

Military Asks Foreigners To Fill Vital Roles Instead Of Gays And Lesbians

(By Brandon Friedman of VetVoice and
John Aravosis of AmericaBlog)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - What a slap in the face to the G/L community: The Pentagon plans to recruit more foreigners in a fresh effort to make up for chronic shortages of doctors, nurses and linguists available for wartime duty.

The Defense Department already draws from aliens living in the United States on green cards and seeking permanent residency. But under a trial program, it will now look to also recruit from pools of foreigners who've been living in the states on student and work visas, with refugee or political asylum status and other temporary visas.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has authorized the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps to recruit certain legal residents whose critical medical and language skills are "vital to the national interest," officials said, using for the first time a law passed three years ago. Gates' action enables the services to start a one-year pilot program to find up to 1,000 foreigners who have lived in the states legally for at least two years.

In other words, the military is forced by law to recruit non-Americans for these "vital" positions over patriotic Americans who happen to be Gay. Consider, the Pentagon says it has a "chronic shortage" of linguists. But the military forced out 58 Gay Arabic linguists in 2007. And now, they're attempting to replace those 58 trained, Gay linguists with foreigners.

Let's take a look at what's happening here: As the AP says, the Pentagon is trying to find 1,000 foreigners to fill these positions. But from 2002 through 2006, the military kicked out 3,715 troops under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy. Think any "doctors, nurses, and linguists" were included in there?

Absolutely there were. Here are just three examples of service members discharged after their sexual orientation became an issue—service members who held the positions described above as being "vital to the national interest." These are the people the Pentagon seeks to replace with non-Americans:

LINGUIST - Army Sergeant Bleu Copas, Arabic Linguist

JOHNSON CITY, Tennessee - A decorated sergeant and Arabic language specialist was dismissed from the U.S. Army under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, though he says he never admitted being Gay and his accuser was never identified.

Bleu Copas, 30, told The Associated Press he is Gay, but said he was "outed" by a stream of anonymous e-mails to his superiors in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Army Sergeant Bleu Copas

"I knew the policy going in," Copas said in an interview on the campus of East Tennessee State University, where he is pursuing a master's degree in counseling and working as a student adviser. "I knew it was going to be difficult." An eight-month Army investigation culminated in Copas' honorable discharge on Jan. 30 — less than four years after he enlisted, he said, out of a post-Sept. 11 sense of duty to his country.

NURSE - Air Force Major Margaret Witt, Flight Nurse

In 1993, Maj. Margaret Witt was a poster woman for the Air Force's flight nurse recruiting program. In her career of 18-plus years, the decorated operating room and flight nurse from McChord Air Force Base earned stellar reviews for her work, which included helping to evacuate the nation's wounded troops and humanitarian missions to aid civilians.



Air Force Major Margaret Witt

In 2003, President Bush awarded her the Air Medal for her Middle East deployment and, later, the Air Force Commendation Medal, for saving the life of a Defense Department worker.

Less than a year later, after an Air Force investigation, Witt, a reservist, was drummed out. Her offense: a committed relationship, but with another woman, a civilian, from 1997 to 2003. I think the absurdity is apparent. And I'm not the only one. President-Elect Obama agrees. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen agrees. 75 percent of Americans agree. It's now on Congress to pass legislation that allows Gays to serve openly in the Armed Forces. Foreigners shouldn't be filling these military roles when Americans are willing and able—regardless of their sexual orientation.

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Poll: Support Surges For G/L Marriage

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - "When voters in California, Florida and Arizona approved measures banning same-sex marriage last month [the graphic at right does not include these latest votes], opponents lamented that the country appeared to be turning increasingly intolerant toward Gay and Lesbian rights. But the latest NEWSWEEK Poll finds growing public support for Gay marriage and civil unions — and strong backing for the granting of certain rights associated with marriage, to same-sex couples.

"Americans continue to find civil unions for Gays and Lesbians more palatable than full-fledged marriage. Fifty-five percent of respondents favored legally sanctioned unions or partnerships, while only 39 percent supported marriage rights. Both figures are notably higher than in 2004, when 40 percent backed the former and 33 percent approved of the latter. When it comes to according legal rights in specific areas to Gays, the public is even more supportive. Seventy-four percent back inheritance rights for Gay domestic partners (compared to 60 percent in 2004), 73 percent approve of extending health insurance and other employee benefits to them (compared to 60 percent in 2004), 67 percent favor granting them Social Security benefits (compared to 55 percent in 2004) and 86 percent support hospital visitation rights (a question that wasn't asked four years ago). In other areas, too, respondents appeared increasingly tolerant. Fifty-three percent favor Gay adoption rights (8 points more than in 2004), and 66 percent believe Gays should be able to serve openly in the military (6 points more than in 2004).

"Despite the recently approved state measures, public opinion nationally has shifted against a federal ban on same-sex marriage. In 2004, people were evenly divided on the question, with 47 percent favoring a constitutional amendment prohibiting Gay marriage and 45 percent opposing one. In the latest poll, however, 52 percent oppose a ban and only 43 percent favor one. When respondents were asked about state measures, the numbers were closer: 45 percent said they'd vote in favor of an amendment outlawing Gay marriage in their states, while 49 percent said they'd oppose such a measure.

"A number of factors seem to play a role in swaying people one way or the other. For instance, 62 percent of Americans say religious beliefs play an important role in shaping their views on Gay marriage. According to the survey, two-thirds of those who see marriage as primarily a legal matter support Gay marriage. On the other hand, two-thirds of those who see it as mostly a religious matter (or equal parts religious and legal) oppose Gay marriage. Moreover, the poll found significant differences across generational lines. Essentially, the younger you are, the more likely you are to support same-sex marriage. About half of those ages 18 to 34 back marriage rights, compared to roughly four in 10 among those ages 35 to 64 and only about two in 10 among those 65 and older. The survey also detected a gender gap, with women more likely to support Gay marriage than men, 44 percent to 34 percent. Differences by race appear less noteworthy: 40 percent of whites approve of Gay marriage, compared to 37 percent of non-whites."

LGBT Orgs Cut Staff To Cope With Recession

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Many LGBT advocacy organizations are scaling back services and cutting staff, as the nation's recession takes a toll on nonprofits, reported the Washington Blade. At Lambda Legal, 10 positions were cut last month. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation laid off several staff members Nov. 21. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has left open unfilled positions, and the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association recently reduced its national staff from seven to two.

GLAAD President Neil Giuliano said the cuts at his organization "touched all departments," but did not reach "double digits." "We looked at the work we're doing and the mission we have and we had to make a strategic plan to make reductions," he said. "Fundraising has slowed dramatically and the non-profit sector is not immune to what's going on, and sometimes we're impacted more."

He said a reduction in donations coupled with the nation's ongoing financial crisis meant that GLAAD had to make job cuts to stay within budget and

prepare for 2009. "The way I look at it is that it is the responsible thing to do to protect the long-term health of the organization, and be good stewards of the revenue that donors have provided," Giuliano said.

Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal's executive director, said the 10 job cuts at his organization came from each of its four departments: legal, education, administration and development. The jobs, which were all full-time positions, represented 10 percent of the organization's staff. "Like many nonprofits, we've been hit hard over the last several months by the decline in the stock market, the decline in the real estate market, and the decline in consumer confidence," Cathcart said. "We started a new fiscal year at the beginning of November and as we closed last year, it was clear that it would have been unrealistic to assume that we were going to grow in the year ahead and that we needed to be certain that we were going to be able to protect our core mission. Therefore in this economy and this giving climate, we needed to reign in expenses early." Cathcart said Lambda

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UPDATE

Reveille's 'Holidays In Hollywood'

December 12 - 14

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join Reveille for their upcoming concert, "Holidays in Hollywood," December 12 - 14 (8:00 p.m., Friday December 12 and Saturday, December 13, 3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 14), at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams.

Remember when Charlie Brown and Linus discussed the meaning of Christmas while the other Peanut's characters glided on a frozen pond? Remember when little Natalie Wood discovered there really was a Santa Claus in "Miracle on 34th Street"? Remember when George Bailey was taught by the angel Clarence that his truly was "A Wonderful Life"? Or when Ebenezer Scrooge is over come with joy to learn the true meaning of Christmas? All these cherished moments from our favorite holiday movies will be lovingly brought back to life in song in Reveille Men's Chorus's holiday production "Holidays in Hollywood: A Tribute to Our Favorite Holiday Movies". Join Reveille for a musical journey that combines state-of-the-art multimedia with the incredible sound that Reveille Men's Chorus has become famous for, presented for you with glorious voices of Reveille in the perfect setting for a holiday concert, Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance and seniors, \$10 students and are available online at reveillemenschorus.org, by calling (520) 304-1758, at Antigone Books, or from any Reveille member.

TGLBTCC Holiday Party, December 18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join the Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Chamber of Commerce (TGLBTCC) for their annual Holiday Party to be held on Thursday, Dec 18, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Ain't Nobody's Bizness, 2900 East Broadway.

The Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Chamber of Commerce (TGLBTCC) is one of the Tucson metropolitan area's fastest growing chambers - and the only chamber dedicated to the GLBT busi-

ness community and its allies. The TGLBTCC is also the 2nd largest chamber of it's kind in Arizona with approximately 130 member companies represented by nearly 200 people. Membership within the chamber provides powerful networking possibilities, one of the most loyal and dedicated consumer niches, various marketing and advertising opportunities, and empowerment found through interaction within Tucson's GLBT and straight allied community.

Tickets are \$25 per person includes buffet catered by FEAST Restaurant and there will be Door Prizes, Raffles, Music, and Fun! You must RSVP by noon Monday, Dec. 15, by calling (520) 615-6436 or info@tucsonchamber.org.

Gayest Christmas Pageant Ever December 12 - 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Alternative Theatre Company Presents A Very Merry Holiday Comedy, The Gayest Christmas Pageant Ever, Dec. 12-20, Temple of Music and Art Cabaret Theatre, 330 S. Scott.

It's time for the annual holiday production for a struggling Gay theatre company in West Hollywood. Jim, the pot-smoking straight tech guy, offends M&M, the eclectic playwright, causing him to walk out and take his script with him. Now the crazy and drama-addicted team has just a few weeks to produce the "Gayest Christmas pageant ever." This holiday camp-fest is a fast-paced comedy packed with hilarious dialog and over-the-top characters.

General Admission: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. For more information, call (520) 883-8246 or go online to alternativetheatreco.org.

Wingspan Cameras Ready For 'Families You Know'

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come to Wingspan during the 4th Avenue street fair, Saturday, Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and let someone else run the camera for your Families You Know video!

This is a great opportunity to take part in Families You Know without

IN MEMORIAM

BOB McENANEY

December 1933 - November 2008

Our friend, Harold R. (Bob) McEnaney, passed away Thanksgiving week. Bob was a husband, father, grandfather, veteran and gentleman. He spent many years as an appliance repairman in Tucson and was a morning bartender at the Yard Dog Saloon.

A proud Irishman, Bob knew how to tell a story and always had one to tell. We'll especially miss his stories about his trips with his best friend and travelling mate, Don. New Orleans and the Habana Inn in Oklahoma City will never be the same. Bob is one Irishman who surely got to heaven before the Devil knew he was gone.

Come join us in celebrating his life and his 75th birthday on Saturday, December 13, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the Venture-N, 1239 N 6th Avenue.

having to run your own lights and camera. Please let other Families You Know, know about this special event.

For more information, call (520) 624-1779 or go online to familiesyouknow.com.

Around The Old Pueblo

The year has been good so far for Transgendered folk singer-songstress Namoli Brennet: Her 2007 album Singer Shine Your Light is continuing to pick up momentum; she won the Tucson Folk Festival's songwriting competition; and now, she can add the title of Tucson Weekly's 2008 Best Local Performing Artist to her already impressive list of accomplishments. Come hear her sing at Wingspan, Friday, Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m. In the winter, you'll find the Front For more information, contact Geovanna De La Ree (520) 624-1779....

