



Tucson Observer Archives

Barack Obama Sworn In As 44th President



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Stepping into history, Barack Hussein Obama grasped the reins of power as America's first African American president on Tuesday (Jan. 20), saying the nation must choose "hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord" to overcome the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

In frigid temperatures, an exuberant crowd of more than a million packed the National Mall and parade route to celebrate Obama's inauguration in a high-noon ceremony. They filled the National Mall, stretching from the inaugural platform at the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial in the distance. With 11 million Americans out of work and trillions of dollars lost in the stock market's tumble, Obama emphasized that his biggest challenge is to repair the tattered economy left behind by outgoing President George W. Bush.

"Our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed," Obama said in an undisguised shot at Bush administration policies. "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin the work of remaking America."

What follows is the full transcript as prepared for delivery of President Barack Obama's inaugural remarks on Jan. 20, 2009, at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

My fellow citizens:

I stand here today humbled by the task before us, grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors. I thank President Bush for his service to our nation, as well as the generosity and cooperation he has shown throughout this transition. Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because We the People have remained faithful to the ideals of our forbearers, and true to our founding documents. So it has been. So it must be with this generation of Americans.

That we are in the midst of crisis is now well understood. Our nation is at war, against a far-reaching network of violence and hatred. Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age. Homes have been lost; jobs shed; businesses shuttered. Our health care is too costly; our schools fail too many; and each day brings further evidence that the ways we use energy strengthen our adversaries and threaten our planet. These are the indicators of crisis, subject to data and statistics. Less measurable but no less profound is a sapping of confidence across our land - a nagging fear that America's decline is inevitable, and that the next generation must lower its sights.

Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real. They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America - they will be met. On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics. We remain a young nation, but in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned. Our journey has never been one of short-cuts or settling for less. It has not been the path for the faint-hearted - for those who prefer leisure over work, or seek only the pleasures of riches and fame. Rather, it has been the risk-takers, the doers, the makers of things - some celebrated but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up the long, rugged path towards prosperity and freedom. For us, they packed up their few worldly possessions and traveled across oceans in search of a new life. For us, they toiled in sweatshops and settled the West; endured the lash of the whip and plowed the hard earth. For us, they fought and died, in places like Concord and Gettysburg; Normandy and Khe Sahn. Time and again these men and women struggled and sacrificed and worked till their hands were raw so that we might live a better life. They saw America as bigger than the sum of our individual ambitions; greater than all the differences of birth or wealth or faction.

This is the journey we continue today. We remain the most prosperous, powerful nation on Earth. Our workers are no less productive than when this crisis began. Our minds are no less inventive, our goods and services no less needed than they were last week or last month or last year. Our capacity remains undiminished. But our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America. For everywhere we look, there is work to be done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act - not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do.

Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions - who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage. What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them - that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply. The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works - whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end. And those of us who manage the public's dollars will be held to account - to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day - because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.

Nor is the question before us whether the market is a force for good or ill. Its power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched, but this crisis has reminded us that without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control - and that a nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous. The success of our economy has always depended not just on the size of our Gross Domestic Product, but on the reach of our prosperity; on our ability to extend opportunity to every willing heart - not out of charity, but because it is the surest route to our common good. As for our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals. Our Founding Fathers, faced with perils we can scarcely imagine, drafted a charter to assure the rule of law and the rights of man, a charter expanded by the blood of generations. Those ideals still light the world, and we will not give them up for expedience's sake. And so to all other peoples and governments who are watching

UPDATE

Families You Know: Outspoken Families Training, Jan. 31

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Families You Know initiative encourages us all to share our family stories to address the misinformation that abounds about LGBT people. But where does one start? How do you talk with neighbors, co-workers, or others in the community tell your family story in a way that changes hearts and minds?

Join us, Saturday, Jan. 31, 10:00 a.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., for OUTSpoken Families, a project of the Family Equality Council, to learn and practice telling your story. The training will focus on effective communication strategies. The four-hour training will address the myths and facts about LGBT families, keys to effective framing and language, and how to answer tough questions. You'll have time to practice telling the story of your family, and will leave with a speaker's toolkit.

Let's change the way our families are talked about, once conversation at a time; become an OUTSpoken Family. Registration is required; to register, call (520) 624-1779. For more information, contact Elizabeth Burden or Courtney Jones, (520) 624-1779, wingspan@wingspan.org.

The Rogue Theatre Presents 'Orlando' Thru Feb. 8

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Virginia Woolf's imaginative Orlando follows the adventures of a young man over 300 years, from the Elizabethan Age to the modern era, as he encounters love in its many forms and experiences the world from the viewpoint of both sexes. A brilliant and gender-bending adventure adapted to the stage by MacArthur genius, Sarah Ruhl.

The Rogue Theatre will present Orlando at the Cabaret Theatre at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott. All tickets \$20, Thursdays January 29 and February 5 Pay-What-You-Will Night.

For more information, contact the Rogue Box Office, (520) 551-2053, ticket@theroguetheatre.org, theroguetheatre.org/prod0403.htm.

Reveille Men's Chorus Holding Auditions

Reveille Men's Chorus is currently auditioning new members for their 2009 season. This is Reveille's 14th year of changing lives through music. Their spring program is titled "Make 'em Laugh, Comedy in Music". If you've seen a Reveille concert before you know that humor has always been an essential element in their shows and this concert will be no different, showcasing the chorus's comedic as well as musical talents. The program will be presented on April 25 and 26 at the Berger Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. Artistic Director Linus Lerner has selected a broad spectrum of music that parodies all elements of this crazy world we are living in. Audience members will be asked to check their sensitivities at the door, all bets are off and political correctness will be out the window. No sacred cow will be left unturned!

If you enjoy singing and have thought about joining Reveille in the past it's not too late. Rehearsals are held every Thursday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Hall at the Historic Y, 300 E. University, just off the historic 4th Avenue district. For more information call the Reveille line at 504-1758 or you can visit them online at www.reveillemenschorus.org. Reveille Men's Chorus is dedicated to musical excellence and performs world wide to promote human rights, diversity, and a world free of AIDS.

Chuzapalooza Was A Strike With The Bowlers

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Bowlers from all over converged on Tucson for the Chuzapalooza bowling tournament.

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

This year's event had a new location, 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, for which many were thrown, Tournament Director Kevin Wheeler had a string of strikes for a 274 games and Johnny Gonzales had the crowd enthralled when he strung the first 10 in a row for a 287 game.

