



Tucson Observer Archives

Obama Appoints More Gays To Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Fred Hochberg, the Gay man who headed the Small Business Administration under President Bill Clinton, will be named by incoming President Barack Obama as the director of the Export-Import Bank, ABC News reports, advocate.com reported.

Hochberg, a longtime figure in both Democratic and Gay politics, had been buzzed about as a possible replacement for Bill Richardson at the Commerce Department, but his appointment to the bank means that Obama's cabinet will remain without a single Gay member. Hochberg was deputy administrator and then acting administrator of the SBA. More recently he was the dean of the Milano School of Management at the New School in New York City.

The Export-Import Bank, according to ABC News, is the federal government's export credit arm and finances sales of goods exported from the U.S. Hochberg will be the bank's first openly Gay director. The Human Rights Campaign, where Hochberg has been on the board and is currently a member of the group's public policy committee,

hailed the expected appointment.

"Fred is one of the most highly qualified and experienced public servants in our community, and the fact that President-elect Obama has tapped him for such an important economic position speaks well for the LGBT community," HRC president Joe Solmonese said in a statement. ...

In other news, President-elect Barack Obama has asked gay physician Mark Dybul to remain in his job as U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator for an undetermined period of time, according to an e-mail message Dybul sent to his staff on Jan. 9. Dybul, who holds the rank of a U.S. ambassador, became one of President Bush's highest ranking gay appointees in 2006, when Bush named him as acting - and five months later as permanent - head of the Global AIDS office. The Global AIDS Coordinator is in charge of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, a multi-billion dollar program to fight AIDS in developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The program enjoys widespread bipartisan support and is considered one of Bush's most successful initiatives.

Bishop Gene Robinson To Deliver Prayer At Inauguration's Opening Ceremony



Openly Gay, Right Reverend Gene Robinson

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Right Reverend Gene Robinson, the first openly Gay person to be ordained a bishop in the Episcopal Church, has been asked by President-elect Barack Obama's inaugural committee to deliver the invocation at the inauguration's opening ceremony, which is being held at the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday, January 18, and will be the first event attended by the president-elect, advocate.com reported.

Robinson, whose endorsement of Obama before the New Hampshire primary was considered a big coup for the campaign, has been critical of the controversial selection of Reverend Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at the president-elect's swearing-in ceremony on the National Mall on January 20. When Robinson heard the news about Warren, who has likened being Gay to incest and statutory rape, he said "it was like a slap in the face."

But after the invitation was extended to him, Robinson told New Hampshire's Concord Monitor that his inclusion in the opening event would be incredibly affirming to Gay people. "It's important for any minority to see themselves represented in some way," Robinson said. "Whether it be a racial minority, an ethnic minority, or, in our case, a sexual minority - just seeing someone like you up front matters."

A spokesman for the inaugural committee told the Monitor that Robinson was given the opportunity to participate in the opening ceremony because of his contribution to the religious community and his efforts on behalf of Obama during the campaign. Robinson also revealed recently that President-elect Obama sought out his counsel and reflections on what it was like to be "a first."

LGBT leaders were quick to trumpet the addition to the ceremony. "Bishop Robinson models what prayer

should be - spiritual reflection put into action for justice," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese. "It is encouraging that the president-elect has chosen this spiritual hero for all Americans to lead the nation in prayer at the Lincoln Memorial inaugural concert."

Rallies Nationwide Support Same-Sex Marriage

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Same-sex couples and their supporters held demonstrations across the country over the weekend calling for the repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, similar laws in several dozen states, and the legalization of Gay marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

The rallies were organized by the group Join the Impact.

In California, demonstrations were staged in a number of cities including Pasadena and San Diego, with protestors also denouncing Proposition 8, the voter initiative that passed last November limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Prop 8 overrode the California Supreme Court ruling last year that opened up same-sex marriage in the state. Following the election, LGBT rights groups filed suit with the high court charging the vote was illegal in that it attempted to undo the constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone. The court is expected to hear oral arguments later this year.

In Boston, about 200 people rallied outside City Hall to urge President-elect Obama to keep his campaign promise to fight for the repeal of federal DOMA.

Same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, but DOMA prevents
Continued on Page Two



Fred Hochberg new Director of the Export-Import Bank

Hotelier Fires Second Gay Man After He Talks To The Press

BRENTWOOD, Tennessee (Observer Update) - The firings continue at a Tennessee hotel after its assistant general manager spoke out against its owner for dismissing a man for being Gay, reported pageoneq.com.

David Hill, former director of human resources for ARTE' Hotel in Brentwood, said that he was "dared" to sue after being told the decision by owner Tarun Surti to terminate his employment on January 8 was specifically on the basis of his sexual orientation; assistant general manager Leonard Stoddard confirmed it to the press. "The owner, Mr. Surti, comes from a culture that is not very tolerant to the Gay lifestyle," Stoddard, who was ordered to dismiss Hill, told WSMV-TV, "and therefore he felt it necessary to have him removed from the workforce at the property."

Stoddard, also openly Gay, has since been given his walking papers, Out & About reported. "I am here in the office and shocked to hear what you had said to the media," Surti e-mailed Stoddard. "If it is true that you told media that David was fired because he is Gay, you obviously told them a lie. Such behavior is subject to immediate termination and I would like you to restrain (sic) from coming to the hotel." It is alleged by Hill and Stoddard that a former employee fired for being Gay sent a letter to Surti outing Hill and Stoddard. Surti countered to Out & About that troubling economic times prompted a "scaling down" of his workforce. Hill told Pam's House Blend that while he has filed complaints with the EEOC and Department of Labor, he and the hotel are both bankrupt. Surti has claimed in court that his recent staff cuts, down to 50 from 140, will allow the business to once again become viable.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

Family members of the Tucson Gay Museum

UPDATE

Chuzapalooza January 16 - 18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Bowlers from all over will be converging on Tucson January 16-18 for the Chuzapalooza bowling tournament.

This event is one of many LGBT bowling tournaments conducted across the country and globe and sanctioned by IGBO, the International Gay Bowling Organization.

Chuzapalooza has a new venue for this year's tournament, Tucson Bowl, located at 7021 E. 21st St., will be hosting the tournament, consisting of singles, doubles and team events plus with additional side-pots and optional scratch contests.

With the tournament, the question arises, "What's a chuzaz?" It is the term for strike in Spanish. This event is being held the same time as the thirteenth Fiesta De Los Osos.

The schedule for the tournament is as follows:

Friday, January 16, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Early Registration - The Hotel Arizona; 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Registration/Check-in - Tucson Bowl 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; Team Event - Catalina Shift, Tucson Bowl; 9:30 p.m. - Scotch Doubles; 9:00 p.m. - Country Dancing at the Coyote Moon Pub.

Saturday, January 17, Noon - 1:00 p.m., Registration/Check-in - Tucson Bowl; 1:00 - 5:30 p.m., Singles/Doubles Event - Roadrunner Shift, Tucson Bowl; 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Registration/Check-in, Tucson Bowl; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Singles/Doubles Event - Javelina Shift, Tucson Bowl; 9:00pm - wee hours, Men's Night Out at The Yard Dog Saloon.

Sunday, January 18, 8:30 - 9:00 a.m., Check-in, Tucson Bowl; 9:00 a.m - noon, Team Event - Tortolita Shift, Tucson Bowl; Noon - 3:30 p.m., Scratch Master - Tucson Bowl with check in starting at 11:30 a.m., (Eligibility for this event is not restricted to a specific day. Both Team Events are eligible for qualification); 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Awards Presentations, Yard Dog Saloon; 5:00 p.m., Celebration Banquet, Yard Dog Saloon - Mexican Buffet.

For more information, contact

Kevin Wheeler, Tournament Director, zonafd1@aol.com or go online to chuzapalooza.com.

SASD Meets Jan 26

TUCSON - Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats will meet Monday, January 26, 6:30 p.m. at Pima Democrats Headquarters, 4639 E. First St. (1 block South of Speedway - 1/2 block West of Swan). Election of officers and future plans will be discussed. Everyone is welcome to join and get involved. For more information: sasdtucson@yahoo.com or call 323-2293.

Desert Voices Concert and Fund Raiser Feb. 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "It was spectacular... amazing! We laughed... we cried.... So professional... the blend of sounds was beautiful! I saw you perform Silent Night two years ago...what you achieved was amazing... you could have heard a pin drop! We're now lifetime season ticket holders!"

This is just a small sampling of audience reaction to Desert Voices' 20th Season holiday opener, "Down the Chimney." The concert played on consecutive nights to near-capacity audiences that made many first-time Desert Voices concert attendees—converts for life. Special Guest Star, Namoli Brennet's elegant, wistful performance blended seamlessly with Desert Voices' nearly 50 member chorus.

Not wanting to stand on their laurels, Desert Voices has begun preparation for their Annual Cabaret & Fundraiser, February 7 at the Historic Y. Special Guest Stars, Lisa Otey and Diane Van Deurzen will join Desert Voices for "In the Basement", a risqué, slightly bawdy and totally entertaining evening of music and comedy as Lesbian coffee house meets Gay piano bar.

Auction action on an excellent assortment of items begins at 6:00 p.m. Appetizers will be provided by Carrabba's Italian Grille with wine and champagne provided by Barefoot Wine & Bubbly. A limited number of tickets are still available for this once a year event and may be purchased by calling (520) 791-9662. All proceeds will help Desert Voices to sustain its artistic and community mission.