Fourth Ave Winter Street Fair will never be the same since a special two day weekend event featuring Boys R Us' 2009 Calendar Release Show will be held, Saturday, Dec. 13, 9:00 p.m. and a Sunday matinee Dec. 14, 5:00 p.m. at the Surly Wench Pub, 424 N. Fourth Ave. This show stars Mistress of Affairs Janee Starr and special guests that will keep you revved up for hot new pieces the Boys have worked hard to bring you. \$7 general, \$10 seating. For more information, contact Dante Celeiro (520) 304-2155....

Coffee Tawk with Senior Pride and Allies, Dec. 16, 11:00 a.m., so meet old friends and make new ones in this friendly neighborhood cafe and have a cup of java or Italian soda. Everyone welcome. We're on the move - let's meet at Epic Cafe, 745 N. 4th. For more information, contact Penelope Starr (520) 624-1779x122.

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Lesbian Activist Short-Listed For Position Of Labor Secretary



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Mary Beth Maxwell could become America's first openly Gay cabinet member if chosen to lead the Department of Labor in Barack Obama's administration. Maxwell is the founding executive director of the labor organization American Rights at Work, established in 2003. Before that she was a national field director at Jobs With Justice and the deputy field director of NARAL Pro-Choice America, advocate.com reported.

AFL-CIO and Change to Win are backing Maxwell, stressing her support for legislation to allow unionization with the signing of cards instead of secret balloting. The Human Rights Campaign will also back Maxwell, though it endorsed California congresswoman Linda Sánchez, another possible appointee, last week.

"You would have received our letter in support of Representative Sánchez's candidacy for secretary of labor last week," HRC president Joe Solomonese wrote President-elect Obama, according to the Journal. "While we remain supportive of Representative Sánchez's candidacy, it has come to our attention that Mary Beth Maxwell is also being considered for this crucial position. Given Ms. Maxwell's long history of leadership on labor issues, HRC is pleased to also endorse Mary Beth

Maxwell for secretary of labor." Though Maxwell is one of several candidates being vetted for the secretary position, Kansas governor Kathleen Sebelius, Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm, Bonior, and Sánchez may be higher-

profile nominees. Big names already chosen for the cabinet include Hillary Clinton for secretary of State, Janet Napolitano for Homeland Security secretary, and Robert Gates to continue as Defense secretary.

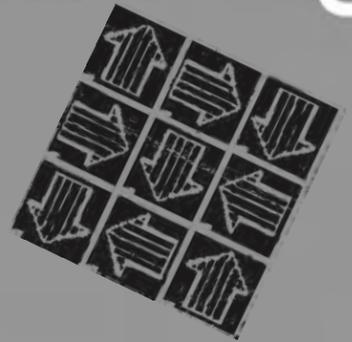
SC Principal Who Planned To Resign Over GLSEN Changes His Mind After Realizing There Are No Jobs

IRMO, South Carolina (Observer Update) - Ben Bernake called it right when he said "There are no atheists in foxholes and no ideologues in financial crises." Irmo High School principal Eddie Walker is calling a mulligan on his plan to resign in protest of his school establishing a Gay-straight alliance. The State reports that:

Lexington-Richland 5 interim superintendent Herbert Berg received a letter from Walker this week "indicating his desire to remain at Irmo High School," district spokesman Buddy Price said. Like other employees, Walker's contract will be up for renewal in the spring, Price said. In May, Walker wrote a letter to the school community stating his strong disagreement with the formation of a Gay-straight club at the school. His letter indicated he believed the club would be somewhat sexual in nature and that, given his religious beliefs, he couldn't lead a school that conflicted with the idea of an abstinence-based education.

demons and Tribulation Forces running about; whereas the actual thing turns out to just involve a lot of sitting on your ass waiting for an unemployment check to come. Walker's change of heart came just at the right time since the news that the unemployment rate is up to 6.7% means that while Principal Walker will, assuming the Superintendent allows him to keep his job, be forced to support his school's Gay-Straight Alliance, he'll be spared, at least for a while, from joining the hordes of wandering hobo principals that will shortly be roaming across the plains and valleys of our country, handing out detentions to random passerby and calling for pep rallies that nobody will ever attend. Unless of course, Irmo decides to accept its homophobic high school principal's resignation and hire someone who will support all his students equally, which is what they should do - and that's a bit of advice you can take to the bank.

Of course, that was before the Global Financial End Times overwhelmed his fears that supporting a bunch of Gay and straight teens talking about how they can keep their school from becoming another hate crime or suicide statistic would bring about all the things he read would happen in the Left Behind series. After all, the Biblical Apocalypse is sort of cool, with its



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Broadway material, as well as a duo show that she's been developing with concert master Michael Feinstein.

"This isn't so much a departure as it is me getting back to who I really am," Linda Eder says of her new album *The Other Side of Me*, on which the celebrated vocal icon undergoes an unexpected stylistic reinvention to deliver one of the most compelling musical statements of her long and storied career. Eder has long been established as one of America's premier singers of pop standards and Broadway tunes, with a large and passionately devoted audience that's embraced her memorable albums and her dramatic live concerts. While many established artists might, at this point in their careers, feel the temptation to coast on past achievements, Eder embraces an exciting new set of creative challenges on *The Other Side of Me*, her tenth album and her Verve debut.

Tickets are available NOW and range in price from \$29-\$49. Buy tickets online at broadwayintucson.com, by phone with Ticketmaster at (520) 321-1000 or in person at the Tucson Convention Center Ticket Office, 260 S. Church Avenue during regular business hours (Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sunday Noon - 4:00 p.m.). Broadway in Tucson is part of the nationally recognized Nederlander Producing Company of America. Over the course of five seasons, Broadway in Tucson has partnered with the Tucson Convention Center to bring more than 350,000 people downtown to attend Broadway's best shows, special events and concerts. For more information on Broadway in Tucson, please visit broadwayintucson.com.

POET'S CORNER

THE HOMELESS LAMENT
by Ron Rose - Tucson

This ain't no joke, I'm really broke
I'm busted, can't you see?
I need some help, come bail me out
Oh woe, Oh woe, is me.

Come quickly to my rescue
My smiles are running low
I'm losing hope, reached end of rope
Ain't got no place to go,
My friends are in the same boat.

It's sinking very fast
It's got a broken rudder
And a tattered mast.
So help me, please just help me
You folks with all that dough
I can hardly stand the light of day
I'm dying much to slow.



As its title suggests, *The Other Side of Me* finds the artist trading her established musical approach for a looser, more intimate country-pop sound that's perfectly suited to the thoughtful, introspective songs that she's chosen for the project. "This is really me getting back to my natural musical self, the person I was before Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand came into my life and I went the Broadway route," Eder asserts. "This is the kind of music that moved me as a kid, when I first started playing my guitar and learning how to write songs, so it's a natural direction for me.

The Other Side of Me harkens back to Eder's earliest musical roots. Born to immigrant parents in Tucson and raised in Brainerd, Minnesota, she learned to play piano and guitar during childhood, and embraced songwriting as a vehicle for self-expression in her teens. She even won a local beauty pageant at age 18, performing one of her original compositions in the contest's talent competition. Her early musical development began to take shape after she first heard Judy Garland singing in *The Wizard of Oz*. "Even at the age of eight, I was blown away by hearing this person pouring her heart out," she recalls. "I came from a very stoic Midwestern family that didn't really show their emotions all that much, so that was a revelation to me and I was really drawn to it and pursued that direction."

To bring the material from *The Other Side of Me* to life in concert, Eder has put together a new live stage show, in which she plays guitar and sings in the more relaxed vocal style she employs on the new album, while fronting a country-flavored seven-piece band. At

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Military Asks Foreigners To Fill Vital Roles Instead Of Gays And Lesbians

Continued from Page One

DOCTOR - Air Force Doctor Martin Chin, Flight Surgeon

Martin Chin, 40, of Logan Circle, experienced that discrimination firsthand, he says, while serving the Air Force in Japan two years ago. Chin, a psychiatrist and flight surgeon, claims things turned ugly once his commander let him know that she was aware of his sexual orientation.

"It wasn't really explicit because they're not allowed to out you," he says. "So she sat me down and said, 'There is something about your personal life that I find very upsetting. I'm ordering you not to tell me anything and I'm not asking you anything.' It was kind of clear what she was talking about."

Chin claims he was taken off "special projects," and instead assigned to routine tasks. It was also during a time when people from Chin's unit were being deployed. Accordingly, their absences left Chin with more responsibilities. "It seemed unfair that I was being asked to do basically four jobs, at the same time that they're telling me that I'm a liar and an embarrassment to Air Force and therefore I can't be on these high-profile cases.

"I felt like...I couldn't really be as effective as I needed to be," he continues. "It impacted my ability to work. It impacted my ability to take care of patients, and it made me see that I didn't really have a future with the company."

Study: Low Esteem Leads To Risky Sex

TORONTO, Ontario (Observer Update) - Gay men who are not considered sexually desirable are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, according to researchers at the University of Toronto. They may also develop psychological problems as a consequence of feeling undesirable, the study said.

Adam Isaiah Green, Assistant Professor of Sociology at U of T, interviewed dozens of Gay men in Toronto to determine what qualities made some men more sexually desirable than others, and what the consequences of being undesirable might be on mental and physical health. The study appears in the December issue of the Journal of Health and Social Behavior. "I found that young, white, middle-class men are considered much more sexually desirable than men who are racial minorities, over 40 and poor," Green said.

"I also learned that for Gay men,

being considered sexually undesirable can have serious health consequences ranging from psychological issues to risky sexual behavior." The study - among the first to examine the link between sex and mental health - found that undesirable Gay men face stigmatization, avoidance and outright rejection, which can lead to depression, anxiety and alcohol abuse.

It also highlighted cases in which undesirable Gay men will forego safe-sex discussion and, in some cases, condom use, in the context of sex with a more attractive partner.

"We tend to devalue sexual life as something that is extracurricular and frivolous, but this research shows a significant link between sexual desirability and health," said Green. "Men with low levels of 'erotic capital' are systematically marginalized, which can take a real toll both physically and psychologically."

BRIEFLY "Q"

Jury selection began in a federal lawsuit against two Chicago police officers accused of beating a gay man. Alexander Ruppert claims that officers Vincent Torres and Kent Pemberton beat him and denied him his civil rights solely because of his sexuality in a 2006 altercation. Ruppert, 37, says he was beaten nearly unconscious while the cops hurled anti-gay remarks at him and then placed him in a holding cell for two days without food or water. The lawsuit also names the City of Chicago as a defendant. ...

One of the scientists sharing the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering the HIV virus said on the weekend that he believes there will be a therapeutic vaccine to treat it within five years. Luc Montagnier said in Sweden he believes it is "a matter of four to five years" before a therapeutic vaccine to treat HIV infection is developed." He did not elaborate as to why he believes scientists are close. ...

After weeks of conflicting accounts about a shocking claim of police brutality in a subway station, three patrolmen were notified they will face criminal charges in the case. New York City Officers Richard Kern, Alex Cruz and Andrew Morales were indicted by a grand jury investigating allegations by a tattoo parlor worker that police sodomized him with a piece of police equipment during an arrest, according to a law enforcement official. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity

because the indictment was sealed, declined to detail the charges. Lawyers for Kern and Cruz said they were told their clients should surrender for arraignment on unspecified charges. Calls to an attorney for Morales went unanswered. ...

Cleveland (Ohio) City Council voted Monday (Dec. 8) to create a domestic partner registry for same- and opposite-sex couples, ending weeks of emotional, behind-the-scenes lobbying on both sides of the controversial issue. The registry, though non-binding, could prompt employers, hospitals and other organizations to grant privileges typically reserved for married couples, advocates say. The registry also is a revenue booster and a symbolic gesture that Cleveland is Gay-friendly. ...