The 2009 winners were: Men's Singles - Stephen Mizell 777; Women's Singles - Karen Trimmer 761; Doubles - Scott Spandeand Neil Inman 1,405; Team - Vegas Girls (Suzanne Steelman, Karen Timmer, Lisa Fershin, Sherri Steelman) 2,741; Men's All Events - Stephen Mizell 2,211; Women's All Events - Heather Harves (of Tucson) 2,193. Tucsonan Chris King won the Division B Scratch Masters event.

A good time was had by all and organizers are looking forward to next year's event and their new association with Tucson Bowl and its manager Gary Graynor. For more tournament or Desert Coyotes LGBT bowling league information, contact Kevin Wheeler, Tournament Director, zonafd1@aol.com or go online to chuzapalooza.com, and for the league, contact League President, Paul Katona, pkatona3@aol.com.

Desert Voices Concert And Fund Raiser, Feb. 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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.

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Barack Obama Sworn In As 44th President Continued From Page One

today, from the grandest capitals to the small village where my father was born: know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more.

Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint. We are the keepers of this legacy. Guided by these principles once more, we can meet those new threats that demand even greater effort - even greater cooperation and understanding between nations. We will begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people, and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan. With old friends and former foes, we will work tirelessly to lessen the nuclear threat, and roll back the specter of a warming planet. We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense, and for those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you.

For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus - and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace. To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect. To those leaders around the globe who seek to sow conflict, or blame their society's ills on the West - know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy. To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history; but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.

To the people of poor nations, we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. And to those nations like ours that enjoy relative plenty, we say we can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders; nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed, and we must change with it. As we consider the road that unfolds before us, we remember with humble gratitude those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains. They have something to tell us today, just as the fallen heroes who lie in Arlington whisper through the ages.

We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment - a moment that will define a generation - it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all. For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the

American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends - hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship.

This is the source of our confidence - the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny. This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath. So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are and how far we have traveled. In the year of America's birth, in the coldest of months, a small band of patriots huddled by dying campfires on the shores of an icy river. The capital was abandoned. The enemy was advancing. The snow was stained with blood. At a moment when the outcome of our revolution was most in doubt, the father of our nation ordered these words be read to the people: "Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]."

America. In the face of our common dangers, in this winter of our hardship, let us remember these timeless words. With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come. Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.



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Another Utah Poll Backs LGBT Rights

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - A new statewide poll seeking to debunk the Gay-Mormon divide shows substantial support – 63 percent – for additional legal protections for Gay and Transgender people, the Salt Lake Tribune Reported.

legal protections – such as hospital visitation, inheritance rights and job safeguards – for same-sex couples.

The survey, conducted Jan. 8-14 by Ogden-based Information Alliance and commissioned by Equality Utah, also shows wide margins favoring workplace and housing protections for Gay or Transgender residents as well as health-insurance availability for same-sex partners. Those results echo a recent Salt Lake Tribune poll that reveals most Utahns (56 percent) back

However, Equality Utah did not provide a breakdown of how LDS respondents answered individual questions in its survey. The Tribune 's poll shows Mormons are split almost 50-50 on whether Gay and Lesbian couples should receive some legal protections. Equality Utah's poll, with a 4 percent margin of error, did mirror Tribune numbers showing most residents oppose adoption rights for same-sex couples – although the advocacy group's survey also indicates most Utahns would green-light adoption of a partner's child.

Write That Will

By Dan Kalm

TUCSON (Observer Update) -You've worked hard to accumulate valuable assets over the years. How do you plan to distribute this property after your death?

It's important to have a will, regardless of the value of your possessions. This written document instructs how you want assets that pass via your will (money, property and other assets) to be distributed after your death. If you die without a will, your probate assets will be divided according to state law.

to handle all administrative aspects of the will, including collecting assets, paying all debts and taxes and distributing your estate, according to your wishes. List personal property such as artwork, collectibles, jewelry and other personal property that you want to go to specific individuals. Be clear about how you want your assets distributed. Do not include funeral preferences in your will because it may not be read until several weeks after your death. Review your will every few years and have your attorney make changes as appropriate.

A little advance preparation will help ensure that your final wishes are handled the way you planned them to be.

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

Here are some tips for preparing a will: Have an attorney draft your will. If you draft your own will, make sure it complies with state law or it could be invalid. Name an executor, whose role is

Obama Inspires Hope Among LGBTs Around The World

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - With all eyes on Washington, LGBT activists around the world remain optimistic about the incoming administration, Edge Boston reported.

individual freedoms in a framework of respect for all individual options. "We hope that this brings about a steady continuation of the development of individual freedoms in a framework of respect for all individual options," he said.

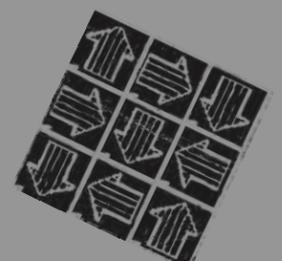
British Gay activist Peter Tatchell congratulated President-elect Barack Obama in an open letter earlier this month. He urged the incoming administration to propose a new United Nations International Human Rights Convention that would include protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and HIV status. Tatchell further called upon Obama to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and to lift bans on marriage for same-sex couples in the United States. He asked the incoming commander-in-chief to extend aid to countries based on their progress towards the repeal of anti-LGBT laws. And Tatchell called for the closure of Guantánamo Bay. "You have a historic opportunity to give new expression to the U.S.'s founding ideals of liberty, justice and equality by defending human rights-including human rights of LGBT people in the United States and worldwide," he said.

Guantánamo, Iraq and a perceived lack of action on climate change are among the myriad of issues for which Bush has faced international criticism since he took office in 2001.

Obama will take office under extremely high expectations, but Israeli journalist and political activist Yoav Sivan cautioned the administration may not be able to meet all of them. "The expectations for Obama-in every walk of life and politics-are so high that no matter what he does, he's doomed to be short of some high, often unrealistic standards," Sivan said.

