Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Congress Ready To Move On LGBT Rights Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Activists are working with lawmakers in the 111th Congress to take up and pass legislation that would grant new rights and protections to LGBT Americans, the Washington Blade reported.

The legislation that sources agree would be taken up first is the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would allow the federal government to prosecute hate crimes targeting Gays. As in the last Congress, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the longest-serving openly Gay lawmaker, is expected to introduce the legislation in the House and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) is expected to push the bill in the Senate. Kennedy, who has brain cancer and suffered a seizure at a Senate luncheon in honor of President Obama, was later reported to be recovering.

In the last session of Congress, the House approved a hate crimes bill, but the Senate took no action on the legislation. Bills that only pass through one chamber of Congress must be reintroduced in the next session if they are to become law. The Human Rights Campaign has called on Obama to work with Congress to pass hate crimes legislation within six months of his tenure.

Frank told the Blade on Jan. 16 that he expects the House to pass hate crimes legislation in the spring and Congress will have the bill on Obama's desk by summer. The lawmaker said Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), chair of the Judiciary Committee, is taking the lead on "getting a list of sponsors right now."

Becky Dansky, federal legislative director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, said hate crimes legislation would be the "first to move" among Gay-related bills. She said the bill would come up in the next couple of months in the House, but the timetable in the Senate is less clear. Dansky said there "may or may not" be hearings on hate crimes legislation this session because the bill has been around for a long time and "people know this bill – they know what it does. There is the potential that the new attorney general or a representative from the White House may want to go on the record testifying in support of the bill, so that could potentially lead to a hearing," she said. Dansky said she's "pretty confident" that there are enough votes in Congress to pass the legislation, adding that the roadblock for the last eight years has been "we haven't had a president who would sign."

Also on the docket for Gay activists is a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would bar discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Like the hate crimes legislation, Frank is expected to introduce the House version of ENDA and Kennedy is expected to introduce the Senate version. In the last session of Congress, the House approved a Gay-only version of ENDA, but the Senate took no action on the legislation.

Dansky said she expects ENDA to be introduced in the spring and passed by Congress this fall, although she said the Senate would wait to see what House does with ENDA before acting on it. Frank also predicted Congress would approve ENDA in the fall. Dansky said she didn't know whether hearings would happen with ENDA and that activists are "not talking about them at this point." Frank, who two years ago was criticized for advancing the Gay-only ENDA, said the "key question" is whether lawmakers "have the votes for a fully inclusive bill."

"We introduced it without checking, frankly," he said. "We assumed we had it. We didn't have it." He said efforts toward passing ENDA would be helped by the addition of 21 more Democrats in Congress. "That's not 21 more votes for Transgender-inclusive [legislation], but it's at least a dozen, which helps," he said. "And then plus the various coalitions, including Transgender groups are doing what wasn't done previously, which is lobbying member by member."

Dansky said "education on the grassroots level" would be key to informing members of Congress about the meaning of the gender identity language. She said lawmakers are already "meeting trans people in their district or the families of trans individuals or allies ... who are supportive of a trans-inclusive bill."

The repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which prohibits open Gays from serving in the military, is another priority for Gay activists in this session of Congress. Robert Kellar, a spokesperson for Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.), said the lawmaker intends to introduce legislation in the House that would repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and replace it with a non-discrimination policy – similar to the bill she introduced last session – within the next couple of weeks.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said he expects Kennedy and a yet-to-be identified Republican to introduce a companion bill in the Senate along a similar timeframe. No Senate bill was introduced in the last session. But those familiar with Congress have diverging opinions on when a repeal might happen.

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GLAAD Announces Nominees For 20th Annual Media Awards

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Nominees, dates and venues for the 20th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, presented by IBM, have been announced, reported pageoneq.com.

The Academy Award-nominated film Milk, BBC America series Torchwood and Skins, ABC's Brothers & Sisters and Ugly Betty, HBO's True Blood, and MSNBC's Countdown with Keith Olbermann and The Rachel Maddow Show are among the English-language nominees. Spanish-language nominees include Aquí y Ahora, Ventaneando América, Noticiero Telemundo, Hoy and Paparazzi TV. Print media outlets up for honors include Newsweek, The Advocate, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, The Denver Post, and The Des Moines Register. There are a total of 186 nominees in 41 categories, with categories ranging from film and television to digital journalism and comic books. Such honorees have been chosen for their roles in furthering positive LGBT visibility through their characters and the real-life stories of, and issues facing, LGBT people.

"The 20th anniversary of the GLAAD Media Awards is an excellent opportunity to reflect on how media representations of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community have evolved over the past two decades, clearly helping shape and evolve people's hearts and minds about LGBT people," said GLAAD President Neil A. Giuliano. "GLAAD's media advocacy and anti-defamation work as a resource for media professionals, combined with enabling LGBT people and allies to be compelling storytellers, has played a significant role in stories about our lives achieving greater visibility and being more compelling, honest, and real than ever before. We are proud to recognize all of this year's GLAAD Media Awards nominees."

Talk show host Tyra Banks and finance guru Suze Orman are among this year's honorees. "Tyra Banks and Suze Orman have used their positions of power within the media to become strong advocates on behalf of the LGBT community," Giuliano added. "They are changing hearts and minds, opening people's eyes to our common humanity, and it is our privilege to honor them." Banks is recognized with the Excellence in Media Award for her strong commitment to educating the public about the lives of Gay and Transgender people, especially with the inclusion of Transgender woman Isis King in the most recent editions of America's Next Top Model. Banks, a model during the 1990s, is celebrated as an "international media icon," having made history as the first African-American model on the covers of GQ and the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition and receiving a "Supermodel of the Year" Michael Award before moving on to producing television, her accomplishments including hosting and producing the Emmy Award-winning The Tyra Banks Show and creating America's Next Top Model.

Orman, an out Lesbian, will be honored with the Vito Russo Award, named after the author of The Celluloid Closet and a founding GLAAD member. The six-time New York Times best-selling author and two-time Emmy winner has established herself as a powerhouse of financial advice and expertise. "Throughout her impressive career," GLAAD noted, "Orman has raised the profile of LGBT Americans by using her position in the public eye to convey that financial planning is a concern for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Ceremonies will be held March 28, at the Marriott Marquis in New York City, on April 18 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, and on May 9 at the Hilton San Francisco.

Supreme Court Strikes Down Internet Porn Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand a decision that a federal law created to keep children away from Internet pornography violates free speech rights, reported advocate.com. The Supreme Court rejected an appeal from the Justice Department, handing the victory over to those who argued that Congress's efforts to regulate cyberspace violated free speech rights.

The law required that website operators use credit card numbers and access codes to keep children away from seeing adult content. Violators faced up to six months in prison and fines up to $50,000 per day. The law was adopted in 1998 when the Supreme Court struck down another law called the Communications Decency Act. It has never been enforced because lower courts have repeatedly ruled it unconstitutional.

The Justice Department appealed to the Supreme Court after a U.S. appeals court in Philadelphia declared the law unconstitutional for being overly broad and too vague.

If enforced, the law would have punished as many as 700 million websites. The law was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union and a number of Gay adult booksellers and online properties, including A Different Light Bookstores and PlanetOut Corp.

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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.

Feb. 6 Deadline For Wingspan's 'Grease' Opening Night

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan and Broadway in Tucson Present: GREASE - opening night, February 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Tucson TCC Music Hall.

Proceeds from the ticket sales for this event benefit Wingspan and are offered in a variety of packages. $175 includes (1) center orchestra ticket to the show, a preshow dinner with Wingspan's Executive Director and Wingspan's Board President, and an exclusive invitation to the post-show Opening Night cast party! Only 14 tickets available. $100 includes (1) ticket to the show and a preshow drink with Wingspan's Board of Directors. Only 20 tickets available. $60 includes (1) ticket to opening night. Only 26 tickets available.

Availability is extremely limited, so please RSVP by February 6th. To RSVP, please call Mike Herdegen at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, ext. 121.For more information about GREASE - the musical, please visit: greaseonbroadway.com.

In Other Local News

For bikers and motorcyclists, if there are people interested in participating in a run from Phoenix to Tucson to Bisbee for the Pride Event in Bisbee, contact Jim at puppyjim@cox.net. ...

Tucson M2M the local men's fraternal philanthropic and social networking group that gave a $750 Shopping Spree to Wingspan's Eon program for LGBTQ youth is at it again. In the month of January Tucson M2M awarded five $200.00 Educational Allowances to 5 of it's Members currently enrolled at the U of A or Pima Community College for 2009. The funds went directly to pay the students tuition, or book costs at the choice of the student. Tucson M2M is already busy raising funds for their next Educational Allowances to be awarded in January 2010.

Reveille Holding Open Auditions

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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 upcoming 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 west of the 4th Avenue district. For more information call the Reveille line at (520) 304-1758 or you can visit them online at 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.

Progressive Lobby Day, Feb. 3

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Join Arizona's progressive community, Tuesday, February 3, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the House Lawn, Arizona State Capitol, 1700 W. Washington, to learn about important issues affecting our state. Learn how lawmakers work and how you can make a difference in creating a more fair, just and compassionate Arizona.

The cost is FREE but donations are gladly accepted. Sponsoring Organizations are the Anti-Defamation League, Arizona Advocacy Network, Business and Professional Women/ Arizona, Center for Progressive Leadership, Equality Arizona, Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network (GLSEN) Phoenix, Human Rights Campaign, NARAL Pro-Choice Arizona and Planned Parenthood Arizona.

To RSVP, by Jan. 30, E-mail: meta@equalityarizona.org or emily@equalityarizona.org or call (602) 650-0900.

Ulrich Seeks Second Term

Councilwoman Karin Uhlich

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Karin Uhlich, the first open Lesbian to win election to office in Southern Arizona, to Tucson's Ward 3 Council seat, will seek a second term.

Uhlich, elected in the Democratic sweep in 2005, launched her reelection campaign Tuesday, January 27 at College Place, 1601 N. Oracle.