Brandon McInerney, an Oxford teenager accused of first-degree murder and a hate crime in connection with the shooting of a classmate, today was found competent to stand trial in Ventura County Superior Court. Judge Kevin McGee made the ruling after hearing from a psychiatrist and a psychologist. The judge set a Dec. 29 date for a hearing for a discovery motion in the case and set Jan. 26 for a preliminary hearing.

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COMMENTARY...

Stonewall 2.0: It's What We Make Of It

By Jennifer Chrisler

watershed moment in the history of LGBT visibility.

Stonewall 2.0. It's a potent term combining the history and energy of Greenwich Village, 1969 and the social network horizons of the 21st century; activists in the streets, old-school placards in one hand, cell phones in the other, texting their counterparts in other cities, sharing enthusiasm, outrage, tactics and ideas – and all of his happening live.

There has certainly been a lot of activity these past few weeks for LGBT equality – an outpouring of emotion and street-level demands unseen in the LGBT community since the AIDS crisis of the early 1990s. I was in college then, newly out as a Lesbian, galvanized by the energy of the moment. As outraged as we are by the passage of Prop 8 and similar measures in Arkansas, Arizona and Florida, we cannot miss the opportunity these terrible acts give us to develop new advocates and together make change. People are paying attention now. Right now. And as the leader of a national organization working to ensure equality for LGBT families, I can tell you that getting people to pay attention is usually the hardest, most frustrating first step in the long road towards progress.

But I'm not here to complain. We all have busy, complicated lives. Our work and families demand more of our time than ever, and in an economic crisis of this magnitude we can spare no energy in our efforts to lead organizations, maintain jobs, pay for healthcare and educate our kids. We are called to champion equality at the very same time that we are called to maintain our livelihoods, and, frankly, I am proud of the hard work done in the past few months by organizational leaders, staff members, community organizers and activists, old and new, to move this country in a progressive direction and ensure equality for all.

If you've been around as long as I have (not too long, I hope) you come to realize that moments like this are most often what we make of them. The history of social movements is never linear. There is always some back and forth. Since the last upsurge in street-oriented activism some twenty year ago, we've made astounding progress on LGBT equality – both legally and socially. This progress came in the courts and state legislatures, in our healthcare system and faith communities, in corporate America and community organizations alike. It came through one-on-one conversations – tough conversations with loved ones and strangers that few of us like to have. And it came through outrage, protests, boycotts, blogging, emailing, online actions and more. It came in many ways, and it must continue in many ways – as many ways as a diverse America can dream up.

A staff member of mine used to work for a Gay man in his sixties who contributed to the early reporting on the Stonewall Riots for Time Magazine when he was a much younger man. At the time, he was closeted and worked at Time but was not a reporter; he merely offered to attend the riots and bring back on-the-ground information. Other reporters weren't keen on going down to the Village. Four months after the June riots took place, "The Homosexual in America" graced the cover of Time. Today the article makes me cringe. Yet the fact that a major US publication had attempted to treat Gay people respectfully (or at least journalistically) was a

Stonewall could have been a different story. The individuals that fought police brutality and the organizations that developed to advance their cause could have worked just a little less fervently for freedom. The mainstream media could have paid just a little less attention, or shed only negative light on the community, as it had before. Stonewall was no accident, yet it was not an orchestrated affair. It was a moment and it became what we made of it – or, rather, what the brave men and women active in 1969 made of it. The riots got people's attention. The last 40 years of LGBT activism and progress are what we have made and continue to make of that attention.

I applaud organizations like Mass Equality, the statewide LGBT rights organization here in Massachusetts, for their engagement in Stonewall 2.0, marked as it is by new or increased involvement by young people and web savvy folks, as well as the LGBT community's general cry for leadership and a new direction. Mass Equality is the lead organization advocating for a Transgender nondiscrimination bill here in the Bay State. This piece of legislation is critical to the health of Transgender people and long overdue. At the November 15, 2008 demonstration against Prop 8 held at Boston City Hall and organized mainly by local college students connected through Facebook and JoinTheImpact.org, Mass Equality had volunteers identifying trans-friendly voters and potential volunteers in the crowd. Organizers featured speakers who urged people angry about Prop 8 to take action for equality here at home – to get active supporting the Transgender nondiscrimination bill. Outrage turned to opportunity, bolstered by a renewed sense of urgency and the 2.0 tools to grow the base of these new struggles like wildfire.

On November 6, 2008, my own organization, Family Equality Council, launched a post-election campaign to channel the passion and stories of LGBT parents and their families for positive change. We called for families to submit photos with family members holding signs declaring "My Family" and filling in their own blanks. "My Family is EQUAL," we saw, as well as, "My Family Prays," "My Family Is A Lot Like Your Family," and hundreds of others. We created a YouTube video showcasing these families and their simple statements calling for justice. In just a week more than 11,000 people had viewed the video online. Most navigated to it through word-of-mouth, leaving comments like, "Love does not discriminate."

It's incredibly powerful and promising to have such tools available to spread the message of equality and progress. It's also incredibly powerful to remember that before Facebook and MySpace, blogs and vlogs, we had phone calls and park bench conversations, rallies and demonstrations, and we still do. If everybody who felt a punch in their gut when Prop 8 and other anti-family measures passed on Election Day wrote down three things they could comfortably do in the next three days to ensure equality and then wrote down three things they could do regardless of comfort actually did them, we'd achieve equality for all much faster than we are today.

Continued on Page Seven

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TUCSON (Observer Update) - Go Beyond "Feel-Good" Volunteering . . . and Volunteer with TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) - we have some wonderful Volunteer Opportunities for you:

Event Planners - Plan presentations for faith community members and trainings for our volunteers. Coordinate interfaith community events such as AIDS WALK, World AIDS Day, Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS and more! Administrative Support for TIHAN Staff - The TIHAN office seeks fun-loving people to help with a variety of tasks, including: detail-oriented people to assist with entering

information into our database, individuals to make reminder calls, dependable volunteers sought to help with paperwork. Link Specialist - Do you like to talk to people on the phone? Then this volunteer opportunity is for you. You will make periodic check-in calls to our CarePartners, people living with HIV/AIDS, triage calls for CarePartners and provide administrative support to the Director of CarePartner Support Services.

Care Team Member - Do you have a few spare hours each week to help make someone's day a little brighter? Do you have extra time on your hands to help someone stay healthy by getting them to their doctor's appointments? Do you want to help improve one of our CarePartners quality of Life? Then this volunteer opportunity is for you! Fundraising - We are in the planning stages of our annual Auction, "Treasures for TIHAN" which will be held in May. If you enjoy planning events, making phone calls, or working at events, we would love to have you join us. Orientation is not required for this Volunteer Opportunity. Board Members - We are looking for a few Professional individuals to fill expiring terms. If you have previous experience serving on non-profit boards and like to help organizations like TIHAN succeed, we would love to have you join us in the Nominating and approval process.

Your first step to volunteering is signing up for a Volunteer Orientation. All you have to do is call the TIHAN office, (520) 299-6647, and sign up for an upcoming Volunteer Orientation, Thursday, January 15th from 5:15 - 9:15 p.m. To discuss the Orientations, or your Volunteer opportunities, call (520) 299-6647, or E-mail Kim Talerico, Volunteer Coordinator, kim@tihan.org.



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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Has Your Neighbor Wished You A Happy Holiday

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. Still, continuing to get Tucson's LGBT community to "know their neighbor," those 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.

Tucsonans and those who own businesses in the Old Pueblo who contributed: Dana Willis, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/29/08, \$1,000. Leanne Boone, Tucson, AZ, 85741 (Certified Athletic Teacher - TUSD), 8/30/08, \$500. George Carroll, Tucson, AZ, 85740, 8/30/08, \$5,000. Kristina Lee Colvin, Tucson, AZ, 85748, 8/30/08, \$1,000. Felicia and Michael Hancock, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 8/30/08, (Michael listed as Landscaper-Self), (\$500 total). J. Brent Hinsky, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 8/30/08, \$5,000. Diane and Tony Larsen, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 8/30/08 (Tony listed as Electrical Engineer - Texas Instruments), (\$3,000 total). Thomas Dean McCook Jr., Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/30/08, \$500. Gordon M. Reay, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 8/30/08, \$1,000. Eric Rustand, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 8/30/08, \$3,000. Bradley Simons, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 8/30/08, \$500. Mary Spear, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 8/30/08, \$8,000. Gregory Tevis, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/30/08, \$300. Patrick Warren, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 8/30/08, \$100. Michael and Katrina Wyckoff, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 8/30/08 (Rain for Rent), (Total \$600). Walter Holmes, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/01/08, (Financial Services - Self), \$2,510. Terre Cummings, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/2/08, \$500. Nancy and R. Jeffrey Gurvine, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/2/08, (Jeffrey listed as an Engineer with Raytheon), (total \$1,500). Alan Juten, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 9/2/08, (\$992 total). Daniel Rios, Tucson, AZ, 85746, 9/2/08, \$750. Lily and R.E. Sanford, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 9/2/08, (total \$2,550). Tamarra Binkley, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 9/3/08, \$500. Mark and Tanya Farr, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 9/3/08, (total \$300). Alwyn Finster, Tucson, AZ, 85751, 9/3/08, \$2,500. Erin Goodman, Tucson, AZ, 85739, 9/3/08, \$1,000. Clifford Juliander, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 9/3/08, \$1,000. Melvin Lotti, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 9/3/08 (total for period \$750). Lee and Maryanne Walker, Tucson, AZ, 85716, 9/3/08 (total \$2,500). Darren Watson, Tucson, AZ, 85739, 9/3/08, \$20. Jeffrey and Ruthann Wiggins, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 9/3/08, (total \$250).

Jeffrey and Jenna Anderson, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 9/4/08, (Jeffrey listed as a mechanical engineer for Raytheon) (total \$1,000). James Steven Chipman, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/4/08, \$2,500. David Cook, Oro Valley, AZ, 85737, 9/4/08, \$1,000. Harve Crofts, Tucson, AZ, 85712, 9/4/08, \$5,000. Fern Evans, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 9/4/08, \$200. Kevin and Kristen Fenn, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 9/4/08 (Kevin listed as a Network Tech with Qwest), (total \$1,000). Betty Goodman, Tucson, AZ, 85735, 9/4/08, \$500. Sandra Haymore, Tucson, AZ, 85711, 9/4/08, \$150. Noelle Henderson, Vail, AZ, 85641, \$1,500. Grace Irey, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 9/4/08, \$2,000. Karl Kern, Tucson,

AZ, 85715, 9/4/08, \$20,000. Barney Lewis, Tucson, AZ, 85710 (Service Director - Tucson Dodge (as in car company), 9/4/08, \$5,000. Kecia Lewis, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 9/4/08, \$5,000. Megan and Melvyn Lotti, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 9/4/08, (total \$500). Julie Lindstrom, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/4/08, \$3,000. Brent Nokleby, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/4/08, \$1,000. Jon Palmer, Tucson, AZ, 85743, \$1,000. Barbara Parks, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/4/08, \$500. Andrew Petersen, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/4/08 (Attorney - Humphrey and Petersen PC), \$3,000. Cindy and Craig Sanford, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 9/4/08 (total \$5,000). Laurel Schafer, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 9/4/08, \$1,800. Martha and Joseph Smith III, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 9/4/08, (Joseph Smith is listed as a Custom Home Builder for Golden State Properties), (total \$1,000). Leann and Matthew Vaterlaus, Tucson, AZ, 85710, 9/4/08, (Matthew listed as a software engineer for IBM), (total \$1,200). Ann Weaver, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 9/4/08, \$1,000. Thomas Whetten, Tucson, AZ, 85730, \$1,000. Jarom and Molly Ballantyne, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 9/4/08 (total \$600). Jason Hochstettler, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 9/6/08, \$1,000. Conrad Huss, Tucson, AZ, 85739, 9/6/08, \$10,000.