Sunil Pant, who became the first openly Gay man elected to the Nepalese Parliament last April, agreed. "[I] see Obama being elected as the first black president of the USA as a symbol of inclusion towards equal participation and shared responsibilities and powers amongst all human beings," he said. Pant added he remains hopeful Obama will help bridge the gaps between Gays and straights and other groups. Rodrigo Martin, a Spanish Socialist Party delegate to Rainbow Rose in Brussels, remains optimistic Obama will reverse the Bush doctrine of the last eight years. "We hope that this brings about a steady continuation of the development of

Gay travel writer Michael Luongo plans to watch the inauguration with American and British ex-patriots in Buenos Aires. He noted the majority of Porteños remain focused on the global economic crisis, but Luongo added he feels Argentines largely support Obama. "People were quite excited during the elections... and felt they were a real change," he said.



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Lawsuits Filed Over Rule That Lets Health Workers Deny Care

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Seven states and two family-planning groups yesterday asked a federal court to block a controversial new federal regulation that protects health workers who refuse to provide care that they find objectionable, the Washington Post reported. In three lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court in Connecticut, the states and groups sought an immediate court order preventing the regulation from going into effect and a permanent decision voiding the rule.

"On the way out, the Bush administration has left a ticking political bomb that is set to explode literally on the day of the president's inaugural and blow apart women's rights," said Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, who filed one of the suits on behalf of his state, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Rhode Island. "This midnight rule is a nightmare for hospitals and clinics, as well as women." Blumenthal's lawsuit challenges the regulation on several grounds, charging that it is too vague and overbroad and conflicts with other federal laws and state laws. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America filed a second suit on behalf of its affiliates, while the American Civil Liberties Union filed sued on behalf of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, which represents many state and county health departments, among other providers.

"We filed this lawsuit today on behalf of the millions of women whose health care has been put in jeopardy by the Bush administration's parting shot at women's health," said Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards. "The courts must strike down this unconscionable, unconstitutional last-minute midnight rule."

Rebecca Ayer, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, which issued the regulation in December, said officials "have not had an opportunity to review

the lawsuits, and we will respond to the court on any pending litigation. The department followed appropriate procedures to put the regulation in place, and the regulation is fully supported by law." The regulation empowers federal officials to cut off federal funding for any state or local government, hospital, health plan, clinic or other entity that does not abide by existing federal laws requiring them to accommodate doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other employees who refuse to participate in any care they consider objectionable on ethical, moral or religious grounds.

Conservative groups, abortion opponents and others sought the rule to safeguard workers who refuse to provide such care from being fired, disciplined or penalized in other ways, and they defended the regulation. "The regulation is important, because we increasingly are seeing discrimination against health-care personnel who hold religious beliefs having to do with abortion and contraception," said David Stevens, chief executive of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations. "Unless these conscience rights are protected, people are going to be driven out of health care."

Women's health advocates, family-planning proponents, abortion rights activists and others say it will create a major obstacle to providing many health services, including abortion, emergency contraception for rape victims, family planning, infertility treatment and end-of-life care, as well as possibly a range of scientific research.

President-elect Barack Obama has voiced objections to the regulation and could repeal it, and legislation has been introduced in Congress to block the rule, but both of those steps could take months to complete

"We are seeking a court order as quickly as possible," Blumenthal said. "We need this immediate order to prevent confusion and chaos."

Portland Mayor Admits Past Relationship With Teen



PORTLAND, Oregon (Observer Update) - More than a year after denying it, the newly elected mayor of Portland has admitted having a sexual relationship with a male teenager in 2005, reported the Associated Press. Sam Adams, who is openly Gay, acknowledged the relationship in a statement after the Willamette Week newspaper broke the story on its Web site.

In Washington, D.C., for the inauguration, Adams will cut his trip short to issue a public apology in Portland,

said Wade Nkrumah, his spokesman. Adams, 45, said he and the teen were together in the summer of 2005, shortly after the teenager turned 18 in June, and when Adams was a city commissioner. The revelations come nearly a year and a half after Adams and the teen said rumors of a sexual relationship between them were false.

"I lied at the time because I was afraid that people would believe untrue rumors being circulated by an undeclared mayoral opponent that I had broken a law involving sexual relations with a minor. But this is not a good excuse," Adams said in his statement. Despite the rumors, Adams coasted to victory in his race, making Portland the largest U.S. city to ever elect an openly Gay mayor. He was sworn in Jan. 1.

In his statement Adams apologized to the teen for making him lie about the relationship. He also apologized to colleagues and voters.

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

'More Than A Day'

Tuesday, January 20, marked the "end of an error," with the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, ending the reign of terror of the "Bush Crime Family."

President Obama inherits a country: in the midst of two wars; bleeding jobs and economically and morally bankrupt thanks to the policies and actions of his predecessor and minions and Congress.

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008, this nation went to the polls and cast their collective ballot for change in the leadership of both the Executive and Legislative branches of the federal government and that has now come to complete fruition with the swearing in of this nation's new President, Barack Obama.

In the nation's Capitol, Washington, D.C., "change," has been in the air and will continue with President Obama, his Cabinet and staff who, working with Congress, will solve the problems the country faces, through new laws, programs and policies, resulting in the betterment of the lives of its citizens.

This will include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Americans, as well as those living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS, despite the "Rick Warren's" and television production screw ups and mistakes involving the openly Gay Episcopalian Bishop, Gene Robinson.

There are LGBT, HIV+ and straight supportive individuals serving in various posts in the Obama Administration as well as in Congress, meaning that issues of concern, such as hate crimes, Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military, governmental and legal recognition of committed, same-sex relationships (and subsequent families), and increased funding for medication, more research conducted on HIV/AIDS, will be dealt with during this new administration.

Will these issues be dealt with, in the same time and manner as then President Bill Clinton, in 1993, tried to do during his first week in office, when he had promised during the campaign to end the prohibition of open Gays and Lesbians serving in the nation's armed services, resulting in the backpedaling and disastrous implementation of the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the halting of any potential opportunity for advancement on any other LGBT issues of concern?

So how can one:

Have employment discrimination protections when there are no jobs?

Get treated for HIV/AIDS, as well as any other illnesses and diseases when there is no health coverage?

Serve openly and proudly in the country's Armed Services when Gitmo, Iraq and torture have occurred and continue to do so?

Receive governmental and legal recognition of their committed relationship and family when they have lost their home and savings?

This country's new President faces a daunting list of problems created by and dumped on his desk by his predecessor and Congressional minions and to paraphrase our new President, commenting about his call for national service (January 19), it will take "more than a day," to solve the country's troubles.

LGBT Americans should take Obama's comments to hear, heeding his call to help make the country a better place to live and work and be a part of the solution and not end up as a distraction because the time will come and the issues will be dealt with, as well as the problems we all now face because failure is not an option that none of us can afford.