During her speech, Uhlich presented her vision of Tucson's future and discussed her accomplishments.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

Obama Follows Through On Pledge To Treat LGBT Equally

Paul Levandowski knows pressure. When the baritone horn player from Lansing approached President Barack Obama as part of the first Gay band to march in an inaugural parade, he recalls thinking, "Oh, God, please, I hope I can get this high note. I hope my valves don't freeze. I hope I can remember all the notes." The history-making band performed John Philip Sousa's "Washington Post" perfectly, as the new president and First Lady Michelle waved from the presidential reviewing stand.

The delighted smiles on the musicians' faces capture how Gay Americans feel about the unprecedented hand of friendship the new president keeps extending. He included a Lesbian couple among the "everyday Americans" on his whistle stop train ride from Philadelphia to the nation's capital. He had Gay Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson deliver the invocation kicking off the pre-inauguration extravaganza at the Lincoln Memorial. And he's appointing openly Gay men and Lesbians to influential posts. Nancy Sutley was quickly confirmed as chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Obama is expected to tap Fred Hochberg as chairman of the Export-Import Bank and – in what would be the highest level presidential appointment of an out Gay person – John Berry as director of the Office of Personnel Management. "John Berry's role as director of OPM will essentially make him the head of (human resources) of the federal government. The fact that an openly Gay man will be in this job speaks to the president's views about equality in the workplace," said Denis Dison of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

But to Lisa Hazirijian, who along with her partner, Michelle Kaiser, rode on the Whistle Stop Tour, nothing demonstrates Obama's commitment to change for Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans more than the official web site of the executive branch of the U.S. government. At whitehouse.gov, under "The Agenda" for civil rights, the new president spells out his support for equality for LGBT Americans, including backing civil unions, adoption rights, a ban on workplace discrimination and lifting "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy.

"Too often, the issue of LGBT rights is exploited by those seeking to divide us," Obama declares at the site. "But at its core, this issue is about who we are as Americans. It's about whether this nation is going to live up to its founding promise of equality by treating all its citizens with dignity and respect."

Hazirijian, who organized Gay supporters for Obama in Cleveland, says she understands why some Gays are shocked that Obama is following through on the inclusive message of his campaign. "The change just shows that Barack Obama really is who he appears to be," she says. But the new atmosphere created by the all-are-welcome mat in front of the Obama White House isn't just being noticed by Gay Americans.

After watching a YouTube video of the Gay marching band – led by a high-spirited drum major – perform, a viewer named "Wisdomwalker" left this comment: "I'm not a homosexual but watching this made (me) really proud to be an American for some reason."

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

Disgraced Evangelist Faces New Gay Sex Allegations

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (Observer Update) - Disgraced evangelical leader Ted Haggard's former church disclosed that the Gay sex scandal that caused his downfall extends to a young male church volunteer who reported having a sexual relationship with Haggard – a revelation that comes as Haggard tries to repair his public image.

Brady Boyd, who succeeded Haggard as senior pastor of the 10,000-member New Life Church in Colorado Springs, said the man came forward to church officials in late 2006 shortly after a Denver male prostitute claimed to have had a three-year cash-for-sex relationship with Haggard.

Boyd said an "overwhelming pool of evidence" pointed to an "inappropriate, consensual sexual relationship" that "went on for a long period of time ... it wasn't a one-time act." Boyd said the man was in his early 20s at the time. He said he was certain the man was of legal age when it began. Reached Friday night, Haggard declined to comment.

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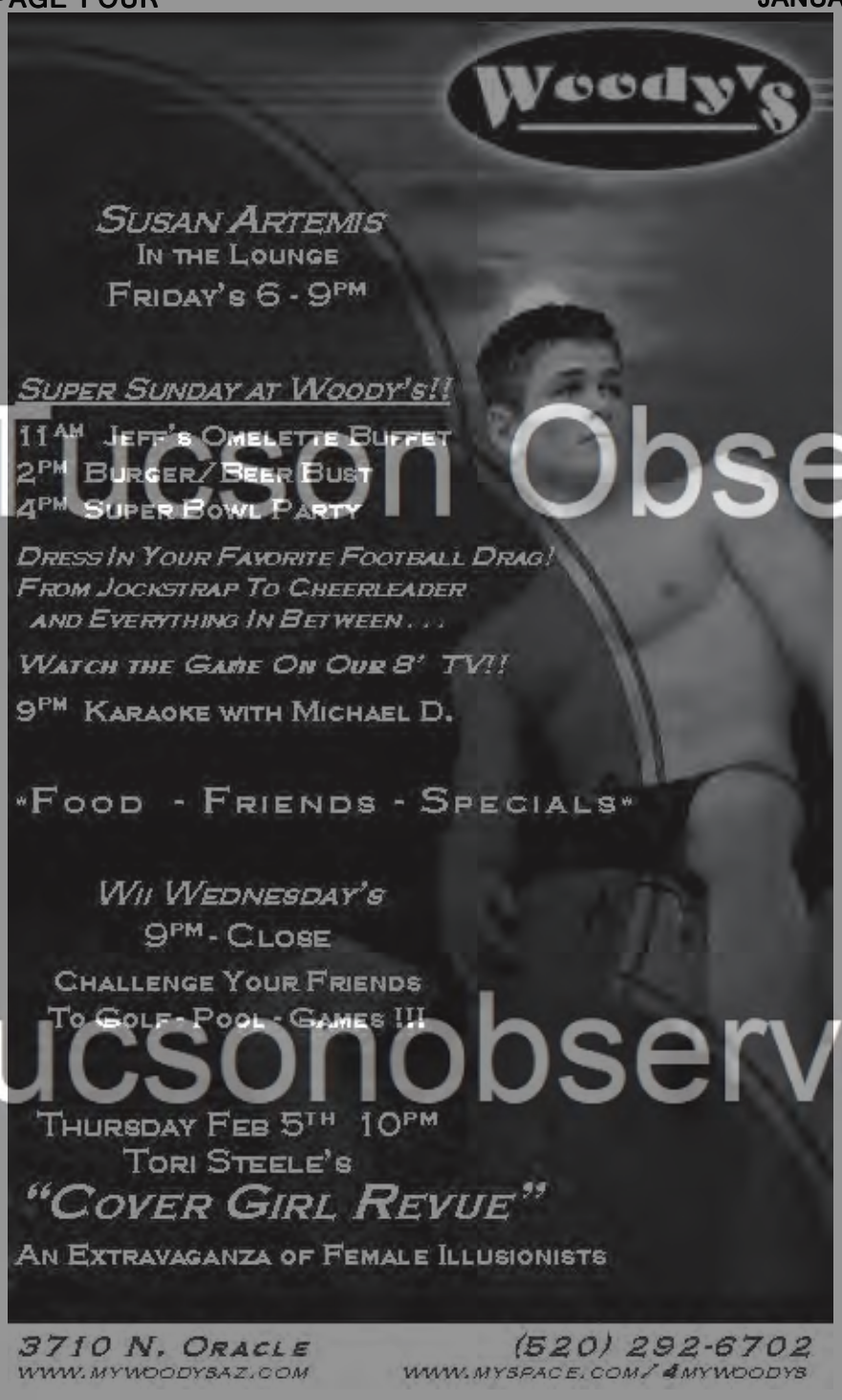

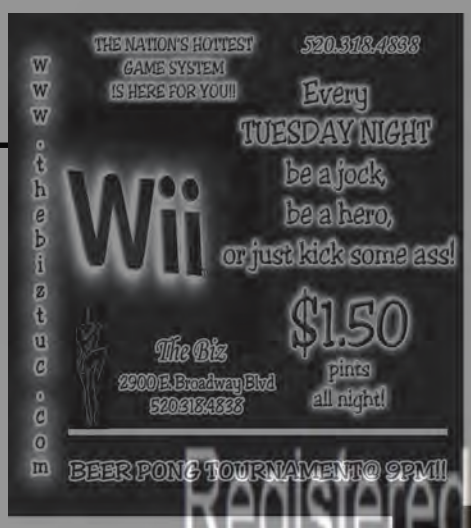

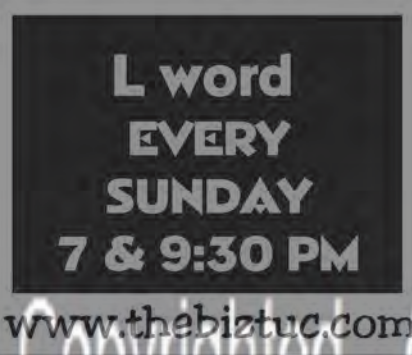

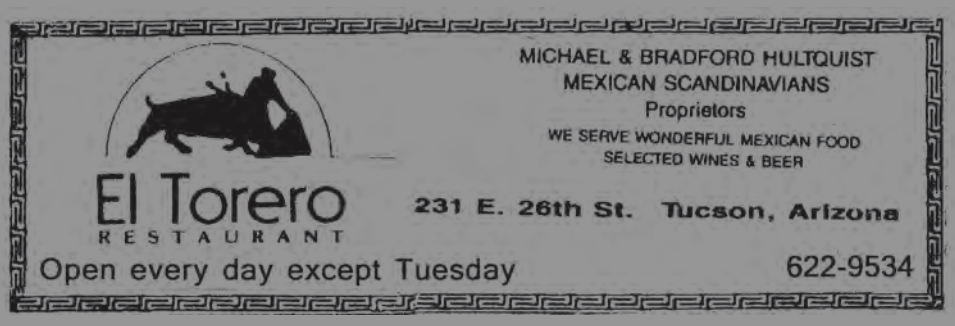

Job Opening At SAAF

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) has an opening for a Men's Sexual Health and Personal Empowerment (MSHAPE) Health Education Specialist (.75 FTE) (30hr/week)

Scope of Work: The MSHAPE Project is a community-level intervention for men who have sex with men that uses a combination of informal and formal outreach, discussion groups, retreats, social opportunities, and social marketing to reach a broad range of Gay men with HIV prevention, safer sex, and risk reduction messages. The Health Education Specialist is responsible for assisting in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of this program as well as working with program volunteers and peer educators. The Health Education Specialist is also responsible for collecting and entering program data into a web-based reporting system. The MSHAPE Health Education Specialist is a 30 hours/week, non-exempt position. The individual must be willing to work flexible hours, evenings, and weekends.

