But if you are not a capitalist (because you ain't got the money, honey) then you are laboring for a capitalist and the thing you are is a socialist....simply because you depend upon the government to control the greedy and rapacious nature of the capitalist (see: Enron, Cheney, et al). This desire for the government to act as an arbiter and manage the economy for the greater good is a social contract that we make with the government...this is the evil socialism that the capitalist warns against. Now that you know who you are, even though you wish you were something else (the guy with the money) it might be a little easier to see what we want government to do.

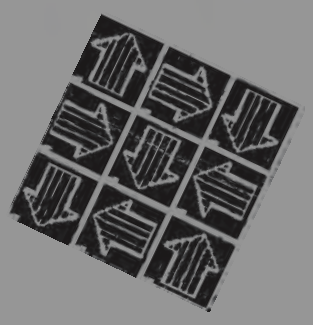
Private money (capitalists) don't pay for the roads that transport goods to market, materials to factories and workers (you) to the jobsite; government pays for it. Socialist pigs that we are, we pay for it with our taxes and the capitalists use it for free (when big companies pay no tax, as few do now). Private money doesn't pay for dams, airports, convention centers, dikes, canals, bridges or any other part of the infrastructure that capitalists depend upon; government does and we pay for it. Capitalists use the big ticket items that socialist programs provide, all the while screaming dire warnings to us about the terrible dangers of socialism.

This works because we all are too silly to remember that we have no capital. Sometimes we think we are going to get to play by buying stock in some of the large companies; in this way, we are told, we become little capitalists too. But it doesn't work that way. What happens is that we send our "little all" off to buy stock....the company issuing the stock gathers together all our little moneys and builds factories and buys raw materials, builds stores and buys inventory to stock the shelves. Our money is gone. Spent. Now the factories, materials, stores and inventory belong to the Company. They will not buy our stock back...for that, we depend on another little capitalist....another one of us. The stock doesn't amount to ownership unless you have enough of it to influence the board of directors of a company. If you only have a little bit, it is just another form of currency, floating in value according to the whims of the "investing" public. They get frightened, your stock is worthless (look in your portfolio today).

The point here is that we are all little socialists, whether we want to be or not, because there are only two kinds of citizens in a "free market society"; the guys with the cash and the guys that do the work. We is the work- force, and we depend on the government to make sure that the capitalists don't get too much of our blood and sweat for too little (see: Exon, et al, today). Clarity. Who are we really. That will help us in the coming years, while government tries to undo all the economic rape and pillage that has been aided and abetted by the Bush doctrine. Remember; you is not a cabbage; you is a worker and the government's job is to make sure you get paid and that your pension doesn't evaporate while others pack away the profits in record, unimaginable amounts. That, my friends, is what a socialist government is all about...protecting the members of a society (see that root word?) against the big, bad wolf.

Thank goodness that the capitalists have taken all they could for so long that there is little left....otherwise, we would all be sitting around thinking we were investors and little capitalists instead of the patsies and suckers we are. Now we can be what we should have been....a "Great Society", that puts the welfare of the citizens before the welfare of the few that have the cash.

Oh, yeah...."it" can't be done without capital...but it can't be done without labor either.



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HOROSCOPES

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Sun and Mercury enter Sagittarius and infuse us with unstoppable energy. Hearts and minds are in sync so use this time to take a great idea one giant step forward. No baby steps!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The wide world offers you great temptations and delights. Answer the call. Gay Rams crave more exotic fare, from food to people to places. Give your global perspective wings to soar and plan an exciting trip that broadcasts the best ideas to distant shores. Your candor is a refreshing change and you find that you sway hearts and minds. But try for cash.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls are feeling especially sizzly and sexy. Don't sit at home and wait for a knock on the door. Your charisma is too high to let it simmer on the back burner. And there is more going on under the surface as the week progresses. A mystery will be solve and a well endowed benefactor can help you attain your personal goals. Hmmm just how personal are these goals?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Partnerships take on a greater importance this week. Pink Twins become more cognizant of the importance of relationships in their lives. Usually a large adoring crowd provides you with a nice diversion. But, really, that is nothing compared to the value of an adoring audience of only one. Give your special fan extra recognition for their support and love. Spring for the check.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Any onerous job can go a little easier this week. So don't put off to tomorrow what you can tackle today. You are goaded to overthrow the current power structure and have an uncompromising state of mind. But hold off. It might be prudent to let little annoyances slide on the job. There is an advantage to a weekly paycheck now. Sad as it may seem, we all must eat and pay rent.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