Increase In Reported STDs

ATLANTA, Georgia (Observer Update) - Sexually spread diseases - for years on the decline - are on the rise, with reported chlamydia cases setting a record, government health officials said, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. The increase in chlamydia, a sometimes symptomless infection that can lead to infertility in women, is likely because of better screening, experts said. In 2007, there were 1.1 million cases, the most ever reported, said officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

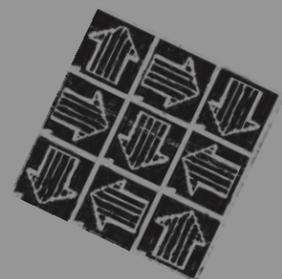
Thousands of women become infertile each year because of untreated chlamydia and gonorrhea infections, said Dr. John M. Douglas Jr., director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention. Syphilis cases, which number only in the thousands, also rose modestly, while the number of gonorrhea cases remained roughly the same. Syphilis can kill, if left untreated, but chlamydia and gonorrhea are not life-threatening.

Chlamydia can infect men as well as women, but rates are nearly three times higher for women. That's at least partly due to 1993 federal recommendations that emphasize testing for sexually active women age 25 and under. That emphasized screening in recent years is no doubt driving the record numbers, said Dr. Jonathan Zenilman, a professor of infectious diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "The issue with chlamydia is the more

test, the more you'll find," Zenilman said. The latest numbers translate to a rate of 370 cases per 100,000 people in 2007, up 7.5 percent from 2006.

The reported cases are just part of the picture. Health officials believe as many as 2.8 million Americans may have chlamydia. Many men and women have no symptoms from it. Some women experience pain in their lower abdomen or notice a burning sensation or a pus-like discharge when they urinate. Some men may also feel a burning during urination or have a discharge.

Gonorrhea cases appear to have plateaued and are currently at about 356,000 cases. Syphilis was on the verge of being eliminated in the United States about 10 years ago, but lately has been inching up. More than 11,000 new cases of the most contagious form of the disease were reported in 2007. Syphilis is relatively rare but has become a growing threat, particularly for Gay and Bisexual men, who accounted for about 65 percent of the 2007 cases.



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Prince Harry Faces Probe Over Homophobic, Racist Remarks

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Arab.

The comments drew outrage from human rights groups. The Equality and Human Rights Commission demanded a formal inquiry. "Neither the Army nor the Armed Forces tolerate inappropriate behavior in any shape or form. This sort of language is not acceptable in a modern army," a spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense said. If the military investigation finds the prince guilty of bringing discredit to the army, Harry could be demoted or merely given a slap on the wrist. The prince issued an apology through his office at St. James Palace, saying that he "fully understands how offensive this term can be, and is extremely sorry for any offence his words might cause."

The statement went on to say: "However, on this occasion three years ago, Prince Harry used the term without any malice and as a nickname about a highly popular member of his platoon." It also said that "Prince Harry used the term 'raghead' to mean Taliban or Iraqi insurgent." But British LGBT rights group called the apology insufficient. "It's conspicuous that Prince Harry has expressed regret for his racist remarks, but not yet for his homophobic ones," said Stonewall head Ben Summerskill in a statement to Britain's Pink News. "We trust that the Prince will act very swiftly to offer an appropriate apology, in particular to those Lesbian and Gay personnel currently on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan."

LONDON - The British Army has begun a probe into homophobic and racist remarks made by Prince Harry about members of his platoon, 365Gay.com reported. The slurs were made and captured on film in 2006 while Harry, the third in line to the throne, was a cadet at Sandhurst, the royal military college. The video became public on the weekend, when the News of the World newspaper put it on its Web site.

At one point the prince asks a member of his squad about an exercise the officer cadets had just done. Then, off camera but clearly audible, asks "How do you feel? Gay? Queer on the side?" Elsewhere on the tape he refers to another cadet as "our little Paki friend," a derogatory word for Pakistani. In another section he tells one of his comrades, who is wearing camouflage headgear: "It's Dan the Man ... Fuck me, you look like a raghead," a slur for an

Repeats Of 'We Are One' Event Will Include Bishop, HBO Says

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Bishop V. Gene Robinson's invocation at Sunday's (Jan. 18) "We Are One" inaugural event will be included in future repeats of the telecast on HBO, the premium cable channel, executives at the channel said Monday (Jan. 19). HBO was criticized for not televising the appearance by the Episcopal bishop, who is openly Gay, reported the New York Times.



saying. Bishop Robinson, the Episcopal Church's first openly Gay bishop, was invited to deliver the invocation last week after Mr. Obama endured criticism for asking the Rev. Rick Warren, the megachurch pastor who opposes same-sex marriage, to deliver the invocation at the inauguration on Tuesday. Cathleen Falsani, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, wrote on Monday: "Silencing the bishop's voice was a great loss. Obama's loss. Our loss." Christianity Today posted a video clip of the invocation on YouTube.

The bishop's invocation was delivered around 2:25 p.m. Eastern time, five minutes before the nationally televised portion of the event began. In an interview on National Public Radio Monday afternoon, the bishop said he had no idea why the event was scheduled that way. HBO broadcast the event live on Sunday afternoon and replayed it in the evening. It is scheduled to be rebroadcast on a sister channel, HBO2, on Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. Eastern.

It was the presidential inaugural committee, not HBO, who took responsibility for the perceived slight on Monday (Jan. 19), issuing a statement saying that it had always intended for the bishop's invocation to be included in the telecast and that the omission was an oversight. The inaugural committee scheduled the opening event at the Lincoln Memorial, and HBO purchased the exclusive rights to broadcast it.

"We regret the error in executing this plan - but are gratified that hundreds of thousands of people who gathered on the mall heard his eloquent prayer for our nation that was a fitting start to our event," Josh Earnest, a spokesman for the inaugural committee, was quoted as

The event is also available for replay viewing anytime on HBO.com - without Bishop Robinson's invocation for the moment, though the cable channel said it may be added to the version posted online as well as to the repeat broadcasts.



