

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

Tucson Observer Archives

WEEKLY OBSERVER

DECEMBER 24, 2008

ISSUE 1275

Obama Defends Choice Of Warren For Invocation



President-Elect Barack Obama with Pastor Rick Warren

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President-elect Barack Obama on Thursday (Dec. 18) defended his choice of a popular evangelical minister to deliver the invocation at his inauguration, rejecting criticism that it slights Gays

The selection of Pastor Rick Warren brought objections from Gay rights advocates, who strongly supported Obama during the election campaign. The advocates are angry over Warren's backing of a California ballot initiative banning Gay marriage. That measure was approved by voters last month.

But Obama told reporters in Chicago that America needs to "come together," even when there's disagreement on social issues. "That dialogue is part of what my campaign is all about," he said.

Obama also said he's known to be a "fierce advocate for equality" for Gays and Lesbians, and will remain so.

Obama inaugural committee spokeswoman Linda Douglass told 365Gay News:

"Rick Warren has been a leader in the evangelical community for HIV/AIDS, poverty and other issues upon which he and President-elect Obama agree. But they do not agree on LGBT issues. . . His inaugural program reflects the diversity of opinion."

Douglass noted that Warren would be joined by Rev. Joseph Lowery, whom she called "an outspoken supporter of Gay rights." Lowery is considered the dean of the black civil rights movement.

Warren, a best-selling author and leader of a Southern California megachurch, is one of a new breed of evangelicals who stress the need for action on social issues such as reducing poverty and protecting the environment, alongside traditional theological themes.

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay rights organization, said Warren's opposition to Gay marriage is a sign of intolerance.

"We feel a deep level of disrespect when one of the architects and promoters of an anti-Gay agenda is given the prominence and the pulpit of your historic nomination," the group said in a letter to Obama, asking him to reconsider.

Continued on Page Two

U.S. Refuses To Sign UN LGBT Rights Declaration

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The United States Thursday (Dec. 18) became the lone major western nation to refuse to sign a United Nations statement affirming that human rights protections include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Rama Yade, French foreign affairs and human rights secretary, appeared before the United Nations General Assembly to present the document calling for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to be amended to include the new protections. The document has been signed by the member states of the European Union. It was drafted by France which currently holds the rotating EU Presidency. But it also has been signed by about 40 other states. In all 66 of the U.N.'s 192 member countries signed the nonbinding declaration.

Other countries besides the US who refused to sign the declaration were Islamic countries, Russia and China. The Vatican also has voiced its opposition. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's permanent observer at the UN, said in a statement earlier this month that the declaration would discriminate against states which support traditional

marriage. Appearing with Yade at the General Assembly was dutch foreign minister Maxime Verhagen and a panel of political figures, human rights experts and LGBT defenders from all continents. Yade said it was necessary to call the international community's attention to violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. The text of the document calls specifically for all countries to decriminalize homosexuality.

It also provides support to all human rights defenders who are working in the field, often in difficult conditions. According to some of the declaration's backers, U.S. officials expressed concern in private talks that some parts of the declaration might be problematic in committing the federal government on matters that fall under state jurisdiction. In numerous states, landlords and private employers are allowed to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation; on the federal level, gays are not allowed to serve openly in the military. "It's an appalling stance - to not join with other countries that are standing up and calling for decriminalization of homosexuality," said Paula Ettelbrick, executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. She expressed hope that the U.S. position might change after President-elect Barack Obama takes office in January

Meanwhile, a report issued by Human Rights Watch called laws against homosexuality an oppressive legacy of colonialism. The 66-page report is called "This Alien Legacy: The Origins of Sodomy Laws in British Colonialism." It details that sodomy laws were imposed on over three dozen countries, from India to Uganda and from Nigeria to Papua New Guinea by the British Empire in the 1800s. The British colonial rulers imposed the law against sodomy in India in 1860. This year, the High Court in Delhi ended hearings in a years-long case seeking to decriminalize homosexual conduct there. A ruling in the landmark case is expected soon. "Half the world's countries that criminalize homosexual conduct do so because they cling to Victorian morality and colonial laws," said Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, gay, Bisexual, and Transgender rights program at Human Rights Watch. "Getting rid of these unjust remnants of the British Empire is long overdue."

Some national leaders have defended sodomy laws as reflections of indigenous cultures. Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, for example, has called gays and Lesbians "un-African" and "worse than dogs and pigs." The Human Rights Watch report shows, however,

Continued on Page Five

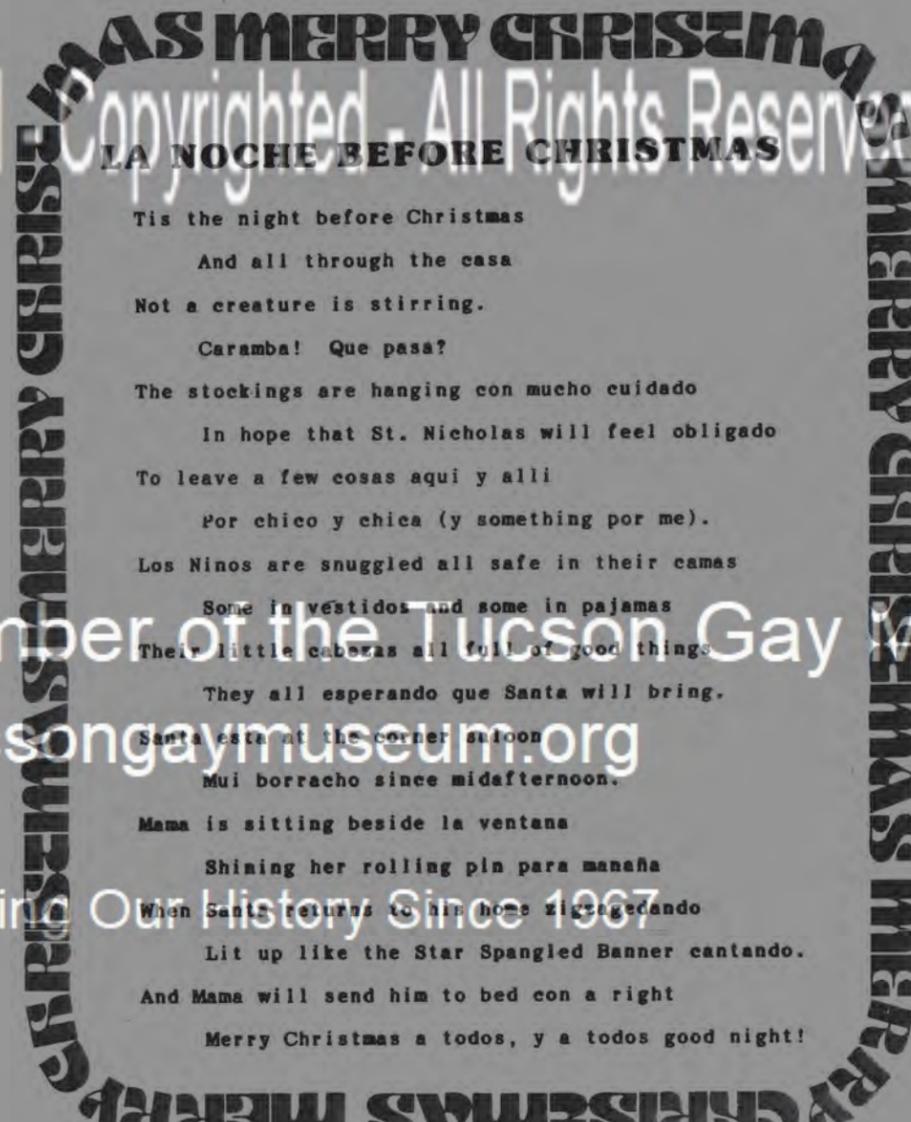
LA NOCHE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tis the night before Christmas
And all through the casa
Not a creature is stirring.
Caramba! Que pasa?
The stockings are hanging con mucho cuidado
In hope that St. Nicholas will feel obligado
To leave a few cosas aqui y alli
Por chico y chica (y something por me).
Los Ninos are snuggled all safe in their camas
Some in vestidos and some in pajamas
Their little cabezas all full of good things
They all esperando que Santa will bring.
Santa esta at the corner saloon
Muy borracho since midafternoon.
Mama is sitting beside la ventana
Shining her rolling pin para manana
When Santa returns to his home zigzagando
Lit up like the Star Spangled Banner cantando.
And Mama will send him to bed con a right
Merry Christmas a todos, y a todos good night!

Saving Our History Since 1967

tucsongaymuseum.org

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum



UPDATE

Arizona Bar Assoc. Mulls LGBT Equality Pledge

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A conservative legal group is calling on lawyers to oppose a proposed revision to the Arizona Bar Association oath of office that pledges equal representation to LGBT clients, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) calls the proposal "unconstitutional." The proposed revision to the oath states: "I will not permit considerations of gender, race, religion, age, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or social standing to influence my duty of care." It must still be approved by the bar association.

The ADF, which is based in Arizona and regularly opposes LGBT rights in courts across the country, said it is particularly concerned about the inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the revised oath. In a letter to bar association president Edward Novak, the ADF and other conservative lawyers said that "the proposed provision is unnecessary, exceedingly ambiguous, and unconstitutional."

"We are concerned most particularly that the proposed provision's vagueness violates due-process and free-speech guarantees and that its application infringes First Amendment rights by compelling conduct and expression in conflict with an attorney's philosophical or religious beliefs as well as his other professional responsibilities."

The letter, signed by more than 30 conservative attorneys in the state, said that lawyers who refuse to take the oath or violate it could have their licenses revoked. "[T]he proposed provision, unlike any other part of the Arizona Bar Oath or Ethics Rules, may be interpreted to force an attorney to undertake particular representation."

The letter calls on Novak to abandon the revision and warns that if it passes it would be challenged in court.

Tucson M2M Takes EON On A Shopping Spree

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson M2M sponsored a \$500 timed shopping spree, with a bonus round adding another \$201, for Wingspan's Eon program for LGBTQ youth.

Tucson M2M, a fraternal philanthropic and social networking group, organizes charity fund raisers and practices "Random Acts of Kindness." Wingspan is very thankful to have been chosen for this generous and creative gift. This generous donation will provide resources for activities focused on leadership development, activism, and social events for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, questioning and straight ally youth participants of Eon Youth Program. The Dash lasted for one hour and will be held while the store is open to other customers.

For more information about the Eon Youth Programs, go online to wingspan.org/content/WYP.php.

Domestic Partners To Be Recognized In Phoenix

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - By a vote of 6 to 0, with 3 members absent, the Phoenix City Council approved the creation of a domestic partner registry for Phoenix residents, granting unmarried Gay or straight couples in committed relationships the right to visit each other in the hospital.