Lawrence and Sally Icely, Tucson, AZ, 85746, 9/6/08, (total \$750). Manuel Jesus Morales, Tucson, AZ, 85735, 9/6/08, \$500. Kimball Orton MD (listed as a Doctor), Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/6/08, \$2,000. Morgan Rowland Jr., Tucson, AZ, 85716, (automotive tech - Budget Resale), 9/8/08, \$2,000. Kent Tarbet, Vail, AZ, 85641, 9/8/08, \$1,000. Dee Thompson, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/8/08, \$500. Ameer and Jeremy Babcock, Tucson, AZ, 85757, 9/9/08, (Jeremy listed as a design engineer for SMSC), (total \$1,000). Joanne Brown, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/9/08, \$500. A. Jay and Irllys Busby, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/9/08, \$3,000. Garbini Family Trust, Tucson, AZ, 85745, 9/9/08, \$750. Roger and Susan Greer, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 9/9/08, (total \$500). Kristin Ashby, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/10/2008, \$500. Heather Clyde, Tucson, AZ, 857490, \$2,000. Tyler Mott, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 9/10/08 (banker - Wells Fargo), \$100. Ted Naone, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 9/10/08, \$500. Lise Nouin, Tucson, AZ, 85705, 9/10/08, \$500. Craig Rendahl, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/10/08 (Technology Trainer - MUSD), \$100. Elias Robbins, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 9/10/08, \$150. Lenore Carter, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/10/08, \$1,000. Kathleen Cook, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/10/08, \$750. Evelyn and James Corning, Oro Valley, AZ, 85737, 9/11/08, (total \$2,000). Andrew and Dana Elmer, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/11/08, (Andrew listed as employed by UPS) (total \$500).

Felix Garcia, Tucson, AZ, 85749, 9/11/08, (total \$2,000 for period). Doralea Polley, Tucson, AZ, 85737, 9/11/08, \$1,000. Lucinda Contreras, Tucson, AZ, 85755, 9/12/08, \$500. Jose and Susquiana Figueroa, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 9/11/08 (Jose listed as Branch Rental Manager - Penske Truck Leasing), (total \$1,000). Stanley Karchner, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 9/12/08, (listed as an attorney), \$1,000. Mary Little, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 9/12/08, \$500. Joseph Buescher Jr., Tucson, AZ, 85701, 9/13/08, \$1,000. Charles Perrine Jr., Tucson, AZ, 85749, 9/13/08, \$1,000. Philip LeSueur, Tucson, AZ, 85719, (listed as student, part of LeSueur family who were the major contributors to yesformarriage.com), \$25. Shaun Halbert, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 9/16/08, (listed as a financial analyst for Johns Manville), \$500. Imelda Krauss, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/16/08, \$3,000. K. Lynn

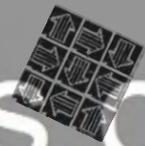
Orchard, Tucson, AZ, 85719, 9/16/08, \$150. Rex Woods, Tucson, AZ, 9/16/08, \$100. Kenneth Moeller, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/17/08, \$500. Kent and Ronda Dalton, Tucson, AZ, 85742, 9/18/08, (total \$90). Joyce Holman, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 9/18/08, \$500. Dudley and Marilyn Welker, Tucson, AZ, 85715, 9/19/08, (total \$1,000). Greg Crowther, Tucson, AZ, 85747, 9/20/08, \$1,000. Sozel Flake, Tucson, AZ, 85741, 9/20/08, \$300. Marilyn Lofffield, Tucson, AZ, 85718, 9/20/08, \$2,500. Bonna Burrows, Tucson, AZ, 85750, 9/22/08, (listed as housewife), \$12,000.

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.

Stonewall 2.0:
Continued from Page Six

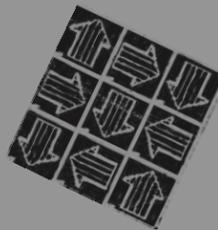
Stonewall 2.0 - it's what we make of it. It's not a phenomenon to describe or a certain group of people doing things a certain or right way. This moment is for us to define. I know my family (two moms, two kids) and the millions of other LGBT families out there right now would love for people to define this as the moment that ending discrimination in their own lives and communities became a top priority, a family priority, ever-present in their minds, something they think about at the dinner table, the grocery store, the parent-teacher conference and the voting booth. Something for which they stand up, support financially, take risks, and stand outside in the rain when necessary calling for immediate action and change.

(Jennifer Chrisler is the Executive Director of Family Equality Council, the national organization working to ensure equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families by building community, changing hearts and minds, and advancing social justice for all families. This oped is reprinted from the Huffington Post.)



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Theatre Review

by Jack Melichar

Tremendous, extraordinary, a howling success - the English language just does not have an adjective that properly describes Arizona Theatre Company's production of HAIR that opened last Friday night. It's been forty years since the musical appeared on Broadway, and it has not lost any of its power to entertain and cause the audience to think (think! Can you imagine that?). Music from the production still survives, Aquarius, Hare Krishna, and Good Morning Starshine.

Hair has no plot but is rather a series of scenes about life in the 60's - a time of great turmoil for the nation in general, and young people in particular. The "Tribe" is a group of politically active, long-haired "Hippies of the Age of Aquarius" fighting against conscription to the Vietnam War and living a Bohemian life together in New York City. Claude, portrayed by Kyle Harris, (who, by the way, has a BA degree in Musical Theatre from the U of A), his good friend Berger (Joey Calveri), and their roommate (and bed mate) Sheila (Morgan James), and all their friends struggle to balance their lives, loves and the sexual revolution with their pacifist rebellion against the war and the conservative impulses of their parents and society (1948 vs. 1968). After receiving a letter whose salutation was "Greetings" (the draft notice), Claude must decide whether or not to resist, as his friends have done, and this becomes a dilemma for all of them.

The cast in this production does a superb job, not only the central characters, but the members of the "Tribe" as well. They behave on stage as I recall young people behaving in that era. They were joyful. They were frightened. They were trusting with each

other but not so much with anyone else ("don't trust anyone over 30"). The staging was something out of a bad trip on LSD, and was very effective. Thank you John Ezell. Kudos also to Christopher McGovern (Musical Director), and Kish Finnegan (Costume Design), as well as Michael Gilliam, Abe Jacobs, and especially David Ira Goldstein (Director) who molded this cast to produce a spectacular show.

There were two unexpected events which caught my attention. Hud (Kyle Taylor Parker) was singing Colored Spade, and when he came to "I'm the President of the United States ..., the audience erupted into cheers and clapping, not allowing him to complete the verse "of love"! The second occurred when a middle aged woman and her husband - tourists in a land of hippies - talk to the group. Claude, Berger, and the rest of the Tribe sing Hair for them. The woman, impressed, sings My Conviction, then lifts her skirt to god and the world to show that she is not a she at all, but a transvestite! Most interesting, eh?

The Temple of Music and Art was sold out for this performance, and at the end, 622 pairs of hands clapped for what seemed like 10 minutes (it may have been less, but my hands still smart) as the audience rose for a standing ovation. The interest in this production has been so great that the Tucson run has been extended through December 23. I have reviewed many fine plays produced by ATC, but this was far and away the best. I urge you, I beg you, I plead with you, oh, hell, I order you not to miss this one! For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the box office at (520) 622-2823 or go online to arizonatheatre.org.

New Star-Studded Web Video Protests Proposition 8



LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Since Proposition 8 passed in California, much of Hollywood has been up in arms.

Now, they are singing and dancing, too, in a new Web video called "Prop 8: The Musical." The video was posted on FunnyOrDie.com, the video site co-founded by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay. The site has found a niche in getting professional talent to

quickly create topical comedy videos.

"Prop 8: The Musical" may be a 3-minute Internet video, but it has a blockbuster cast - including Jack Black (who plays Jesus), Neil Patrick Harris, John C. Reilly, Andy Richter, Maya Rudolph, Margaret Cho, Rashida Jones and others. Though Jesus doesn't bring the two sides together, Harris has better luck.

COMMENTARY...

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Two Words

I have just two words for the so-called "Log Cabin Republicans." Ernst Röhm.

Now, what was it that Jim Jones, that notorious Flavor-Aid pusher, used to have posted behind his throne in Guyana? Summat about how those who don't learn their history are doomed to repeat it? It's high time someone clued the Log Cabin Boys in to what happened to ol' Ernst before they wind up like him. If those who have hijacked their beloved Pachyderm Party ever become strong enough, it may well be what they'll have in store for both the Log Cabin Boys and us.

Ernst Röhm was one of the German soldiers who, after losing the First World War, founded the Freikorps, a paramilitary organisation dedicated to street violence against German social liberals and Communists. Before long, Röhm became acquainted with a like-minded ex-soldier who had a small political party patterned after the Fascists that Benito Mussolini just led to power in Italy. Röhm decided to cast his lot in with his new friend, and the Freikorps became the Brownshirts, the muscle wing of this new German political party. That party was the National Socialist German Workers Party, or Nazi for short. Röhm's new friend was named Adolf Hitler.

Oh, and there's two additional points to keep in mind. Ernst Röhm was openly homosexual, and Hitler couldn't care less about how Röhm achieved orgasm - then. All he cared about was using Röhm's paramilitary muscle, now re-named The S.A., to brawl the Nazis to rule in Germany. A dozen years later, Hitler was appointed (not elected) Chancellor of Germany. Röhm's muscle was duly recognised by Hitler as having been necessary to achieve that goal, and of the dozen highest-ranked Nazi Party members, Röhm was clearly the closest to Hitler personally. Only Röhm and Hitler used the familiar personal pronoun "du" to address each other; no other Nazi cabinet members dared to address each other in such a manner.

In 1933, Hitler's favourite propagandist, Leni Riefenstahl, made a film about that year's Nuremberg Nazi Party Rally titled Victory of Faith. The film was so popular in Germany that Riefenstahl was invited to lecture British universities on her techniques, bringing a 16mm print of the film with her to screen at each lecture. The film had two obvious "stars," Hitler and Röhm. Within a year, rumours spread throughout the Nazi Party that Röhm was planning "The Real Revolution to come" against Hitler. Many Nazis, including most of Heinrich Himmler's S.S. guards and the commercial interests that Hitler sorely needed to maintain power, put pressure on Hitler to eliminate Röhm's S.A., many of whom were openly Gay like Röhm himself.

Röhm believed his close association with Hitler would keep him and his S.A. safe, that Hitler would make sure he still had his "place at the table." On June 29, 1934, there was a party thrown at Röhm's Bad Wiessee lodge near Munich. The following morning, under Hitler's personal orders, Röhm and his guests, almost all of whom were the core of the S.A. leadership, were arrested and most summarily executed by Himmler and the S.S. Röhm himself was taken to Munich's Stadelheim Prison, where he was executed in his cell on 1 July, again on direct order from Hitler.

Joseph Goebbels' Nazi media promoted the "Night of Long Knives"

purge of Röhm and the S.A. as a defence against homosexuality and iniquity, with Berlin radio claiming, "From a moral point of view, there was no room for pity.[1]" Only that 16mm print from Riefenstahl's British tour, stored in one college's archives and forgotten until the 1990s, survived the movie's ordered destruction. And a dozen million Europeans, many specifically because they were openly homosexual or Bisexual, had their legal rights stripped from them and were murdered in Hitler's death camps. To paraphrase one of the authors whose books the Nazis burned in ceremonial bonfires, where rights are burned, soon people will be burned too.

Those who have taken control of the Republican Party are now in an open campaign, heavily funded by commercial and religious interests, to strip Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gay men of their legal rights. And still displaying loyalty to their Party are the so-called "Log Cabin Republicans" under the delusion that the place they'll have at the table won't be the one Eddie got in Rocky Horror.