Desert Voices is Arizona's premier GLBTS Chorus. Our abiding mission is to unite our community through our music and provide a voice for those who may have no voice. Each year Desert Voices, under the artistic direction of Chris Tackett, extends a musical invitation to our community to join with us as we celebrate with programs that inspire while providing laughter and lasting memories.

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Scotland, General Manager of Desert Voices (520) 908-8740, jeffreyscotland@desertvoices.org online at desertvoices.org.

Fiesta De Los Osos January 15 - 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - It's hard to believe but La Fiesta de Los Osos (Festival of the Bears) is thirteen years old!

During the past twelve Fiestas over 2000 bears and buddies from over 20 countries have enjoyed the warmth and friendliness of our desert city making Fiesta weekend one of the most anticipated bear events in the U.S! Fiesta 2009 continues in this tradition by offering the best that Tucson and the Bears of the Old Pueblo have to offer to our 300 guests all surrounded by brilliantly sunny days and star-filled nights.

The event will maintain its successful format with a few new twists and activities to keep the weekend fun and fresh for all our friends who attend year after year. Day and half-day tours will be available every day or just lay back and enjoy the sparkling heated pool and Jacuzzi on the grounds of the comfortable and intimate Randolph Park Hotel & Suites (formerly a Clarion Hotel). All the rooms of the hotel have been reserved for Fiesta weekend attendees only and will be filled with BEARS, BEARS, BEARS! For more information, go online to fiesta.btop.com/fiesta/.

Las Vegas' Oldest Gay Bar Faces Gaming License Revocation

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (Observer Update) Snick's Place, the oldest gay bar in Las Vegas, is fighting for its existence after gambling regulators slapped it with seven counts of morals violations, reported 365Gay.com.

Gaming Control Board inspectors allege that patrons were observed by undercover officers engaging in sex acts in public areas of the bar. The case was turned over to the Nevada Gaming Commission with a recommendation that the commission lift the club's gaming license. In addition, each of the seven counts could be punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000. Snick's has 15 slot machines. The bar opened in 1976.

The complaint to the commission said that bar employees were aware of the activity and failed to stop it. Owner Dominic Vitale is fighting the charges. His attorney, Bob Lueck, said Vitale is hoping for "something less than revocation" of the gaming license. Vitale claims he was not in the bar when the alleged activity occurred and that after hearing of the sexual activity he fired a bartender and took other steps to prevent future occurrences. Lueck said that Vitale has cooperated with authorities and has turned over security videotapes.

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 volcoond@saaaf.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

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

Ballroom

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Saturday, Jan. 17
with **Dj Dirty D**

next Saturday
Wingspan
Tea Dance 4-8pm
and
January Birthday Party

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

New Federal Law Protects Retirement Savings Of G/L Couples

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A new federal law will protect domestic partners who inherit retirement savings, 365Gay.com reported. The Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 - known as WREERA - contains technical corrections to the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

The Pension Protection Act, or PPA, made it possible for employers to allow any non-spouse beneficiary of an employee's retirement plan—including an employee's same-sex partner—to roll inherited retirement benefits directly to an individual retirement account and avoid immediate taxation. WREERA requires that all employers provide this rollover opportunity to non-spouse beneficiaries.

"This legislation secures much-needed protection for Lesbian and Gay couples," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Our community faces unique challenges in preparing for retirement because we are denied Social Security spousal and survivor benefits. Protecting our hard-earned retirement savings is even more crucial to us, and until now, the tax code made it that much harder."

Before 2007, partners who inherited retirement plan savings typically faced immediate taxation on inherited

benefits, unlike opposite-sex spouses, who could roll savings over to an IRA with no tax penalty. Under the PPA, which came into effect in 2007, qualifying plans could permit any non-spouse beneficiary—including a domestic partner, parent or sibling—to roll over inherited retirement benefits paid as a lump sum directly to an IRA. Qualifying plans include defined benefit plans pensions, 401K plans, employee stock ownership plans, profit-sharing plans, money purchase plans, 403B plans and governmental 457B plans.

But the provision was subsequently interpreted to be optional for employers, meaning each company had to affirmatively adopt this protection for partners under each qualifying plan. Under the WREERA, which takes effect in January 2010, all qualifying plans that pay lump sum benefits to non-spouse beneficiaries are required to provide the rollover opportunity.

"This is progress toward eliminating the more than 1,000 inequities that our families face under federal law," said Solmonese. He also called on employers to make the rollover provision available as quickly as possible and not wait for the 2010 deadline. Solmonese said that LGBT workers should ensure their partners and children are designated as beneficiaries.

Log Cabin Republicans Facing Serious Money Woes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Log Cabin Republicans, hampered by lackluster 2008 fundraising, is facing financial difficulties and ended the year at least \$100,000 in debt, according to Patrick Sammon, the

organization's president, who spoke to the Washington Blade.

Sammon said he expects the organization to have around \$100,000 in debt or "maybe a little more," adding that

the figure is made up of consolidated debt.

Sammon said the organization expected donations would be higher last year because of the presidential election. "Really what we anticipated was that 2008 would be a better year fundraising-wise based on what we've seen in other presidential election years," he said. "We just didn't see the fundraising materialize the way that we expected."

Rallies Nationwide Support Same-Sex Marriage

Continued from Page One

those marriages from being recognized by the federal government or other states.

Many of the demonstrators held signs saying "Obama Don't DOMA".

Addressing the crowd were US Rep. Barney Frank and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, both Democrats.

"We can no longer tolerate people who tolerate intolerance," said Frank, one of three openly Gay members of Congress. "I hope this rally inspires everyone here to write or call their representatives and senators," he said.

In Chicago, dozens of protesters braved icy cold winds to march in the Loop.

Other protests were held in Montgomery, Alabama; Greenville, North Carolina and Wichita, Kansas; Seattle, Washington; and Boise, Idaho.

Fear-Mongering Ad Launched Against Anti-Discrimination Law



GAINESVILLE, Florida (Observer Update) - In reaction to Gainesville, Florida's anti-discrimination ordinance, which, among other things, allows the city's Transgender citizens to choose which restroom they want to use, conservatives have launched a fear-mongering campaign which equates Transgender people to child predators, reported towleroad.com.

The AP reports: "Those who support the Transgender protections say their opponents are really unleashing a broader attack on the rights of Gay, Lesbian and Transgender individuals in general. The city commission approved the restroom provision by a 4-3 vote a year ago. Before the ink could dry, Bible-quoting opponents angrily began working for its repeal. 'You are trying to operate in a realm you do not have the authority to operate in,' one pastor, George Brantley, told the commissioners. The debate is expected to become noisier as the ballot nears with opponents resorting to more TV ads and campaigns pegged to such slogans as 'Keep Men out of Women's Restrooms and vice versa.' ... Since the ordinance took effect, police have reported no problems in public restrooms stemming from the law."

Conservatives hope to repeal the anti-discrimination law with a March 24 ballot measure.

IBT'S

Tucson's #1 Gay Club

PREMIER DRAG SHOWS

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

VIVA WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAY NIGHT STARRLETTIS

JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT AT 9:00PM FOR TUCSONS BEST FEMALE IMPERSONATOR SHOW!!!

A family member of the **TUCSON GAY MUSEUM®**

ARRIVE EARLY FOR BEST SEATS!

STAY AFTER THE SHOW AND DANCE TO THE HOTTEST DANCE MUSIC SPUN BY DJ Q

616 N. 4th Ave 520.882.3053 www.ibts.net and www.myspace.com/ibtstucson

Tucson Gets Its Own Version Of Project Runway At Moda Provocateur

Tucson - Moda Provocateur, a fashion event, has become known over the past 5 years for pushing the boundaries of hair, style and entertainment! This year, Moda Provocateur, sponsored by Udall Law Firm and inspired by the well known Bravo television series, offers a segment during the show called 'Project Runway Moda' on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at The University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom. All proceeds from the event benefit the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Avalon for Hair, Skin and Nails, (whose owner, Kevin Casey, founded Moda Provocateur), Aveda Institute Arizona, Ahead of Style, John Paul Mitchell Systems SW Education Team hosted by Spirals Salon and Style 7 Salon. The evening will also include dance numbers from A Tucson Dance Company, and a peek at the talents of Edgar Huerta, artist, poet and designer.

Don't miss this exciting show which exceeds typical fashion event expectations! Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased at any of the participating salons, or by calling the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation at (520) 628-7223 ext. 258 or ext. 250. Information about the types of seating available can also be found at saafmoda.org.

Project Runway Moda began in September of 2008 with challenges to Pima Community College Fashion Design and Clothing students to develop apparel in four different themes; AIDS Awareness, Tucson Style, Tribute to the Military/All Things Patriotic, and Green/Eco-Friendly. The designs of all four category winners will be on the runway at Moda Provocateur, and the audience will select the top over-all designer that evening. The main show begins at 6pm, with VIP guests arriving at 5pm for dinner and entertainment. Featured salons are

Moda Provocateur raises funds for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation to support programs and services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation's mission is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

TIHAN Update:

By Scott Blades, Executive Director

TUCSON (Observer Update) - This weekend, January 17-18 (Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend), the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) is having its annual Road Runner Regional Rodeo at Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Indian Community, approximately 90 minutes from Tucson, right off Interstate 10 before you get into Phoenix. TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) will be there, and we hope you will be, too! They're expecting scores of cowboys, cowgirls, and friends for this annual Phoenix gay rodeo!

but some of us will be there all weekend staying at one of the host hotels. Rodeo admission tickets are \$15/day or \$25 for a two-day pass. For more direction and information about the AGRA Phoenix rodeo and schedules and host hotels, the AGRA rodeo hotline phone number is (602) 265-8166, or their website is agra-phx.com.