"By recognizing domestic partnerships, the Phoenix City Council removed some of the barriers that have prevented unmarried couples, Gay or straight, from being able to take care of each other," said Barbara McCullough-Jones, Executive Director of Equality Arizona. "It's hard to imagine what it would be like to be told that you couldn't visit your loved one in the hospital or hold your partner's hand before they went into surgery. Unfortunately, that story is all too common for Gay and Lesbian couples. We are thankful that the members of the Phoenix City Council have taken this important step to help unmarried couples in committed relationships take care of each other."

The six members who voted for

IN MEMORIAM

SHARAN L. MORRIS

June 6, 1942 - December 21, 2008

Sharan lost her 12-year battle with breast cancer last Sunday. She was diagnosed as 'terminal' three times in the last 5 years. She was a great helper in the gay and lesbian community of Tucson. Sharan will be greatly missed by her "son" Duane and his partner Rob, and "Daughter" Lorrie and her partner Kim.

Services will be held at Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) 3269 N. Mountain on January 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

"We love you mom".

the ordinance were Mayor Phil Gordon, Councilman Tom Simplot, Councilman Greg Stanton, Councilman Michael Nowakowski, Councilman Michael Johnson and Councilman Claude Mattox. The ordinance takes effect on February 9, 2009, at which time the Phoenix City Clerk's office will begin accepting registrations for domestic partnerships. "Equality Arizona will continue to work in partnership with our allies on the council, including Mayor Gordon, Councilman Simplot, Councilman Stanton, Councilman Nowakowski and others, to ensure Phoenix residents are able to register on the first day of implementation," said McCullough-Jones.

PFLAG Tucson Meeting January 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through: Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identify, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. The next support meeting will take place Wednesday, January 7, 2009, at the Ward VI City Council Offices at 3202 East 1st Street, one block east of Country Club Road and one block south of Speedway Boulevard. We have no program scheduled for this meeting.

If you need help, please call our hotline at (520) 360-3795 or e-mail us at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org. We will connect you with a PFLAG member who has been where you are and who understands.

Obama Defends

Continued from Page One

Obama's selection of Warren is seen as a signal to religious conservatives that the president-elect will listen to their views. During the campaign, Warren interviewed Obama and Republican John McCain in a widely watched television program that focused on religious concerns.

Gay rights advocates say they are troubled that Obama would give Warren such a visible role at his swearing-in. "By inviting Rick Warren to your inauguration, you have tarnished the view that Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans have a place at your table," the letter said.

Obama, however, pointed out that a couple of years ago, he was invited to speak at Warren's church, despite their disagreements on a number of issues. The president-elect said a "wide range of viewpoints" will be presented during the inaugural ceremonies.

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



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



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

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

Office Closed Thursdays

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:

Bob Ellis

ARTS & GRAPHICS:

Gary Clark

MANAGING EDITOR:

Mark Kerr

Special Events Photos:

Bill Morrow

Hunter Johnson

Horoscope:

Charlene Lichtenstein
Contributing Columnists

Mark R. Kerr

Jimmy Petrol

Jack Melichar

King Daevid MacKenzie

Publication of names or photos of any person or organization in the OBSERVER is not to be construed as indication of the sexual orientation of such person, organization or advertisers or any employees thereof.

Opinions that are expressed in Letters to the Editor or columns by contributors are not necessarily those of the OBSERVER, its staff or advertisers. OBSERVER assumes responsibility for its own editorial policy only.

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

Permission to reprint (except for separately copyrighted material) is granted when credit is given to the OBSERVER.

Informing the Community
The Observer



Coyote Moon Pub

sports pub & dance club

Christmas Day - Open at 6pm

New Year's Eve - Open 3-7pm, re-open at 8pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 8PM - 2AM
\$5 cover includes champagne, light buffet, favors

New Year's Day - Open at 6pm

BAILLAMOS - LATIN DANCE NIGHT & SHOW

SATURDAY 12/27 9PM

Join Us for
NEW YEAR'S EVE

915 W. Prince Rd.
1st step right west of Oracle
SW corner of Prince & Fairview
293-7339
www.coyotemoonpub.com
myspace.com/coyotemoonpub

Registered Copyright All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

tucsongaymuseum.org

Saving Our History Since 1967

Biden: LGBT Community, Don't Worry



Vice-President-Elect Joe Biden

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Speaking on Larry King Live, Vice President-elect Joe Biden said the Gay and Lesbian community had "nothing to worry about" concerning Barack Obama's commitment to Gay rights, reported On Top Magazine.

Obama's choice of Rev. Rick Warren to give the invocation at this inauguration sent shivers up the spines of Gay activists. Warren supports the outlawing of abortion in all cases and is a staunch Gay rights opponent. But his moderate tone on AIDS, poverty and climate change have made him controversial among social conservatives.

Gay activists say Warren is homophobic. They point out that his evangelical Saddleback megachurch in Southern California bans Gays and Lesbians from attendance, he supports

the controversial ex-Gay movement that claims Gays can be "cured" through prayer, and, most importantly, he supported the passage of Proposition 8 - the California constitutional amendment that yanked back the right of Gay and Lesbian couples to marry in the state.

In that heated Gay marriage debate, Warren likened Gay marriage to an incestuous relationship, pedophilia and even polygamy.

Openly Gay Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank (Democrat) said the pick was a mistake. "Mr. Warren compared same-sex couples to incest. I found that deeply offensive and unfair," Rep. Frank said on CNN's Late Edition. "If he was inviting the Rev. Warren to participate in a forum and to make a speech, that would be a good thing," Frank said. "But being singled out

to give the prayer at the inauguration is a high honor. It has traditionally given a mark of great respect. And, yes, I think it was wrong to single him out for this mark of respect."

But speaking with King, Biden said Obama's commitment to the Gay community was firm. "Barack Obama said you've got to reach out," Biden told King about the Warren controversy. "You've got to reach a hand of friendship across the aisle and across philosophies in this country. We can't continue to be a red and blue country. We can't be divided like we have been. And he's made good on his promise."

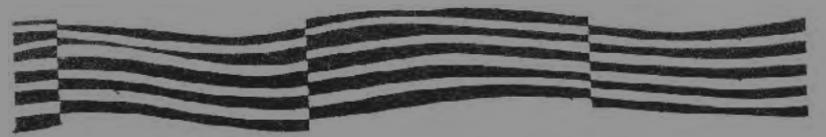
"And I would say to the Gay and Lesbian community, they have nothing to worry about. Barack Obama, every aspect of his life, every aspect of his public life, and every commitment he's made relating to equality for all people, will be things that he will stick with and that they should view this in the spirit in which he offered the opportunity to - to Mr. Warren," Biden said. At the end of the interview, King asked Biden if we're going to be OK as nation. "Yes, we are," Biden answered. "We're going to be OK because of the American people. They have more grit, determination and courage than you can imagine."

Pope Compares Gays To Destruction Of The Rainforest; Both Will Apparently Destroy Mankind

VATICAN CITY - Reuters reports that Pope Benedict said that saving humanity from homosexual or transsexual behavior was just as important as saving the rainforest from destruction, reported queerty.com

"(The Church) should also protect man from the destruction of himself. A sort of ecology of man is needed," the pontiff said in a holiday address to the Curia, the Vatican's central administration.

"The tropical forests do deserve our protection. But man, as a creature, does not deserve any less.'...The pope said humanity needed to 'listen to the language of creation' to understand the intended roles of man and woman. He compared behaviour beyond traditional heterosexual relations as 'a destruction of God's work'. He also defended the Church's right to 'speak of human nature as man and woman, and ask that this order of creation be respected'."



IBT'S

NEW YEARS EVE BLACK & WHITE PARTY

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

THE MOST FABULOUS NEW YEARS PARTY IN TUCSON!

9PM-NEW YEARS SHOW HOSTED BY BUNNY FU FU

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®

10:30PM-NEW YEARS DANCE PARTY WITH DJ Q SPINNING ON THE DANCE FLOOR &

10PM DJ HURRICANE SPINNING ON THE PATIO

NO COVER

MIDNIGHT-CHAMPAGNE TOAST, BALLOON DROP & MORE!

tucsongaymuseum.org

Saving Our History Since 1967

Desert Voices To Host Open House



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices Chorus will host its first Open House of 2009 on January 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Water of Life MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain Avenue, Tucson.

Desert Voices' next concert will be "In the Basement", February 7 at the Historic "Y," Tucson. Their Annual Cabaret and Fundraiser will feature Guest Stars Lisa Otey and Diane Van Deurzen. Limited tickets for this risqué, slightly bawdy and thoroughly entertaining evening, are still available and can be purchased by calling (520) 791-9662.

Each year, Desert Voices invites the Tucson community to meet Chorus members, sing a little and learn more about the Chorus. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has the desire to sing to join with a truly supportive choral arts group. There are no auditions. Artistic Director, Chris Tackett will conduct a voice check to determine vocal range and best fit with the Chorus. Desert Voices encourages those interested in learning more about how they can become a part of the Desert Voices Family, to visit with them January 5.

Desert Voices (desertvoices.org) is Arizona's Premier GLBTS Chorus and remains committed to uniting our community through our music. Every concert season is carefully designed to reflect the cultural diversity of our community through productions that inspire as well as entertain. For more information, contact Jeffrey Scotland, (520) 908-8740.

Last Known Gay Holocaust Survivor Speaks Out In New Interview

PARIS, France (Observer Update) - Rudolf Brazda, a 95-year-old German citizen and the last known Gay survivor of the Holocaust, has definitively broken his silence on his experience at the Buchenwald camp. In a new interview in the French Gay magazine Têtu, Brazda speaks in detail for the first time since he made provisional remarks at the June inauguration of a Berlin memorial to Gay victims of the Nazis, advocate.com reported.

tragedy," Brazda told Têtu when asked why he didn't speak out earlier. After he was freed from Buchenwald, Brazda moved to France and built a house where he lived for 35 years with his partner, who died in 2002.

NY Times Publishes Fake Kennedy Slam By Gay Paris Mayor

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The New York Times (NYT) admitted Monday (Dec. 22) it published a fake letter purportedly from the mayor of Paris criticizing Caroline Kennedy's Senate bid as "appalling" and "not very democratic."

"What title has Ms. Kennedy to pretend to Hillary Clinton's seat?" the letter in Monday's editions said. "We French can only see a dynastic move of the vanishing Kennedy clan in the very country of the Bill of Rights. It is both surprising and appalling."

In an editor's note posted Monday (Dec. 22) on its Web site, the Times said the letter signed by Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë should not have been published because it violated the paper's standards and procedures. Virginie Christnacht, head of Delanoë's press office in Paris, told the AP the letter was a fake. "We have asked The New York Times for a denial and an apology," she said. "Clearly, this was never sent by Bertrand Delanoë." The Times blamed the mistake on a failure to verify the authenticity of a letter that arrived by e-mail.