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Venus enters Pisces and conjuncts Uranus and launch our hearts into outer space. Will we comfortably float on clouds of whimsy or lose our grip and get lost into the vast cosmos? It is anyone's guess but stay flexible.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
 Your creativity hits a high note. Queer Scorps not only have a spark of artistic genius, they are also prone to a highly exciting, quick and flirty romance. You can attract anyone you like because there is something surprisingly inspiring about you now. What could it possibly be? I certainly don't know but capitalize on your personal oil before it dries up.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
 Malicious enemies can't harm you this week. Proud Rams pack so much personal charisma that they can change the dynamic. So don't use this rare and powerful energy for selfish gain. Spread your good vibes and get involved in charitable global causes. You need to rack up the good karma points while you can. Spend it all in your devilish pursuits this spring.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
 Gay Archers find that there are still a few exciting and romantic mysteries to plumb in their own backyard. Settle in, relax and cocoon or increase your home activities by implementing some long anticipated projects. You have reserves of energy and many great ideas. The challenge will be to choose which one gets you the most bang for the buck. Alright, go for ten bucks.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
 There is an admirer hidden somewhere in your current pack of pals. And they make themselves and their feelings known to you this week. Is this a good thing queer Bull? Perhaps. You may want to look before you leap. Rushing into romance with a friend may have long term consequences if things don't work out. Of course that is an unlikely outcome....?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
 Put your communication skills to work. If you have a great idea, don't be afraid to tell others. And, even if your idea is not all that great, it is bound to get better with age so you might as well claim it. Pink Caps are not usually so eloquent and compelling. But now you are able to charm the stars from the sky. Start talking and step out of the way!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
 Find ways of making yourself known in certain power circles. Not only will you blast your charm into the epicenter of power, you will be able to capitalize on it immediately. Your corporate climb can become a sprint but watch your footing. You have a very short window to press and impress before your charm wears thin. Ooops, too late!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
 Even if you don't usually think of yourself as lucky, you will find a little extra oomph working for you this week. Aqueerians are advised to take a small gambling chance and see if it pays off. Also, with a little extra research and acumen, investments can see some improvement and gain. It may not guarantee a cushy retirement but it may provide a small pillow.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
 Gay Crabs can find romance far afield this week if they decide to travel or get out of their usual self imposed boundaries. Free yourself from preconceived notions and connect with someone totally unexpected or from a very different background. Viva la difference! Can this exotic burst last more than a flash? I am not sure that it is meant to. But convince me otherwise.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
 What is it about Guppies this week that make them so amazing and charismatic? I don't know but you seem to have powers of persuasion that need to be maximized any way possible. Get out there and meet and greet. Long awaited results for long term projects can happen if you give them a little more of your attention. This is the time to manifest your destiny.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
 Will you splurge on some wilde, expensive notion this week? Proud Lions wear their hearts on their sleeves as well as in their wallets and are apt to go overboard in the pursuit of happiness. And why not? If you have it, spend it and if you don't, try to find someone who can spend it on you. You have a short window to declare your lurid intentions. Shout it Out.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
 If you find that your comfortable but dull relationships need a boost, this is the week for the jolt. Expect some shocks that rouse both of you out of your torpor. Single queer Virgins will not only make their mark on any mark, they find that their charisma will get them out of any uncomfortable jam. Spread it accordingly before you become burnt toast.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
 Proud Libras can add some sugar to their morning coffee at the office. Someone in the next cubicle catches your eye ... and your heart. But before you punch a co-worker's time card be sure that any illicit workplace dalliance can go the distance. What can heat up your wintry after hours can cool down by the spring. And then who will do your filing?

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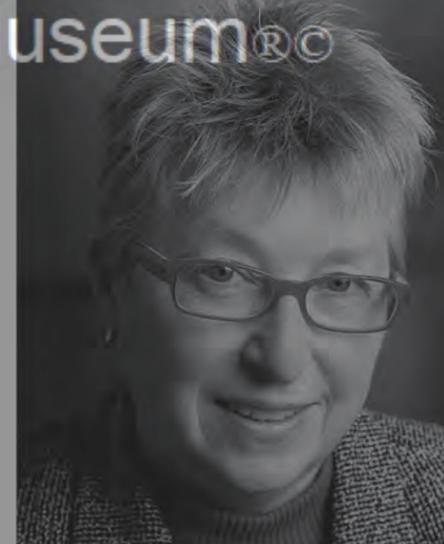


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Theatre Review

by Jack Melichar

The Arizona Theatre Company presents A RAISIN IN THE SUN, a play written by Lorraine Hansberry. It opened on Broadway in 1959 making Ms Hansberry the first African-American woman to have her work performed on the "Great White Way." The play was also awarded the Drama Critics Circle Award for best play, and she is currently the only African-American playwright to be so honored.

Set in Chicago in the 1950's, we are given a sense of what it was like to live in a segregated nation. The story centers on an African-American family, the Youngers, and their hopes and dreams for a better future - perhaps a home of their own with sunlight and open air, or an opportunity to attend medical school or a chance to have their own business. After the demise of the patriarchal Mr. Younger, the arrival of a \$10,000 insurance check has the entire family debating what to do with the money.

Throughout the play, they discuss the different possibilities, as well as their hopes and fears for the future. When Mama chooses to put a down payment on a house in an all white community, a soon-to-be neighbor visits the Younger household. In an act of ignorance and "subconscious" racism, he and the rest of the white home owners association offer the family money if they would be willing to move out of the community. The Youngers must then decide: do they stay or go?

Lorraine Hansberry knew about disappointment, false hope, and despair. Many of her African-American ancestors had moved North to enjoy a better life only to find exploitation and frustration. Their dreams had become nightmares. Her screenplay not only tells the story of the Youngers but reveals the plight of all who have failed to achieve their dreams.

The play is also part autobiographical. Hansberry's father, Carl Hansberry, moved his family to a white suburban Illinois community, whereupon

the Caucasian neighbors began harassing, threatening, and eventually assaulting the Hansberry family.

He ultimately sued the discriminating neighbors, and the case was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court where he won. Unfortunately, residential segregation continued to exist in the North for some time to come.

The performance is almost three hours long, but it is so well written and superbly acted that the time seems to fly, and I found myself wishing there was more to come. Once again, ATC has done an outstanding job - this time bringing a true American classic to Tucson. Congratulations! A RAISIN IN THE SUN will play at the Temple of Music and Art now thru

January 31. Call (520) 622-2823 or go online to Arizona Theatre Company "The play that changed American theatre forever...a seething interplay of past and present, of wisdom and passion."- The New York Times

Just a bit of an aside. The opening of the play last Friday (Jan. 16) could not have been better timed with the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on the 19th and the inauguration of America's first African-American president on the 20th.