This is a particularly happy time of year for you. Kick back, relax and have an over the top good time. The creative juices flow and proud Lions can express themselves in song, theater or dance. Take your show to the stage and demonstrate your talents. If the crowd tosses you rotten tomatoes, just wear something washable... possibly out of cellophane?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins tend to any unfinished business at home. Whether this means sitting down with the folks for a heart to heart or changing the look (or location) of your abode, is entirely up to you. It's time to upgrade your surroundings and make them more in sync with who you are and how you feel. Don't accept any imitations or limitations.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Proud Libras usually know what they are talking about. Now all you have to do is find a willing and astute audience who listen and seriously consider your opinions. Some of your current insights are powerful and may rock the boat. Don't hold back. It is important to say what needs to be said and let the chips fall where they may. Who knows? You may reap those chips.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22

Proud Scorps find ways to enhance their finances. Be prepared for any fiscal bonanza by properly doing your investment homework. Begin by examining what is and is not important to your sense of well being. The fates have a way of reminding you that all that glitters is not gold. Listen and learn before money is squandered without being enjoyed to the fullest. Darn.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

This is a time of rejuvenation and new beginnings. Get Out there and strut your stuff Gay Archer. You make an excellent first impression and become the adoring center of attention. This birthday time affords you the opportunity so make necessary changes in your appearance. Paisley may be fine in some circles but not where you want to swirl.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Are you marching in the movement or just watching? All pink Caps now need to do their bit for the rainbow cause. Volunteer! You may be torn between your desire to quietly serve behind the scene and the demand of the marketplace to take charge and lead. Whatever method you choose, you can make an impact that is greater than a surface scratch.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Friends bring out your warm and fuzzy side and good thing too; Aqueerians can often be aloof and too cool for certain large social circles. Don't let your personal political ends take precedence over group goals. Instead of trying to boss the course, sit back and enjoy the Gay camaraderie. There is plenty of time to whip them into shape next month.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Take a more active role in your professional path this week. Guppies become more astute corporate players as thoughts and strategies hone in on the essentials. Let the superfluous stuff take care of itself. Delve deeply into the minds of authority figures and lead them to your way of thinking. Then, when you are totally in control, toss the bastards out.

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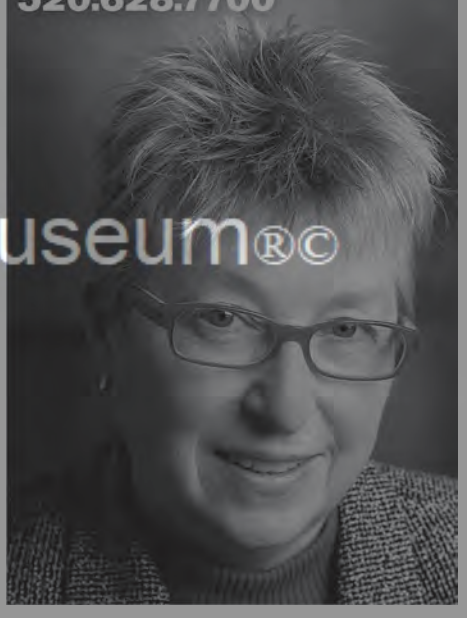

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Lee and Merlin For more information and directions call them at 207-5336

Thursday, November 27
#1 Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcome. 7:00 Bridge cards with Dick. For information and directions call 298-4392

#2 Men's Social Network. Triangle Tribe 7:00p.m. . Triangle tribe offers a safe, respectful space for you to join likeminded gay men to share your feeling, thoughts and ideas. Call Tom at 591-2828 for more information

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to their annual Thanksgiving Feast. 1:30 p.m. Members& their guests only. CV Club House. RSVP Clem 885-1270.

Saturday November 29
#1 Men's social network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcome. Baby Jesus hike with Lee and Merlin. For more information call 207-5336

#2Men'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.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them at 6:30 p.m. for drinks and grub at Woody's Bar, 3710 N. Oracle Road.