"The way Nazis treated the 'pink triangles' is unspeakable," Brazda told Têtu, referring to the emblem Gays were forced to wear to signify their homosexuality. "They had absolutely no mercy."

The "pink triangles" not only had to suffer the ill treatments of the Nazis but also had to endure the homophobia of other prisoners. In the documentary Paragraph 175, which takes its name from the German Criminal Code provision regarding homosexuality, Pierre Seel, the only Frenchman to have publicly testified about his imprisonment for being Gay, explains that "the weakest people in the camps were the homosexuals; they were at the very bottom." Seel died in 2005. Before Brazda first spoke in June, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD) did extensive research to authenticate and certify his testimony. He may not be the only survivor still alive, though, according to LSVD spokesman, Alexander Zinn. "No one ever invested the time and the money to try and find all those who survived," Zinn told Têtu. It's estimated that 75,000 Gays were deported by the Nazis.

While other survivors of the camps were celebrated at the end of the war, Gay survivors usually had to remain silent about their experiences because homosexuality was still illegal in many European countries (such as France, where it was not decriminalized until 1982). "Before, no one cared about this

TUCSON'S ONLY GAY BAR WITH INTERNET JUKEBOX AND TWO SMOKING PATIOS

Happy Holidays

We will be closed on Christmas Day.

HOME BAR OF "THE TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS" AND "BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO"
2449 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 • 520-624-3858

VENTURE-N
TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR

Happy Holidays

BUSTERS BALLOON BALL

NEW YEARS EVE!

Opening member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Saving Our History Since 1967

OPENS MON - SAT 9AM; SUN 10AM
1239 N. 6TH AVENUE TUCSON, AZ 85705 (520) 882-8224



California A.G. Calls For Rejection Of Prop. 8

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - California Attorney General Jerry Brown told the state Supreme Court Friday (Dec. 19) that it should invalidate Proposition 8, the voter approved amendment to the state constitution that bans same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com.

In a brief submitted to the court Friday, Brown's office said the measure should be invalidated because it deprives people of the right to marry—an aspect of liberty that the Supreme Court has concluded is guaranteed by the California Constitution. "Proposition 8 must be invalidated because the amendment process cannot be used to extinguish fundamental constitutional rights without compelling justification," Brown's brief said.

Brown argued that in order to invalidate such a fundamental right, the court "must determine that there is a compelling justification to do so." But in the marriage cases that the court ruled on earlier this year, striking down the ban on Gay marriage "the court found that no such compelling justification exists. Accordingly, Proposition 8 must be stricken," the brief said.

Brown also said that he believes that same-sex marriages entered into between June 16 and November 4, 2008 are valid and recognized in California regardless of whether Proposition 8 is upheld.

The position was a surprise to some. Although he personally supports same-sex marriage many thought as Attorney General Brown would ask the court to uphold Prop 8. Brown's office said that as Attorney General he is obligated to argue state constitutional law, which is what he did.

The court had ordered Brown's office to submit its brief by (Dec. 19) in reaction to legal challenges to Prop 8.

Following passage of the proposition the American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the vote. They were joined by additional suits by the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles. The lawsuits charge that Proposition 8 is invalid because the initiative process was improperly used in an attempt to undo the constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone, by eliminating a fundamental right

from just one group - Lesbian and Gay Californians.

They also say that Proposition 8 improperly attempts to prevent the courts from exercising their essential constitutional role of protecting the equal protection rights of minorities. The suits say that under the California Constitution, such radical changes to the organizing principles of state government cannot be made by simple majority vote through the initiative process, but instead must, at a minimum, go through the state legislature first.

The California Constitution itself sets out two ways to alter the document that sets the most basic rules about how state government works, the groups said in a statement.

Through the initiative process, voters can make relatively small changes to the constitution. But any measure that would change the underlying principles of the constitution must first be approved by the legislature before being submitted to the voters.

That didn't happen with Proposition 8, and that's why it's invalid, the petitioners said.

The Supreme Court set Friday (Dec. 19) as the deadline for Brown's office to reply and it said that in addition to hearing arguments on the validity of the vote it wanted to address what effect, if any, a ruling upholding the amendment would have on the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that were sanctioned in California before Election Day.

In addition to the brief from attorneys for the Protect Marriage Coalition, the umbrella group that put Prop 8 on the ballot. It argued that the will of the people must be respected by the court and that the measure also invalidated those marriages performed prior to the vote.

The coalition has hired Ken Starr who led the inquiry into President Bill Clinton's affair with Monica L. Lewinsky, to argue its case before the high court. It said it needed a high profile attorney because it did not trust Brown to fight for Prop 8. The court is expected to study the briefs and then ask for comment from the litigants. Oral arguments in the case could be heard as early as March but a ruling would not come for months after that.

U.S. Refuses To Sign UN LGBT Rights Declaration

Continued from Page One

that British colonial rulers brought in these laws because they saw the conquered cultures as morally lax on sexuality. The British also wanted to defend their own colonists against the "corrupting" effect of the colonies. One British viceroy of India warned that British soldiers could succumb to "replicas of Sodom and Gomorrah" as they acquired the "special Oriental vices."

Today, international human rights standards have compelled former colonial powers to acknowledge that these laws are wrong. England and Wales decriminalized homosexual conduct in 1967. The European Court of

Human Rights found in 1981 that a surviving sodomy law in Northern Ireland violated fundamental rights protections. In 1994, the UN Human Rights Committee - which authoritatively interprets the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - held that sodomy laws violate the rights to privacy and to non-discrimination.

"From Malaysia to Uganda, governments use these laws to harass civil society, restrict free expression, discredit enemies, and destroy lives," Long said. "And sodomy laws add to the spread of HIV/AIDS by criminalizing outreach to affected groups."

Woody's

MERRY CHRISTMAS - & - HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT WOODY'S !!

*** WE WILL OPEN AT 7 PM ***
CHRISTMAS DAY.

JOIN US FOR A MELLOW CHRISTMAS NIGHT WITH FRIENDS

WOODY'S NEW YEARS EVE
"BLACK TIE OPTIONAL" PARTY
WEDNESDAY DEC 31ST
-NO COVER-

- LIGHT BUFFET 7-9 PM
- PARTY FAVORS
- COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
- GIGANTIC BALLOON DROP
- DJ JEFF PLAYING REQUESTS

3710 N. ORACLE ROAD (520) 292-6702
WWW.MYWOODSAZ.COM WWW.MYSPACE.COM/4MYWOODYS

JOIN US FOR OUR
NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA!!
RING IN 2009 WITH THE BIZ GIRLS!!
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS
CALL 520.318.4830

CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY! **DECEMBER 24**

The Biz 18 TO PARTY & 21 TO DRINK

DI HILL

WWW.BIZGIRLS.COM

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring.... but the BIZ was Rockin the HOUSE!!

THE ARRIVAL OF A "NEW" FRIDAY PARTY!
JANUARY 2, 2009

L word season premiere
Jan 18th!

Saving Our History Since 1967



POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

'Jingle Bells, Batman Smells Robin Laid An Egg'

During this time of crass commercialism and craptacular economics, many businesses, law firms and corporations that haven't received a bailout from Henry Paulson are doing okay, since they hand their hand in the "Yes on Proposition 102" cookie jar.

businesses from the Tucson area gave or received, to or from, this nefarious enterprise, including:

Emron Talbot Jenkins, Tucson, AZ, 85730, (chiropractor), 10/16/08, \$1,000. Melody Hancock, Vail, AZ, 85641, (engineer - Raytheon), 10/16/08, \$1,000. Jeff Patterson, Tucson, AZ, 85743, 10/16/08, \$750.

Focus on the Family - Action (Daddy James Dobson's group), MDS Communications (the right wing public relation flack firm), Home Depot, Quik Trip, Bank of America, Summit West Signs of Gilbert, the Buttes Resort of Tempe, Lane Powell (a Seattle Washington attorney).

James and Marilyn Busby, Tucson, AZ, 85719 (accountant), 10/22/08 (\$5,120 total - in kind contributions). Anonymous, Tucson, AZ, 85700, 10/29/08, (\$100 cash). Jose Figueroa, Tucson, AZ, 85747, (Branch Manager - Penske Truck Leasing), 10/29/08, \$800 (total for campaign - \$1,300).

Public Opinion Strategies of Alexandria Virginia, Cricket Phones, Design4Advertising (to the tune of \$3,140,370 alone) the advertising firm which also created Florida's "Yes on Amendment 2" campaign material, Smart and Final of Tempe, Corinne Lovas of Peoria and Kelly Molique of Scottsdale as "spokespersons," to the tune of \$20 grand a piece.

Hurd Baruch, Tucson, AZ, 85750 (retired), 10/30/08, \$100. Scott Richins, Tucson, AZ, 85749 (resident physician - TMC), 10/30/08, \$30. Jody Powell, Tucson, AZ, 85730, 11/3/08, \$500. Lynne St. Angelo, Tucson, AZ, 85737, (for communications - signs), 11/10/08, (paid -\$55.05).

Americopy - the Mesa branch for communications (mailings - totaling \$3,031,569.09), Michael Whiting of St. John's for other communications (\$30,000), Campaign Secrets (\$121,724.62), Summit West Signs of Gilbert (\$379,919.75), Fairytale Brownies of Phoenix (\$165.43), just to name a few of the many firms that made out in the bigotry known as Proposition 102 from the fourth quarter report filed with the Arizona Secretary of State.

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, azsos.gov/cfs/PublicReports/2008/8E0962C6-5875-4503-A533-D24725F39129.pdf For more information online about the ongoing economic boycott go to equalityboycott.com.

Many firms did get in on the "bigotry bucks," and many people and

LGBT Retirement Community Foreclosed

PALM SPRINGS, California (Observer Update) A planned LGBT retirement community in Palm Springs that was promoted by Lesbian tennis great Billie Jean King has become a victim of the nation's mortgage crisis, reported 365Gay.com.

Land for the RainbowVision project was reclaimed by its lender in a foreclosure auction.

The land, at East Palm Canyon Drive and Gene Autry Trail, was mortgaged for \$9.6 million. The lender, Senior Housing Partners III, took it back, successfully bidding \$8 million for the 13-acre site. RainbowVision had planned to build 184 condos, with a pool and tennis courts, and a clubhouse with spa, nightclub and cafe. It was to have been the first LGBT seniors community in Palm Springs.

RainbowVision president Joy Silver said it is possible the complex will someday be built, but not until the economy improves. "The only thing stopping us is the economy - the fact that banks have not been in a position to make construction loans," Silver told The Desert Sun newspaper. "We plan to move forward as soon as the economy allows." Dozens of people have paid deposits on the Palm Springs project. Silver said many of the prospective buyers have agreed to keep their reservations intact. Others have had their deposits returned. The money crunch appears to only have affected RainbowVision's Palm Springs site.