Functional Responsibilities: Coordinates dissemination of HIV/AIDS prevention and Gay men's health information through the dissemination of literature, safer sex kits, and MSHAPE brochures during community outreach events including keeping track of inventory and working with Volunteer Resources on material packaging. Recruiting, training, and supervision of program volunteers and peer educators. Works with the supervisor to develop program curriculum. Assists with facilitation and development of core-group meetings, community workshops and forums, program social events, and other community events. Responsible for the design and maintenance of program materials, newspaper advertisements, postcards, flyers, websites, etc. for MSHAPE program events including HIV counseling and testing events. Works in collaboration with representatives of other HIV prevention programs; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender organizations; and other organizations and agencies. Maintains program mailing list, e-mail list, and volunteer list. Provides timely and accurate documentation of program activities. Attend all relevant program, department and agency meetings (as determined). Work as a team member within the program, department and agency. Performs other duties as assigned. Reports to the MSHAPE Program Manager.

Preferred qualifications: Excellent communication and strong organizational skills. Bilingual/Bicultural (Eng/Sp) preferred. Must be able to work with minimal supervision and be a dependable, energetic, motivated self-starter. Experience working with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. Must be comfortable working in a variety of venues (bar and non-bar) to reach a diverse target community. Teaching and/or group facilitation skills helpful. Sensitive to all cultures present in southern Arizona. Experience working with volunteers. Experience with IBM compatibles, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Publisher, and Internet helpful. Experience with PhotoShop and Illustrator a plus.

Compensation: Minimum salary $12.50 per hour; benefits include health, dental, and life insurance; long- and short-term disability insurance. To Apply: Submit letter of interest, resume with dates of employment, and names, addresses, and phone numbers of three professional references to the Director of HR, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Ave., Tucson, AZ, 85719, email to admin@saaf.org or visit saaf.org. Open until filled. Affirmative Action: The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability. Start Date: As soon as possible.

Lisa Otey & Diane Van Deurzen To Guest Star At Desert Voices Fundraiser

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson performing legend, Lisa Otey and fellow Desert Diva, Diane Van Deurzen will make a special guest appearance at Desert Voices' Annual Cabaret and Silent Auction, February 7 at the Historic Y, 300 E. University, Tucson. Doors open at 6:00 pm for, "In the Basement", a risqué, slightly bawdy and thoroughly entertaining musical comedy event. In celebration of their 20th season, Desert Voices has invited some of Tucson's best performing luminaries to share the stage for 2008-2009.

Lisa Otey, described by the Arizona Daily Star as a blues/jazz diva extraordinaire, has won many awards for her progressive blues style including 2001 Arizona Blues Hall of Fame, 2001-2004 Arizona Commission on the Arts, 2000 Arizona Composer of the Year, 1998 Arizona Blues Showdown winner, 1997 TAMMIES Musician of the Year and Best Local Performing Artist of 2007. Diane Van Deurzen's debut CD, "I Never Knew" co-produced with Lisa Otey for Owl's Nest Productions, is a celebration of love, passion and poetry. Diane is a performer with solid songwriting talents and a voice that is, "Warm and soothing, pouring out the lyrics with effortless control."

All proceeds from this year's only fundraiser will be used to help Desert Voices sustain its mission of uniting our community through our music and providing a voice for all. Since its inaugural season in 1988, Desert Voices, Arizona's Premier GLBTS Chorus has grown to over 50 voices strong under the artistic direction of Chris Tackett. Desert Voices will close its 20th season with, "Out and Proud", a 20-year retrospective featuring music from twenty-five years of GALA Choruses. Special Guest, Namoli Brennet returns for these concerts, April 18th & 19th at the Proscenium Theatre, Pima Community College West Campus. For ticket information please call, (520) 791-9662.

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Changes To Arizona Lawyers' Oath Considered

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The State Bar of Arizona is considering a recommendation to the Arizona Supreme Court to update the Oath of Admission to the Bar. A draft proposed revised Oath was approved unanimously by the Board of Governors for circulation to the membership and for comment. This draft proposed version will be discussed and likely voted upon at the January 30 meeting of the Board of Governors.

The draft contains the following provision "I will not permit considerations of gender, race, religion, age, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, or social standing to influence my duty of care." This provision has been the subject of an unusually large volume of comments received by the Board in opposition, including an 8-page comment presented by the Alliance Defense Fund and signed by a large number of lawyers, including lawyers who work for the Alliance Defense Fund, the Goldwater Institute, the Maricopa County Attorney, Schmitt Schneck Smyth & Herod PC, the Center for Arizona Policy, and others. That comment challenges the constitutionality of the above provision and argues that it should not be included. Other comments express that the inclusion of sexual orientation in the above provision is "offensive," "appalling," and "endangers the preservation of the integrity of our Constitution."

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and perhaps the National Lesbian & Gay Law Association ("NLGLA"), through their Arizona attorney members, intend to submit comments in opposition to the legal arguments presented by the Alliance Defense Fund and in support of the proposed provision. It should be noted that Arizona Judicial Canon 3 B (6) already provides that: "A judge shall require lawyers in proceedings before the judge to refrain from manifesting, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice, based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, against parties, witnesses, counsel or others. This section 3 B (6) does not preclude legitimate advocacy when race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, or other similar factors, are issues in the proceeding." Moreover, existing Arizona Supreme Court Rule 42, Ethical Rule 8.4(d) comment 3 already provides that attorneys are obligated to refrain from "knowingly manifest[ing] by words or conduct, bias or prejudice based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status" because such manifestation will be prejudicial to the administration of justice.

The proposed revised oath would appear merely to be adding a reminder of the attorney's already-existing obligation, not creating a new obligation.

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HIV Activist Martin Delaney Dies

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - Martin Delaney, a longtime activist for the HIV/AIDS community, has died at his home, reported 365Gay.com. Delaney, the founder and longtime director of the HIV advocacy/education organization Project Inform, was recently presented with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director's Special Recognition Award for his many contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In 1985, Delaney founded Project Inform, a leading national HIV treatment and public policy information and advocacy organization based in San Francisco, and served as its director until 2008. According to the organization's online biography, Delaney was a key player in the development of today's widely used Accelerated Approval regulations and the Parallel Track system for providing experimental drugs to seriously ill people prior to formal approval by the FDA.

When he was presented with the NIAID award Dr. Anthony S. Fauci released a statement saying: "Millions of people are now receiving life-saving antiretroviral medications from a treatment pipeline that Marty Delaney played a key role in opening and expanding. Without his tireless work and vision, many more people would have perished from HIV/AIDS. He is a formidable activist and a dear friend. It is without hyperbole that I call Marty Delaney a public health hero." Delaney died of liver cancer.

He was born and raised in Chicago and studied for the seminary before becoming an elementary school teacher in Chicago. After contracting Hepatitis B, he moved to San Francisco in 1978 where he participated in the clinical trial for the use of Interferon to treat the disease. In the 1980s, as the number of Gay men with HIV began

HIV Activist Martin Delaney

dying in large numbers, he became involved in HIV/AIDS issues. Project Inform began with little money and grew within a decade to a million dollar a year education outreach program with a staff and dozens of volunteers. "Martin Delaney was one of the pioneers of AIDS activism," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "While not HIV-positive himself, Delaney dedicated much of his life to shaping our nation's public policy on HIV/AIDS legislation and worked on the local level to promote education and a greater understanding of HIV/AIDS issues." Solmonese said. "He worked with the drive and hope to one day find a cure for HIV/AIDS, and while it did not happen in his lifetime, we'll continue the important work of lobbying Congress for additional HIV/AIDS funding to find a cure."

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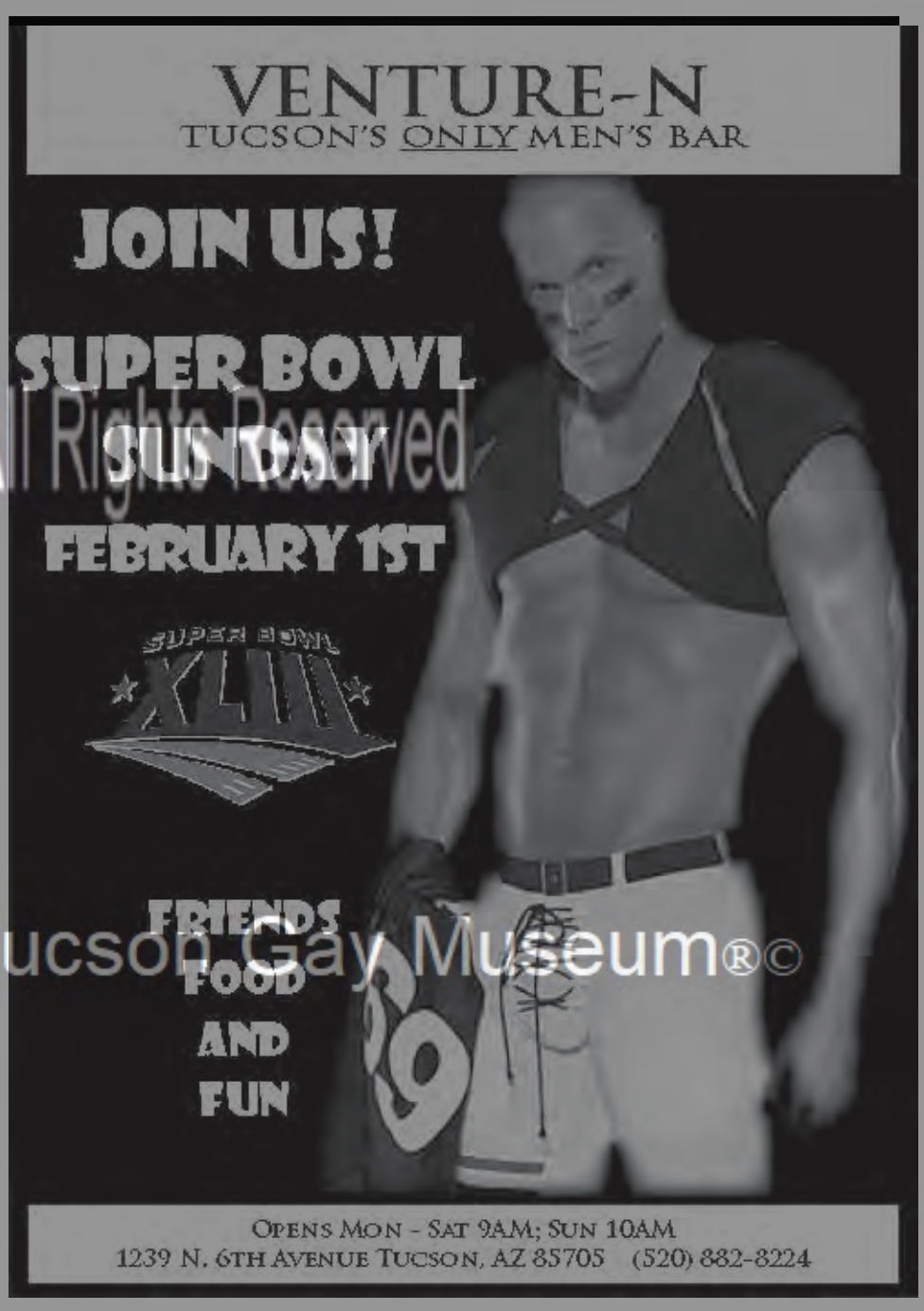

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Your Tax Dollars At Waste

Two plus weeks are in the books for the first Regular Session of Arizona's 49th Legislature, a total of $994,612.64 (as of the writing of this column) down the proverbial taxpayer drain.