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by Jimmy Petrol

Bush's Supporters Have Their Say

While seventy-five percent of Americans are said to disapprove of the current president, there are, according to the pollsters, still about a quarter of the American population that actually does approve of G.W. Bush. This astounding fact haunted me. What could there be to approve of?

To find out, I called my boyhood buddy, Jim-Bob Johnson, who lives in the same house he was living in as a kid. Stable, home-grown American; and since he works as a bartender at a down-home American bar I knew he would have the low-down straight from Joe Six Pack. It was as I suspected; Bush's supporters may include the families and employees of Big Oil, but he is aces with the boys at the bar.

"We-uns down here in Georgia have a great respect for G.W." began my old friend when I quizzed him on the subject. He went on; "There is a bunch of faggots and commies that want to destroy this country what don't appreciate all the things G.W. accomplished." There was a fair amount of noise in the background, as Jim-Bob was at work and Nascar was blaring on the television there, but I could tell that he was leaning up against the bar and letting some of the regulars listen in; they sounded like drunken Baptists, all "yeah!" and "uh-huh!" whenever Jim-Bob said anything into the phone. I was all ears now; we were about to find out what George W. Bush had been doing for his most loyal constituents! What a scoop; nobody else in the press had a clue as to his accomplishments; as far as the mainstream press was concerned, Bush had nothing to his credit.

"What do you and the boys see as George W's most important work as president?" There was a little extra noise on the line as right then the Nascar race on the television must have had a crash and there was a lot of whooping and laughing. When it quieted down, Jim-Bob started in on me. "Now listen here, old buddy; that there tone of yours is just the kind of thing that we don't like. I mean, what kind of thing is it to ask, as if

there weren't too many great things to pick from. I know you press guys have it in for the Republicans, otherwise you wouldn't have been so down on that pretty little Palin honey. Hoo-ey! What a piece! But you fellas just couldn't see letting a snappy, God fearing honey in on the party."

"No, no, Jim-Bob," it was hard to maintain the proper tone to placate him because there had been another Nascar crash and I had to yell to be heard, but I tried; you readers deserve to know what Bush has been doing that anybody appreciates. "Jim-Bob, I called you because nobody out here in the West can tell me anything. So spill it; what made Bush so great?"

"Well, like I said," began J.B., "It's hard to choose just any one thing. It was more of an attitude than a 'thing'. G.W. always knew how to treat them Arabs and he wasn't bashful about letting everybody know he meant to turn that there Iraq and Af-ganistan into parking lots if he had to to find them Weapons of Mass Destruction and kill that Islama-Bin-Ladin fella. On top of that, he knows better than to let them Arabs administer over all that oil they happen to have layin' up down there under all that sand. What good is an Arab at sophisticated, democracy-style finance and stuff? None, that's what. All them Arabs want to do is charge us so much for gas that we can't maintain our American way of life, what with our pick-ups got so big and suck so much gas. And that's American, to, by the way; lots of horsepower is what a real American wants, not one of those little sissy European tin cans. Ain't nothin' smart about them Smart-Cars. Just Dumb to drive a little thing like that...why what kind of broad could you get in one of them?"

It was time for Jim-Bob to tend bar for a while, as his customers were all hoarse and dry-throated from laughing at the Nascar crashes. He told me he would email me a list of G.W.'s best doin's just as soon as he could think of them. That was last Tuesday and I haven't heard a thing.

Suspects In Lesbian Rape Case Plead Not Guilty

MARTINEZ, California (Observer Update) - Three suspects in the alleged gang rape of a Lesbian woman pleaded not guilty and are likely to remain jailed until a judge decides whether there's enough evidence to put them on trial.

Lawyers for Humberto Hernandez Salvador, 31, Josue Gonzalez, 21, and Darrell Hodges, 16, entered the pleas to charges that include kidnapping, carjacking, gang rape and sodomy in the Dec. 13 attack in Richmond, about 15 miles northeast of San Francisco. Salvador also was charged with committing a hate crime, and his lawyer said he was also pleaded not guilty to that. A 15-year-old boy also accused in the attack has been charged as a juvenile in the case, but prosecutors are reviewing whether to charge him as an adult, like they did with Hodges.

Authorities say the woman was taunted for being a Lesbian during the 45-minute assault, which started as she was walking to the Richmond apartment she shared with a partner and their 8-year-old daughter. Besides being beaten and sexually assaulted in the street, the woman was forced back into her car and assaulted at an abandoned

apartment building where she was left without clothes, according to police.

The case has sparked protests and an outpouring of support for the woman who has been too traumatized to go back to her apartment or use her car. "She got beaten pretty bad and has a major medical situation around that, and she can't work," said Tallon Nunez, a Bay Area resident who has been raising money for the woman and acting as her spokeswoman. "Suddenly they are relying on one income that was not that much to start with,"



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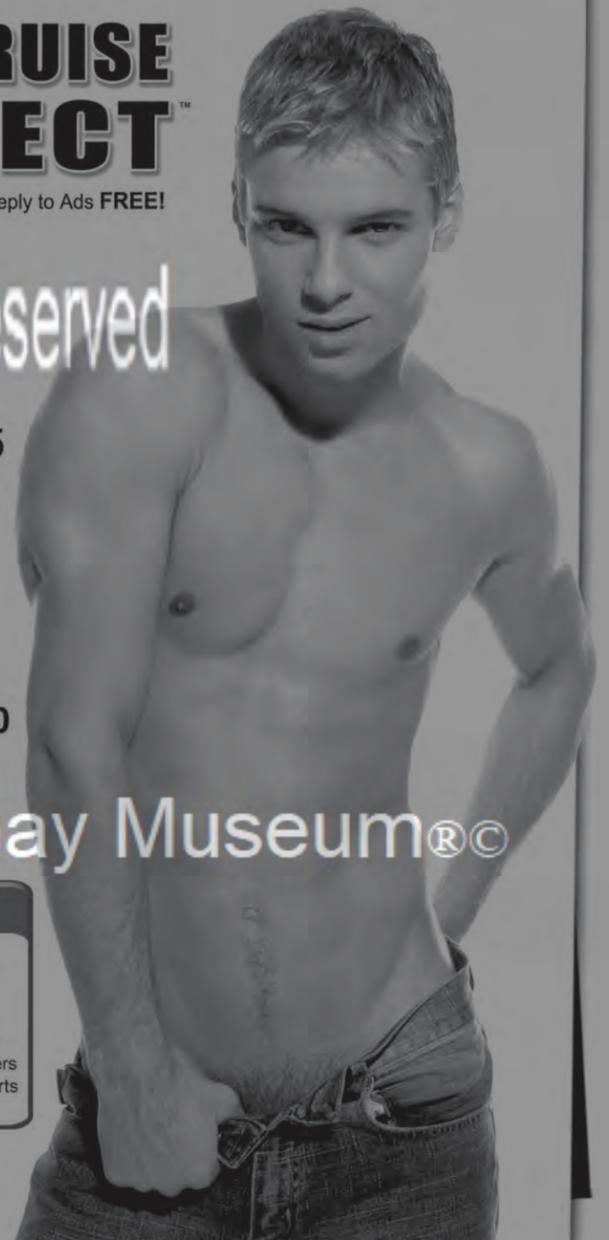
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Howling Latino Nite At The Moon