Securing your future.
Social Security Disability and Workers' Compensation
 The Law Office of Carol L. Lohmann, P.C.
520.628.7700



Roadrunner Regional Rodeo January 16 - 18

"Happy Hour 4-7 Daily"

Champagne Brunch
10-2

All You Can Eat
 Sunday Brunch Buffet
 The price is \$10 including
 a Mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver.
 Benedicts and Omelets, can still be made to order.

G F
COLORS

tucsonobserver.com



Don't Save Money On Sushi.

Save Money On Car Insurance.

Go eat the fresh stuff, because your State Farm® agent's got your back with the right coverage and discounts up to 40% on car insurance. You can call an agent's office 24/7, so what are you waiting for? Go see an agent today, or log on to statefarm.com®. It's a better way to save.



Dan Kalm
2632 N Campbell Ave
Tucson, Arizona 85719
520-795-0231 Office
520-795-0758 Fax
dan@dankalm.com
Hablamos Español



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,
STATE FARM IS THERE.™

tucsongaymuseum.com
dankalm.com

Saving Our History Since 1967



TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES



Ricardo "Richard" Hernandez
Manager/Funeral Arranger

Funeraria Del Angel
7 E. University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-624-8685
Fax 520-624-9185
ricardo.hernandez@sci-us.com



SE HABLA ESPANOL
Serving the gay, lesbian and transgendered family



Richard M. Schickel
Be Healed, Be Happy!
Psychic, Spiritual Healer

Readings
Past Life Hypnotherapy
House Blessings and Clearings

520-668-3243
http://richardschickel.vpweb.com



It's a great time to buy a home...
On 12/12/08 there were 58 homes under \$120k with at least 3 bedrooms in central Tucson.
You could own one for around \$900/mo.*
First time home buyers, call about the 0 down, Pima County Loan program and other great first time buyer programs!
Call Mike Peltz: REALTOR® 520-5365
mikopeltz@century21.com
www.mikesrealty.com

Tucson Observer Archives



MASSAGE
NEW CLIENT DISCOUNT
Swedish, Deep Tissue, Triggerpoint, Acupressure, Sports, Reflexology
Mon-Sat: 11 am to 7 pm
225.7982
www.SomaTherapist.com

4400 Hair Salon

Greg Yedding
Hair Designer / Stylist
520-322-5858
azspydex@msn.com
4400 E. Broadway Suite 106
Tucson, AZ 85711




Portraits - Landscapes - Architecture
Weddings - Family Events - Special Occasions
Fashion
Skill
Vision
Tucson, AZ
520-390-4921
TimmKuhnsPhotography.com
intertwinc@earthlink.net

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Inc



Kayla R. Boyer, DVM
Small Animal Veterinarian
(520) 321-4235
3736 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716
www.speedwayvet.com

Charles Weasner REALTOR® GRI (520) 906-8103
Steve Redmond REALTOR® (520) 548-2096

Uptown, Downtown, ALL around the Valley!



TucsonFoothillsLiving.com

Presidio Hair and Nail Salon

Ed Thibeault

985 N. Alvernon
Tucson, AZ 85711 (520) 321-9626

DUI SR-22
MIKE PIERCE INSURANCE
FREE QUOTES
888-8888
AUTO, LIFE, HOME, MEDICAL
COMMERCIAL, PROPERTIES, CONTRACTORS BONDINGS

RICH MUSZYNSKI
Ph.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

520.906.7048 Phone | 5956 E. Pima, Suite 130
520.296.8157 Fax | Tucson, AZ 85712

A. Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.
Counseling - Psychotherapy - Consulting

6812 North Oracle Rd. Suite 100
Tucson, Arizona 85704 520-797-2117

PRIDE OF THE FOOTHILLS
THE ARBORETUM
AT QUAIL CANYON
APARTMENT HOMES

4700 N. Kolb Rd • Tucson, AZ 85750
Phone (520) 519-6800
www.hslproperties.com

Joel
Color, Highlights, Cuts
4400 Hair Salon
4400 Broadway /Swan
322-5858

TUCSON GLBT Chamber Of Commerce
Inclusive ▼ Engaged ▼ Professional

520 615-6436 P.O. Box 13312
Tucson, AZ 85732
info@tucsonglbtchamber.org
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

JON THE HANDYMAN
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum
Can do: Home, Office cleaning, Yard-Work, You name it.....
CALL:
GEMINI-Handyman services.....
Phone: 619-977-6012

Antigone Books
progressive
independent
fabulous

20% off
any one rainbow item, LGBT novel or LGBT DVD.

We have books, cards, gifts, and things to make you laugh.

411 N. 4th Ave. • 792-3715 • antigonebooks.com



Nikolaus Groesser
REALTOR®
520.918.5216
nikg@longrealty.com



Saving Our History Since 1967

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE OBSERVER

rsletterslettersletters

HOROSCOPES

©2008 Madam Lichtenstein

Editor:

I am the manager of Del Angel Funerarias. I am very hopeful that our community will finally have a place in the greater community where they can go to make final arrangements for a loved one. The tremendous difficulty of the loss of a loved one, plus all the legal issues requires a funeral home that is compassionate, understanding and culturally sensitive to the need of the Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered community.

some pictures, and running an article so that Tucsonans know where to go at this time of need. We offer pre-need arrangements as well as at need. I think this would allow the community an alternative if they choose, to let us be of service to them.

Best wishes
Richard Hernandez, Manager/Funeral Arranger



I might even suggest you consider coming to our place, taking

Sometimes we just need a jolly little "push" to get things done. Well maybe not Christmas shopping, but other things. No sooner said than done when Sun enters Capricorn and conjuncts Mars. A less-than-attractive opportunity suddenly becomes a must have. Get a frog under the mistletoe and watch as they turn into royalty. Or maybe not...?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gay Rams feel like they are on the short end of a professional stick but this week turns sticks into golden divining rods or maybe golden parachutes. Try your best. Step up to the corporate plate and hit a home run. You have much more resources at your disposal than you think. Santa says that you have been nice. Maybe its time to be naughty... or underhanded.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You have probably been traveling more but enjoying it less. Take heart queer Bull, there is a good lesson to be learned from all your travels and travails; everything falls into place this week. Who knows; You may learn a thing or two that will prove to be extremely rewarding on many levels through the new year. Vodka in eggnog may be one of those lessons.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Heat up your sexuality this week but allow lovers and potential lovers a long long rope. (maybe for lassoing - ho ho ho.) You might be surprised at the range of desirable matches available to you this week. The secret is to take your time and choose carefully. There are so many beautifully wrapped packages under the tree but what does each box contain?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Just when you are tempted to toss it all away in a particular relationship, you are pushed to rearrange your priorities this week. During this season of goodwill, try to forgive those wet towels on the floor or dirty underwear on the pillow. There is much to recommend your current relationship. Gay Crabs should not take any firm stands now. Try reclining or prone. Ahem.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Even if you feel like a mangy old rat on a treadmill, this week is a bit more festive at work. Even the most onerous job becomes a little more interesting and lucrative. Try to learn as much as you can from every little boring task. Proud Lions soon begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel at work. (Let us hope that it is not the light of an oncoming train...)

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

If too much is piled on your goodie plate this week, don't panic. You may be feeling a holiday fatigue but you are certainly no slouch when the party train pulls into the station. But all play and no work make proud Virgins susceptible to a lay off. Use this opportunity to hone your more artistic and creative skills and apply it to the job. Err so what's your motivation?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Queer Libras may find their home life a center of activity during this holiday week. Take the bitter with the better in any family situation; who knows what breakthroughs are possible now? The secret is the strive for mutual respect, if you possibly can. Of course they may have their inane opinions but as long as you remain proudly true to yourself (and spike the nog) you prevail.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Gay Scorps may inherit a rare case of foot in mouth this week. But alls well that ends well as the frank opinion that you blurt out may be just the bit of fresh air needed to get things on track again. Say what you mean after careful consideration. Perhaps it's time to write your new years manifesto. Then use it to manifest your destiny. Who hoo! No names please...

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Money lessons hit fast and furious this week. All that glitters may not be gold so get your values in sync with your personal finances. A holiday shopping spree puts you in the hole but could prove to be a valuable lesson. Hmm. Perhaps Gay Archers should Scrooge it up, tamp it down and save their pennies for the after Christmas sales. How boring!

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

There is more than enough jolly activity going on in your life this week. Pink Caps should take their pride to the streets while this festive energy propels you into the limelight and makes you a star. Be kind and magnanimous to all; you never know who will figure prominently in your life's goals and it would be a shame to snub 'em before you get a chance to rubadub them.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

A spark of intuition leads to new rewards this week. Aqueerians are best served by volunteering for the less fortunate this holiday season. The problem is that you may not see this work as a glamorous role. But grab it while you can and make it a social connector. Once you finish the tough work, you will be poised and ready to rub elbows with the tinsel deep pocketed set. Ho ho ho.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Who knows what pals are capable of during this holiday week? Try not to be too suspicious of all the friendly goings on; you may jump to the wrong conclusions and upset the applecart of true comradeship. Go with the flow Guppie and dance to their tune. The group may in fact direct you to your life's mission (or a great gift) so stop kvetching and listen!

Personal Injury?



(520) 622-3344 • toll free (866) 307-2147 • fax (520) 327-1667

Auto Injury
Medical Malpractice
Premises Liability
Products Liability

Sarah J. Showard
Attorney at Law

Bank of America Building
33 North Stone, Suite 1430
Tucson, Arizona 85701

You are invited to

Charlie's

Phoenix

Country & western dancing nightly!

727 W. Camelback Rd.
602.265.0224

www.charliesonline.com

WILLS TRUSTS POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Laura G. Schoenfeld PLLC

PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES

520.514.8383

845 S. Craycroft Rd. • Tucson AZ 85711
lgs@tucsonlaw.us

PROBATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

tucsongaymuseum.org

MICHAEL & BRADFORD HULTQUIST
MEXICAN SCANDINAVIANS
Proprietors
WE SERVE WONDERFUL MEXICAN FOOD
SELECTED WINES & BEER

El Torero
RESTAURANT

231 E. 26th St. Tucson, Arizona

Open every day except Tuesday 622-9534



Request Line
622-5924

KXCI.ORG

91.3 FM
TUCSON

COMMENTARY. . . .

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Go Ahead 'N Ask: Bless The Beasts And Children

The question was asked me the other day, what was the first movie I ever saw where I actually felt sympathetically towards a character identifiable as Gay? I didn't have to think very long about it. I saw it in 1976, when the film was already five years old (I was 15).