As of press time, a total of 716 proposed bills, concurrent resolutions, memorials and legislative mandates had been introduced, in this session for consideration in the Republican-controlled Legislature which is supposed to be focused on the multibillion dollar shortfall in the state budget, plunging revenue figures during this cataclysmic, economic recession and drafting an economic blueprint for the next fiscal year (starting July 1) so that the state government can operate and provide the needed services to the public - all in 100 days as per the Republican mandate.

So far the Republican led Arizona House of Representatives and State Senate have come up with a solution for all these troubles to ensure that their Governor, Jan Brewer, can maintain "the freedoms," she went on about, ad nauseam, during her inaugural address.

Their plan includes: repealing a law, passed last year by the GOP controlled Legislature, prohibiting automobile license plate frames; creating at least six new license plates; banning partial birth abortions; enhancing criminal penalties for violent actions to individuals, initiated by dog owners using their pets as weapons; completely gutting the state's 49th ranking in spending educational system, K-12, junior college and the universities through budget cuts, balancing the state's budgets on the backs of students and spending taxpayer money on new carpeting, furniture and extravagant laptops for their offices, just like Merrill Lynch's ex-CEO, John Thain did with federal taxpayer bailout money intended for the financial institution.

One would think that, during these times, Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) populace would be "left out" and not have the annual worry of dealing with the usual assortment of anti-LGBT legislation from 1700 West Washington, written in previous columns in this publication, there is SB 1174, introduced by state Senator Russell Pearce, R-Mesa.

Entitled, "state employee health insurance; coverage," SB 1174 would go where Brewer said her office won't go for now in regard to the state's rules and regulations implemented by the current Homeland Security Secretary and former Democratic Governor, Janet Napolitano by ending the healthcare coverage of the domestic partners (same and opposite) sex, and their families, of current Arizona state employees since "they are not married," according to state statute and Constitution.

SB 1174 has been first read but has not been assigned to a committee by state Senate President Robert Burns, R-Peoria, who is mandated that no Senate committee's will hear bills until the budget is dealt with or gutted.

Another measure is HB 2053, a "technical correction," dealing with surrogate parenting and contracts, introduced by the conservative homophobic Republican and new Speaker of the Arizona House, Kirk Adams of Mesa, hasn't been first read yet but will be the attempt by Republican's to deal with Gay and Lesbian adoption during this legislative session.

On the other hand and side of sanity is SB 1212. Introduced by Democratic state Senator Meg Burton Cahill of Tempe and Democratic state Representatives Phil Lopes of Tucson, Ed Ableser and David Schiapra of Tempe, also known as the "Amancio Corrales Act," SB 1212 would expand current state hate crime statutes to include gender identity and gender expression. SB 1212 has not been first read as of press time.

With the Republican's in charge of both chambers of the Arizona Legislature, the concern is more about whether the carpeting, furniture and the new laptops match the proverbial drapes than the needs of the populace.

This column, as well as the Observer's new blog (tucsonobserver.blogspot.com), will continue let readers know of the goings on at 1700 West Washington and the need to take action since to paraphrase the author and playwright, Larry Kramer and ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), our silence would equal the death of the rights movement. Online, Arizona's Legislature can be found at azleg.gov or for those without Internet access, its (800) 352-8404.

EDITORIAL

On Saturday, January 24, the Arizona Democratic Party (ADP) showed that change can happen. Coming off a disastrous election year, the ADP State Committee changed course and elected a new tough-talking, grass roots leader who's vowed to take the fight to Republicans.

Paul Eckerstrom, the former boss of the Pima County Democrats, mounted a surprising last-minute challenge to soundly beat incumbent Don Bivens and take control of the Arizona Democratic Party. Eckerstrom, who captured almost 56 percent of the vote, was aided in large part by widespread disappointment among party members who expected big wins in the 2008 Legislative races, reported the Arizona Guardian online.

As Pima County Democratic Chair, Eckerstrom played an instrumental role in the election of Karin Uhlich to the Tucson City Council in 2005, the first open Lesbian elected to political office in Southern Arizona. Eckerstrom was a loud opponent of Proposition 107 in 2006, helping in the cause to defeat the measure.

Eckerstrom, who has worked to the Attorney General's office, said in interviews that he has a plan to put the party on a better position to win in 2010 by running candidates in every legislative district in Arizona. He compared his plan to a local version of Chairman of the Democratic National Committee Howard Dean's 50 state strategy that many have credited for helping Democrats with control of Congress.

In addition to Eckerstrom, former Pima County Democratic Party Chair Vince Rabago was elected as a State Vice Chair - Male, along with Mohur Sidwa as a State Vice Chair - Female. Both Rabago and Sidwa will help Eckerstrom during this next two year term, of which positive, progressive change will occur, as well as a spirited campaign in 2010, something this publication applauds heartily.

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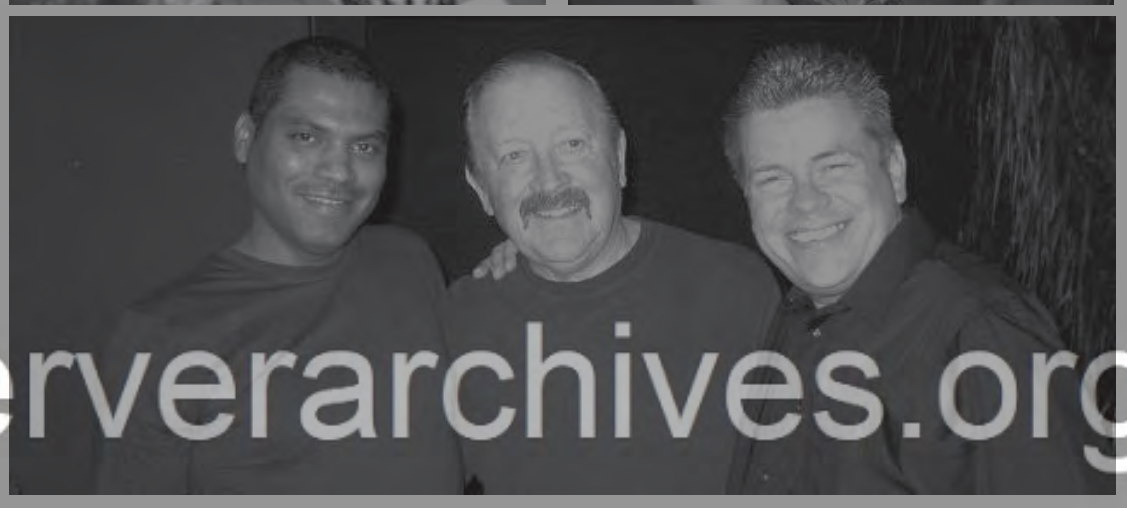
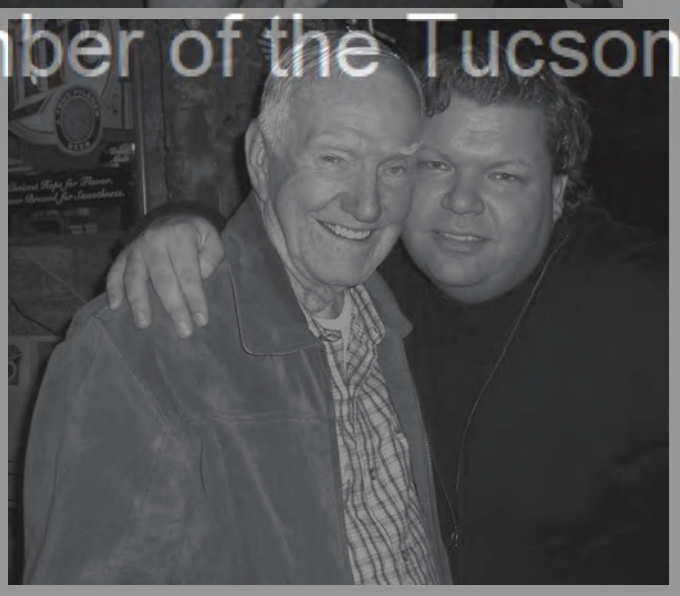
CHI CHI'S EXTRAVAGANZA AT WOODY'S LAST WEEK





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The Sun makes it move in to Aqueerius and not a moment too soon. All this optimism gets a further jolt from jolly Jupiter and making all of our best moves even better. Step aside world! We are very Out and all about!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gay Rams find themselves placed on the social "A" list rather than lower down on the alphabet. Good thing! For the next few days you call the shots in any group activity. Gather the troops and be imaginative but don't be bossy or pushy, tempting as it will be. When you're hot you're hot and when you're not, you're just working the door. Surprise us.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

This is the week to unleash your desire to move with the movers and shake with the shakers. Shake and bake, queer Bull! I know that you jealously covet the corner office and the big paycheck. Hey, who wouldn't? But plan your corporate ascent very carefully. All calculating eyes will be upon you. Finesse will take you far. So stow that big gun. Save it for bonus time.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Where does the long and winding road lead you for the next few weeks? To a great gay adventure! Pink Twins grab the world in the palm of their hand. Give it a good squeeze. Consider you next move and explore, expand and enjoy far horizons. There are also one or two things that you might want to learn. You can become teacher's pet if you decide to crack a book.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Gay Crabs put the triple "X" into their experiences this week. Whoo hoo! Spin your allure and lure a fly or two into your sultry spider web. Your sexuality peaks and so do you, lover. There is nothing or no one you can't do. Your sexual drive takes you on the road. Follow all signs from "Yield" to "No Speed Limit". Will you be "Slippery When Wet"? Let's just see....