Sorry, Log Cabin Boys, I know and recall the history of Bisexual men like me. I have no intention whatsoever of reliving it with you. And, if I have any say in the matter, neither will you have to.

(King Daevid MacKenzie is a longtime broadcaster for many radio and TV stations in Chicago, Winnipeg, Wisconsin and Arizona, including contributing commentaries for "LesBiGay Radio" on WSBS and WCFJ in Chicago.)



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Hate Crimes On The Rise In Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - Police say a 50-year-old man was critically injured in an attack with a bottle outside a Salt Lake City lounge and gym that reputedly caters to the Gay community - and that may make it a hate crime case.

The victim told police that he left the 14th Street Gym, near 1400 West and 200 South, after midnight early Wednesday (Dec. 3). As he was waiting for a cab ride, the man said someone walked up behind him, swore at him, used a derogatory sexual-orientation slur and hit him over the top of the head with a bottle, police said. The attacker ran off. Police said the victim showed signs of intoxication and was not able to give officers an accurate description of his attacker. He suffered cuts to his forehead and was bleeding profusely when he was transported to a hospital in critical condition, police said.

In another case, after first declining to file assault or burglary charges in August, Salt Lake County prosecutors are again reviewing whether to bring charges against a group of attackers who are accused of beating a Gay male couple this summer, reports Utah's Salt

Lake Tribune . Prosecutors are now reviewing the complicated case "under different theory," deputy district attorney Alicia Cook told the Tribune. A decision on whether to bring charges won't be made "anytime soon" though.

The attack seemed to stem from an alleged kidnapping of children by David James Bell during a Fourth of July party. Bell is currently charged with kidnapping two children while at a neighbor's late-night Fourth of July party. According to Bell, he found a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old awake and fussy and took them over to his house so they could sleep on his couch. The children had already been removed from Bell's home when three to five adult relatives of the children - unaware the kids were no longer in the house - broke down the door to Bell's home. What followed, according to the Tribune, was a vicious attack in which Bell's throat and toe were sliced with broken glass and his head slammed on the sidewalk. Bell's boyfriend, Dan Fair, who is not charged in the alleged kidnapping, had a large TV thrown onto his head. Bell's lawyer calls the attack a "hate crime." Bell's kidnapping case will go to trial in April, reported advocate.com.

Lesbian Soldier Awarded \$380K In Discrimination Case

NEW DELHI, India (Observer Update) - India's federal government has told the Delhi High Court that homosexuality is the result of a perverse mind and should not be decriminalized.

In a brief filed with the court, the government said that if the country's sodomy law is overturned it could have a profoundly adverse impact on Indian culture. LGBT rights groups and AIDS outreach organizations told the court last month that the law is anachronistic, impedes civil rights and blocks AIDS

groups' abilities to reach out to Gays. The law against homosexual sex that dates to the British colonial era. The law, which forbids sexual acts "against the order of nature," carries punishment of up to 10 years in prison.

In its submission to the court, the government said that the court should not interpret India's Constitution in a way that would force foreign culture on the country. The government also challenged the court's right to question the constitutionality of the law.

Donny Osmond Equates Gays With Wife Beating, Incest & Child Abuse



PROVO, Utah (Observer Update) - Donny Osmond, after equating Gays with wife beating, child abuse, and possibly incest and pedophilia, then says "some of my best friends are Gay." I'm gonna guess not any more, americablog.com reported.

You see, Donny decided to write about Gays on his Web site. He kind of equated Gays with men who beat their wives and children, or perhaps men who have sex with their own children, it's a bit hard to tell. But what isn't hard to tell is the part where he says that Gays are "immoral" and that they "will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets."

What a pompous bigoted ass. Do you forcibly convert Jewish Holocaust victims to Mormonism too, Donny? Joe.My.God has more: "Donny Osmond 'loves' his Gay friends, even though he believes they are immoral whore-sluts bringing "calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets" upon the nation. How does that work, exactly? For what it's worth, there's no evidence that Osmond donated to Yes On 8, nor has

he spoken publicly on the issue other than on his website. However as a devout and wealthy Mormon, some portion of his tithing probably went into the campaign."

Didn't know a lot about Mormons until November 4, the day they killed love, other than the fact that many people think they're a cult. And I have to say, I grow less impressed by the day. They seem awfully intent on forcing everyone on the planet to live their way.



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Continued from Page One

Legal's financial plight was "not unique" among national groups. "It's happening in the broader non-profit world and with LGBT organizations," he said. "Like other organizations, we don't have an endowment, and we have to raise our income every year."

Cathcart said he started noticing donations slowing during the summer months. "With the economic news over the fall, things kept getting worse and worse," he said. "In our case, there were funders like law firms that supported us that went out of business, and corporate sponsors who were sold during the last couple months of the economic decline."

The economic downturn has curtailed the operations of other Gay groups in different ways. David Steinberg, president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, said in an e-mail to members Dec. 3 that "financial support from corporations and foundations in and outside of the media industry has decreased," and the organization's national staff had been reduced from seven to two.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said in a statement that the organization "has been monitoring the economic climate closely for the past few months and has managed expenses accordingly. Con-

LGBT Orgs Cut Staff To Cope With Recession

tributions have slowed in the last quarter and we will continue to proactively manage our budget and expenses. HRC has no (current) plans to lay off employees."

The Task Force also is tightening its belt, according to Rea Carey, the organization's executive director. "Like many other organizations, whether LGBT or not, we are looking at ways to act responsibly and make responsible actions given the economy," she said. "For us, that means that in some areas where we can, we are spending less. We're cutting back on travel and things we had planned." Carey also noted that the organization has decided to leave open unfilled positions. "We are already a lean and mean organization, and for a long time the Task Force has accomplished a lot on relatively few resources," she said.

Regional groups aren't immune to troubles stemming from the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland, said his organization "definitely noticed a bit of a downturn in the last two quarters of 2008." "We're financially sound, but we certainly had difficulty in achieving the attendance numbers we've had at previous events," he said. "This is a

tough economic climate to be fundraising in." He said that the organization remains "on track" and that they have "not had to cut back in any material way."

But Carl Siciliano, the executive director of the Ali Forney Center in New York City, which provides housing for homeless LGBT youth, said that since September, their "corporate donations and foundation grants have completely dried up." "We're already in a place where our bank account is depleted, our line of credit is depleted and we're struggling from payroll to payroll," Siciliano said. "We're struggling with how to pay December rent." Siciliano said that the organization received fewer grant and donation dollars than expected. "We budgeted that we were going to receive about a million dollars this year in non-government money, which comes from foundation grants, corporate donations, individual donations and revenue from special events," he said. But he noted that a more realistic expectation now is \$700,000. Siciliano said Ali Forney Center has cut or made plans to cut eight positions, which represents 10 percent of the organization's staff. "We rent apartments and we had to shut some down during the day and only open them at night," he said. "We work hard to help kids get into schools and jobs, but in the winter having to tell kids to leave? I don't like it. When there are hundreds of kids on the waiting list, the last thing I want to do is think about scaling back, but people can't give what they don't have. We have to think of ways to be creative."

Siciliano said one approach the organization has tried is raising awareness through Gay bloggers. Joe Jervis, who writes Joe My God, reached out to Siciliano to write a post for his site. "Within 36 hours, we received 50 donations online," Siciliano said. "I think that what we're going to have to do is think about different strategies to generate non-government money. Those of us who are creative and make a compelling case are going to scrape by. "I have a feeling that a lot of people will go under, but as far as I'm concerned, we're going under over my dead body. The kids need us too badly." On Dec. 3, the Ali Forney Center announced that the funds needed to operate its drop-in center were reinstated.

According to the organization, the New York City Ryan White Planning Council offered the needed funds after the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene told the Ali Forney Center that the grant it was receiving would end in July 2009. Michael Adams, executive director of Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) in New York City, said his organization is in "healthy shape" overall, but had seen a reduction in government funding, the largest source of funding for senior services. "We were just notified two weeks ago that our largest city contract has been cut by 37 percent, which is a very significant cut," he said. The cut of \$250,000 comes from money that SAGE uses to buy groceries, pay for prescriptions and cover utility bills. "We're scrambling to find ways to cover those things, since we have to do that stuff," Adams said. "We've got to transfer funds that were assigned to other work, because people need these things to survive."

Adams said a smaller contract also was eliminated, and SAGE is looking at a loss of \$310,000 in city funding for 2009, which he described as "a lot of money for an organization of our size." SAGE provides services to 2,000 elders in New York each month, and employs 32 staff members, including

about six part-time employees. Adams said SAGE is trying to fight the cutbacks in funding, but has made a number of non-personnel cuts to the budget. "We've had to cut back on communications and the public-education activities we engage in," he said. "We're trying hard not to cut back on core services, and we've been able to avoid those cuts. Our plans to expand programs have been cut or pushed off to next year in the hopes that things will be better next year. I feel fortunate that we'll be able to absorb those cuts without having to eliminate any staff positions."

Roey Thorpe, director of state services at the Equality Federation, a national alliance of state-based Gay advocacy groups, said, "everyone is concerned" about the health of their organization amidst the economic downturn. "In some regions where the economic crisis has caused people to leave their jobs, we've seen some organizations really concerned that major donors may no longer be able to give as much as they wish they could," she said.

"We've seen this in the Northeast, where people work on Wall Street or are affected by the financial industry, and then in other areas where manufacturing jobs have been affected." Thorpe said many state advocacy groups are evaluating whether or not to change their plans for next year. "Many of our organizations are used to doing an incredible amount of work with very little resources, so resourcefulness is second nature to these organizations," she said. "I have not heard about any organizations who have had to lay off staff yet as a result of the economic crisis, but I think everyone is treading carefully and thinking about their priorities very seriously."

Some organizations told the Blade they were awaiting year-end donations — which is when many people make their charitable donations in an effort to offset taxes — before finalizing their 2009 plans. Siciliano said Ali Forney Center receives 40 percent of donation money between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, and he was consequently hopeful that more donations would yet arrive. But many activists noted that year-end donations could be curtailed for reasons other than the economic downturn.

"We just finished an election year that was interesting and challenging and enormous amounts of money were donated by the LGBT community and friends of the LGBT community," Cathcart said. "Money went to the presidential election and a range of national and statewide elections and to referendum battles, particularly in California. It was a perfect storm of significant amounts of money going to politics in an important political year and the U.S. economy declining significantly over the last several months." Cathcart said the outcome of the elections means "there is a lot of potential and possibilities out there for the community," but noted that, "it's ironic and sad to have both potential and cut backs at the same time."

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BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ

British pop star Boy George was convicted Friday (Dec. 5) by a London jury of imprisoning and beating a Norwegian male escort in his apartment in 2007. The former Culture Club lead singer, born George O'Dowd, did not testify in the trial, but admitted to police that he had handcuffed 29-year-old escort Audun Carlsen while investigating whether he had tampered with one of George's home computers. Prosecutors argued that as Carlsen attempted to flee the apartment after a nude photo shoot, George beat him with a metal chain. Jurors were shown pictures of welts on Carlsen's head and injuries to his arm. George denied beating him, telling the jury that Carlsen received the marks because he was HIV-positive. According to MTV News, when the verdict was read, George's "mouth dropped, and his friends in the public gallery gasped." George is due back in court January 16 for sentencing.

Without a hearing or comment, the 5th District Court of Appeal denied an appeal by former Florida Rep. Bob Allen. Allen was convicted last year of

soliciting oral sex from an undercover police officer in a Titusville park on July 11, 2007. Police say Allen agreed to pay the undercover officer \$20 for oral sex after a conversation in a Space View Park restroom, and suggested they go somewhere less public. Allen said he hoped to seek refuge at a Kennedy Space Center security gate from the undercover Titusville police officer he thought was going to rob him, according to records. Allen was sentenced in November 2007 to six months' probation, a \$250 fine and other court and restitution costs — a sentence delayed pending the outcome of the appeal.