Bless the Beasts and Children. Since moving to Arizona last year, I'm amazed at how few people I've met here have ever seen the film or read the 1971 Glendon Swarthout novel. (Perhaps the reference to Country Joe & The Fish dated the book too badly?) Many recognise the title because they've heard the Carpenters record of the movie's theme song, the B-side of their million-selling 45 "Superstar." In Wisconsin in the '70s, it seemed to be a mandatory part of the high school English curriculum, as it was taught at three (Neenah Armstrong, Oshkosh North and Kenosha Tremper) that I attended.

Swarthout is said to have been the quintessential Arizona author, having written in more genres about more events he set in this state than almost anyone else. A later novel, The Shootist, became John Wayne's "valedictory" movie (so Leonard Maltin says). With Bless the Beasts and Children, Swarthout wanted to show that he "got" what was at the core of the youth counterculture of the time. He wound up giving a gift to the human spirit that still moves me today, 32 years after I first read it. In the novel, six misfit adolescents are shipped by their affluent parents "back east" to Box Canyon Boys' Camp, just outside Prescott, for a summer. One of these is Gerald Goodenow, a Cleveland 13-year-old whose family, if you looked up "dysfunctional" in a dictionary, provided both definition and illustration. Gerald's brutal stepfather had told the boy's mother, with Gerald in earshot, that B.C. is the last chance she'll have to avoid having to "buy him a dress and cosmetics."

Goodenow is hardly the only Charlie Brown in this crowd, and they all wind up in the same cabin with a rockheaded counsellor called Wheaties and the contempt of the rest of the campers and staff. One day, Wheaties decides to "treat" his charges to a bloody slaughter of "worthless dings," a herd of penned buffalo that are shot by meatmen who errantly fancy themselves to be "hunters." Wheaties' "treat" backfires on him when, after being told how worthless the rest of the Box Canyon population consider them to be, Goodenow and his cabinmates strongly identify with the buffalo and set out the next night to free them from the slaughter pen.

The film made of the story was produced and directed by Stanley Kramer, who had made a career out of "message pictures" like High Noon, On The Beach and Inherit The Wind. Kramer probably thought Bless the Beasts and Children would be his Easy Rider, documenting a pocket of the youth counterculture of the day that wasn't being covered yet by Hollywood. As it happened, another picture was released almost the same week as Kramer's that literally covered much of the same territory, Billy Jack. Tom Laughlin famously planted his foot on a standing redneck's cheek in the very same Prescott business district where Goodenow and his friends hotwire an exterminator's pickup truck to get to the buffalo.

As he was cutting the film, Kramer was also teaching a film course at Brigham Young University, and he had planned to screen the world premiere of Bless the Beasts and Children at BYU as part of that course. But when the BYU administration saw the film, they banned it from their campus because of Goodenow & Company's "rebellion." Actually, I fully believe the mission the boys undertake in this movie and novel is truly Christian; when Jesus commanded his followers to "love your

neighbour as yourself," I'm convinced he wasn't just speaking of those neighbours of the same species as we are.

Past Swarthout's wisely using a Gay teenager in his story of redemption (and Kramer just as wisely refusing to water down that character's identification as Gay), the film has another Family connection that I hadn't learned of until just this year. The actor playing the self-appointed leader of Goodenow's band of misfits, Cotton, was Barry Robins. Bless the Beasts and Children was by far his most famous work. Only fifteen years later, on the 1st of April, 1986, Barry Robins died, one of Hollywood's earliest AIDS fatalities. If nothing else that I've written here has justified your tracking

down the video and watching this picture, do it to pay tribute to Robins. His memory deserves it.

And while on the subject of cinema, I've promised myself I'll be spending the 12 Days of Christmas writing the first draft of a film script of my own. So, while I shut off the Ameche (I refuse to become a Victim of Telephone, a la Ginsberg's poem, while working on this thing), you can visit kingdaavid.podbean.com for my latest podcast offerings, contact me at thevoiceoflabor@hotmail.com and join me in getting out of the year alive. Whatever your holiday is, have a great one and we'll be back to work in a couple of weeks or so.

Come Home with Troy...
and I'll donate 10% of my net income generated by this ad to your favorite charity.
520.955.3634



TROY GOODWIN
A World of Experience Right Here in Tucson

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
Owned and Operated by NRELLC

www.ISellTucsonRealEstate.com

PAT O'S BUNK HOUSE SALOON

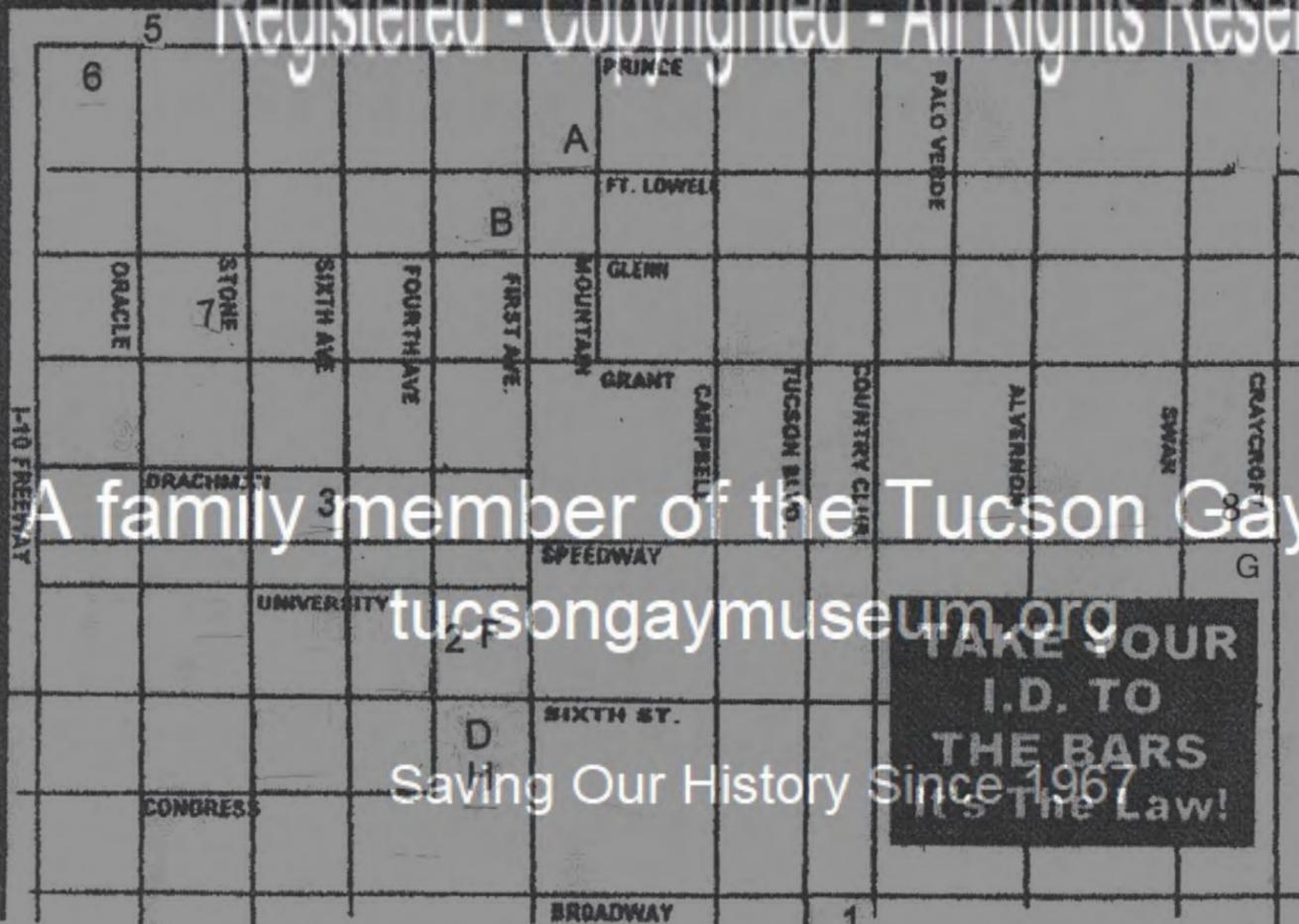
Check us out the next time you're in Phoenix

cool patio. hot guys.

now open at 8am • happy hour until 8pm

bunkhousesaloon.com • 602.200.9154 • 4428 n 7th ave

TUCSON DIRECTORY
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved



A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

tucsongaymuseum.org

TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS
It's The Law!

Saving Our History Since 1967

- Community Bars**
- THE BIZ**
2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
 - IBT'S**
616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
 - VENTURE-N**
1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
 - WOODY'S**
3710 N. Oracle Rd,
292-6702
 - COYOTE MOON PUB**
915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
 - YARD DOG SALOON**
2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
 - COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS**
5305 E. Speedway 323-1840
- Organizations**
- MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151
 - CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP**
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626
 - WINGSPAN** - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779
 - S.A.A.F.** - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223
 - RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE**
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770
 - TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network**
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647
 - EON YOUTH CENTER** 620-6245

Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Guerilla Government Of The People, By The People

While we wait for Team Obama to get into the White House, its current occupants are busy, busy, busy selling off the forests, printing money and passing bureaucratic regulations that are counter to the general good. The axis of evil...Bush, Cheney and Company, have directed the Environmental Protection Agency to make last minute regulatory changes that will eliminate the possibility of allowing the EPA to regulate CO 2 emissions. It is being done in such a way that it will be difficult for Team Obama to put it right again anytime soon.

The same goes for the last minute sales of National Forest timber...once the current administration allows contracts to be signed...well, it is hard, hard, hard to negate a valid contract. It is likely that every regulatory agency in the Federal government (and certainly Alaska, too) is speedily selling everything in the country at fire-sale rates. Obama can't stop it, later he can't fix it...so we need to act now. Yes, us. All you need to be able to do is read, write and email.

Pick any Federal agency. Email whoever you can....tell them that you are a source "close" to Team Obama (true if you voted for them) and that you have some very bad news for them. What we want to leak to these bureaucrats is that they need to stall a little on the selling of America. They need to go a little slower on the passage of last-minute regulations that run counter to the public good. Of course, they know that, but they are dutiful little public servants, serving the current president, loyal and true.

What we need to tell them is that we have it on good authority that Team Obama is gonna fire 'em all if they pass any of that last minute, bad for the people stuff. Tell 'em big, bad Obama is coming to town, and they are going to be out of work if they can't point to something "derailed" that Bush and his bunch wanted done. Simple. Do it. Blog, email, chat, spam-it, can-it, ham-it. Tell everyone you know that you have all this on the best authority. For those that are hard to convince, quote me. I know

that Obama is going to can all those guys in forestry that are selling the old-growth out to the most attractive bidders right now. I know that Obama's people are going after the bozos in the EPA that are working overtime right now to make sure CO 2 production cannot be regulated in the near future. I know this because it is the only rational thing a rational president can do to undo the last minute Bush damages. There is going to be scorched earth in the federal bureaucracies in just a little while.