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Tired of playing the field? This week, proud Lions are tempted to seek their soulmate somewhere in the Outfield. Don't be shy and retiring. Seek and ye shall find. For those Leos who are already in a relationship, use the next few days to solidify, stabilize ... or subdivide. Are you getting what you need from partnerships? Consider all options and all feelings.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins feel especially ambitious this week. You are fired up and raring to clean off your desk by tackling all long pending pithy projects. Maximize your 9 to 5 time by focusing on what is important and what will get you noticed. You can score some points with the powers that be. Painting your cubicle lavender may be one solution but really not the only one....

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Proud Libras gleefully go gaga this week. It's a wacky time when anything goes. Have fun, fun, fun and don't spare the hot sauce. But rather than fritter your energies in wasteful, slothful pastimes, you may want to consider tapping into your inner artist and see what masterpieces are lurking in your potential talent. I bet you are verrrry talented!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Proud Scorps are not noted for their nesting instincts but now you can't help but become Mother Earth incarnate. Handle any home-based projects now while your judgement is not clouded by outer-worldly stimuli. Even tough family issues can be tackled with some surprisingly good results. But they must accept you as you are or no deal. 'Bout time.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers realize that they can get exactly what they want and need by just asking for it. Well, of course you knew that but now all your requests begin to pay off. Think of anything that will thrill you. But be careful of what you wish. Sometimes the fates overdeliver in surprisingly unexpected ways. Do you really want a 14 inch pianist?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

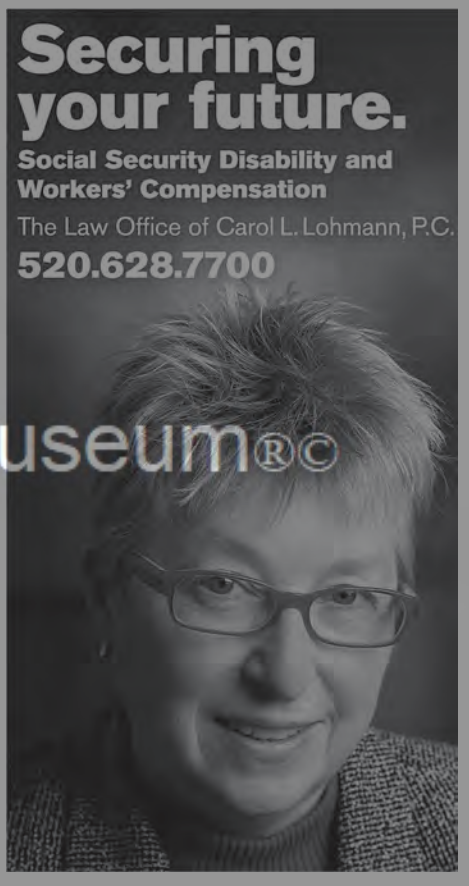
If money has been a source of stress and concern, thank the cosmos for a ray of gold. Pink Caps are more easily able to plug any monetary leaks. Use the next few days to do your homework, ask advice and revamp your more expensive, wasteful habits. You will be amazed at how great you can look with a few fiscal nips and tucks. You feel fabulous!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians can find themselves at a personal crossroad this week. It is an excellent time to reassess your path, possibly change direction, seek new stimuli or try a new "look". Plant those seeds of change, toss out the old wardrobe and blossom. It is a new solar year and a new you. Is it possible to improve on perfection? Oh let's try.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies are wondrously prescient and in tune with their inner voice for the next few days. Tap your sixth sense any way you can. Some suggested avenues include mediation or yoga. What do you divine you divine thing? Perhaps it is time to gaze into a certain crystal ball for your next great move. Either that or just gaze at it for fun and relaxation. No names please!



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Risks Weighed In Taking Prop 8 To 2010 Vote

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - LGBT rights activists are weighing the wisdom of rushing in front of voters a repeal of the state ballot measure that banned Gay marriage, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. While two initiatives seeking to undo Proposition 8 - the voter-approved measure - already have been submitted to the Secretary of State, pro-Gay marriage leaders say 2010 may be too soon to bring the issue back before voters.

"There is one thing worse than losing Prop. 8, and that would be losing again," said Chad Griffin, a Los Angeles political consultant who organized Hollywood's opposition to the ban. He was speaking to about 400 activists who gathered for a statewide planning summit. Although several legal challenges are pending before the California Supreme Court, the option of another ballot fight has been discussed as a backup strategy since Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote on Nov. 4. The court could render a decision as early as June. If the Supreme Court upholds the measure, that would leave same-sex marriage supporters with a viable, but very tight window in which to prepare and pull off a November 2010 rematch, said John Henning, executive director of the Gay marriage group Love Honor Cherish.

"The deadline for us to be gathering signatures for a November ballot initiative would actually be this fall," Henning said. "We have to raise money, we have to train people how to gather these signatures and we have to get 10,000 people out doing something they may not be comfortable doing." One of the initiatives submitted to the state for approval this month, launched by a Gay rights group in Davis, would repeal Proposition 8 outright. The second, initiated by two Los Angeles residents, would eliminate marriage as a state-sanctioned institution and replace it with domestic partnerships for couples Gay and straight.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said she understands the urgency Gay marriage supporters feel. But ultimately, a decision on timing would have to be based on "what makes the most strategic and political sense" and "a full appreciation of the enormity of such an undertaking," she said. Apart from the practical mechanics, another factor to consider is whether it would be possible to raise enough money for a serious campaign in a poor economy, Kendell said. Spending for and against Proposition 8 exceeded $75 million, making it the most expensive ballot fight on a social issue in the nation's history.

David Binder, a San Francisco pollster who conducted a postelection analysis of why voters supported Proposition 8, said aiming for November 2010 has several advantages for same-sex marriage supporters. For one, the disappointing outcome of the Proposition 8 fight has energized a lot of Gay marriage supporters and the momentum could be lost by waiting two more years, Binder said. Also, California voters will be going to the polls next year to elect a new governor to replace Arnold Schwarzenegger, so turnout is likely to be high. On the downside, passage of the measure, which marked the first time that voters were asked to take away marriage from Gay couples who could legally wed, indicates that large numbers of voters remain firmly opposed to same-sex marriage. There may not be time to move enough of them to change their minds in 21 months, Binder said.

"There is significant groundwork that needs to be done, and I don't know if it can be done that quickly," he said. "You want to strike while the iron is hot, but moving too quickly and then losing would have an extremely damaging effect." Despite the message of caution, several groups already have started raising money and organizing supporters with an eye toward next year. The Courage Campaign, an online political advocacy group, held a training camp for Gay marriage activists on Sunday modeled after the grass roots organizing method President Barack Obama used early in his campaign for the White House. "I don't think anybody knows when is the best time to go back," Courage Campaign chairman Rick Jacobs said. "My philosophy is having it go every time, and eventually we will win."

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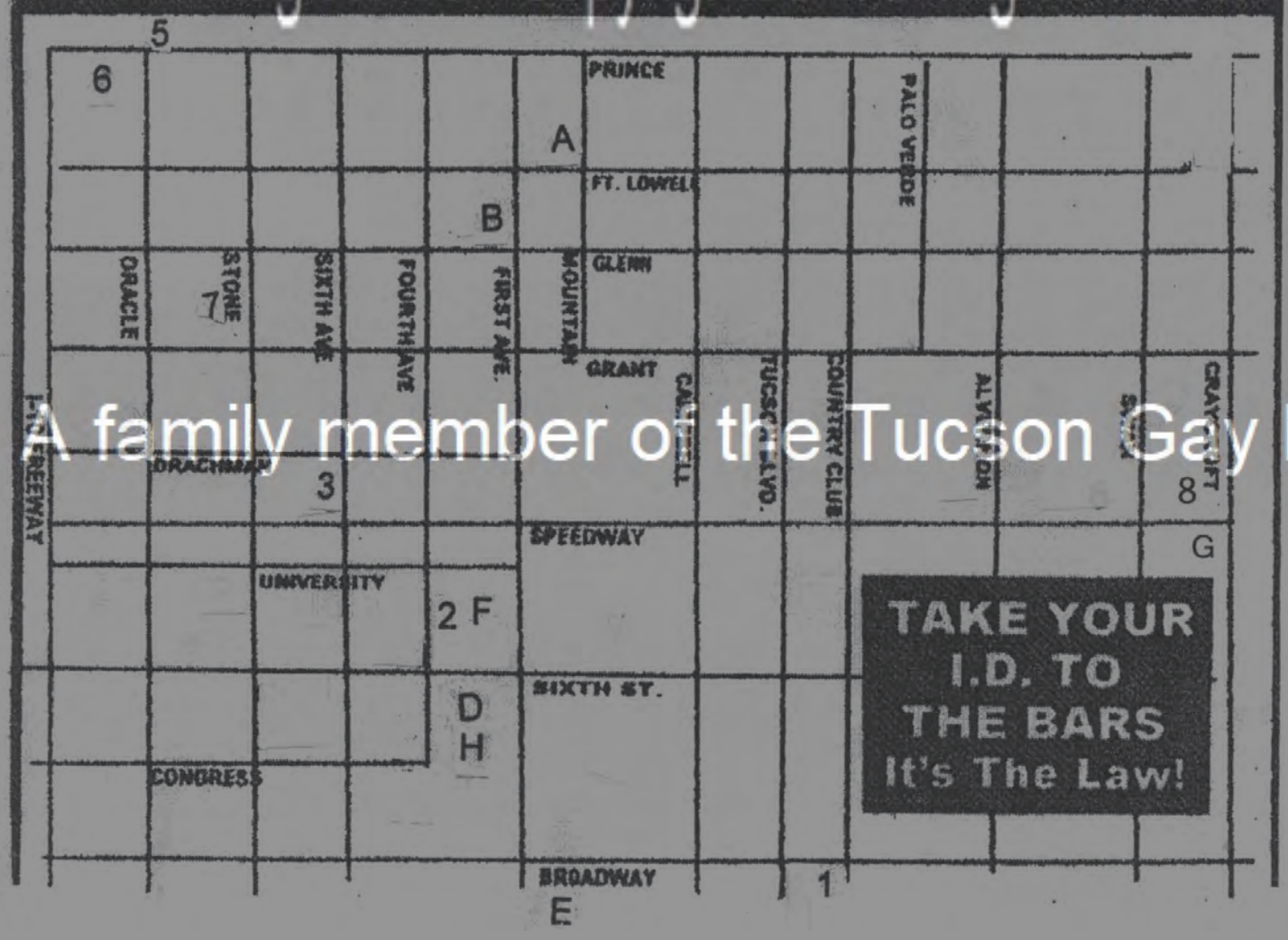