With its beginnings in Reno in 1976, the gay rodeo movement has grown substantially, and raises thousands of dollars for charity each year. The Arizona rodeo is among the longest-running and best-attended on the International Gay Rodeo Association circuit. TIHAN will have an information booth there, and we need volunteers to help staff the booth for two-hour shifts, so please let us know as soon as possible if you can help. Call us at (520) 299-6647 for more information. Come join your TIHAN friends and friends from around the country for a great time in Phoenix at the Gay Rodeo this weekend!

Up In Phoenix

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - PFLAG Phoenix (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is sponsoring a "God Hates Shrimp?!" film-and-discussion series beginning in January, 2009 and running through May, 2009. The series will be held on the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Scottsdale Congregational United Church of Christ (SCUCC) located at 4425 N. Granite Reef Road in Scottsdale (just south of Camelback Road). The series will be hosted by the SCUCC's Oasis Film Group.

\$5.00 donation from attendees would be appreciated to help us cover the costs of screening fees and refreshments. Scheduled films include: Jan. 16: "Anyone and Everyone", Feb. 20: "Inlaws & Outlaws", Mar. 20: "In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannie Gramick's Journey of Faith", Apr. 17: "For the Bible Tells Me So", May 15th: "The Asphalt Gospel" A brief synopsis of each film and a link to the respective film's trailer is included on our PFLAG Phoenix website, pflagphoenix.org.

The series will feature five incredible films that tackle such topics as families of faith (successful) struggles to accept their GLBT children, commonalities between straight and gay romantic relationships, a nun's battle with the Catholic Church over her supportive ministry to GLBT individuals, supposed Bible passages used to condemn gays and lesbians, and a progressive faith outreach to small towns across the U.S. The purpose of the series is to create dialogue and understanding among people of faith, GLBT individuals, their families, friends, and the greater community about issues of faith that sometimes divide us. Fortunately, all of these exceptional films are very positive resulting in a positive and self-affirming experience for viewers. There is no admission fee for the series, although a

As a founding member of the International Gay Rodeo Association, the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) is proud to host the Road Runner Regional Rodeo from January 16-18, 2009. As a 501(c)4 organization, AGRA hosts this annual rodeo to raise funds to distribute to Arizona LGBT and other charities. AGRA is looking for volunteers to assist for a few hours on Saturday or Sunday. Opportunities include assisting with ticket sales, ticket taking, security, and parking etc. This 24th anniversary rodeo will take place at Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Indian Community, 5700 W North Loop Rd, Chandler, Arizona. To volunteer, please visit the website at agravolunteers.org or contact our Rodeo Director, Ron Trusley, at rtrusley@cox.net or (602) 510-9671.

CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WKND AT WOODY'S!

BUDWEISER FAMILY OF PRODUCTS PROMOTION

SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH 11:30PM TIL 12:30AM

\$2.50 SPECIAL ON BUDWEISER PRODUCTS

SPECIAL SUNDAY PARTY THIS SUNDAY!

- OMELETTE BUFFET • PATIO BAR 2PM - CLOSE
- BURGER BEER-BUST • KARAOKE

*****PLUS*****

A SPECIAL SHOW FEATURING *****

AJIA SIMONE AND MAYA MCKENZIE THIS SUNDAY 8PM

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL INAUGURATION PARTY TUESDAY JAN 20TH

FEATURED ON OUR 8 FOOT SCREEN!

HISTORY MAKING INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA

- FOOD • FUN • FRIENDS •

ONLY AT WOODY'S!

THURSDAY JAN 22ND 10PM

"COVER GIRL REVUE SHOW"

HOSTED BY *** TORI STEELE**

FEATURING *** CHINA COLLINS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS**

SATURDAY JAN 24TH

THE WETT PARTY "ICE BALL"

FEATURING IN HER FIRST EVER TUCSON APPEARANCE

CHI CHI LARUE

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!

\$25 VIP (LIMITED NUMBER) \$10 GENERAL ADMISSION

3710 N. ORACLE (520) 292-6702

WWW.MYWOODYSAZ.COM WWW.MYSPACE.COM/4MYWOODYS

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

TUESDAY DART TOURNY AT 8PM

FRIDAY: KARAOKE AT 9PM

SATURDAY DART TOURNY AT 11am BEARS BEER BUST AT 3pm

YARD DOG SALOON TUCSON AZ

FREE WIFI

www.yarddogsaloon.com

HOME BAR OF "THE TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS" AND "BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO"

2449 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705 • 520-624-3858

Are Your Records Organized For An Emergency?

By Dan Kalm

TUCSON (Observer Update) - If you were incapacitated, would anyone be able to find your important records and take care of your family's financial or business matters? Having important papers organized and accessible in advance can be very important in an emergency or crisis situation.

Consider the following for organizing your important records.

Location. Options for storage might include a home safe, fire-security box or off-site location such as a safety deposit box. The storage container should be securable and fire resistant. Shoe boxes or cardboard boxes in the closet or under the bed are not appropriate. Who knows? Does someone in addition to your spouse know where these papers are kept? Consider making a list of such papers and records, and on the list state where these documents can be found. Then advise a trusted third party - an attorney, CPA, relative, or family friend - where this list is kept. The general idea is that someone

not domiciled in your residence know about this list and how to access it. This decision requires a certain comfort level, and you alone are able to make that determination.

Which papers? Regardless of who knows what, organized records are always a plus. The following items might be part of your "important documents" list: safety deposit box key, life insurance policies, deeds, contracts, leases, titles, mortgage(s), loan notes, banking, savings, investment and retirement account(s) records, will, burial arrangements, all other insurance policies (health, auto, home, etc.) and birth certificates.

Beyond however you decide to store your personal records, and whatever you decide to include, one fact is clear. If important legal, business and personal documents are organized and accessible, the handling of a crisis situation is made much easier.

(Dan Kalm is the Observer's official State Farm agent. To reach Dan, visit his website at dankalm.com).

CARNAVAL LATINO
 is here this **SATURDAY**
JANUARY 17TH!

JOIN US FOR
HOTFLASH DANCE
SATURDAY
JANUARY 17TH
5-9PM

The Biz

WWW.THEBIZTUC.COM

L word
 season premiere
Jan 18th!
7pm!!

HIP HOP
FRIDAY'S
SPECIAL GUEST
TRANSACTION!!

TEXT 904-6419 FOR EXCLUSIVE SPECIALS!!

Ted Haggard Made It Through The Wilderness, Not Like A Virgin



Alexandra Pelosi and Ted Haggard

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Ted Haggard told reporters at a 25-minute press conference that his days of meth and Gay escorts were a "wandering in the wilderness" time and he's back and busier than ever promoting the new HBO documentary by Alexandra Pelosi (Nancy's daughter, above) in which he criticizes his former church, towleroad.com reported.

The AP reports: "During a guest sermon last November at a friend's church in Illinois, Haggard said a co-worker of his father molested him when he was 7, an experience that "started to produce fruit" later. Clarifying that Friday, Haggard said: 'I'm certainly not saying that because of that, I did this. I did what I did by my choice, and I'm responsible for it.' Haggard said he isn't qualified to judge what factors into one's sexuality, but still believes it's 'God's perfect plan' for marriage to be between a man and woman. 'I think sexuality is confusing and complex,' Haggard said. 'I am totally completely satisfied with the relationship with my wife now, but I went through a wandering in the wilderness time, and I just thank God I'm on the other side of that.' Asked whether he could define his sexual identity, Haggard said: 'The stereotypical boxes don't work for me. My story's got some gray areas in it. And, of course, I'm sad about that but it's the reality.' Later Friday, in a Q&A

session with reporters at a Television Critics Association meeting in Universal City, Calif., Haggard said he should have been more open with his family and his congregation earlier, calling his actions 'hypocrisy.'

Gay escort Mike Jones said Haggard was simply a good salesman: "I know he's gone through a lot. When he said he had to say something, I believe it. And I think that was God encouraging him to do that. I know he's apologized to his church and family, blah, blah. But the people he hurt is the Gay community, and he's never apologized to the Gay community. He owes that."

HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE

VENTURE-N
 TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR

THE HOT SPOT FOR MEN, FRIENDLY CONVERSATION, COCKTAILS, FUN TIMES AND MORE MEN!

OPENS MON - SAT 9AM, SUN 10AM
 129 N. 6TH AVENUE TUCSON, AZ 85707 520-882-8594

The only weekly Gay newspaper in the Southwest...

Support The Observer...

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

\$62,163.29 A Day

Since the creation of this column more than 20 years ago, this time of the year has always been one of trepidation for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Arizonans since it marks the beginning of the session of Arizona's Legislature at 1700 West Washington.

Arizona's 49th Legislature began its current session on Monday, January 12, in the midst of an economic downturn in the state and across the country with the result of a multibillion dollar budget shortfall facing the state government and its officials.

So with that bleak picture needing to be faced and responsibly dealt with, one would think that the Arizona Legislature's sole focus would be on the budget and putting the state's economic affairs in order in a timely manner, within 100 days as sessions are supposed to last but as this column has reported in prior editions, that won't happen, because the Republican controlled Legislature will let proposed legislation, restricting the rights of individuals, such as LGBT and those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS to divert the attention away from the real problems Arizona's state government is facing in this burgeoning economic crisis, resulting in six or so months of trepidation.