Especially in the Justice Department. First and foremost, at Justice. A new department to go after all the boys in the other federal agencies that have been playing ball the Bush way. We all know what the Feds can do when they set their minds to it...the government has long found tools like tax audits, federal investigations and general allegations to be of good service when chasing the poor citizen around. This time, a rational president will use them on the bad guys, the stooges that just follow orders and the rest of the morons that have been facilitating the rape of the country and some of the world by the Bush/Cheney Gang. So you know it too. Let everyone know about it...let's see if it is true that things can travel like wildfire on the internet.

With any luck, what we do today will help stop some of the current President's efforts to undermine the next president. Help Obama now. Spread it that the bureaucrats that stall now will have a job in three months and the rest will be on unemployment and facing the full strength and fury of the Federal Government, as is only right and proper. Let's see. Who can I get a press query to at the EPA.... "Has the upcoming probe into last-minute improprieties been announced at the EPA, as it has been rumored to have already begun at Justice, where it is suspected that US Attorneys loyal to Obama have begun to gather documents damaging to current Justice heads?" That should do, I should think. Off you go now, bad boys and girls...you have work to do that the president cannot. God save us if we fail to act.

ALTERNATIVE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS A VERY MERRY HOLIDAY COMEDY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AWARD WINNING PLAYWRIGHT JOE MARSHALL

THE GAYEST CHRISTMAS

World Premier
December
12-21 2008

TEMPLE OF MUSIC AND ART CABARET THEATRE
330 S. Scott Avenue, Downtown Tucson
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.alternativetheatreco.org

Community Friendly



- Oil Changes * CV Boots *
- Brakes * Air Conditioning *
- Radiator Power Flush *
- Transmission Rebuilding *
- Fuel Injection * Carburetor Rebuilding *
- Suspensions *
- Clutches * Vehicle Inspections
- Cooling Systems * Diagnostic Analysis *
- Maintenance Service Gas and Tires.

Phone (520) 882-8095 • Fax (520) 670-1597
802 N. 4th Avenue • Tucson, Arizona 85705

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

Tucson M2M

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M>
tucsongaymuseum.org

Saving Our History Since 1967

Is Woody's Bar Being Unfairly Targeted With Noise Complaints?

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Dave Huff, co-owner of Woody's Bar, says he feels his business is being targeted because it is an LGBT bar. Steve Massey wants people to know that residents of the Laurence Court Apartments on North Oracle Road are not homophobic, reported Mari Herraras of the Tucson Weekly in its print and online editions.

Massey says recent media coverage of a legal wrangle between Woody's Bar—an LGBT bar near the corner of Prince and Oracle roads—and the neighboring apartment complex where he lives painted a picture of a hateful apartment community. "It's being made out to be a bigoted apartment complex—anti-Gay. I don't like that stigma," Massey says. "It's the landlord. I don't like what she's been doing, and I have to stand up for Woody's and my Gay community." Massey finds himself in an unusual predicament: Not only does he live at Laurence Court, but he is friends with Linda Howeth, the apartment manager whose years of complaints finally led the Tucson Police Department to red-tag the bar in November. As a patron of Woody's, Massey has witnessed ongoing issues between the bar and his landlord/friend for four years.

That first complaint four years ago came after the bar hosted a Gay fraternity party that got out of control. Even Dave Huff, co-owner of Woody's with his partner Frank Shepis, admits the party provided them with a lesson they needed to learn: While it would be profitable for Woody's to host such events, Huff says that was Woody's last frat party. Prior to that evening, Huff and Shepis never had any problems with area neighbors, they say. The couple opened the bar eight years ago, and Huff says it wasn't until Howeth became manager of the neighboring apartment complex that the noise complaints began.

After the first incident, Huff said they tried mediation, but Howeth's demands seemed excessive and unrealistic. But Huff decided he would be more proactive, he says: If he had a special band in town that he knew was loud, or if there was going to be a birthday party on the bar's patio, he'd walk over to Howeth's apartment and give her a heads-up. He also agreed to turn the patio speakers off after 10 p.m. every night. That worked until this year, when Howeth began calling the police department regularly to complain about noise. (Huff says it's important to note that the stage area is in the back of the bar, on the Oracle Road side of the building, and that he built an 8-foot wall around the patio on the other side of the building—nearest to the apartments—to help decrease noise.)

Massey says he accompanied Howeth to the mediation meeting with Huff four years ago, and believes that she exaggerated the level of noise. From his apartment, at the end of the complex, Massey says he barely hears bands or patrons, even when he's outside smoking. Huff contends Howeth's complaints are often unfounded, with the noise coming from an adjacent apartment building, the street or another business. In January, Huff says, Howeth complained to TPD that she could hear the "boom, boom, boom" coming from the bar at her apartment—250 feet from Woody's, on the other side of the apartment complex. In response, Huff says, TPD officers came into the bar at 12:30 a.m. and proceeded to do what's called a liquor check, in which police look behind the bar to make sure legal procedures are being followed. Liquor

checks aren't all that unusual, but the timing (taking place at 12:30 a.m.) was; most customers felt intimidated and left, Huff says.

According to Huff, in March, after another complaint, all of his employees were cited with disturbing the peace, including the DJ. A month later, Huff says his attorney was able to get the charges against his employees dropped, with the exception of the DJ, who was forced to do diversion. ("Diversion" means a person enters into an agreement to do certain things, such as performing community service and staying out of trouble. If they comply, the case is dismissed.) Huff says he would rather not play what he calls the "Gay card," but he can't help but wonder if Howeth is anti-Gay, and his business is being targeted as a result.

Howeth adamantly denies that she's anti-Gay. In her defense, Howeth says she's not only good friends with Massey, but that she has other Gay tenants. "That is so not true," Howeth says. "My children can even tell you I've raised them to be nonjudgmental." Howeth says her complaints are about noise, and nothing else. She has no problems with Woody's patrons, but she does have issues with Woody's patio, where patrons can sit, play pool and listen to music through a speaker system. Howeth says Huff's employees often forget to turn off the speakers at 10 p.m.

Meanwhile, Huff headed to court on Wednesday, Dec. 10, to fight the red tag. (Huff says he was also there to help bartender Jeffrey Fulgham, who was given a civil citation for unruly behavior by police on the same night the bar was red-tagged.) On the red-tag night, the bar was hosting a low-key wine-tasting. Huff's attorney, James Gjurjevich, asked the court to hear both cases together, because it didn't make sense to cite the bartender, who was there doing his job. The judge ruled both cases could be tried together; the hearing was postponed and scheduled for Jan. 29.

Until the January hearing, it is business as usual at Woody's. Huff says he's amazed that there are no standards for complaints like these. "All she has to do is be offended in any way and call the police," Huff says. If Woody's loses in court next month, and if another complaint were to be filed, the bar could face bigger problems, from losing its liquor license to being forced to close. As a small-business owner, Huff says standards are needed; without them, Howeth can call anytime and cause trouble, even if she is not telling the truth.

While Howeth says she is being honest, she also offers up one last solution to the problem: completely enclosing the patio. Howeth says that would make a big difference, and she is sure her complaints about noise would end. The Weekly called city prosecutor Allan Merritt regarding the case and Huff's allegations that he is being unfairly targeted. Merritt said he was unable to comment on the case, because it is still pending.

(Editor's Note - Dave Huff and Frank Schepis have been Tucson's LGBT community's biggest assets, with their long time support of AIDS Services Organizations, Wingspan and other groups striving to help LGBT Tucsonans. If you want to send a letter to Judge Jeffrey Zlatow, the address is Judge Jeffrey Zlatow, Tucson City Court, 103 W. Alameda Street, Tucson, AZ, 85701)

Douglas J. Newman, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Corporations · Limited Liability Companies · General Business
Wills · Trusts · Estate & Estate Tax Planning · Probate

2650 North Country Club Road · Tucson, Arizona 85716
Phone 520-325-2053 · Fax 520-325-2274 · dougnewmanlaw.com

ON-SITE COMPUTER REPAIR

Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting, Inc.

WE FIX PCs AND MACs!

Repair - Maintenance - Networking - Upgrades - Webhosting - Web design

Computer running slow?
Adware or Spyware?
New hardware?
Want to share your internet connection?
Virus?
Popups?

(520) 312-2630

We'll save you time, money and frustration!

We come to you!

A+ Certified
7 years experience!

CALL·CRUISE CONNECT™

SO MANY GUYS - Listen & Reply to Ads FREE!



Tucson
520.791.2345

Phoenix
602.993.4567
480.505.1011
623.298.3500

FREE code 4270
CALL NOW!

For other cities call
(888) MegaMates

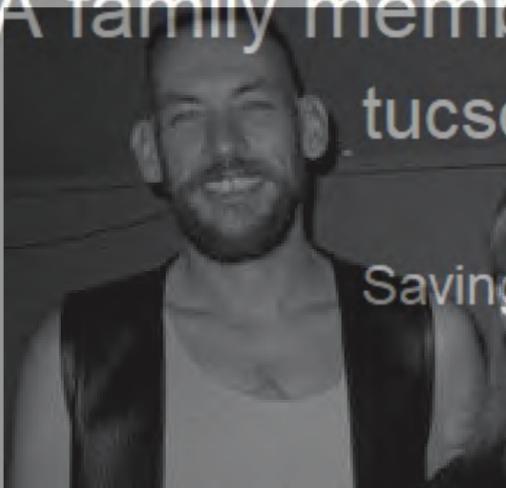
- Where FREE Means FREE!
- ▶ FREE to create a profile
 - ▶ FREE to record a personal ad
 - ▶ FREE to listen to public ads
 - ▶ FREE to send messages
 - ▶ FREE to accept chat requests
 - ▶ FREE to accept calls from users
 - ▶ FREE to receive message alerts & So Much More . . .