Idaho Sen. Larry Craig has lost his latest attempt to withdraw his guilty plea in a Minneapolis airport men's room sex sting. A three-judge panel of the Minnesota Court of Appeals on Tuesday (Dec. 9) rejected the Republican's bid to toss out his disorderly conduct conviction. Craig was arrested in June 2007 in a Minneapolis airport bathroom stall by an undercover officer who said the senator solicited sex.

MOSCOW MAYOR BANS 'GAY PROPAGANDA' TO SQUASH HIV

MOSCOW, Russia (Observer Update) - Mayor Yuri Luzhkov has banned "the propoganda of sexual minorities' opinions" because, he says, Gays spread HIV/AIDS.

"Some home-grown democrats consider that sexual minorities are a major indicator and symbol of democracy, but we will continue to ban the spread of their views," Luzhkov said Thursday, according to Reuters. Moscow-based Gay Russia, the country's leading Gay rights advocacy group, says Luzhkov's statements don't come

IRAQI JOURNALIST SENT TO PRISON FOR WRITING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq (Observer Update) - International media watchdog groups called for the release of a freelance journalist jailed in northern Iraq for violating a public decency law by writing a story about homosexuality, reported pageoneq.com. Adel Hussein was sentenced Nov. 24 to six months in jail by a court in Irbil, capital of the Kurdish-ruled region of northern Iraq, according to the Committee To Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders.

Hussein also was ordered to pay a fine of about \$106, the organizations said. He is being held at Mahata prison in Irbil, about 220 miles north of Baghdad. "We are astonished to learn that a press case has been tried under the criminal code. What was the point of adopting — and then liberalizing — a press code in the Kurdistan region if people who contribute to the news

as a shock. "We have to remember that the mayor of Moscow is one of the most homophobic politicians in Russia," the organization said in a statement. "For three years Yury Luzhkov has prohibited holding Gay pride marches in the Russian capital."

The mayor has prevented several Gay rights parades and demonstrations, despite Russia's decriminalization of homosexuality in 1993, a decade before the United States. However, Gays are often relegated to sex clubs, and cannot show affection in public without risking violence or condemnation.

media are still be tried under more repressive laws," Reporters Without Borders said in a statement.

The case centers on an April 2007 article Hussein wrote for the independent weekly Hawlati that detailed the physical effects of Gay sex, the organizations said. The sentence handed down by the Kurdish court was based on an outdated 1969 Iraqi penal code, said Luqman Malazadah, Hussein's lawyer. Malazadah told CPJ he has appealed the court decision. A new law that took effect in October does not recognize a violation of "public custom," also known as public decency, as an offense, CPJ said. Under the new law, a representative of the region's Journalist Syndicate must attend a journalist's trial, but Fatih told CPJ no representative attended Hussein's trial. Irbil's public prosecutor also has filed a lawsuit against Hussein, the magazine's former chief editor Adnan Osman, and the publisher, Tareq Fateh, according to Reporters Without Borders.

Across The Q Globe

NEW DELHI, India (Observer Update) - India's federal government has told the Delhi High Court that homosexuality is the result of a perverse mind and should not be decriminalized.

In a brief filed with the court, the government said that if the country's sodomy law is overturned it could have a profoundly adverse impact on Indian culture. LGBT rights groups and AIDS outreach organizations told the court last month that the law is anachronistic, impedes civil rights and blocks AIDS

groups' abilities to reach out to Gays. The law against homosexual sex that dates to the British colonial era. The law, which forbids sexual acts "against the order of nature," carries punishment of up to 10 years in prison.

In its submission to the court, the government said that the court should not interpret India's Constitution in a way that would force foreign culture on the country. The government also challenged the court's right to question the constitutionality of the law.

Tucson M2M is a M2M 18+ Group meeting on the West side near Tucson Mall for safe day/eve 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. Biz & services networking, pizza nights, movie nights, holiday potluck meals and events.

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*** The December \$250.00 CASH PRIZE CONTEST that begins at 8:00 a.m. MST Christmas Day, December 25, 2008, will be awarded to the first Tucson member who e-mails us with the answers correctly by 1:00 p.m. of that day, is:

- 1) What was the last word at the end of chapter 8 in the 1893 book "The Prince Of India"?
- 2) What was the name of W.C. Fields last girl friend & what color hat did she wear?
- 3) What large park is located between Anchorage & Fairbanks Alaska, and what does it's name mean?
4. What color socks was the 14th president of the U.S. buried in?

TUCSON M2M

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Blue Detroit

Like the man said, we can count on just death and taxes; everything else is a crap-shoot. But tax law is really what we count on. Want to see an economic sector boom, or a product type become ubiquitous? Just enact a tax break that makes it attractive and money will flow like Venezuelan oil. The results are sure enough that even the gals at the psychic hotline can see them coming. Obtuse? Not really, just under-reported.

The American SUV habit is a direct result of a tax law. Here's how. There are precious few places a working stiff can spend money that will shield it from taxation, or said otherwise, move the money spent from the taxable to the un-taxable column on the simple, easy to use, income tax worksheet. For businesses, of course, business expenses are all deductible and only profit is taxed since net profit is really the businesses's income. So a business is encouraged to buy things that it can deduct from its income line like tools, equipment and materials. This naturally results in more sales of these same things and the old economic engine purrs along, selling lots of stuff to business.

Somewhere along the way, business large and small got allowed to write-off a business vehicle. Not just any vehicle...only the ones that weighed more than 6,500 pounds.

Now, running a business is a busy thing, and busy business owners log many, many hours behind the wheel, jetting about town trying to sell a contract, close a deal or chase a rainbow. This is a natural thing for the budding tycoon and can't be helped (unless we invent some wild, wacky thing like the "telephone"). This means that the business mile is a write off, no matter what kind of car is driven...so the eco-minded business owner might want to drive a small car to business appointments.

Not so. The guys that need trucks (blue-collar businesses) have trucks, whether they get to write off just the mileage or the whole shebang (payments, repairs, gas). They have to have vehicles that are heavy. And realtors like to make the appearance in style...a big, roomy Cadillac was the realtor's choice before the advent of the SUV. Lots of

other business owners like to drive impressive, large vehicles; American customers respond well to businesses that appear affluent.

So the tax law begat SUV owner after SUV owner, who begat a craving for the large and luxurious in the commoner, whose families all loved the idea of cruising about in land yachts, not eco-cars...and the gas cost little enough for the affluent, stylish Americans who bought them.

Detroit's razor-sharp accountants quickly discovered that the automakers made more profit on an expensive car, per unit, than on a little, economical car. So, true to the accounting principles that have made the rich so terribly rich in America, they lobbied for the tax incentives that led to the SUV craze. They made money more efficiently, from an accounting point of view.

Meanwhile, the globe got hotter. The European, Japanese, Korean and even German automakers worked hard to promote fuel-efficient cars even while their governments recognized global warming and the Bush administration called it all "bad science". The Americans clamored for larger and larger cars and got 'em. Simple supply and demand? Not hardly; the Federal Government created and sustained the profit-driving production of SUV's while it might have promoted just the opposite.

Now the government is self-righteously chastising Detroit for such short-sighted stratagem. Where are the fuel-efficient cars American people want (suddenly)? What fools have been minding the store? And Detroit is playing along, hat in hand, confident of easy money where they have gotten easy tax-laws for years. Hand in hand, the automakers and the prodigious intellects that people our Congress are pretending that this whole thing is just bad judgment on the part of short-sighted automakers and the consumers that begged for big, silly cars.

What Detroit has missed is that they can go right on along making and selling those obscene planet-busters they call SUVs; just not to Americans. They market is strong in Venezuela, where gas goes for about twenty-five cents per gallon, U.S. Instead of begging for cash, they might better spend their time begging for permission to sell in countries that can afford to run them.

Of course, only if the Detroit accountants, sage and wise men that they are, are sure that global warming isn't just a teensy bit worry-some and maybe just a little bit of the responsibility for it may rest on the automaker. God rest the accountant's soul, whatever shreds He may find to minister to.

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Don't give up hope that hard work brings its own rewards. Look no further for solid proof than the events of this week. Lucky Jupiter trines Saturn and helps us reap the benefits of sweat equity. That is if you have been working up a sweat...

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Usually fairly secretive and aloof, you suddenly ache for connection and open communication. Queer Scorps find comfort in crowds. Discover new social groups and seek new and interesting cohorts. Before you know it, you will be in the epicenter of all activity. With all the frantic (and nosy) goings on, you may again prefer your solitude.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
The sky is the limit in any career aspiration for all Gay Rambos who have shown even the least amount of interest. Hint: Bosses want to see that you want it badly enough. Give them your best performance and reap the benefits. There is plenty of time to restructure your empire once you get the keys to the boardroom. Until then, appear earnest and pliable.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Gay Archers can make great strides in their career this week. Not only are those in power finding ways of making your presence known and rewarded, you might manage to climb a notch up on the corporate ladder. Watch for opportunities for advancement, accolades and power. But is that all there is in life? Work, work, work? Heck no.... unless you become CEO.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls are unleashed into the universe and can make a sterling contribution to any artistic effort. If genius is one small part inspiration and mostly perspiration, resolve to work hard at your craft this week. Not only will you soar to the highest heights, you set your personal course into the right direction, full speed ahead. Avoid detours and become slippery when wet.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Expand your horizons any way you can when Jupiter trines Saturn. This can mean anything that expands your Outlook or gets you out of your usual routine. Pink Caps can plan a trip of a lifetime or will find cheaper and easier ways of manifesting their destiny through the internet. Launch a blog or find a group of happy travelers to wine, dine and bore.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Your home becomes a center of delightful activity as Saturn trines Jupiter. Use any excuse to have the gang over for any type of holiday festivities. But before you send out the invites, try to make small adjustments to your surroundings that increase passion and decrease stress. No sooner done than you attract a bevy of admirers. How to choose? How to choose?

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Aqueerians discover that they have a secret admirer. And this news this can catapult you into a fantastic, glorious and heart leaping adventure. But keep your feet on the ground while your heart is wafting aloft. Try to be choosy in your choice of companions. Royalty today can turn in to a frog later on. Unless you close your eyes before you leap. Uh oh.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Open up the floodgates of communication when Saturn trines Jupiter. Gay Crabs know just what to say to partners to cement the relationship and make their ideas a reality. Your words are like a soothing balm. For those who are on the trawl, spread yourself thin all over town and let your charming oil flow. Before you know it, a likely catch slips into your net.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Friends may give you their unsolicited opinions about some of your relationships this week. And this is not a bad thing. They have your best interests at heart and may see things that you do not see. Be open to opinion, Guppie, and take their counsel. Of course, you may just decide to go your own way which might work out well too. But two heads are much better than one.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Proud Lions know how to make the job pay off and out. And not a moment too soon! You know the right things to do to appear that you are putting in the effort. Use Jupiter trine Saturn to plan your eventual cushy retirement. Deep research, careful planning and disciplined investing will make the difference now. But why the rush? Won't you miss the office? Heck no!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Make your mark on the world when Jupiter trines Saturn. Queer Virgins are usually shy and retiring but now you simply cannot avoid the limelight and all the accolades that go with it. Instead of fighting it, go with the cosmic flow and meet as many new people as possible. You have the chance to become a cause celebre. With the accent on the latter.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
It becomes apparent that there are things going on behind the scenes. But it is nothing nefarious or evil. In fact, you soon realize that you have a secret benefactor who has been protecting you. And you are now able to create a solid foundation for any type of future success. Now that the big secret is Out, what will you do next? Whatever it is, do it with style.