Arizonans, LGBT, HIV+ or otherwise, should live in trepidation but instead be one of anger during the session of the Arizona Legislature since the 90 (89 with the resignation of Phoenix state Representative Steve Gallardo as of press time) individuals at the State Capitol, 1700 West Washington, in the Arizona House and Senate work for the taxpayer, to the tune, according to the current year's state budget, of \$13,653,400 for the operations and salaries for the elected officials and staff in the Arizona House of Representatives and \$9,036,200 for the same in the Arizona Senate, or \$62,163.29 each and every day of the year.

Budget deficits and the state's economic downturn must be dealt with swiftly, responsibly and accordingly, with communication, input and dialogue involving all citizens and elected officials involved, regardless of political affiliation so that a plan or solution can be reached and with the remaining time in the session, if any, then other measures, important, should then be considered only if the state's economic "ducks are in order."

As in year's past though, Arizona's Republican controlled state government, won't follow any of this, since the last time a session ended within the mandated 100 days, was 1994 and each session has wasted taxpayers time and most important, money considering such proposals, ranging from: regulating the size of sex toys, defining "nipples," restricting what a woman and her doctor can talk about, HIV testing, prohibiting the extension of domestic partner benefits, tripping horses, taxing breast implants, the distribution of medically accurate information on HIV in Arizona's schools, prohibiting license plate frames (and now considering repealing that law they pass), Proposition 102 on last year's ballot (despite state law, court precedent and the lack of challenge to the then 12 year old law) to this year's HB 2053, dealing with surrogate parenting and contracts, introduced by the conservative homophobic Republican and new Speaker of the Arizona House, Kirk Adams of Mesa, just to name a few of the too-numerous examples to list.

This column, as well as the Observer's new blog, will let readers know of the goings on at 1700 West Washington and the need to take action since to paraphrase the author and playwright, Larry Kramer and ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), our silence would equal the death of the rights movement. Online, Arizona's Legislature can be found at azleg.gov.

Around The Nation

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Echo Park resident Joseph Lee doesn't necessarily look like the leader of a musical movement. Blanketed in thug-like tattoos, a menacing goatee and often photographed in bandanna and Tupac Shakur tee, Lee could easily pass for a long-lost member of Cypress Hill. Yet under the sobriquet Deadlee, Lee is arguably Los Angeles' most prominent Gay rapper, having helped organized the first national "homo-hop tour." In spite of frequent censure from the greater hip-hop community, a vibrant Gay hip-hop subculture has evolved - both locally and nationally - with the clear-cut goals of defying bigotry and realizing self-expression. Los Angeles has emerged as one of the community's central hubs, a development culminating with Street Cred 101, held at Santa Monica's Highways Performance Space & Gallery. The event bills itself as an "attempt to debunk the notion that a Gay rapper can't achieve mainstream success." ...

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - D.C. Council member David Catania (I-At-Large) made news for something he didn't do. Catania, who is Gay, decided against introducing a bill to legalize same-sex marriage in Washington at the Council's first legislative session of 2009, holding off on action he told activists and his Council colleagues privately that he planned to take. His decision followed what appeared on the surface to be an ironic development: A number of prominent Gay rights advocates lobbied Catania and other Council members not to take up a Gay marriage bill so soon in the legislative year. "We need a few more months to get prepared to do this right," said Peter Rosenstein, a Gay Democratic activist. ...

SACRAMENTO, California (Observer Update) - Supporters of the November ballot measure that banned Gay marriages in California have filed a lawsuit seeking to block their campaign finance records from public view, saying the reports have led to harassment of donors. "No one should have to worry about getting a death threat because of the way he or she votes," said James Bopp Jr., an attorney representing two groups that supported Proposition 8, Protect Marriage.com and the National Organization for Marriage California. The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in Sacramento, asks the court to order the secretary of state's office to remove all donations for the proposition from its Web site. The groups announced the lawsuit Thursday. It also asks the court to relieve the two groups and "all similarly situated persons" from having to meet the state's campaign disclosure requirements. That would include having to file a final report on Proposition 8 contributions at the end of January, as well as reports for any future campaigns the groups undertake. ...

Joining Lucy This Week
Ajia Simone and
Jessica Devereaux

TUCSON'S PREMIER COCKTAIL SHOW!

Guys & Dolls

Tucson Observer Archival

PRESENTS:
TUCSON'S QUEEN OF COMEDY
THE LEGENDARY
LUCINDA HOLLIDAY

EVERY FRIDAY AT 10 P.M. SHARP AT:

FOOD & SPIRITS

5305 EAST. SPEEDWAY (520) 323-1840
WWW.MYSPACE.COM/COLORSTUCSON

**Inauguration Party
Tues. Jan. 20
Drink Specials All Day!**

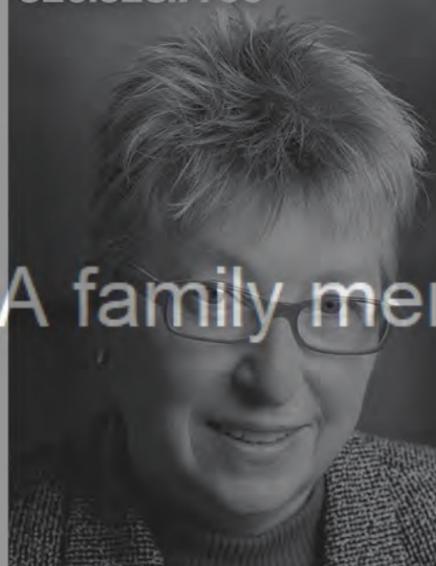
MICHAEL & BRADFORD HULTQUIST
MEXICAN SCANDINAVIANS
Proprietors
WE SERVE WONDERFUL MEXICAN FOOD
SELECTED WINES & BEER

El Torero
RESTAURANT

231 E. 26th St. Tucson, Arizona

Open every day except Tuesday 622-9534

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



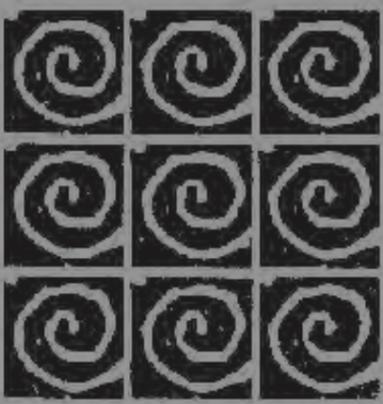
Craig Flushes Further Appeals

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - Former Idaho Sen. Larry Craig has reached the end of the road in his effort to reverse his conviction in an airport bathroom sex sting, one of his lawyers said, 365Gay.com reported.

Attorney Tom Kelly said Craig had decided against asking the Minnesota Supreme Court to void the conviction. The decision means the legal wrangling in the case is over.

"We've concluded that the Supreme Court would not accept this for review," Kelly said. "It would be a futile exercise."

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum



COMMENTARY...

by Steve Ralls

'Saturday Night Live' Sketch: Rachel Maddow Is Gay! Isn't That Funny?!

By Sarah Warn

Hey, SNL: the 1990s called and they want their lame Gay jokes back!

Saturday Night Live (NBC) opened with a skit in which Abby Elliott impersonated Rachel Maddow interviewing the recently impeached Illinois Gov Blagojevich, and his Senate pick, Roland Burris, on her MSNBC talk show.

Rachel has clearly arrived on the public stage if SNL is spoofing her. But Elliott's impersonation of Maddow wasn't very good, neither were the impressions of Burris and Blagojevich (although the impersonation of Blagojevich's hair made me laugh), and the skit was too long and too boring.

When SNL wrote a sketch starring Ben Affleck as Keith Olbermann, Maddow's friend and fellow political talk show host, they made fun of Keith's mannerisms, his over-the-top presentation style, and the extremity of his opinions.

The only thing the writers could come up with to make fun of Rachel Maddow about is the fact that she's openly Gay.

That's it, that's the punchline. It's 2009, and apparently, just being Gay is still funny.

I'll admit, I chuckled at the beginning - I can appreciate the occasional well-placed Ellen or Billy Jean King reference as much as the next person - but by the fourth or fifth Gay joke ("I'm stuck here like a dutch boy with his thumb in a dike"), I wasn't laughing anymore.

"Dike" = Dyke, get it? And "Chachi" = that dumb guy on Happy Days = Rachel looks like a guy. Rachel is Gay! And butch! And Gay! Isn't that hilarious?!

The SNL writers found plenty to skewer in the Suze Orman sketch earlier this season besides Suze's sexual orientation, and the Ellen Page "primo Lesbian" sketch last March included



some Lesbian stereotypes, but it was funny and subversive, too.

I can think of a few things just off the top of my head to make fun of Rachel Maddow about (in a good way), besides her sexual orientation: How about her geeky jokes? Her "because someone has to do it" introduction to the Lame Duck Watch segment? Her infamous smackdown with David Frum? Or the fact that she only has three outfits (and doesn't care)?

But instead, we got one long "she's so Gay!" sketch. Which is so 16-year-old-boy, and makes me wonder if the SNL writers have ever actually watched her show.

Is the Rachel Maddow skit homophobic? Eh, that's debatable. Is it boring, juvenile, and one-dimensional? Definitely.

But I suppose the skit's lame-ness is a testament to Maddow: when the only thing an entire team of comedy writers can spoof about you is your sexual orientation, keep doing whatever you're doing - you're clearly doing it right!

P.S. Hey, SNL: when the only thing an entire team of comedy writers can spoof about a public figure is their sexual orientation, stop doing whatever you're doing - you're clearly doing it wrong. It's time to fire the writing staff and just start over, this time with fewer people who write like Chachi, and more who write like Ellen.

(Sarah Warn is a blogger and columnist for AfterEllen.com, from which this is reprinted.)