MegaMates.com®
VISIT US ONLINE

Ringling In The Season

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar



NEWS FLASH This just in to the Observer. Santa has been arrested in a mall in Phoenix. According to Sheriff Joe Arpaio, Santa allegedly called a lady a Ho. According to the sheriff, Santa was heard to exclaim Merry Christmas, and then added Ho - not once but three times. He deserves to wear pink underwear and eat green bologna sandwiches!

faking. Penelope

Day 10 - Great, you moron, just great! The lords a leaping are leaping all over the maids a milking. The cows are bellowing because the milking maids have other things on their mind. The birds squawk constantly, and I think I am about to loose my mind. Stop! Stop! Stop! Penelope

But I digress, and I haven't even started. I recall, as a child, hearing that "favorite" Christmas Carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas and was very perplexed. There was absolutely no reference to thank you notes. Having been brought up in the old school (and missies, I do mean old!) I was taught to respond to a gift with a brief note of gratitude. Sometimes they were difficult to write. How do you show gratitude for neckties - you hate them - that makes you look like an escaped clown from the Ringling Brothers circus? But here was a lady who had received such luxurious gifts, and not one "thank you". Those of you who know me know that I will go out of my way to help restore the reputation of someone who had their be-smirched. I have, therefore, elected to salvage the reputation of this damsel, and write the notes for her.

Day 11 - Just wonderful, meathead! Eleven pipers piping. And do they ever pipe - mostly each other! At least they are sort of quiet until one finds he has been left out. My friend, Robert (the one who prefers to be called Roberta) showed them some interesting ways to get around the odd number. That has helped, but I must insist, no more! No more! No more! No more f???ing birds!!! Penelope

Day 12 - That's it buster! I can't move from my house for fear of stepping in a cow pie or something that those f???ing birds have left behind. I don't dare walk under the pear trees because the partridges have developed diarrhea, no doubt due to all the commotion. It won't matter, though. In a few days, we are going to flush them out and have a grand hunt. One more thing, the twelve drummers drumming are having a great time with the eleven pipers piping, and, of course, with Roberta, who told me he is having a ball. I expect you to pay to have all the droppings from 184 birds and 40 cows removed - forthwith! The next note you get will be from my lawyer! Your enemy forever, Penelope Throckmorton

Day 1 - My Dearest, Sweetest Poopsie, What a wonderful and thoughtful gift. The partridge is so quaint and cuddly, and you know how I love pears. Thank you so much. Your lover, Missy Mae

Hope you have a very Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah of Festive Festivus or whatever holiday you celebrate.

Day 2 - Oh Dearest, Sweetest Poopsie, The turtle doves are just so precious. I love hearing them cooing. I just can't wait until we can hear them coo together, and we can coo along! Your lover, Missy Mae

Day 3 - Dear Poopsie, I cannot believe your extravagance. Three French Hens and yet another pear tree. My little plot will soon look like a nursery - and not the kind I was hoping for. As always, Missy Mae

POET'S CORNER

THE DOW JONES BLUES

Mumbo Jumbo, Trading Floor
Prices plummet, then they soar
Trader's profit, they want more
Graphs and charts are such a bore.
Who in Hell knows what's in store?
I'll have a drink, no, three or four
A bloody day, Dow filled with gore.
Market, you're a played-out whore.

Day 4 - Dear Poopsie, My, my, my! More birds. Now I have four calling birds to add to my collection. I do hope you are not planning on going overboard with our feathered friends. Yours, Missy Mae

Day 5 - Poopsie, Oh, the five gold rings are exquisite. But, darling, you must see that I have quite enough birds and pear trees. Thank you, though, for the rings. With love, Missy Mae

Day 6 - Dear Brucie, More Birds! What am I to do with all the geese eggs? Six a day! Do you know what that would do to my heart - ingesting all that cholesterol? I do hope you don't wish for me to pass on. Missy Mae

Day 7 - Bruce, What's with you and the f???ing birds? I must be very careful where I walk. They are not the tidiest of creatures, you know. Please, no more g d. birds. Missy

Day 8 - Bruce, What am I supposed to do with eight cows and eight maids a milking? Do you think I have aspirations to become a dairy farmer? Please, your generosity is overwhelming - you have no idea of just how overwhelming. And, please, please, no more birds! Missy

Day 9 - You have totally ignored my request for no more birds. On top of that you have sent me nine ladies dancing. Are you implying that I am attracted to those of my own sex? Of all people, you should know better - I wasn't

Tim Brown

Insurance Services

- Auto
- Home
- Life
- Business
- IRAs
- 401ks
- Simple
- Health Plans
- Mexico Insurance

520.322.3924
pmainurance.com

Arizona's Premier Choice

FARMERS

Tucson Observer Archives

tucsonobserverarchives.com

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

tucsongaymuseum.org

Saving Our History Since 1967



CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, \$5.00 MINIMUM

FOR SALE

VINTAGE

COOL - GYPSY - FUNKY Old Stuff. Stylish fab recycling - Clothes - Art - . . . Eclectic Flea, 265 S. Park / Broadway in the Lost Barrio. Th. - Sat. 11-4 1273

SERVICES

PARA LEGAL SERVICES AVAILABLE. Call Matt re: bankruptcies, credit resolutions, various legal services. Save attorney's fees. Please call Matt @ 207-2409 1278

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS

Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1285

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CLEANING. Extremely affordable. Excellent references. Please call Matt @ 207-2409 1278

PARA-NORMAL INVESTIGATIONS. Intuitive healing services and investigative work. Documented and proven with references. Please call Matt @ 207-2409 1278

MASSAGE

PROFESSIONAL TANTRA SESSIONS & THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE! My Electric touch gives you a delightful feeling! Creating a sacred exceptional experience for 27 years. Call Marc - 881-4582 (8 AM -8 PM) - Professionally trained. Ask about student rates. 1277

PROFESSIONAL THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE FOR MEN. Trained and certified by the Body Electric Institute. Offering you a professional massage in a private studio near Sabino Canyon. Therapeutic! Relaxing! Rejuvenating! www.gaymanmassge.com Steve - CMT (520)247-8139 1274

MASSAGE THERAPIST & BODYWORKER. Ricardo 520.488.0229 Incalls & Outcalls Offered. Call Anytime 24/7. All Are Welcomed. 1280



BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ
FOUR SOUGHT IN GANG RAPE OF LESBIAN

RICHMOND, San Francisco (Observer Update) Police in Richmond, northeast of San Francisco, are hunting four men accused of the brutal kidnapping and gang rape of a Lesbian. Investigators have appealed to the public for help and have posted a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrests and conviction of the men, reported 365Gay.com.

Police said that the 28 year old victim was confronted by the four as she got out of her car on December 12. She was beaten, raped and robbed. When the attackers heard someone approaching they forced the women into her car and made her drive to a desolate area where the attack and rape continued. Police said that during the ordeal the men made a series of homophobic remarks. Investigators said they believe the men realized the victim was a Lesbian because of a rainbow sticker on her car.

If the men are caught they will face a hate crime charge on top of charges of rape, assault with a deadly weapon, robbery, carjacking and kidnapping. The men escaped in the victim's car. She was able to get help from a nearby resident who called police and paramedics. The woman was treated in hospital and continues to receive psychological counseling.

NO RECOURSE FOR FLA. MAN WHO SAYS HE WAS FIRED FOR BEING GAY

LEHIGH ACRES, Florida (Observer Update) - A Lee County man says he was fired from his job at Hess Express solely because he's Gay. If it is true, it is not illegal, according to county officials, because federal, state and county discrimination laws do not recognize Gays as a protected class.

"It should be equal rights for everybody," said Lehigh Acres resident Kenneth Rothwell. "I'm a taxpayer in this county and in this state. It bothers me a lot that everybody is not considered equal." Rothwell says he started working at Hess as a manager in January 2007. He recalls riding to a store with a training manager who he says warned him that the store manager was Gay.

"Gays are sick," Rothwell says the training manager told him. "They should all be taken out and shot." Rothwell said he went to his store manager the next day to report the remark. "I told my (store) manager I was Gay and I didn't like it," he said. "From that moment on, my training stopped."

EPISCOPAL CONSERVATIVES WIN KEY BATTLE OVER GAYS

MCLEAN, Virginia (Observer Update) - Nearly a dozen conservative church congregations in Virginia have won a lawsuit in which they sought to split from the U.S. Episcopal Church in a dispute over theology and homosexuality.

The final rulings came from a Fairfax County judge who said the departing congregations are allowed under Virginia law to keep their church buildings and other property as they leave the Episcopal Church and realign under the authority of conservative Anglican bishops from Africa.

Several previous rulings had also gone in favor of the departing congregations. The diocese said it will appeal.

EDITORIAL

In October, OUToberFest was held at the DeMeester Band Park shell in Reid Park in Tucson to mark LGBT Pride in the Old Pueblo.

Thousands of people, straight or LGBTQ, young and old, as well as many pets converged on the bandshell, after paying for tickets, to have a wonderful time, be proud and support the LGBTQ community, it's businesses, organizations and service agencies.

This event was produced by

Tucson Pride Inc. (Tucsonpride.org) a Arizona non-profit corporation and an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that produces and promotes cultural, educational and recreational events for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community in Tucson, Arizona.

So during these times, especially over the holiday period, which LGBT organizations or charities received proceeds from this event - the intended purpose for the October gathering?

Water of Life
Metropolitan Community Church
The Rev. William H. Knight, D.D., Interim Pastor
"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." Sydney Smith, (1771-1845)

Sunday Worship: 10:15am Thursday Fellowship: 7:00pm
The Gathering Place: Fridays, 7:00 p.m



3269 North Mountain Avenue
Tucson AZ 85719
(Just North of Ft. Lowell)
292-9151
www.wolmcc.org



PLEASE HELP



Registered, Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved



Humane Society of Southern Arizona
3450 North Kelvin Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 327-6088
<http://www.humane-so-arizona.org>

GROUP WINS ASYLUM FOR GAY HIV+ MAN FACING DEPORTATION

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A Gay HIV-positive man has been granted asylum after a group associated with the Columbia University Law School intervened in his case.

The man, whose name is being withheld, feared persecution if forced to return to the Ivory Coast in West Africa.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued the grant of asylum after Columbia Law School's Sexuality and Gender Law Clinic took up the case.

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. TKOs next meeting will be January 3rd at the Yard Dog at noon. Beth's Brisket BBQ Dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m.

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.saafo.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: Spirit

tual 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. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 20 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Megan at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 116. Services are free.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@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, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740

TUCSON M2M - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M>



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - 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 ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - 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-2am. SKYY Martinis \$3 ea., 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 ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - 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 ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-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 ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

COYOTE MOON PUB - 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 hora!!

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - 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.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm - 2am. **VENTURE-N** - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust \$2.25/Pitcher. 3-7pm.

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

NEWS FLASH - As they celebrate their 5th year in business. Howl At The Moon' is changing the name of their bar to "COYOTE MOON PUB". Due to a name conflict with an out-of-state business, they have been "asked" to no longer use 'Howl at the Moon". Spread the word.

Wednesday, December 24

THE BIZ - Christmas Eve Party - 18 to party - 21 to drink. DJ Hill

Thursday, December 25 -
MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY

COYOTE MOON - Opens today at 6:00 p.m.

VENTURE -N - Holiday Potluck 2:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Open at 7:00 p.m. today

YARD DOG SALOON - Closed on Christmas Day.