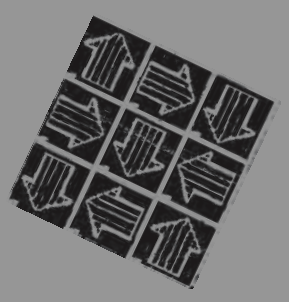
Sunday November 30
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcome: Dinner out with Thom at 6:30. This Sunday will be at Grumpy's Grill. Call Thom for more information and instructions or e-mail him at msncommunictor@gmail.com

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join them for Brunch at 11 a.m. at the delightful Gay-owned Rio Café, 2625 E. Grant Road. RSVP Clem at 885-1270

Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7
Desert Voices Chorus celebrates the opening of their 20th season with concerts at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams. 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday, December 7
Reveille Men's Chorus will sing during the Sunday morning worship service at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 E. third Street at 11:00 a.m.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, January 16 - 18
The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association will hold its Road Runner Regional Rodeo. Visit their website for more information at agra-phx.com or contact Ron Trusley at rtrusley@cox.net or (602)510-9671.



Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

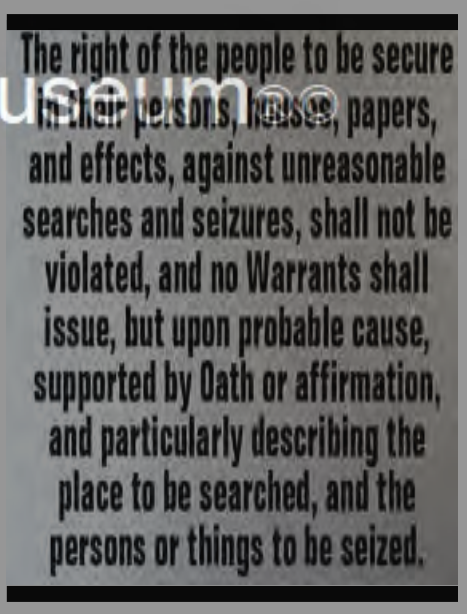
It's that time of year again, boys and girls, THE HOLIDAY SEASON! Thanksgiving, Christmas and finally the New Year celebrations, the latter generally devoted to drunkenness and debauchery. Those of you who know me are probably assuming that my favorite is New Year's Eve. Wrong! I try to stay home that night and leave it free for the amateurs. Actually, my favorite is Thanksgiving. After all, aside from cooking, there isn't much work involved. You have no need to battle the blue hairs in the malls to purchase gaudy neckties or dirty joke books. All you need do is stuff yourself until your skin feels like it might split, and then repair to the couch to watch football, if you are into that sport. I prefer to go to the couch and nap.

Now, I know that the cynics out there are wondering what we have to be thankful for. The economy is in the toilet, we find the banks and financial institutions are being managed by people whose larcenous ways would make a mafia don blush, we are involved in two wars - one we never should have been in - the automobile companies are being run by total idiots (how else can you explain their use of private jets and limousines to carry their sorry a**es to Washington so they could beg for money).

But there are some positives. When this Thanksgiving day is behind us, we will have only 55 more days to endure the antics of that south end of a horse going north who occupies the White House. After he returns to his ranch, the only thing he will need to decide is which bush he should cut down (hopefully he will pick the correct one) or should he change his socks. Stuff that he can handle. I hasten to add, however, he can do a lot more damage in 55 days. Hold on, Canada, you're not out of the woods yet!

And finally, we will have, once again, a president who can speak in complete sentences. At first, it will be disconcerting to find we have a president who speaks English as if it were his first language. Every time Obama opens his mouth, his subjects and verbs are in agreement. If he keeps it up, he is running the risk of sounding like an elitist. The public may find itself saying "OK subject, predicate, subject predicate - we get it, stop showing off." He has already attracted a rebuke from one of his harshest critics, Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska. "Talking with complete sentences there and also too talking in a way that ordinary Americans like Joe the Plumber and Tito the Builder can't really do there, I think needing to do that isn't tapping into what Americans are needing also," she said.

To really appreciate your turkey, go to Youtube and check out the video of Palin pardoning a turkey. It's rather sick but very funny. Enjoy your holiday, and remember to nap.



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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

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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 20 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 Megan at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 116. 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. 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.