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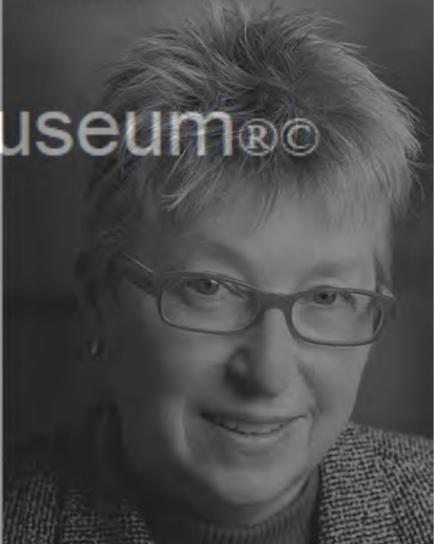
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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 10th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marv and Steve 745-0304.

Thursday, December 11th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, 7:00 pm Triangle Tribe. Call Tom for more information at 591-2828

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, December 12,13,14
Join Reveille men's chorus for their concert, "Holidays in Hollywood" at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 in advance and Seniors \$10. For more ticket information call (520)304-11758.

Saturday December 13th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday. Contact Marvin at 745-0304 for directions and information.

Sunday December 14th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at Zinburger Restaurant. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com .

Monday, December 15th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: Men's Book Club 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

Tuesday, December 16th
Songstress Linda Eder comes to the Tucson Music Hall for one night only at 7:30 p.m. to "Rock The Holidays" with her new country-pop sound. Tickets are available now and range in price from \$29-\$49. Buy tickets online at broadwayintucson.com, by phone with Ticketmaster (520)321-1000 or in person at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave.

Wednesday, December 17th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed:

7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack 887-3736

Thursday, December 18th
Join the Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Chamber of Commerce (TGLBTCC) for their annual Holiday Party to be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Ain't Nonbody's Bizness, 2900 E. Broadway.

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

Men's Social Network: Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. 7:00pm Join the guys for a game of Bridge. For more information and directions contact lkeat207-6264

Saturday, December 20th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday. Contact Steve at 664-2076 for directions and information.

Men's Social Network. Pizza night at Pizzazz restaurant. This is open to men of all ages and is a pay as you order event. For more information and directions call Thom at 908-6160

Sunday, December 21st
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Dinner Out at Kettle's. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, December 22nd Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed. Newsletter and Movie night. For more information and directions call Arlan at 323-7414

Wednesday, December 24th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Saturday December 27th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday, December 28th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m.

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COMMENTARY . . .

by Sara Whitman

No More Us vs. Them

I have spent much of my life as a victim. As a Lesbian, as a woman, I have been a victim of hate, of violence, of job discrimination. I'm done. I don't want to be the other. I don't want to be on one side while the rest of the world, divided by what often feels like an arbitrary line, sits on the other. Please, no more Us vs. Them. I am an American. I am responsible for three kids, my wife- my family. I love them and it is my job to take good care of them- the best care of them I possibly can. I pay taxes and a mortgage. In order to do that, I need to be an excellent employee, work hard, put in my best effort.

I am motivated by being a good role model for my children. I need to support them emotionally, and provide the best education possible. My marriage, keeps more than just our community wrapped around keeping our relationship intact, it provides laws to do so, too. Marriage is good for society. It keeps families whole and provides safety nets- especially for children. It has for a long time. It will continue to for a long time.

I'm not looking for any special treatment- except on my birthday, when I love my kids waking me up at the crack of dawn to provide me a "leisurely" breakfast in bed. I don't expect to pay less for gas, or to have a special line to get past airport security faster than anyone else. Most of all, I don't want pity. I am stronger than most people. I can haul wood or groceries or laundry endless distances. I can stay up all night and rub a sick child's back until they can fall back asleep again. I can cook dinner for my family every night or for 50 people on Superbowl Sunday.

I can hold unbearable past experiences and still breathe in the joy of my life today. I am a good friend. I care deeply about my neighbors, my community, my country. I donate my time, my

money to help better the world. I am not on the other side. I am not a tiny piece of a small fragment in this country. Don't ever feel sorry for me.

Let me have the full responsibility of being an American. Because we deserve an American workforce free of discrimination, we deserve the strongest military in the world and every child in this country deserves a family. I am an asset to this society. Let us all erase the lines of Us and Them. Think of what we can do if we do it together. I want excellence. I want a stronger America. It's something, I believe, we can all agree on.

(This oped was written in the wake of Proposition 8 and was reprinted from the Huffington Post, for which Whitman is a contributing writer.)



Don't Blame Mormons Or Black Voters - The California Activists Who Tried To Stop Prop 8 Ran A Lousy Campaign

By Tim Dickinson

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - On election night in California, all signs pointed to a progressive tidal wave. Voters in the state swept Barack Obama to a 24-point victory over John McCain – the biggest margin for any candidate since 1936. Bucking the recession, eco-conscious Californians voted to spend \$10 billion to connect San Francisco and Los Angeles with a European-style bullet train. It was even a banner night for chickens, with 63 percent of the electorate approving a PETA-endorsed proposition to expand the size of poultry cages on factory farms.

Then the returns for Proposition 8 came in. The amendment to ban Gay marriage – a right affirmed by the state Supreme Court in May and put into practice by more than 18,000 couples – passed by a four-point margin, as Californians voted to eviscerate the equal-protection clause of the state constitution. Along with similar bans in Arizona and Florida – as well as a measure in Arkansas that bars same-sex couples from adopting children or even serving as foster parents – Prop 8 offered hope to the Christian right that their decades-long culture wars may continue to rage, despite Obama's historic victory. All told, more than 2 million Californians who voted for Obama also pulled the lever for Prop 8. Election postmortems have been quick to scapegoat minorities for the loss. The right pointed out that African-Americans voted overwhelmingly against Gay marriage; the left blasted Mormons who obeyed an unprecedented dictate from the church's leadership in Salt Lake City and donated 45 percent of the funds for a campaign to pass Prop 8.

But evidence of entrenched homophobia and religious intolerance obscure a more difficult truth. Prop 8 should have been defeated – two months before the election, it was down 17 points in the polls – but the Gay-rights groups that tried to stop it ran a lousy campaign. According to veteran political observers, the No on Prop 8 effort was slow to raise money, ran weak and confusing ads, and failed to put together a grass-roots operation to get out the vote. "This was political malpractice," says a Democratic consultant who operates at the highest level of California politics. "They f**ked this up, and it was painful to watch. They shouldn't be allowed to pawn this off on the Mormons or anyone else. They snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, and now hundreds of thousands of Gay couples are going to pay the price."

From the start, the leaders of the No on Prop 8 campaign and their high-priced consultants failed to realize what they were up against. According to Geoff Kors, who headed the campaign's executive committee, the No side anticipated needing no more than \$20 million to stop the Gay-marriage ban. The Yes side, by contrast, set out to change how initiative politics are played, building a well-funded operation that rivaled a swing-state presidential campaign in its scope and complexity. It also built a powerful, faith-based coalition that included the Catholic Church, Protestant evangelicals and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "The direct involvement of the Mormon church – moving donors in a very short window to give early – was stunning," says Patrick Guerriero, who was called in to take over as campaign manager of No on Prop 8 in the final month. "It was unprecedented – and probably impossible to predict."

In fact, as documented in an internal LDS memo leaked during the campaign, proposals for such a coalition had been on the table for more than a decade. In the memo, a high-ranking Mormon leader discusses approaches

for fighting Gay marriage in California: "The Church should be in a coalition and not out front by itself," the memo advocates. "The public image of the Catholic Church is higher than our Church. . . . If we get into this, they are the ones with which to join." It's ironic that the coalition to define marriage in California as the union between "one man and one woman" was anchored by a church whose founder claimed 33 wives. It's also ironic that the coalition – which framed Prop 8 as a fight to protect California's children – was quietly knit together by the Catholic archbishop of San Francisco, who once excused the molestation of children at the hands of a pedophile priest as mere "horseplay." But once the Mormons joined the effort, they quickly established themselves as "the foundation of the campaign," says Frank Schubert, the consultant who directed Yes on 8. "We could count on their money and their people being there early."

Schubert put Mormon volunteers to work in an expansive field campaign modeled on the effort his business partner, Jeff Flint, worked on in 2004 for George Bush in Ohio. "This is the first time in initiative history that it's ever been done" for a ballot measure, says Schubert. Throughout the summer, Yes on 8 deployed an army of more than 100,000 volunteers to knock on doors in every zip code in the state. "We had an enormous grass-roots advantage," Schubert says. "Our core was people of faith, and we were able to organize through churches." In the end, he says, the campaign visited 70 percent of all California households in person, and contacted another 15 percent by phone.

The No on Prop 8 campaign, meanwhile, was oblivious to the formidable field operation that the other side was mounting. Worse, its executive committee refused to include leaders of top Gay and Lesbian grass-roots organizations, which deprived them of an army of willing foot soldiers. "We didn't have people going door to door," admits Yvette Martinez, the campaign's political director. The field operation consisted of volunteers phone-banking from 135 call centers across the state, an effort that didn't begin ramping up until mid-October. "They had no ground game," says a leading Democratic consultant. "They thought they could win this thing by slapping some ads together. It was the height of naiveté."

The Yes on 8 campaign's get-out-the-vote effort was equally prodigious. The weekend before the vote, Schubert's religious volunteers once again went door to door, speaking to supporters and directing them to the right precinct locations. "On Election Day," he says, "we had 100,000 people – five per precinct – checking voter rolls and contacting supporters who hadn't showed up to vote." By contrast, the No on Prop 8 campaign mobilized just 11,000 volunteers on Election Day, which they deployed to polling locations to hold "Vote No on 8" signs. The campaign even turned away volunteers who were unable to attend a sign-holding training seminar. Terry Leftgoff, a veteran campaign consultant who was once the highest-ranking Gay officer in the California Democratic Party, was one of those who was informed that his services weren't needed. "I was told I could come by on November 5th and help clean up a campaign office," Leftgoff says.

As terrible as the no on prop 8 campaign did on the ground, it did even worse on the air. Until the final days, the campaign failed to take advantage of the backing of every major newspaper in the state, as well as that of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, former President Bill Clinton and future President Barack Obama. In one bizarre episode, an outside consultant was forced to "jack-

hammer" the campaign leadership simply to convince them to make use of a robo-call from Bill Clinton. The campaign also rejected a Spanish-language ad featuring Dolores Huerta, a heroine of the United Farm Workers union. "There were big mistakes that led to this flop," says Leftgoff, the veteran consultant. "They lacked the media messaging essential to any campaign."

To make matters worse, the No campaign refused to reassure voters by presenting positive depictions of Gay and Lesbian couples in its ads. Instead, in a bizarre approach, it opted to effectively affirm the homophobia of the swing voters it was courting. An ad called "Conversation," featuring two female friends looking at family photos over coffee, typified the effort: Woman 1: And here's our niece Maria and her partner, Julie, at their wedding. Woman 2: Listen. Honestly? I just don't know how I feel about this same-sex-marriage thing. Woman 1: No. It's OK. And I really think it's fine if you don't know how you feel. But are you willing to eliminate rights and have our laws treat people differently? Woman 2: No! The awkward ads alienated Gay activists. Robin Tyler, one of the lead plaintiffs in the marriage case that reached the state Supreme Court, describes the approach of No on Prop 8 as "if we hide, they'll give us our rights." The campaign, she suggests, could have picked up a few pointers from the ballot initiative to reform factory farming: "When they were trying to pass Prop 2," she asks, "did they hide the chickens?"