Saturday, December 27

COYOTE MOON - Baillamos - Latin Dance Night & Show 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 31 **NEW YEARS EVE**
THE BIZ - New Year's Eve Extravaganza!! Ring in 2009 with the Biz Girls. Advance reservations 318-4830.

COYOTE MOON - Open 3-7 p.m then re-open at 8:00 p.m. New Year's eve bash 8:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. \$5.00 Cover includes champagne, light buffet, party favors and silly hats.

IBT's - 'Fabulous' New Year's Party begins at 9:00 p.m. with a New Year's Show hosted by Bunny FuFu. 10:30 p.m. New Years Dance Party with DJ Q spinning on the dance floor and DJ Hurricane spinning on the Patio. Midnight Champagne Toast, Balloon Drop and More!! No Cover

VENTURE-N - New Years Eve Bash with Buster's Balloon Ball. (The Balloon Guy).

WOODY'S - Ring in the New Year here with as Light Buffet from 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Shot Boys; Complimentary Champagne Toast at Midnight; Giant Balloon Drop; Party Favors and DJ Jeff taking requests all night. Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 1 - **NEW YEARS DAY**
COYOTE MOON - Opens at 6:00 p.m. today!

Ending the violence.

Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project - a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.

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



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

www.wingspan.org



COMMENTARY....

by Frank Rich

During the Great Depression, American moviegoers seeking escape could ogle platoons of glamorous chorus girls in "Gold Diggers of 1933." Our feel-good movie of the year is "Slumdog Millionaire," a Dickensian tale in which we root for an impoverished orphan from Mumbai's slums to hit the jackpot on the Indian edition of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." It's a virtuoso feast of filmmaking by Danny Boyle, but it's also the perfect fairy tale for our hard times. The hero labors as a serf in the toilet of globalization: one of those mammoth call centers Westerners reach when ringing an 800 number to, say, check on credit card debt. When he gets his unlikely crack at instant wealth, the whole system is stacked against him, including the corrupt back office of a slick game show too good to be true.

We cheer the young man on screen even if we've lost the hope to root for ourselves. The vicarious victory of a third world protagonist must be this year's stocking stuffer. The trouble with "Slumdog Millionaire" is that it, like all classic movie fables, comes to an end - as it happens, with an elaborately choreographed Bollywood musical number redolent of "Gold Diggers of 1933." Then we are delivered back to the inescapable and chilling reality outside the theater's doors. Just when we thought that reality couldn't hit a new bottom it did with Bernie Madoff, a smiling shark as sleazy as the TV host in "Slumdog." A pillar of both the Wall Street and Jewish communities - a former Nasdaq chairman, a trustee at Yeshiva University - he even victimized Elie Wiesel's Foundation for Humanity with his Ponzi scheme. A Jewish financier rips off millions of dollars devoted to memorializing the Holocaust - who could make this stuff up? Dickens, Balzac, Trollope and, for that matter, even Mel Brooks might be appalled.

Madoff, of course, made up everything. When he turned himself in, he reportedly declared that his business was "all just one big lie." (The man didn't call his 55-foot yacht "Bull" for nothing.) As Brian Williams of NBC News pointed out, the \$50 billion thought to have vanished is roughly three times as much as the proposed Detroit bailout. And no one knows how it happened, least of all the federal regulators charged with policing him and protecting the public. If Madoff hadn't confessed - for reasons that remain unclear - he might still be rounding up new victims. There is a moral to be drawn here, and it's not simply that human nature is unchanging and that there always will be crooks, including those in high places. Nor is it merely that Wall Street regulation has been a joke. Of what we've learned about Madoff so far, the most useful lesson can be gleaned from how his smart, well-heeled clients routinely characterized the strategy that generated their remarkably steady profits. As The Wall Street Journal noted, they "often referred to it as a 'black box.'"

In the investment world "black box" is tossed around to refer to a supposedly ingenious financial model that is confidential or incomprehensible or both. Most of us know the "black box" instead as that strongbox full of data that is retrieved (sometimes) after a plane crash to tell the authorities what went wrong. The only problem is that its findings arrive too late to save the crash's victims. The hope is that the information will instead help prevent the next disaster. The question in the aftermath of the Madoff calamity is this: Why do we keep ignoring what we learn

from the black boxes being retrieved from crash after crash in our economic meltdown? The lesson could not be more elemental. If there's a mysterious financial model producing miraculous returns, odds are it's a sham - whether it's an outright fraud, as it apparently is in Madoff's case, or nominally legal, as is the case with the Wall Street giants that have fallen this year.

Wall Street's black boxes contained derivatives created out of whole cloth, deriving their value from often worthless subprime mortgages. The enormity of the gamble went undetected not only by investors but by the big brains at the top of the firms, many of whom either escaped (Merrill Lynch's E. Stanley O'Neal) or remain in place (Citigroup's Robert Rubin) after receiving obscene compensation for their illusory short-term profits and long-term ignorance. There has been no punishment for many of those who failed to heed this repeated lesson. Quite the contrary. The business magazine Portfolio, writing in mid-September about one of the world's biggest insurance companies, observed that "now that A.I.G. is battling to survive, it is its black box that may save it yet." That box - stuffed with "accounting or investments so complex and arcane that they remain unknown to most investors" - was so huge that Washington might deem it "too big to fail." Sure enough - and unlike its immediate predecessor in collapse, Lehman Brothers - A.I.G. was soon bailed out to the tune of \$123 billion. Most of that also disappeared by the end of October. But not before A.I.G. executives were caught spending \$442,000 on a weeklong retreat to a California beach resort.

There are more black boxes still to be pried open, whether at private outfits like Madoff's or at publicly traded companies like General Electric, parent of the opaque GE Capital Corporation, the financial services unit that has been the single biggest contributor to the G.E. bottom line in recent years. But have we yet learned anything? Incredibly enough, as we careen into 2009, the very government operation tasked with repairing the damage caused by Wall Street's black boxes is itself a black box of secrecy and impenetrability.

ABC News asked 16 of the banks that have received handouts from the Treasury Department's \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program the same two direct questions: How have you used that money, and how much have you spent on bonuses this year? Most refused to answer. Congress can't get the answers either. Its oversight panel declared in a first report this month that the Treasury is doling out billions "without seeking to monitor the use of funds provided to specific financial institutions." The Treasury prefers instead to look at "general metrics" indicating the program's overall effect on the economy. Well, we know what the "general metrics" tell us already: the effect so far is nil. Perhaps if we were let in on the specifics, we'd start to understand why.

In its own independent attempt to penetrate the bailout, the Government Accountability Office learned that "the standard agreement between Treasury and the participating institutions does not require that these institutions track or report how they plan to use, or do use, their capital investments." Executives at all but two of the bailed-out banks told the G.A.O. that the "money is fungible," so they "did not intend to track or report" specifically what happens to the taxpayers' cash. Nor is there any serious accounting for executive pay at these

Who Wants To Kick A Millionaire?

seminationalized companies. As Amit Paley of The Washington Post reported, a last-minute, one-sentence loophole added by the Bush administration to the original bailout bill gutted the already minimal restrictions on executive compensation. And so when Goldman Sachs, Henry Paulson's Wall Street alma mater, says that it is not using public money to pay executives, we must take it on faith.

In the wake of the Madoff debacle, there are loud calls to reform the Securities and Exchange Commission, including from the president-elect. Under both Clinton and Bush, that supposed watchdog agency ignored repeated and graphic warnings of Madoff's Ponzi scheme as studiously as Bush ignored Al Qaeda's threats during the summer of 2001. But fixing that one agency is no panacea. All the talk about restoring "confidence" and "faith" in capitalism will be worthless if we still can't see what's going on in the counting rooms. In his role as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Timothy Geithner, Barack Obama's nominee for Treasury secretary, has been at the center of the action in the bailout's black box, including the still-murky and conflicting actions (and nonactions) taken with Lehman and A.I.G. His confirmation hearings de-

mand questions every bit as tough as those that were lobbed at the executives from Detroit's Big Three.

Geithner's partner in bailout management, Paulson, asked Congress to give the Treasury the second half of the \$700 billion bailout stash. But without transparency and accountability in Washington's black box, as well as Wall Street's, there will continue to be no trust in the system, no matter how many cops the S.E.C. puts on the beat. Even the family-owned real-estate company of Eliot Spitzer, the former "Sheriff of Wall Street," had entrusted money with Madoff. We'll keep believing, not without reason, that the whole game is as corrupt as the game show in "Slumdog Millionaire" - only without the Hollywood/Bollywood ending. We'll keep wondering how so many at the top keep avoiding responsibility and reaping taxpayers' billions while relief for those at the bottom remains as elusive as straight answers from those Mumbai call centers fielding American debtors. This wholesale loss of confidence is a catastrophe that not even the new president's most costly New Deal can set right.

(Frank Rich is a columnist for the New York Times and this oped is reprinted (with Fair Use), from commondreams.org.)

Around The Globe

In Beijing, Chinese authorities have curbed visits to an imprisoned dissident who was awarded the European Parliament's top human rights award, his wife said. Zeng Jinyan said she was told of the restriction during a telephone call Thursday from the Beijing Municipal Prison, where her husband, Hu Jia, is being held on a sedition charge. "State security police told the prison to cancel my visit that had been scheduled for next Monday," Zeng said in an online posting. "No one is allowed to see him." No reason was given for the change of plans, she said.

Sweden's highest court ruled Tuesday that a same-sex couple married in Canada are not married but in a civil union. The Supreme Administrative Court said that Swedish law does not recognize same-sex marriage and that the couple cannot pay income tax at the lower rate allowed for married couples.

Discrimination against Gay people in the workplace will be treated more harshly by the courts after two landmark judgments. Lillian Ladele, the registrar who refused to conduct same-sex civil partnership ceremonies "as a matter of religious conscience", lost her case against Islington council in north London. And Stephen English, a married man who was driven out of his job after being repeatedly called a "faggot" by colleagues had an employment tribunal ruling that he had not been the victim of sexual harassment overturned by the court of appeal. The employment

appeal tribunal ruled that Islington council had been entitled to discipline Ladele and threaten her with dismissal, even though her conduct was the result of "her strong and genuinely held Christian beliefs".

Personal Training



Andrew Lockhart
Certified Personal Trainer

Get Fit, Have Fun

No Experience Necessary
Private gym, 1 on 1 training
1/2 hour and 1 hour sessions available
No contracts, no membership fees

FREE consultation and two FREE training sessions

909-4649

2 FREE LESSONS

ucsongaymuseum.org

Saving Our History Since 1967

Hunter's
Mobile Hair Care

Why leave the house! We come to you!

Hunter Johnson (520) 240-1153

Large line of Products ~ Licensed and insured