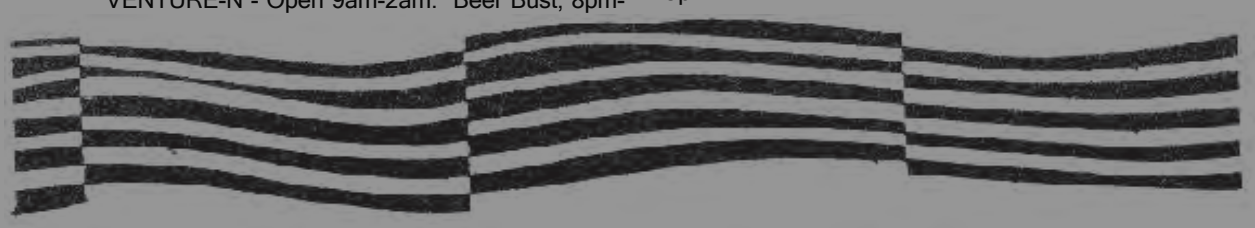
HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

Thursday, November 27 - THANKSGIVING DAY
THE BIZ - Opens today only at 7:00 p.m. Join the crowd after the family, after the turkey for some great fun! 2-4-1 starts @ 10 p.m. plus Karaoke by Y'not.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Will open at 6:00 p.m. today only

VENTURE-N - Thanksgiving Pot Luck today at 1:00p.m.

WOODY"S - Opens at 5:00 p.m. today. Special after Thanksgiving Dessert Party with your favorite Thanksgiving goodies and drink specials.

YARD DOG SALOON - Opens at 8:00 p.m. today.

Friday, November 28
WOODY'S - "Broke Straight Boys" Party. 6:00 p.m. til closing. Gift bags and give-aways plus hot guys

Saturday, November 29
HOWL AT THE MOON - Benefit show with Vivica D'Angely. 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 2
IBT's - Britney Spears CD "Circus" Release Party at 9:00 p.m. Drink Specials, Look-A-Like Contest! Free CD Raffle and DJ Hurricane spinning inside.

Saturday, December 6
WOODY'S - Special fundraiser for the Holiday Food Fund to help those in need; Hosted by Lucinda Holliday.

Thursday, December 11
IBT'S - 5th Annual Party Monster Ball. 10:00 p.m. until closing. Prize for the most fabulous.

Saturday, December 13
HOWL AT THE MOON - TMI is Back!

Around The Nation

Online dating site eHarmony.com has settled a lawsuit with the New Jersey attorney general's office and will start matching Gay and Lesbian customers by March 2009. Matching for Gay couples, however, will be handled through a separate site, dubbed Compatible Partners. Registration will be free for the first 10,000 customers in the first year, after which the rate structure will be equal to that of eHarmony.com. EHarmony will also pay $50,000 to the attorney general's office to cover expenses and $5,000 to Eric McKinley, who initiated the lawsuit. McKinley sued eHarmony in 2005 for violating the state's Law Against Discrimination (LAD) by refusing to offer its services to Gay patrons. In 2007, the attorney general's civil rights division issued a finding of probable cause that eHarmony had violated the LAD. EHarmony filed a motion for reconsideration, but opted to settle instead of proceeding with the case.

A Lesbian mother in Fresno says she was forced to resign from her position as president of the parent-teacher association at her son's Catholic school after she spoke out against banning Gay marriage. Robin McGehee, who enrolled her son Sebastian at St. Helens Catholic School, says she went to a vigil for the "No on Proposition 8" campaign last Thursday. After that, a priest from the Diocese of Fresno told her to step down because she had gone against church teachings. The PTA's vice president, Tiffany Rodriquez, confirmed that McGehee was removed. Rodriquez herself resigned in protest of her removal. The school directed inquiries to Rick Sexton of the Office of Catholic Education, who said he couldn't discuss the issue due to privacy concerns.

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Subway Franchisee Retracts Yes On 8 Gift

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - PageOneQ.com blogger Mike Rogers put the pressure on fast-food chain Subway after finding on a list compiled by the Human Rights Campaign that a Subway franchise owner had donated $2,500 to Yes on 8 – using the company's name. Rogers immediately reached out to Subway headquarters with three demands: Repudiate the gift, expand the corporation's nondiscrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and give an equal donation to the opposing side. He got two out of three.