Around The Nation

KALAMAZOO, Michigan (Observer Update) - The Kalamazoo City Commission voted unanimously Monday (Jan. 12) to repeal its new anti-discrimination ordinance, stopping a citywide referendum on creating a protected class for Gay, Lesbian and Transgender individuals. Commissioners talked individually over the past week, saying they hoped a cooling-off period would allow for talks to negotiate a middle ground. The vote means there will be no citywide referendum scheduled on whether to keep the ordinance that banned gender-orientation discrimination in city housing, public accommodations and employment. But Mayor Bobby Hopewell said he expects another ordinance will be offered. "My intent is that we will have an ordinance that will provide protections to Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender individuals," Hopewell told a standing-room crowd with mixed opinions.

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Mickey Rourke was good in "The Wrestler," but nothing compared to Sean Penn, who lost the only nomination "Milk" received at the Golden Globe awards. Not to worry, "Milk" is sure to be a major Oscar contender.

Despite the oversight, there were some gay connections at the awards: Anna Paquin won best actress in a drama series for "True Blood," the sexy HBO series from Gay creator Alan Ball. Best motion picture comedy went to the ho-hum Woody Allen film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," which included a bisexual subplot.

Kate Winslet won her supporting actress in a motion picture award for "The Reader," from bisexual director Stephen Daldry. And the daughter of Rourke's character in "The Wrestler" is lesbian. Gay icon Heath Ledger won an expected award for his charismatic performance in "The Dark Knight."

Prince Harry Faces Probe Over Homophobic, Racist Remarks

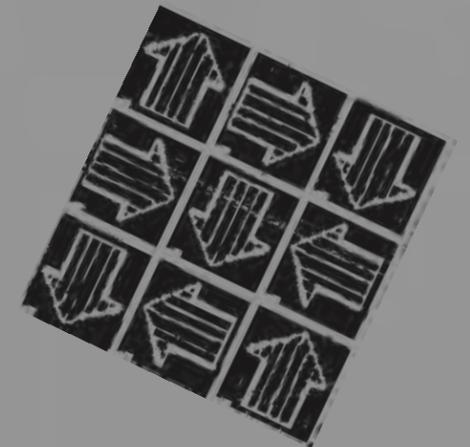


woman. 'I think sexuality is confusing and complex,' Haggard said. 'I am totally completely satisfied with the relationship with my wife now, but I went through a wandering in the wilderness time, and I just thank God I'm on the other side of that.' Asked whether he could define his sexual identity, Haggard said: 'The stereotypical boxes don't work for me. My story's got some gray areas in it. And, of course, I'm sad about that but it's the reality.' Later Friday, in a Q&A session with reporters at a Television Critics Association meeting in Universal City, Calif., Haggard said he should have been more open with his family and his congregation earlier, calling his actions 'hypocrisy.'

Gay escort Mike Jones said Haggard was simply a good salesman: "I know he's gone through a lot.

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Ted Haggard told reporters at a 25-minute press conference that his days of meth and Gay escorts were a "wandering in the wilderness" time and he's back and busier than ever promoting the new HBO documentary by Alexandra Pelosi (Nancy's daughter, above) in which he criticizes his former church, towleroad.com reported.

The AP reports: "During a guest sermon last November at a friend's church in Illinois, Haggard said a co-worker of his father molested him when he was 7, an experience that "started to produce fruit" later. Clarifying that Friday, Haggard said: 'I'm certainly not saying that because of that, I did this. I did what I did by my choice, and I'm responsible for it.' Haggard said he isn't qualified to judge what factors into one's sexuality, but still believes it's 'God's perfect plan' for marriage to be between a man and



Personal Injury?

Registered Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved



Sarah J. Showard
Attorney at Law

SHOWARD
Law Firm

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

Auto Injury
Medical Malpractice
Premises Liability
Products Liability

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

Come Home with Us... Tucson Gay Museum®



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 NRT LLC

www.ISellTucsonRealEstate.com

HOROSCOPES

©2009 Madam Lichtenstein

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

Personal Injury?



SHOWARD
Law Firm
(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

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



Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

Tucson M2M

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M>

While it may be hard to make ourselves understood this week, there is a logical explanation. Mercury retrogrades and confounds our understanding, meaning and interpretation. Let actions speak louder and prouder than words.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Proud Rams find that simple conversations with pals are actually not that simple. Any planned activities do not go as planned. Mishaps, confusions and misinterpretations can scuttle certain tenuous relationships. The secret to your social success for the next three weeks is to take things as they come and go, remain very flexible and maintain a good sense of humor. Uh oh.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
If you are brimming with good ideas, try to keep them to yourself this week especially in conversations with the power elite. No sooner said than over done in any career matter. Queer Bulls are advised to take some well deserved time off or quietly blend into the corporate wallpaper. There will be time to dazzle the bosses after the winter thaw when you are cooler than cool.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Check and double check any vacation plans for the next weeks. Not only do pink Twins go astray (and that may be deliberate...) but they might also lose their luggage, travel companions or itinerary along the way. Nothing here is drastic: It is just annoying. But if you can maintain your sense of adventure you might turn a simple forgettable trip to a lifetime memory. Oh goodie.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Pack up and store your animal magnetism for another day, Gay Crab. Not only can your best love lines fall flat, you might misjudge a light flirtation and get in over your head. Of course, mishaps can spice up your currently quiet love life. There is nothing like a little jealousy and wrath to make things interesting and passionate. That is, if that is your "thing".

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Proud Lions can accidentally scuttle the ship of state this week. Make sure that anything you discuss with partners is tempered and clearly understood. Compromise may be

possible but it is equally possible that the two of you reach and agree to different conclusions. For those cats who are on the prowl, promise nothing. It will only get you into trouble later...

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
As your new years resolutions start to kick in, you can be forgiven for giving yourself a reprieve from any health or diet change this week. Queer Virgins might find that even their best laid plans lay an egg. So allow yourself to remain buttered and fried rather than scrambled. Enjoy the festivities a little longer and plan for a more toned body later this winter.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
Fun may not be all that it is cracked up to be. Invitations get lost in the mail, you could wind up at the wrong place on the wrong night or arrive dressed to the nines for a party where one or two will do. Proud Libras can also over-extend, over-party and generally over do. This is not a bad thing but it may make you pine for a quiet night or two at home. I should be so lucky.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Any major home repair should be deferred until you are absolutely sure that your instructions will be followed and the quality of work will be maintained. Not only could things go awry, you may not like the results. Queer Scorps might consider simply enjoying what they already have and relax in their current state of being. Ha!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Even in the best of times, Gay Archers have trouble making themselves clearly understood. This is because they are usually ten steps ahead of everyone else. Now your capacity for audacity and overall miscommunication is ramped up and magnified. This is not a good time to tell it like it is. If you can't think of something nice to say, file it for later use and just smile.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
In these tenuous economic times, pink Caps have remained relatively unscathed. However you may find that the next three weeks offer a variety of poor fiscal temptations designed to lighten your payload. Stay strong and keep you wallet under lock and key. Avoid splurges and "advice" from "experts". There will be plenty of time to buy and sell in the spring.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
If you are angling to make the perfect first impression, postpone your debut for about three weeks if possible. Aqueerians don't realize the impact they can make on others now. This is the perfect time to kick back, surround yourself with close compadres and just enjoy. Hang with those who love you for you who are - warts and all. Hide your blemishes next month.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Something that you say could come back and surprise you later on. Will you reveal a closely guarded secret? Or is there someone working behind the scenes who tries (perhaps unsuccessfully) to undo you? Guppies will have a guardian angel when they need it but try not to tempt fate by purposely trying to unearth deeply buried mysteries. The gossip column can wait.

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Well, boys and girls, we are approaching the end of an era - The Nightmare Years (oh, I miswrote. That's a description of Nazi Germany!) What I meant to write was the Bush Administration (which I suppose could be labeled "The Bad Dream Years"). Over the last eight years, I have spent a great deal of time disparaging our Chief Executive, at times even referring to his mother's species and the legitimacy (or lack thereof) of his birth. It is now time for my mea culpas.

I inadvertently overlooked the fact that Mr. Bush has a mind like a steel trap, albeit one someone forgot to set. I also failed to appreciate the fact that he has taught the American people to think-to question. Who could listen to his pithy comments without thinking "What the h**l was that all about"? I regret that shrub didn't rank up there with FDR or Winston Churchill in oratory, but he did give Jacques Clouseau a run for his money. What the hey, we'll take what we can get. I apologize to one and all for my shortcomings. As a final tribute to the man who represents the very best thinking of the Republican party, I dedicate this column. Each of the quotes that follow are verbatim. Even my twisted mind could not make them up.

"There's a huge trust. I see it all the time when people come up to me and say, "I don't want you to let me down

again."

"It's a myth to think I don't know what's going on. It's a myth to think that I'm not aware that there's opinions that don't agree with mine, because I'm fully aware of that.

"As you know, we don't have relationships with Iran. I mean, that's - ever since the late '70s, we have no contacts with them, and we've totally sanctioned them. In other words, there's no sanctions - you can't - we're out of sanctions.

"My job is a job to make decisions. I'm a decision-if the job description were, what do you do-it's decision maker.

"And so, in my State of the - my State of the Union - or state my speech to the nation, whatever you want to call it, speech to the nation --I asked Americans to give 4,000 years - 4,000 hours over the next - the rest of your life - of service to America.

"I'm the decider, and I decide what is best. And what's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the secretary of defense."

Ranks right up there with "You're doin' a heck of a job Brownie".

"Will the highways on the Internet

become more few?

"Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.