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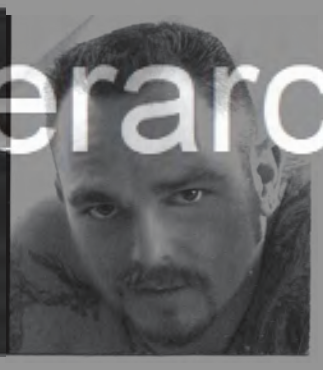

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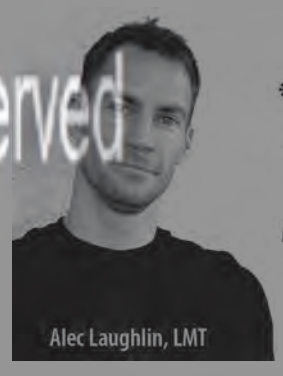

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Financier Trap

In the deep and luxuriant jungles of Sumatra and Borneo, the Orangutan has always been hunted by man. Unsavory practice, what with the remarkable resemblance the animal has to humans, most notably Karl Rove, but there you are.

What is surprising is that this supposedly Jungle-wise primate routinely falls for an elementary ruse: the hunter simply places a large piece of fruit or other yummy Orangutan foodstuff in the hollow of a handy tree, the hollow being just large enough to get the fruit into. The idea then is to wait patiently and silently nearby, remaining undetectable to the ambulatory Orangutan who may pass by and by some sense that escapes me, intuit the presence of the foodstuffs in the hollow tree.

Having detected said foodstuffs, by scent or intuition or by visiting the Psychic Hotline, the Orangutan cannot fail to press a greedy, hungry hand into the oddly convenient tree and grasp the fruit (or cheese, or bottle of "three-buck-chuck", as it may be).

It is often the case that the ambulatory Orangutan, once in possession of a fruit or other foodstuff, is loath to let it go again, for fear that it may be snatched up by another passing Orangutan. In this way, the primate is markedly similar to the American Financier, genus of Graspus-Imoralis. As is the case with the American primate, the Orangutan cannot countenance the idea of another of his species getting anything away from him. The Orangutan simply struggles to pull the foodstuffs from the interior of the tree, which he cannot do since his hand, when wrapped firmly about the fruit, cheese or bottle of chuck, is too large to exit the conveniently sized exit hole. One imagines that an industrious population of hunters would have set to breeding these handy trees with such usefully sized hollows, but there you are again.

With the Orangutan, much again as with the primate Financier, it is an easy thing to throw a net over him while he struggles to pull the foodstuffs from the tree. So intent is the animal, that this is apparently the preferred method in the deep and dark jungles amongst his hunters. In lieu of a net, one may, I am told, also employ the club, the rock other blunt object. The more professional of Orangutan hunters often employ a second ruse to insure a docile and easily captured Orangutan. The experienced hunter approaches the struggling Orangutan with an outstretched hand containing another attractive morsel, or perhaps, in the case of the more sophisticated, Uptown Orangutan, simply a corkscrew and a glass for the three-buck-chuck still inside the tree. An Orangutan so hobbled, both hands filled with booty, is unable to defend against capture and is easily taken.

To transfer this secret, ancient wisdom from the venerable Sumatran and Bornean hunter and apply it to the American problems in its financial sector is the aim of the newly formed branch of the Treasury Department, the Bureau of Financier Abatement. (As a side note, this is actually a branch of the Treasury which has been re-assigned, it's original job having become obsolete, owing to the precipitous devaluation of American currency; the Bureau of Counterfeiting has been dissolved, as nobody bothers to counterfeit American money anymore).

Drawing upon this primal wisdom, the Treasury will begin next week to install similar ruses in banks in the larger American cities. Instead of trees with conveniently sized hollows, the effort will employ strategically placed and specially constructed safety-deposit boxes. Treasury agents will, at their discretion, install these boxes in districts frequented by the primate Graspus-Imoralis, and lie in wait, undetected. The boxes will simply be left unattended in the vaults which are routinely frequented by the American Financier when he (or she) ambles in to stash another wad of cash which has been pried from the small investor. The unattended Treasury boxes will have the keys dangling from the locks. The Financier, with his sharp instincts always watching for unattended valuables, will undoubtably investigate the ruse, whereupon the Treasury agents will swoop in and make the capture.

While not as honestly sophisticated as the Sumatran and Bornean original, this device should be effective in ferreting out the aberrant personality types so common in the primate Financier. We look forward to the likely success of this new tactic, as well as to the enjoyment of the inevitable "perp-walk" of some of Wall Street's finest.

Sam Adams Indicates He Will Stay In Office

Mayor Sam Adams

PORTLAND, Oregon (Observer Update) - Mayor Sam Adams said he would not resign although he has admitted to lying about a sexual relationship he had with a teenager. City Commissioner Randy Leonard said Adams had left a message that he had decided to stay in office, according to the Associated Press.

During his campaign for mayor, Adams vehemently denied having intimate relations with the teenager, calling it a smear tactic by the opposition. Oregon's attorney general launched an investigation last week into whether the teenager, Beau Breedlove, was 17 years old or 18, the legal age of consent, when their relationship turned sexual. The Oregonian's editorial page called for Adams' resignation, as did Oregon's LGBT paper, Inside/Out. But Portland residents are divided over whether to support Adams or oust him. The Oregonian reported that dozens of business and community leaders gathered at City Hall Friday to rally support and encourage him to stay in office, advocate.com reported.

"He's the mayor we need at this point in time," said Commissioner Dan Saltzman, referencing the economic problems facing the city and local businesses. "They demand the focus of our city council and, frankly, we need Mayor Sam Adams to be leading the city council."

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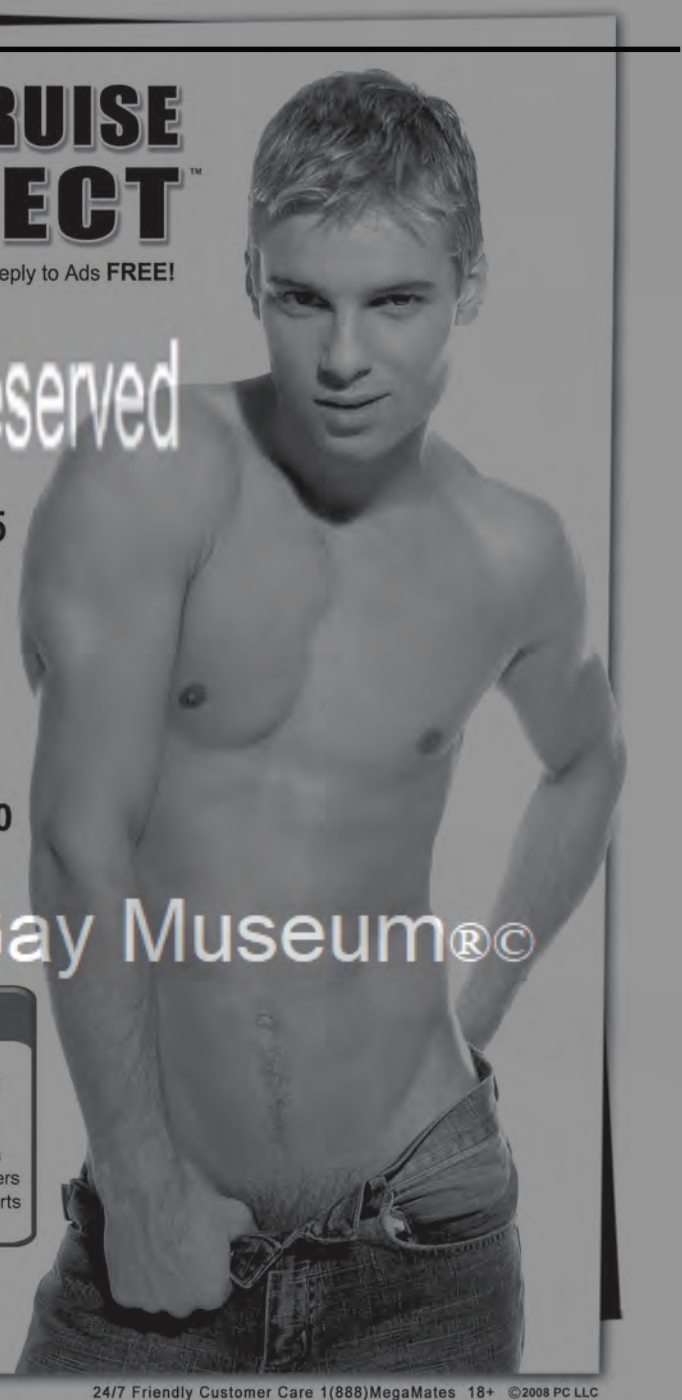

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Congress Ready To Move On LGBT Rights Bill

Continued from Page One

HRC has called on Obama to work with Congress to develop a plan to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" within the first 100 days of his administration.