Even Patrick Guerriero, who took the reins of the campaign in October, admits that the early communications strategy was disastrous. "Those ads were perfect," he says, "if there wasn't an opponent." But there was an opponent – and Schubert quickly took advantage of the weak ads to turn Gay marriage into a referendum on education and parental rights. One spot featured a young Hispanic girl coming home to tell her mother, "Guess what I learned in school today? I learned how a prince married a prince, and I can marry a princess!" Schubert drove home the theme again with an ad highlighting a field trip by San Francisco first-graders to see their Lesbian teacher get married. The ads were misleading but devastating. Within two weeks, the Yes campaign turned a double-digit deficit in the polls into a 15-point lead. Worse, the Yes side began October with \$12.8 million in the bank to spend on advertising, while the No campaign had only \$1.8 million. "Our filing was so large that it literally crashed the secretary of state's Web page," boasts Schubert. "They couldn't accept it – there were over 5,000 pages of contributors." At that point, the No on Prop 8 campaign had only 6,000 donors. "We did not have the cash we needed," concedes Kors, the leader of the No on Prop 8 executive committee.

The numbers spurred a major shake-up of the No campaign, which called in Guerriero, formerly executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, to take the helm. Guerriero thought the campaign was effectively lost, but he was determined to "scramble back" – to narrow the margin of defeat and thus demonstrate progress over 2000, when California voters first outlawed Gay marriage by a margin of 23 points. And then something extraordinary happened. "Once the progressive community was told, 'We're in the fight of our lives, and we're losing,' they just responded," says Guerriero. "No one can say people didn't wake up." Volunteers from Google and eBay built a Website for online donations; money started flooding in at a clip of up to \$1 million a day. By Election Day, the once-poor No campaign had outraised the Yes side by \$2 million.

The No campaign also aired

its first effective counterattack, running an ad that featured the state school superintendent making clear that Gay marriage would not be taught in the schools. "It was their best ad of the campaign by far, but it was very, very late for them to react," says Schubert. The No campaign also filmed a powerful ad that featured Sen. Dianne Feinstein – perhaps the most popular politician in the state – appealing to voters to "vote against discrimination." Had the campaign left well enough alone, the Feinstein ad might have done the trick. Instead, with only a week to go before Election Day, it flailed about as crazily as the McCain campaign in search of a message. After running the Feinstein ad for only four days, it recut the spot to incorporate other big-name endorsers, garbling the message. It also filmed a counterproductive ad narrated by Samuel L. Jackson that, in the course of 30 seconds, tried to connect the Gay-marriage struggle to the internment of Japanese-Americans in World War II, the housing-rights struggles of Armenians in California and bans on interracial marriage in the South.

"The ad was a huge f**king mistake," says a top Democratic campaign strategist. "Any objective consultant who has done any research on this issue will tell you that the struggle for marriage equality is not accepted by minority communities to be equivalent to the civil rights movement. In fact, it pisses minorities off." It didn't help that Barack Obama refused to support Gay marriage, and voiced his opposition to Prop 8 as a narrow constitutional matter. Indeed, Obama was so weak on the issue that Schubert highlighted the candidate's opposition to Gay marriage in a mailer targeting African-Americans, and used his voice in a statewide robo-call. "We were able to quote him directly on the core issue in direct mail and in calls at the end of the campaign," says Schubert. When African-Americans in California went to the polls on Election Day, 70 percent of them voted to ban Gay marriage.

Civil rights groups in California have already petitioned the state Supreme Court to toss out Prop 8, arguing that revising the state constitution requires a two-thirds vote in the legislature. The fight has also gone national. On November 10th, the Gay-rights group Equality Utah announced that it would draft legislation in Utah to legalize civil unions – a direct challenge to the Mormon church, which claims to support such relationships. And on November 15th, after only eight days of organizing online, more than 100,000 protesters rallied against Prop 8 in 300 cities across the country. As the demonstrations suggest, there is a silver lining to the passage of Prop 8. Because it succeeded due to the mistakes and mismanagement of its opponents – rather than deep-seated hostility to Gay and Lesbian couples – it can be overturned at the ballot box. Since 2000, the margin of voters in the state who oppose Gay marriage has plunged from 23 points to only four.

"The speed at which this issue is moving is unprecedented in my personal political experience," says Bill Carrick, a prominent Democratic consultant who worked on the presidential campaigns of Bill Clinton and Ted Kennedy. "Support for Gay marriage has moved so far, in such a short period of time, that I think we're going to look back at Prop 8 as an aberration. History is headed in a very pro-Gay-marriage direction, and it probably is going to happen in a much shorter time than anybody imagines."

[Tim Dickinson is a writer for Rolling Stone Magazine (rollingstone.com) and this story, from Issue 1067 – December 11, 2008 is reprinted from it.]

'That's So Gay' Commercials Nab Ad Council Award

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - At an awards ceremony late last month, a series of commercials that pointed out the harm in homophobic language won an award for Best Public Service Advertising Campaign from the prestigious Ad Council, advocate.com reported.

people for saying something is "so Gay." The hope is to discourage young people from saying "that's so Gay" when describing something negative.

The Arnold Agency, creator of the commercials, took home the Gold Bell award for excellence. The advertising agency accepted the award with the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network, which worked in partnership with Arnold to create the ads.

The commercials, titled "Think Before You Speak," featured celebrities like pop star Hilary Duff and Gay comedian Wanda Sykes chastising

Man Claims He Was Ejected From Madonna Concert For Being Gay

DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - A Gay Denver man claims he was arrested at a Madonna concert following complaints by another concertgoer about the man's sexual orientation, reported 365Gay.com. Jerome Schroeder says that he and his boyfriend were subjected to homophobic remarks by a couple sitting in front of them but that they ignored the insults.

"The only explanation is that it was based on our sexuality," Schroeder told The Rocky Mountain News. "There is no other explanation that makes sense."

Schroeder said that the man seated in front of him repeatedly made homophobic remarks under his breath, but loud enough to hear. The man's female companion complained that Schroeder had shoved her- something Schroeder denies. "We had no interaction with the female," Schroeder said. "I couldn't even tell you what she looked like." Schroeder was held in jail for several hours before posting bail. He has filed a formal complaint with the Office of the Independent Monitor alleging an "anti-Gay attitude." The complaint also said that Denver Police officers are not properly trained to handle situations involving sexual bias.

About an hour into the concert, Schroeder tells The Rocky Mountain News, a police officer approached him and his boyfriend and told them they had to leave. Schroeder says that the officer refused to give any explanation other than that the Pepsi Center wanted them removed. When Schroeder refused to leave, the officer arrested him on a charge of trespassing. Schroeder also claims the officer refused to give his name and poked him in the chest.

Vatican Criticized For Opposing U.N. Resolution

VATICAN CITY (Observer Update) - Gay rights groups and newspaper editorials has condemned the Vatican for its decision to oppose a proposed U.N. resolution calling on governments worldwide to de-criminalize homosexuality.

European Union. Archbishop Celestino Migliore said the Vatican opposed the resolution because it would "add new categories of those protected from discrimination" and could lead to reverse discrimination against traditional heterosexual marriage.

The controversy erupted after the Vatican's permanent observer to the United Nations told a French Catholic news agency the Holy See would oppose the resolution, which France is due to propose later this month on behalf of the 27-member

"If adopted, they would create new and implacable discriminations," Migliore said. "For example, states which do not recognise same-sex unions as 'matrimony' will be pilloried and made an object of pressure," Migliore said.

Milk Buzz

He has played a hardened convict, a mentally challenged man and a California stoner. But Sean Penn's current portrayal of a Gay politician has some critics calling it his best performance ever. How this tough-guy, straight actor was able to step into the shoes of Harvey Milk, the country's first openly Gay politician, in the new film "Milk" is as much a testament to Penn's talent as it is to a culture that has become more accepting of Gays. Yet, while Penn receives raves for his performance, some in the Gay community wonder aloud why a Gay actor could not have played his role or any one of the others cast with straight actors James Franco, Emile Hirsch and Diego Luna. "I think there's probably less fear of being typecast the way that actors in the last century had fears," said New York casting director Tiffany Little Canfield. "It's not as big of a risk. I've never heard in all my casting of an actor being concerned about playing a

homosexual character."

Early this month, when it looked like same-sex marriage was on the rocks in California, Gay rights activists summed up their angst about the upcoming Proposition 8 vote with four wistful words: What would Harvey do? Harvey was Harvey Milk, the late San Francisco supervisor and subject of "Milk," the film that opened this week about the pioneering Gay politician assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone 30 years ago Thursday. There are parallels between the Gay rights battle of Milk's time and today. Defeating a ballot measure - a ban on openly Gay teachers in public schools - was the apex of Milk's short career. And now, with passage of California's ban on Gay marriage, activists re-examining Milk's legacy are questioning whether an outsized political leader could have made the difference this time.



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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: <http://www.saaft.org>. **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.**

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with **TUCSON PRIME TIMERS**. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 742-1271. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGCLCC) 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 or 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. PoiLuck 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. meets on the second Wednesday at Braun P.C. 6125 E. Grant Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride produces the following events each year: Pride Week; Pride In The Desert and Pride On Parade. For more information please call 622-3200 or visit our website at www.tucsonpride.org

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.

REVELLE 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@yahoo.com. See you on the trails.

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

THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan Spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Naarcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W. 406-0740



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. 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 HIV/AIDS clients with their Veterinary bills).

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

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

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers 1/2 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 Domestic and well and 1/2 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, Caprioscas 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 Domestic and 1/2 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 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 musica latino! Todos los viernes por la noche, la musica comienza a las 9. Shot specials cada nora!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 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 Domestic and Well, 1/2 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.

Wednesday, December 10
VENTURE-N - New here is the Wednesday Night Dart Tournament. Sign-up at 7:00 p.m. \$3.00 entry. Drink specials for players.

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

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, December 12-13-14
IBT's - Winter 4th Avenue Street Fair with shows hosted by Bunny FuFu and Janee Starr with very special guests. Friday show time is 9:00 p.m.- Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Karaoke Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. And Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to closing.

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

WOODY'S - Join the great going away party for Bartender Ryan. Drop by to share memories and fun times with Ryan.

YARD DOG SALOON - Kick-off party with the Tucson Leather Committee welcoming the new Arizona Leather Sir and Boy. Watch for more details.

Gay Ambassador Likely To Return In Clinton State Department

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Preparing for her new role as secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton is moving to surround herself with a cast of die-hard loyalists and veterans of her husband's administration to help her cope with world crises and backstage Washington power plays.

One notable name on the list is Michael Guest, one of only two openly Gay ambassadors ever to represent the United States overseas. Guest resigned from the foreign service in mid-career last December to protest the State Department's treatment of same-sex partners of diplomats.

For her team of foreign policy experts, the nation's third female secretary of state is expected to draw heavily from the staff of the first, Madeleine Albright, who was an early supporter of Clinton's unsuccessful bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Despite Promise, NY Dems May Skip Marriage Vote

ALBANY, New York (Observer Update) - After a pledge from New York Democratic leaders that their party would legalize same-sex marriage if they won control of the State Senate this year, money from Gay rights supporters poured in from across the country, helping cinch a Democratic victory. But now, party leaders have sent strong signals that they may not take up the issue during the 2009 legislative session.

Some of them suggest it may be wise to wait until 2011 before considering it, in hopes that Democrats can pick up more Senate seats and Gov. David A. Paterson, a strong backer of Gay rights, would then be safely into a second term.

The question of how aggressively to proceed has touched off an intense debate among legislators and Gay rights supporters about how ready the broader electorate is to embrace same-sex marriage, both in New York and across the country.

Iowa Supreme Court Hears Marriage Case

DES MOINES, Iowa (Observer Update) - The Iowa Supreme Court heard arguments in a challenge to the state's same-sex marriage ban. Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in 2005 on behalf of the six Gay and Lesbian Iowa couples who were denied marriage licenses, as well as three of the couples' children.

It names former Polk County recorder and registrar Timothy Brien. The lawsuit prompted a ruling in August 2007 by a Polk County District Court judge who said the state law allowing marriage only between a man and a woman violates the constitutional rights of due process and equal protection.

The next day, the judge stayed the decision, and now it's before state's high court.



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