"The Bob Jones policy on interracial dating, I mean I spoke out on interracial dating. I spoke against that. I spoke out against interracial dating. I support the policy of interracial dating.

"My plan reduces the national debt, and fast. So fast, in fact, that economists worry that we're going to run out of debt to retire.

"It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it."

Only a few more days, but by the gods, I am going to miss that man!

Support Those Who Support You!

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

You are invited to

Charlie's
Phoenix

Cowboy & western dancing nights

727 W. Camelback Rd.
602.265.0224
www.charliesonline.com



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

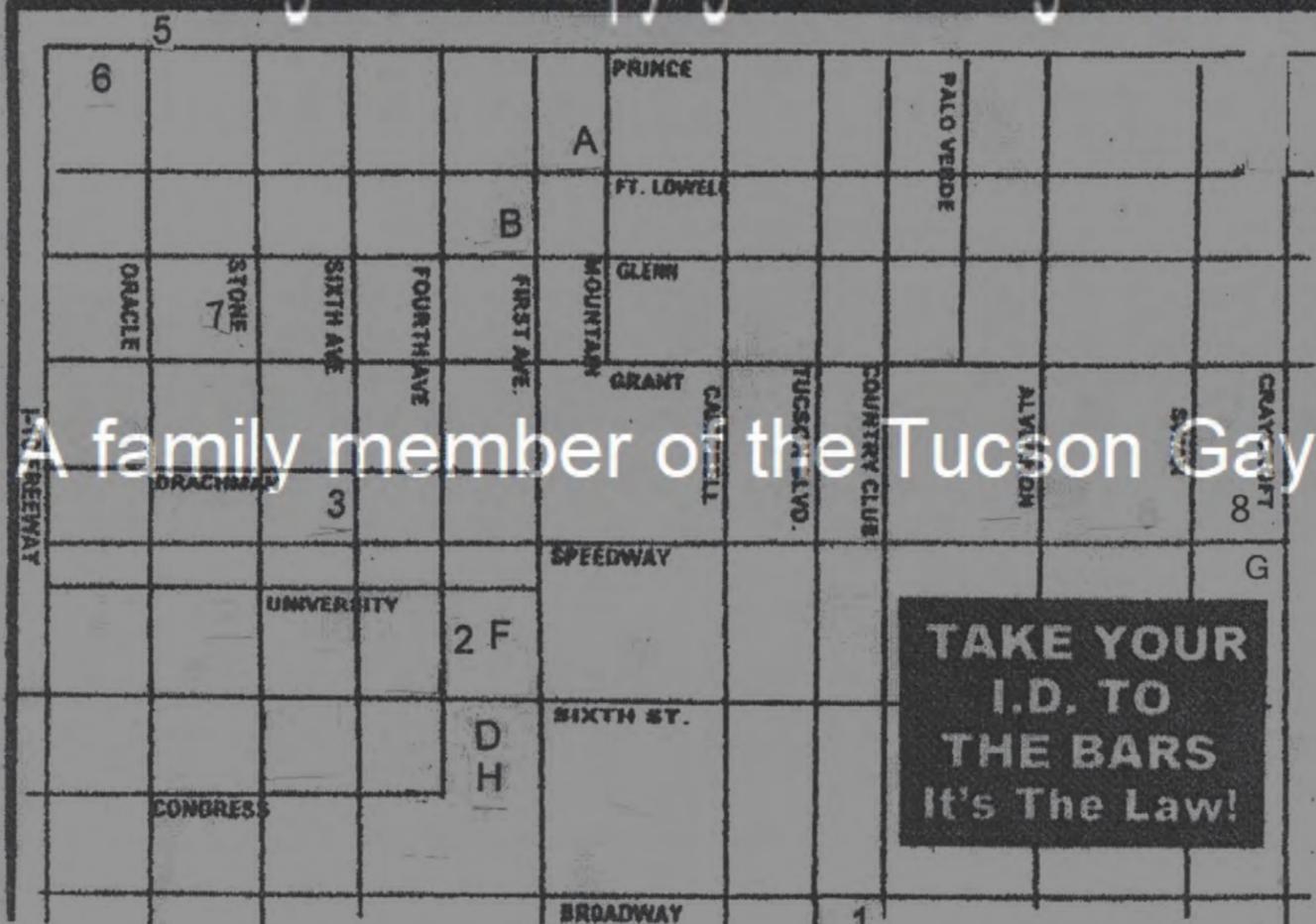
Douglas J. Newman, P.C.

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

TUCSON DIRECTORY
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved



Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
3710 N. Oracle Rd,
292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Organizations

- A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151
- B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626
- D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779
- E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223
- F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770
- G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647
- H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

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

TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES

Zimmermann Chiropractic
50% Off Initial visit
 Student & Military Disc.
 2272 E. Speedway Blvd.
 Tucson, AZ 85719
CALL NOW: 520.326.9355

ARCHITIQUE HOMES INC.
Free Estimates
REMODELING
ADDITIONS
NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
 In Business Since 1985
 2861 E. Fort Lowell Rd. Suite 2
 Tucson, AZ 85718
520-323-8855

NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN
 BETTER HEALTH, BETTER MEDICINE™
20% Off Initial visit
 PAIN RELIEF ~ WEIGHT LOSS
 FAT DEPOSIT DISSOLVE
 2272 E. Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85719
520.326.9355

Tierra Antigua REALTY
Bill Cole REALTOR®
 Licensed Agent for over 28 years
EXPERIENCED, SUCCESSFUL
 Will Help You Achieve Your Financial Goals
 Cell 520 358-8459 b-cole@netzero.net
 Solar and Green building my specialty

Timm Kuhns Photography
 Portraits - Landscapes - Architecture
 Weddings - Family Events - Special Occasions
 Passion Skill Vision
 Tucson, AZ
 520-390-4921
TimmKuhnsPhotography.com intertwine@earthlink.net

Nikolaus Groesser REALTOR®
 520.918.5216
nikg@longrealty.com
LONG REALTY COMPANY

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>

4400 Hair Salon
CREG YEDDING
 Hair Designer / Stylist
520-322-5858
azspyder@msn.com
 4400 E. Broadway Suite 106
 Tucson, AZ 85711

DEL ANGEL FUNERARIAS
 Hay un ángel cerca de usted
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

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

Ph.D. RICH MUSZYNSKI
 LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
 520.906.7048 Phone | 5956 E. Pima, Suite 130
 520.296.8157 Fax | Tucson, AZ 85712

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

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

It's a great time to buy a home...
 On 12/12/08 there were 68 homes under \$120k with at least 3 bedrooms in central Tucson.
 You could own one for around \$99,900!
Century 21
 Call Mike Pirodo: REALTOR® 272-6363
mikepirodo@century21.com
 First time home buyers, call about the 0 down, Pima County Loan program and other great first time buyer programs!
*1st 20% loan guarantee, 60 year term, 5.25% fixed rate, .25% PMI, 1.25% fees, including taxes.

A. Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.
 Counseling - Psychotherapy - Consulting
 6812 North Oracle Rd. Suite 100
 Tucson, Arizona 85704 520-797-2117

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

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

520-615-6436
TUCSON GLBT Chamber Of Commerce
 Inclusive ▼ Engaged ▼ Professional
 P. O. Box 13312
 Tucson, AZ 85732
info@tucsonglbtchamber.org
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

The Sirens Of Cuba Call

Cuba...like the mythic island of Atlantis, lies somewhere in the seas just off the south-eastern coast of America, cloaked in mystery borne of an American embargo and buried under the shadow of presumed "socialist" evil. Now, with the help of a film-maker, a little window into the island nation has been opened. Michael Moore, in his illegal tour of Cuba's hospitals and hospitality has thrown a brick through the looking glass.

Even the daring Mr. Moore may have found entry into the former Caribbean shangri-la heavy going if not for the recent change in Cuban presidents. Fidel, ill and ageing, has named a brother to the presidency, in the long tradition of rulers who feel ownership in their countries. The brother, whose name is as unimportant as his presidency, provides an opportunity for the United States to change it's stance against the island nation. The new president and the Cuban people are anxious for the U.S. to recognize the end of the Castro era and move away from the near total embargo the U.S. has held against Cuba for half a century.

The embargo has been the U.S. effort to ensure the failure of the Cuban Socialist Experiment. While the Great Experiment in Democracy has been often trumpeted in America, the U.S. government has put every effort behind making sure the Socialist Equivalent fails. To be sure, the U.S. has often taken the high moral ground and pointed to the political abuses that Castro has been undoubtedly guilty of; he has long practiced the torture, imprisonment without trial, wiretapping and the lot against his enemies. While the U.S. abstained from similar behavior, it could afford to point to Castro as an example of what America stood against.

Now that the United States has joined the world's more "conservative" governments in the practice of torture, un-lawful imprisonment, un-lawful extradition and the like, it has had to become more circumspect in its criticisms. This apparent change in American diplomacy must rankle American diplomats; no longer can they take the secure, smug stand against the dictatorial governments of the world. Rather, America has been reduced to rationalizing and justifying activities that formerly were branded un-American. America, as a debutante into the society of repression, can at least use it's new

posture to establish a closer relationship with regimes it formerly could not publicly countenance. Where once we were forced, by our high moral values, to condemn the Cuban government, now we can embrace it and excuse it.

With this new embrasure of common "tools" of government, our two countries can move away from the embargo and into a future of economic cooperation. Cuba though, will need to come into line with American standards in several key areas before it can hope for a full integration into the American economic fold. For example, Cuba has long produced too many doctors. According to the BBC, The Cubans have currently around 70,000 doctors. In all of Africa there are only 50,000. Accordingly, Cuban doctors are in demand and are allowed to travel to many parts of the world where medical care is lacking; Venezuela enjoys hosting many Cuban doctors, to the delight of an otherwise under-served population.