COMMENTARY...

by Diane Silver

Why I'm A Lesbian

My moment of truth came when I was sitting in my car, listening to the radio at a red light. A thought popped into my head. It was clear and startling. I thought: I don't have to be a Lesbian anymore. It was 1993. Bill Clinton had just become president. A wave of anti-Queer sentiment was engulfing the nation as politicians debated Gays in the military. On the radio, the usual suspects were calling us predators and sex addicts. The best any of the commentators could say about us was that Queer service members who lived openly and honestly would disrupt the military.

Sometimes the attacks are physical, like the bashing that killed Matthew Shephard. Sometimes they're verbal or political. They come from co-workers who make Gay jokes, and strangers on the street who shout at us for looking different or holding hands. They come from the many Mormons, Catholics, and Evangelicals who dedicate their lives to making our children less secure by banning our marriages.

On that day in 1993 when I had just lost the woman I loved, I had simply had enough. I thought: I don't have to be a Lesbian anymore. Patty's dead. I could pretend to be straight. I could turn myself inside out, lie about everything I've ever felt or known to be true. I could find a man to marry and never be a target again.

My heart didn't even take a single beat before I knew what I wanted. "Nah," I said out loud and smiled.

It is easy to get caught up in the political dramas of the day and to forget the true worth of being LGBT. Love and community draw us in. But we remain in our Queer lives because we know the importance of living authentically.

This is a gift we give to ourselves, and a gift we bestow on the heterosexual world that surrounds us. Do you think it's an accident that the term "coming out" has become part of the English language? These days heterosexuals talk about coming out as model railroaders or comic-book enthusiasts. Some even declare that they're coming out as conservatives or Christians.

The heroic journey that each of us takes to come out as Queer provides a blueprint for all of our heterosexual neighbors. We provide hope to secret novelists who toil as bookkeepers because they fear setting pen to page. We supply courage to housewives who pretend to love husbands they long ago learned to hate. We give inspiration to doctors who yearn to be farmers and to attorneys who daydream of becoming ministers.

As we sift through the debris left by our political defeats, it's worth remembering who we really are. We're the heroes who dare to live the truth.

(Diane Silver is a former newspaper reporter and magazine editor, whose freelance writing has appeared in Ms. magazine, Salon.com, and other national publications. This article was reprinted from the Seattle Gay News.)

I was in so much pain I could barely breathe. The yammering on the radio about the horror of us Queer folk was background noise to my personal anguish. My life partner had died of breast cancer a few weeks before, and I was struggling to raise our 7-year-old son alone. I was trying to be a good mother; I really was, but I hurt. All I could think about was what I had just lost. Patty, my late partner, had been the solid warmth that tethered me to the earth. The first time we went out, we sat in a booth at a cafeteria and got so engrossed in our conversation that the bad food didn't matter. We laughed so long that the place emptied of people and closed around us.

When we moved in together - marriage wasn't an option then - we often marked the evening by dancing, arm in arm, in our own kitchen. Our only musical accompaniment would be our own slightly off-tune singing. Night after night, we fell asleep in each other's arms. When Patty's double mastectomy made that impossible, we lay on our backs, side by side, holding hands until we dozed off.

After nearly two years of doctors, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation treatments, healing crystals, visualizations, and even a laying-on of hands from an evangelical friend, Patty died. I was left alone to sit at a stoplight and listen to people spew hate and ignorance about our relationship. I was left alone to ponder whether I still wanted to be a Lesbian at all.

The question didn't pop into my mind because, as the so-called ex-Gays argue, I was desperate to heal from the alleged "horror" of my Lesbian life. Looking back on it today, I think I was simply worn out by being a scapegoat.

Every Queer soul on this planet has been a target at one time or another.

N.Y. Knicks Player Is Sued For Same-Sex Harassment

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Knick center Eddy Curry was slapped with a sexual-harassment suit by his former driver, who claims the 6-foot-11 hoopster tried to solicit Gay sex from him.

said last night he was "shocked" at the allegations. "Imagine going into your boss' office . . . and he stands up and drops his pants and he asks you [to] take care of him," said Kuchinsky's lawyer, Matthew Blit.

Court papers charge that Curry, a married father of several kids, repeatedly approached chauffeur David Kuchinsky "in the nude," saying, "Look at me, Dave, look" and, "Come and touch it, Dave." Kuchinsky, 36, who is straight and Jewish, also alleges racism, saying Curry hurled slurs at him, including "f---ing Jew," "cracker," "white slave," "white devil" and "grandmaster of the KKK."

Curry, a former Chicago Bull,



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Boy George Jailed 15 Months For Imprisoning Escort

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - Everyone knows that many media organizations are struggling, and now the latest evidence comes from PlanetOut, where as many as a third of the staff were laid off.

The first word of the reductions at the popular LGBT news and entertainment network came via the prolific The Media is Dying Twitter feed, which aggregates reports of layoffs and staff moves across the media industry. "PlanetOut has axed 50 percent of the work force--includes sales and editorial," The Media is Dying wrote.

In response to a request for comment, PlanetOut spokesperson Angelina Becerra said that the company had no comment. But on January 8, PlanetOut issued a press release announcing that it was merging with its competitors Here Networks and Regent Entertainment Media, the publishers of LGBT magazines The Advocate, Out, and HIVPlus.