Subway director of corporate communications Michele DiNello wrote in an e-mail to Rogers that not only will the franchise owner who made the donation be getting an e-mail, but "we will be sending to our franchisees and developers – around the world – the policy regarding political donations." The e-mail reminded franchise owners that "your franchise agreement prohibits your use of the Subway trademark as part of your business or corporate name. Further, it states that you agree to '...not use the Trademark in a manner that degrades, diminishes, or detracts from the goodwill of the business associated with the Trademark' and 'to promptly change the manner of such use if requested to do so by us.'"

DiNello said that the franchise owner has requested a refund of his gift from Yes on 8. She also said that the company is currently in the process of changing nondiscrimination policy language. "The company used the exact language you gave us," she wrote, referring to Rogers's request to add "both sexual orientation and gender identity" to its nondiscrimination policy, reported advocate.com.

Conservative Groups Begin Battle To Preserve Federal DOMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Socially conservative groups have begun mounting a campaign to pressure incoming members of Congress to resist efforts to repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act, 365Gay.com reported.

President-elect Barack Obama and a large number of Democrats have called for the measure, which bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex relationships, to be overturned. Although Obama opposes same-sex marriage, he supports civil unions. His transition team Web site says the President-elect "supports full civil unions that give same-sex couples legal rights and privileges equal to those of married couples."

"Obama also believes we need to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples in civil unions and other legally-recognized unions." the transition site says. "These rights and benefits include the right to assist a loved one in times of emergency, the right to equal health insurance and other employment benefits, and property rights." He also supports adoption rights for all couples "regardless of their sexual orientation."

The campaign to preserve DOMA is being mounted by the Alliance for Marriage Foundation, the same group behind two failed attempts to advance an amendment to the US Constitution to bar same-sex marriage. The group is specifically targeting African American members of Congress. The repeal of DOMA is the legislative Holy Grail for activists who want to impose their radical social agenda upon America through the courts," the Rev. Sam Rodriguez, Jr., an AFM Advisory Board Member and President of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, said in a statement.

"As demonstrated in California, over 70 percent of the African-American community rejects the utterly false argument that Gay activists have a 'civil right' to redefine marriage for our entire society," said Niger Innis, an AFM Advisory Board Member and National Spokesman for the Congress of Racial Equality. The federal Defense of Marriage Act was passed by Congress in 1996 and signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

Florida Ban On Gay Adoptions Ruled Unconstitutional

MIAMI, Florida (Observer Update) - Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman Tuesday declared Florida's 50-year-old ban on Gay adoptions unconstitutional – a ruling state lawyers immediately said they would challenge, reported the Miami Herald.

The ruling sets the stage for Frank Gill, a Gay man from North Miami, to adopt two foster children he has raised since 2004. In a 53-page ruling, Judge Lederman said, "It is clear that sexual orientation is not a predictor of a person's ability to parent."

Two lawyers from the Florida Attorney General's Office said they would file an appeal Tuesday. ''We respect the court's decision,'' said Assistant Attorney General Valerie Martin. ``Based upon the wishes of our client, the Department of Children & Families, we will file an appeal.''

Gill, who is raising the half-brothers, ages 4 and 8, said he was ''elated'' by the ruling and ``I cried tears of joy for the first time in my life.''

tucsonobserverarchives.org

M2M SOCIAL NETWORK

The Tucson M2M Social Network is a M2M 18+ Group meetings on the West side near Tucson Mall for safe day and evening get-togethers, special event M2M sessions, daily 2 mile early morning. walks, weekly casual buffet lunches, outings - tours - trips both in Tucson and out of town. Business and services networking, pizza nights, movie nights, holiday potluck meals and events.

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Discreet, private, no pressure. Many events fifteen minutes from the University of Arizona. No drugs or , alcohol. You be chill, hwp+, nice, disease free, submit a photo and age and have them in your Yahoo profile.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Tucson_M2M_Social_Network.

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*** The current $100.00 CASH PRIZE CONTEST that be gins at 8:00 a..m. MST Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008, to be awarded to the first Tucson member who e-mails us with the answers correctly is: What was the name of the first car Henry Ford designed & built? What was it named? In what structure did he design and build it? What was the address of his home at the time? How long did it take to design and build and on what date did he finish it? ***

M2M SOCIAL NETWORK