This surprise benefit of the long and difficult Castro government goes counter to American medical philosophy, which dictates that the supply of doctors remain low so that the demand for medical care supports a high cost ratio. Which means that most of the people that build the houses in America are without medical care as long as they are working; to qualify for medical care in America the working class must either become wealthy or indigent; otherwise, the American practice of severely limiting the number of doctors forces the cost of medical care beyond the reach of the carpenter, plumber, builder and mechanic.

There can be no doubt that this surplus of doctors will be one of the things the Cubans will want to export if and when the embargo is lifted; what president Obama stands to gain from lifting the ill-conceived embargo is access to tens of thousands of doctors, all of whom could go a long way towards providing the medical care that Obama-Clinton finally wield the political clout to provide to working Americans. It is poetic that the means to relieve the American's medical nightmare, where they are tasked to build the country, but left to die when they become ill, comes from the little island nation, where the Socialist Experiment has borne at least the fruit of compassion.

POET'S CORNER LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

It's Friday night at Woody's, I'm parking my white Jeep Horns blare on busy Oracle, neighbor, you won't sleep.

It's seven in the evening, red fire engines scream

Hey neighbor, fifty feet away, surely you can't dream.

Susan plays her Gershwin blues, muffled is her sound

This ain't the fancy foothills, there's lotsa folks around.
So sleep no more, dear neighbor, ear plugs it's time to buy

Forget the "Fuzz", no need to buzz, let them just fly by.

At Woody's, dear sweet neighbors, we always have such fun

So join us every Friday, and go to sleep at one.



Tell Our
Advertisers
That You Saw
Their Ad
In The
OBSERVER

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) 870-1597
802 N. 4th Avenue • Tucson, Arizona 85705

ON-SITE COMPUTER REPAIR

Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting, Inc.

WE FIX PCs AND MACs!

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

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

(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

Seattle Gay/Lesbian Bars Lively, Defiant Despite Threat Of Ricin Attack

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) - No casualties from Ricin-poisoning were reported in Seattle following a terrorist letter that was mailed to eleven of the city's bars and to the newspaper The Stranger, reported towleroad.com.



CNN reports: "Investigators have no evidence that whoever mailed the letters has the ability to make good on the threats, Seattle police said. Still, the investigation is proceeding on the assumption that the danger could be real, they said. The state crime lab is examining the letters for any evidence that could lead to a suspect, a Seattle Police Department spokesman said. Investigators are checking tips from the public and are working closely with the FBI and federal postal inspectors, according to police."

SLOG reports on a pub crawl that happened in defiance of the threats: "The pub crawl—or at least five out of the 11 bars, which was all I was man enough to make it to last night—was mobbed. As the doorman at C.C.Attle's succinctly put

it, 'Yeah, everybody's out tonight. They're like, 'F**K YOU, RICIN MAN!' Most crawlers did not estimate the threat to their lives to be a serious one. 'I think it's bullshit,' said C.C.Attle's patron John Zima...Everywhere, people danced and embraced and made out with abandon. Everywhere, everyone planned to be back out at the bars tonight, in defiance of the demented, would-be ricin poisoner's claim in his letters to the 11 bars that he would strike on a Saturday night in January. At the end of the night, Kevin York of Pizza Fusion—which gave out free pizza to bar crawlers all evening, no proof-of-Gayness required—said they'd had their busiest night since they opened a few months back."

FDA Approves New HIV Blood Test

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Federal regulators have approved a new HIV test that screens for two, less common forms of the virus, reported 365Gay.com.

The Food and Drug Administration said the TaqScreen MPX Test is the first to simultaneously detect HIV-2 and HIV-1 Group O strains. Both types of HIV are mainly found among patients in Africa, but the FDA said they have recently been detected in the U.S. The test, which is made by a division of Swiss drugmaker Roche, also screens for the

most common forms of HIV and hepatitis. The MPX test is designed to screen for infectious diseases in human blood and tissue samples from donors.

"Blood donor testing laboratories will be able to use nucleic acid technology to screen for additional HIV strains, further assuring that donated blood and tissue are free from infection," FDA division chief Jesse Goodman said in a statement. Other companies offering HIV tests include Abbott Laboratories and Gen-Probe Inc. Roche Molecular Systems Inc. is based in Pleasanton, Calif.

Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daavid MacKenzie

The Stork Cometh

The New Year of 2009 has let me know I'm not a kid anymore. Knowledge with a vengeance, in fact. First indication was that, at almost 48 years of age (I lose the "almost" on the 9th of February), I'm about to be older than the President of the United States of America, provided Bush and Cheney don't pull an achtung deal before the 20th or blow the planet up after all. They still have a week to do either one, or both, you know. But now comes word of a new twig on the family tree, as my daughter Miranda gave birth on the 10th of January to a daughter, Damara, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. So y'all can knock off calling me the Old Queer Hippie. I'm now laying claim to being The Groovy Grandpa.

But the news hasn't brought an overwhelming sense of joy, either. (Oh really, Daev? Coulda fooled me.) Just ask any physician about the dangers of reopening old wounds. There's a 15-year old one here that just got reopened. In 1994, my marriage was dissolved. My former wife, who had become a drug addict towards the end of our marriage, had been arrested the previous Easter (during our separation) for severe neglect of our three daughters. My father made available the house he then owned in Oshkosh for me to raise those daughters. But Dane County (Madison) refused and placed my daughters in foster care instead. Why?

I was (and continue to be) an openly Bisexual man. That was all. I made the mistake of taking the anti-discrimination laws in Dane County and the State of Wisconsin as what they said they were. My then attorney, a Madison character named Bryon Walker, had told me that if anything happened to my daughters while in Dane County foster care, he'd file suit against Dane County within the next 24 hours. My daughters were physically assaulted by their first "foster parents" to the point where their teachers in a Sun Prairie school reported the bruises to the police. At almost the same time, one of my daughters was reported to me by Dane County Human Services as having been sexually assaulted.

What did Walker do? Skipped town for a couple of months and refused to appear at my custody hearings in Madison. As a result of my attorney's disappearance, the "foster parents" announced their plan to have my parental rights stripped from me and adopting my youngest daughter. Why? Again, I was (and continue to be) an openly Bisexual man. That's all. My ex-wife couldn't care less, having moved to Iowa (I guess they have better speed and cocaine there than in Madison). She gave her rights up without a battle. What did my mother, their grandmother, do? Hide behind her "church" (she had converted from Episcopalianism to Mormonism 25 or so years earlier) and kissed Dane County's collective ass so that she could make sure her rights of access to the granddaughters weren't cut off. To Hell with mine, I was the "Gay son" of a Mormon. I didn't count.

And Dane County cut off my rights to my youngest daughter. (And what a coincidence, the ink wasn't dry on the papers before Bryon Walker showed up in Madison again, with a new office on the Isthmus to boot.) Thank God for MySpace. (I never thought I'd say anything remotely resembling that relating to one of Rupert Murdoch's media properties, but there you have it.) My youngest

daughter, a couple of years ago, finally tracked me down outside of the oversight of her ultra-Fundie "parents" and soon after started posting heart-breaking poetry on her blog proclaiming her anguish over having been forcibly separated from me and her grandfather, my father, when she was 7 years old. (Her grandfather never saw her again, which I have no doubt led to the depression that dogged him for his last five years.) She turns 18 in November and will finally have no restrictions on whoever she chooses to associate with.

If La Crosse County tries anything against my daughter even remotely resembling the same thing that Dane County pulled against me, I'm going to braid the judge's reproductive organs. And I don't give a damn who knows it, either. And some folks wonder why I left Wisconsin. ...

An unrelated note - I've just donated by old VHS of the British documentary DAMNED IN THE U.S.A. to the collection at Wingspan. DAMNED IN THE U.S.A., you may recall, is about the censorship campaign waged by Jesse Helms, Al D'Amato and Donald Wildmon, among other pseudoChristians, against Robert Mapplethorpe, Andres Serrano, Annie Sprinkle and other artists - many of whom turned out to be gay or Bisexual, now isn't THAT special? - in the days of Bush I. Check it out. Watch it. If need be, make a copy of it if you can't find one to purchase online. But USE IT. The First Amendment rights you neglect may be your own someday soon...



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.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®



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.™

dankalm.com

Tim Brown

Insurance Services

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

520.322.3924
pimainsurance.com

Arizona's Premier Choice
FARMERS

SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY. GET OVER IT!

Starline logo

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 bcasey@umcaz.edu

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

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.saaaf.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@gpgclcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual,

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.:

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.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust \$2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, \$3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping HIV/AIDS clients with their Veterinary bills).

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out - Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Dart Tournament, 7pm \$3 entry fee/Pot Match.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "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..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Bicardi Thursdays - \$3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Boyz Nite Out - boys pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am..

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Sysan Artemis In The Lounge 6-9pm, Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust \$2.25/Pitcher. 3-7pm.

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

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

COPPER RAINBOW BISTRO at David's Oasis Camping Resort, Bisbee, AZ 520-979-6650
www.azgaycamping.com

Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member \$15.00 Bar Hours:

*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$100 off.

*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.

*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, January 16

THE BIZ - WinK...erotic entertainment pre-teaser 11:00 p.m.

COLORS - Guys & Dolls cocktail show featuring Tucson's queen of comedy, Lucinda Holliday and joining Lucy this week are Ajia Simone and Jessica Devereaux. 10:00 p.m. sharp.