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RNC Candidate Says Homosexuality A 'Compulsion' That Can Be 'Repressed'

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The man who once unilaterally decided he'd refuse to accept any absentee ballots that weren't printed on 80-pound paper stock is now looking for a better job.

script. "The fact is, you can choose to restrain that compulsion. And so I think in fact you don't have to give in to the compulsion to be homosexual. I think that's been proven in case after case after case."

Kenneth Blackwell, made famous by his role in the hotly contested 2004 presidential election in Ohio where he served both as honorary chairman of the Bush-Cheney reelection bid and as the state's top elections official, is now campaigning to become chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), reported Raw Story. But his past may yet come back to haunt him. As Ohio's Secretary of State, he was instrumental in passing Ohio's Gay marriage ban amendment, and he let some of his personal feelings slip in 2006 in an interview with the Columbus Dispatch. Blackwell told the interviewer that being Gay was like having a compulsion - for instance, he said, a penchant for arson or kleptomania.

Blackwell was seen to be a rising star in the Republican political landscape, but his outlook dimmed after he lost an Ohio gubernatorial bid in 2006. Today he is Vice Chairman of the Republican National Committee's Platform Committee. In his radio interview, Sirius OutQ Radio's Signorile also asked Blackwell about his own sexuality. "Did you choose to be heterosexual?" Signorile asked. "Did you wake up one day and say I want to be heterosexual?" "The answer is that I've never had to make the choice because I've never had the urge to be other than a heterosexual, but if in fact I had the urge to be something else I could have in fact suppressed that urge," Blackwell said.

"I think [homosexuality] is a transgression against God's law, God's will," he said. "The reality is, again...that I think we make choices all the time. And I think you make good choices and bad choices in terms of lifestyle. Our expectation is that one's genetic makeup might make one more inclined to be an arsonist or might make one more inclined to be a kleptomaniac. Do I think that they can be changed? Yes." Blackwell's comments caused outrage in the Gay press, but mainstream media articles about the RNC chairman's race have tended to ignore the remarks. However, prominent Gay radio host Michaelangelo Signorile posted a transcript of an interview he conducted with Blackwell last September. In it, Blackwell reiterated the crux of his earlier comments. "I believe homosexuality is a compulsion that can be contained, repressed or changed," Blackwell said, according to the tran-



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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00a.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.sAAF.org>. **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.**

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

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (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, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit www.lctucson.org or write: Lutherans Concerned/Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

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

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>



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

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

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). 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 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "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 1/2 price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Bicardi Thursdays - \$3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. 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 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm 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, 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, January 22

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

Friday, January 23

YARD DOG - Karaoke with Troy St. John 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 24

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

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. Tonight Only \$10 general admission, \$25 VIP (limited number)..

YARD DOG - Dart Tourney at 11 a.m.

Sunday, February 1

THE BIZ - The "L Word" every Sunday at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Super Bowl Sunday Party - commercials, friends, food, fun and drink specials!!!

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LGBTs Of Color At Highest Risk In Schools

24th Annual AGRA Rodeo Held In Phoenix Last Weekend

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A study of LGBT students in the nation's schools has found that students of color are the most vulnerable, reported 365Gay.com. The study - Shared Differences: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students of Color in Our Nation's Schools - was prepared by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

survey to report incidents to a family member. Performance at school also suffered when students experienced high levels of victimization. Students' overall GPA dropped when they reported high levels of harassment based on sexual orientation and/or race/ethnicity.

It documents the experiences of over 2,000 LGBT middle and high school students of color who were African American, Latino, Asian, Native American, and multiracial. The study found that across all groups, sexual orientation and gender expression were the most common reasons LGBT students of color reported feeling unsafe in school.

The report also looks at differing experiences based on the racial/ethnic make-up of students' schools. For all groups, LGBT students of color who were minorities in their school were much more likely to feel unsafe and experience harassment because of their race or ethnicity than those who were in the racial/ethnic majority. "You could very well on any day hear someone yelling across the hall, 'fag,' etc.," said a 10th grade Latino male student in the report.

More than four out of five students within each racial/ethnic group, reported verbal harassment in school because of sexual orientation; about two-thirds reported harassment because of gender expression. At least a third of each group reported physical violence in school because of sexual orientation. More than half of African American, Latino, Asian and multiracial students also reported verbal harassment in school based on their race or ethnicity. Native American students were less likely than other students to report experiencing racially motivated verbal harassment.

"I've heard it before.... It's hurtful because it's just not something that you say. And it's just generally hurtful. And I know that I'll just be walking in a hallway, and someone will just say under their breath with a group of friends, 'fag' ... and hearing things like that in my school - it kind of brings me down almost. It kind of negates any hope that I have for our school to be a better place."

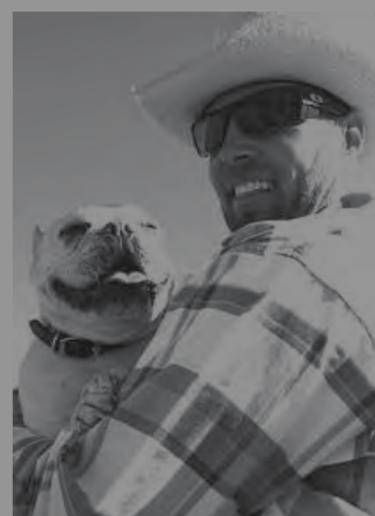
The study used data collected in 2007 as part of GLSEN's biennial survey of LGBT students, the National School Climate Survey, along with results from in-depth individual and group interviews. "While research on the experiences of LGBT students has increased in recent years, few studies have examined the specific victimization of students who identify as people of color and LGBT," said GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard. "Our schools are diverse environments, and it is important to understand how our students experiences differ based on personal characteristics such as race and ethnicity. This report provides alarming evidence that we must act now to ensure sure that America's LGBT students of color are safe in school."

About a quarter of African American/Black and Asian/Pacific Islander students had missed class or days of school in the past month because they felt unsafe. Latino, Native American, and multiracial students were even more likely to be absent for safety reasons - about a third or more skipped class at least once or missed at least one day of school in the past month for safety reasons.

Native American students experienced particularly high levels of victimization because of their religion, with more than half reporting the highest levels of verbal harassment, and a quarter experiencing physical violence.

The study also found that less than half of students of color who had been harassed or assaulted in school in the past year said that they ever reported the incident to school staff. Furthermore, for those students who did report incidents to school staff, less than half believed that staff's resulting response was effective.

In addition, Native American and multiracial students were more likely than other students of color in the



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