Tauscher told CNN in November that she thinks Congress would tackle the issue this year. And in a statement last week, Sarvis said repeal may not be practical in the first 100 days, but would be "doable this year."

But Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was quoted in Roll Call last month as saying it could be a few years before anything changes. And while Frank told the Blade he is "convinced" a repeal would happen within the first two years of the Obama administration, he said the president must first make his decision on "getting out of Iraq." Dansky said it's possible that Congress may not even vote on repeal in this session. "I would expect when we talk about progress on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in this Congress, what we're talking about is getting more support in both chambers of Congress and getting more hearings," she said. But Dansky said she is "really optimistic" about a repeal and that last year's congressional hearing on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is indicative of "making more advances this Congress" on this issue.

"There were members of that committee who the day before were saying to us, 'I'm not sure where I am on this,' who were so enraged by the other side's testimony that they were screaming at them," she said. "You were like, '24 hours ago you told me you didn't know where you were. You know where you are now.'" Dansky said she believes many members of Congress would be uncomfortable moving forward on a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal without extensive hearings because it's a military issue and hearings were held on the issue when it became law in 1993.

In an interview Jan. 16, Sarvis said the timeline for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is "a mix of recognizing that obviously the economy and the financial situation is the No. 1 priority of the new administration … but it's also recognizing that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is something that can certainly be done in this Congress." Sarvis said he does not expect congressional hearings on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the first quarter of this year for either chamber of Congress. But he said there is a "realistic" opportunity to secure a repeal as part of the defense budget authorization process, a tactic that SLDN has recommended to Obama's team. Sarvis said including repeal language in the budget request is an opportunity for the White House, the Pentagon, the defense secretary and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to show that they are aligned on this issue. He also said making the language part of the budget recommendation shifts the burden to opponents. "If there is someone on the committee or on the floor who disagrees, the burden is on them to move to extract the recommendation from the [budget] – and that's a very important shift," he said.

Congress is expected to act on the Obama administration's defense budget recommendation for the next fiscal year in June or July, Sarvis said. He added that he thinks getting enough votes for repeal in the armed services committees will be "challenging," but "more than doable." Sarvis said SLDN met with Obama's team last week and presented a report produced in November in which 100 high-ranking military officers called for repeal. He described the meeting as "very encouraging" and said transition officials told SLDN that Obama shared the organization's position on the issue.

The future is less clear for other legislation on which Gay activists are encouraging action. For repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, a 1996 law that prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex relationships, activists said it's unlikely that Congress would take action anytime soon. Frank said Congress is "unfortunately a long ways from having the votes to repeal DOMA." Dansky described a repeal of DOMA as unlikely to happen this year. "But it's something that is definitely on a lot of people's minds post-Prop 8, and we're starting to see, I think, a turn in terms of support for repealing," she said. "But that's something that's in the infant stage compared to the other legislation."

Another bill being discussed is the Domestic Partner Benefits & Obligations Act, which would grant the partners of Gay federal employees the same benefits that are available to the spouses of straight employees. Frank said he didn't yet have a timeline for the legislation. Dansky noted that action on that bill was more likely in 2010 than 2009. But lawmakers were taking action to confront the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic by including funding to fight the disease as part of the economic stimulus package being considered in Congress. Included in the House version of the package is a $355 million proposal for domestic HIV/AIDS prevention. Carl Schmid, director of federal affairs for the AIDS Institute, commended lawmakers for proposing such funding. "We strongly agree with the House," he said in a Jan. 16 statement. "Preventing disease, such as HIV/AIDS, will dramatically reduce future healthcare costs."

Boy George Jailed 15 Months For Imprisoning Escort

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - Singer Boy George has been jailed for 15 months for falsely imprisoning a male escort in his flat in east London.

The singer, whose real name is George O'Dowd, denied the charge and claimed the victim, Norwegian Audun Carlsen, 29, had stolen photos from his laptop. O'Dowd, 47, admitted handcuffing him to a wall in April 2007 but said he did so in order to trace the missing property. Judge David Radford told the former Culture Club singer he was guilty of "gratuitous violence." O'Dowd's family and supporters reacted emotionally as the singer was handed the jail sentence at Snaresbrook Crown Court.

Judge Radford said: "Whilst I accept that Carlsen's physical injuries were not serious or permanent, in my view there can be no doubt that your premeditated callous and humiliating handcuffing and detention of Carlsen shocked, degraded and traumatized him. He was deprived of his liberty and human dignity without warning or proper explanation to him of its purpose, length or purported justification."

Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

The Tucson Radio Suicide Watch

"After politics, journalism has always been the preferred career of the ambitious but lazy second-rater." Gore Vidal stated such in 1991, before a third profession supplanted both: broadcasting executive. Of course, it was the ineptitude of both politicians and journalists that led directly to this horrific state of affairs.

Today, there are 27 different commercial radio stations located in the Tucson market, owned by only ten companies. That's about three times as many stations among less than as many owners as during, say, the Eisenhower Presidency. And the employee tally is probably equivalent to that seen during Roosevelt's. These station owners, now aware that they have bought more stations than they can afford to credibly operate (ChumpChannel alone owns seven), automate and/or satellite-grab their programming throughout the night and most of the day. Just try to phone any of these stations after, say, the late news on TV. Maybe KIIM or KFMA might answer, and even those two are iffy.

One station, KCEE-AM 1030 (or, as one person I know calls it, "Six Flags Over Geritol"), has absolutely no live programming whatsoever; Slone Broadcasting thinks feeding a transmitter with an iPod stocked with Lawrence Welk and Perry Como mp3 files is somehow providing a legitimate service to this community. Don't get me wrong; one of my favourite songs happens to be "Moonlight Serenade," Glenn Miller's theme tune. But I'd prefer both the programming and the musicians heard in it to be equally as live, not equally as dead.

This started, naturally, as a result of the policies, or more accurately destruction of policies, implemented by Grampa Caligula, known on electoral ballots as Ronald Reagan. Before the Reaganite infestation of Washington, FCC regulations limited radio station ownership to only fourteen (seven on AM, seven on FM), and before acquiring one the purchasing company had to show it had enough money on hand to operate it - with a full staff, containing both news reporters and program hosts, at least one of either being on duty at the station at every operating moment — for five years, and they had to operate the station for those five years before selling it.

By the time he was shipped back to California, Reagan personally oversaw the abolition of all of those regulations. As a result, there was a flood of a new breed of station owner - the know-nothing who thought he could make a mountain of money in radio because peddling insurance or running a travel agency was too damned difficult for him. As it turned out, most of the station owners I worked for between 1985 and 2001 - fittingly, I quit the last of these jerks the day after 9/11, another calamity caused by government ineptitude - were of this stripe, and within three years after I quit each of their stations, those stations went silent for months before a new owner, usually a satellite-fed religious network, bought out their assets. The only exception is a suburban Chicago station whose new owner simply shut the station down permanently to boost the power on his already-owned station on an adjacent frequency. Other such owners sold out to companies that were in turn gobbled up by ChumpChannel, Citadel, Cumulus and other modern-day guano pushers.

By the way, that bit about "peddling insurance" used to be a joke on my part until the day in 1995 when I drove back to the office location of another suburban Chicago station I'd quit ten years earlier, to find that the new owners of the station were simply retransmitting the audio of their station in Chicago proper, and said offices now contained an Allstate agency operated by the crook I'd quit in '85.

The perpetration of no less than three full-blooded hate-talk stations (KNST, KQTH and KVOI) in a thoroughly Blue market like Tucson is pretty odd in itself. According to the Arbitron ratings from Summer 2008, all three of these stations combined couldn't draw 9% of the available radio listeners here. And both KNST and KQTH think Tucson needs to be subjected to Michael "Savage" Wiener for a full quarter, six consecutive hours, of every weekday. Where's the full-schedule talk station for the majority of Tucsonians? Sorry, KJLL-AM 1330, but six hours of Stephanie Miller and Ed Schultz leading into Master Laura Schlessinger, radio's most nauseating homophobe (or does she no longer think Matthew Shepard had it coming?), just ain't cuttin' the mustard.

And as this jetstream of raw sewage is pumped into our cars and homes, the corporate barons can't figure out why their stocks are tanking so badly. Last I checked, one share of Journal stock was worth less than a tin of wintergreen Altoids. Oh, well. Podcasts of Harry Shearer and decades-old Jean Shepherd monologues, both vastly superior to anything now on Tucson commercial radio, can be had for free off the Internet. Somewhere, in a corner of Heaven, Marconi is royally pissed off.

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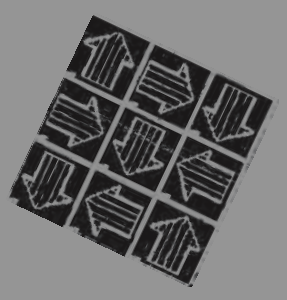

Sean Penn Takes Best Sag Actor Award For 'Milk'

Actor Sean Penn Holds Screen Actor's Award For Best Actor

HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - As award's season heats up, Sean Penn has emerged as an early front runner to win an Oscar after taking home top honors at the Screen Actor's Guild Awards.

Penn took home the night's best actor prize for his critically praised performance as Gay rights activist turned politician Harvey Milk. The film was largely overlooked by the Golden Globes - Penn scored the film's only nomination, and was beat by The Wrestler's comeback kid, Mickey Rourke. Rourke and Penn are now largely favored as the ones to beat at February's Oscars. Milk scored eight nominations when the Academy Award nominees were announced.

"As actors we don't play Gay, straight ...we play human beings," Penn said upon accepting the award. "(I'm) so appreciative of this acknowledgment. This is a story of equal rights for all human beings. Thanks Gus Van Sant, Lance Black, the counsel of Cleve Jones and the great Harvey Milk." This year's SAG Awards also played tribute to some of the most notable LGBT moments in entertainment - a clip reel featuring scenes from Ellen, Brokeback Mountain and Philadelphia was included in the evening's movie montage, advocate.com reported.