YARD DOG - Karaoke at 9:00 p.m. Every Friday

Saturday, January 17

THE BIZ - Hotflash Dance for women who love women 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Carnival Latino guest DJ's 9:00 p.m.

COYOTE MOON - Baillamos - with DJ Dirty D.

WOODY'S - Budweiser Family Promo fro 11:00 p.m. to 12:30a.m.

YARD DOG - Dart Tournery at 11:00 a.m. Then Arizona Leather Party in the Dog Pound from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Leather/Levi dress required.

Sunday, January 18

THE BIZ - Season premiere of the "L Word"

WOODY'S - Special Show featuring Ajia Simone and Maya McKenzie 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20

COLORS - Inauguration Party - Drink Specials all day!

WOODY'S - Special Inauguration Party featured on their 8 foot screen.. History-Making inauguration of Barack Obama.

YARD DOG - Dart Tournament at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 22

WOODY'S - "Cover Girl Revue Show" hosted by Tori Steele and featuring China Collins with special guests.

Friday, January 23

YARD DOG - Karaoke 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 24

COYOTE MOON - Wingspan Tea Dance 4-8 p.m. and January Birthday Party.

WOODY'S - The Wet Party "Ice Ball" with special guest Chi Chi LaRue in her first Tucson appearance and also featuring Blake Riley, Nash Lawler, Jason Sechrest & Sister Roma. Tickets available exclusively at Woody's. \$10 general admission, \$25 VIP (limited number)..

YARD DOG - Dart Tournery at 11 a.m. and Bear's Beer Bust at 3:00 p.m.

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

COMMENTARY. . . .

Foes Of Cleveland's Domestic Partner Registry Collect Mostly Yawns

By Connie Schultz

Well, it turns out that the gaggle of pastors trying to stop Cleveland's domestic partner registry couldn't get 11,000 of their own flock to sign the petition by the deadline. The group's leader, the Rev. C. Jay Matthews, said the Christmas season made it tough for those gathering signatures. I guess peddling intolerance was just no match for Jesus.

Hate took a holiday. How 'bout that?

Heartening news, but since the target of the pastors' campaign is homosexuals, I feel a tug of responsibility to warn my fellow heterosexuals what lies ahead when the registry becomes law later this year. For starters, homosexual employees will continue to contribute to the local economy by holding down jobs and spending the bulk of their income right here. Homosexual employers will do their damndest to keep their workers gainfully employed. If the current pattern holds, they'll still hire heterosexuals, even.

Gay and Lesbian couples will still attend religious services, donate to charities and raise children with strong moral compasses, and table manners, too.

Total mayhem.

Some don't comprehend what the registry does and doesn't do. Understandable, since the registry is a good intention wrapped in a whisper. The registry just guarantees that unmarried couples with none of the legal rights of marriage can pay the city a fee to document that they are unmarried couples with none of the legal rights of marriage.

It's as if Cleveland City Council said, "Look, we know that all committed adult couples should be equal in the eyes of the law, but we just can't bring ourselves to say that out loud, 'kay?' Now, the registry does arm Gays and Lesbians with a defense, sort of, against greedy relatives, self-righteous clergy and all sorts of official-looking people who think only heterosexuals should have the legal right to marry, no matter how many times it takes them to get it right. To be specific, the registry gives homosexual couples a piece of paper to call their own.

For example, let's say you're Gay and weeping over the body of your recently deceased partner when her parents show up at the funeral and demand the keys to the house you shared for the last 20 years. If the house was in her name only, I'm afraid you're still headed for a rental with a futon, but now you can whip out that sheet of domestic registry paper, wave it wildly and shout, "We are too a couple. Says so right here on this document."

Much better, don't you think? Some people who oppose the domestic partner registry claim that it may look benign, but it's actually a toe in the door for The Homosexual Agenda. I've never seen this agenda, but I know it exists, because every time I ask a homosexual about it, the same list gets rattled off:

1. Pick up milk and bread.
2. Pay electric bill.
3. Call Mom.

They never get to that part of the agenda recited by their opponents, who say if you give homosexuals the right to call themselves a couple, the next thing you know they'll demand health care for their beloveds, just like the spouses of heterosexuals. They'll want real weddings, too, with cake and everything. (Must they kiss?) If they split, they'll want joint custody of the children they've been raising together. Parental responsibility. It's one thing after another with those homosexuals.

Not to worry. The same pastors who failed to get enough signatures for the first petition are back on the case. This time, they need only 5,000 signatures to file what is called an ordinance by initiative. That way, they say, they'll just write up their own legislation to outlaw the registry, and then Cleveland City Council will pass it. This would be the same Cleveland City Council that has already said, "Nah, we want the registry."

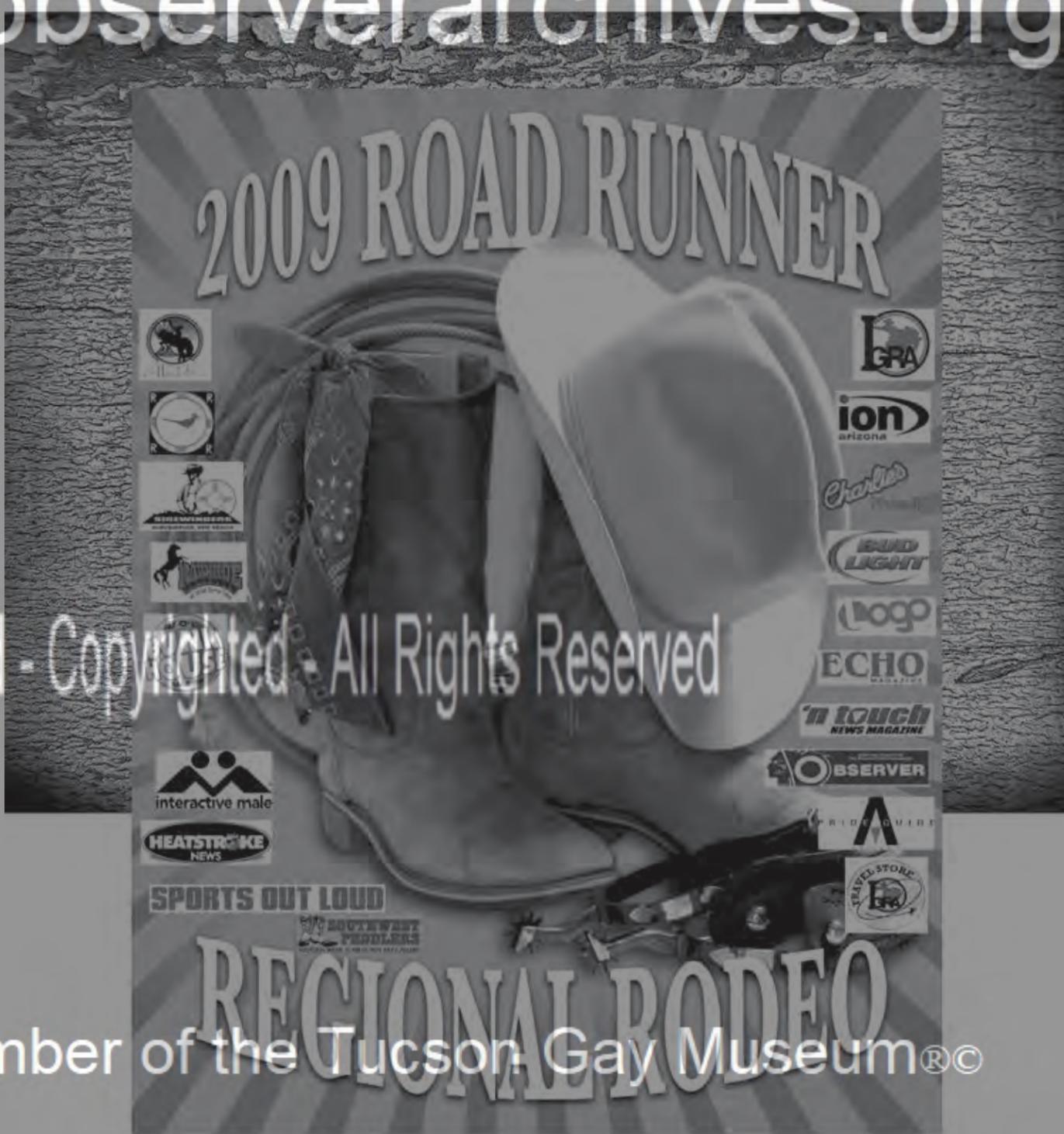
These pastors are starting to remind me of a sign I saw last week outside a little church in Homerville, Ohio: "If you throw dirt, you lose ground." The sands are shifting, dear pastors. Time to leap for higher ground.

(Connie Schultz is a columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper, from which this is reprinted from.)



The rodeo is riding into town!
Join the cowboys and cowgirls from

- JANUARY 16-18, 2009 -



RAWHIDE at
WILD HORSE PASS
5700 W NORTH LOOP RD
CHANDLER, ARIZONA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16:
WESTERN COOKOUT,
DANCE & CONTESTANT
REGISTRATION at

SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
JANUARY 17 & 18: RODEO
EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE
DAY at RAWHIDE

FIND US AT www.agra-phx.com
(602) 265-8166
rodeoinfo@agra-phx.com

GRACE INN PHOENIX
10831 S 51st STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

STARTING IN 2010
ROAD RUNNER REGIONAL
RODEO WILL BE HELD ON
PRESIDENTS' DAY
WEEKEND IN FEBRUARY