Hawaii Civil Union Bill Gains Steam

Honolulu, Hawaii (Observer Update) A majority in the state House has signed on as co-sponsors of a bill that would give same-sex couples in Hawaii all of the rights of marriage but without the name. But whether the bill will make it to a vote on the floor depends on just a couple of committee members who are expressing reservations, reported 365Gay.com. If passed, the measure would legalize civil unions with all of the benefits, protections and responsibilities of marriage. It would also recognize domestic partnerships entered into in other states where they are legal. Marriages from Massachusetts and Connecticut would be regarded as civil unions.

Under the legislation, same-sex couples would have to obtain a license and then have the civil union performed by a judge, a retired judge or a member of the clergy. In 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court was the first in the country to rule that barring same-sex marriage could be a violation of the state constitutional protection of equal rights. In 1997, the state legislature passed a domestic partner law allowing Gay couples to register with the state Department of Health. It allowed couples to have rights as reciprocal beneficiaries in hospital visitations, inheritance and property, and the ability to sue for wrongful death. But in 1998 as calls for same-sex marriage increased, nearly 70 percent of Hawaii voters passed a constitutional amendment giving the Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.

House Majority Leader Blake Oshiro (D), who is the sponsor of the civil union bill, believes Hawaii has changed and the time is right to bring in civil unions. His bill now has 32 lawmakers in the 51-member House as co-sponsors. But before it gets to the floor of the House, the bill needs approval of the House Judiciary Committee. Its chair Jon Riki Karamatsu (D), a co-sponsor, believes he has enough votes to advance the measure. Only one committee member, Sen. Mike Gabbard (D), has indicated he will oppose the measure. Gabbard was one of the leaders in the campaign for the 1998 amendment. "The people of Hawai'i, we decided this issue 10 or 11 years ago, when 70 percent of the people voted against same-sex marriage," he told The Honolulu Advertiser. "And, to me, civil unions is same-sex marriage with a different name."

Another committee member, Sen. Robert Bunda (D), who in the past has opposed bills to recognize same-sex couples, said he is keeping an open mind. "For me, I have to read and digest what's in the bill before I actually make a decision," he told The Advertiser. "I've been told I'm the swing vote, I don't know for sure. If I am, my priority is to make sure that I understand fully what's before us."

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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, pleases 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.

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

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

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

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUTHERANS CONCERNED __ Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 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@yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

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

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

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

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

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - 'L' Word showing 7pm & 9:30pm (Progressive drink specials) - First: $3 Well; Second: $1.50 pints. Last Special is 2-4-1. Following L Word, Out Loud Open Mic. If you have talent join our open night mic - Starts10:45 pm.

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust $2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, $3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping 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

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. EDAN...Exotic dancer appreciation night. DJ spins Hip Hop & R&B and all request dance. $5.25 drink specials.

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. SKYY Matinis $3 ea., 4-8pm.

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

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

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close Come play our Wii gaming system. Beer Pong Tournament w/cash prizes starts 9pm.

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber).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 til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. $7 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm $2.50/Pitcher.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Boyz Nite Out - boys pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. Bicardi Thursdays - $3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am. Happy Hour UNTIL 8. Hip Hop & R&B. Drink Specials all night called out by DJs. Special Performances.

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. 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. Starting Feb. 13th Escandalo Saturdays w/Carnival Latino. Latin Hip Hop, Top 40s & Reggaeton music will be spun. Guest DJs. $5 Cover. oGo dancers male and female. Shot specials allnight. .

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

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

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

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

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

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 31
COYOTE MOON PUB - 5th Anniversary (and official name change) Party. 50 cent jell-o & pucker shots - $5 Long Islands/Tidal Waves/Jager Bombs. $1 Hot Dog/ $2w Chili Dog/$3 Burger)with chips) until 9 p.m. Door Prizes. DJ with dance music.

Sunday, February 1
THE BIZ - The "L Word" every Sunday at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Than 'Out Loud" featuring you! Open mic at 10:30 - dance-comedy-drag-poetry-songs-spoken word. Sign up 1/2 hour before starting time.

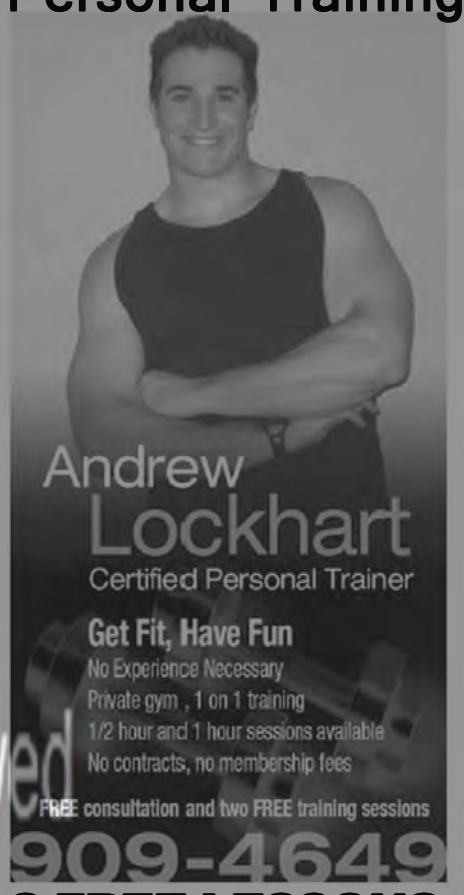
COYOTE MOON PUB - Super Bowl on twelve (count 'em 12) TVs with driink speicals and $2 Hot Dog/ Nacho/Chili Bar.

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

WOODY'S - Super Sunday here with Jeff's Omelette Buffet at 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. Burger/Beer Bust - 4 p.m. Super Bowl Party. Watch the game on the 8' TVs Then Karaoke with Michael D.

YARD DOG - SuperBowl Party with food and drink specials.

Thursday, February 5
WOODY'S - Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue" an extravaganza of Female Illusionists.



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How 'Netroots' Is Changing The LGBT Movement

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - For most Americans, the inauguration of Barack Obama appeared to be a cause for unbridled celebration. But for LGBT Americans, it proved bittersweet: a celebration of Obama's successful campaign, yes. But a tinged with the knowledge that much still has to be done for Gay marriage and other major issues, edgeboston.com reported.

Many urge that LGBT campaigns for issues ranging from serving openly in the military to hate crimes would do well to emulate Obama's political campaign as a model. Aside from impressive grassroots organizing on the ground, this campaign was the first one fully to exploit the Internet as an organizing and fund-raising tool. His unprecedented netroots-based campaign involved social network groups, online advertisements and petitions–all of which together make up the latest political buzzord, "netroots." And that, observers say, is where the future of LGBT rights lay. The immediate reason for self-evaluation and criticism, of course, it the passage of Proposition 8 in California. The electoral public of one of the most liberal states in the country voting out Gay marriage was more than a wakeup call to LGBT communities to get their act together; it was a slap in the face, a bitter splash of cold water. The question is whether Gay organizations can move with the times–that is, from traditional venues into netroots.

Simply amassing email lists and gathering supporters in online social groups early in the game could have made a difference for Prop 8, According to Andrew Rasiej, online networks are important resources for recruiting donors and volunteers. Rasiej headed the Technology Advisory Council in 2004 for Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, who first brought attention to netroots. Also, as founder of online news blogs TechPresident.com and PersonalDemocracy.com, he's something of the godfather of the whole netroots movement. As to netroots efforts that sprung up after Prop 8's passage, they could serve as examples of what could–and probably should–have been done during the campaign before the election, not after. They include:

Join The Impact, an online protest effort for LGBT equality that resulted in hundreds of thousands of people marching in the streets across California after the passage of Prop 8. The Courage Campaign, a netroots effort to organize California residents to push for progressive changes such as Gay marriage.

Nancy Scola emphasized that online efforts like those sites were scarce before Prop 8's passage. , Scola, who headed Internet efforts for Mark Warner's 2008 presidential campaign, looks at the success of the Obama campaign as a model. Obama was far better prepared to put netroots to work alongside grassroots. It is clear, she believes, that campaigns for LGBT rights in the future better follow the Internet president's footsteps. Online campaigning may have another name, but it's the same pricniples as grassroots. Rather than being a separate beast, it is more like what Rasiej calls "the greatest human organizing tool ever invented" because it has the ability to bring people together across geographical boundaries.

Essential to that effort is amassing of email lists and aggregating of people in Facebook groups. Visitors to campaign websites can submit their email addresses; and Facebook users can join campaign groups on the popular social networking site. Some refer to this as "armchair activism"–the passive activism that doesn't go beyond mere clicks on the computer. For his part, Rasiej believes that getting people to click is an important first step that has great potentials. "The holy grail of online organizing is converting online enthusiasm into offline action," he says. It's up to the campaign to ensure that online actions like Facebook groups follow through to translate virtual online support into concrete offline action. To do so, Scola said that campaigns must come up with an overall strategy before getting involved with online technologies.

She warned that if what the campaign needs to be doing has nothing to do with the Internet, "then close your computer and get to work." Scola also noted that the Obama campaign used netroots efficiently for specific purposes, such as raising money and gathering volunteers and supporters. It did not use online technologies just for looks or fancy effects. Grassroots and netroots are interdependent, added Mike Jones, communications director for the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. A successful campaign cannot go with either one or the other alone.

In the Obama campaign, "the online presence coupled with the field organizing of that machine is historical," said Jones, citing Join the Impact as a successful national LGBT netroots effort–one, he hastened to add, that could serve as a model for future campaigns. For individual netroots participants, small steps like joining a few Facebook groups can add up to palpable change if enough people do it. One example is "Ideas for Change in America" from Change.org, a social networking site for political activists. According to Jones, 250,000 people voted on priorities for America; this in turn became collective expression of the vox populi to Obama. Jones believes that this campaign is promising to getting the president's attention as the number of participants continue to grow.

A Day Without a Gay is another example of netroots organization that occurred primarily on Facebook. This campaign urged LGBT people to take a day off from work. With a quarter of a million people joining the group on Facebook, this effort caught national attention and promoted debates about Gay rights. There has been some argument about how effective the ultimate day was. News reports and informal anecdotes indicate that not many people participated. The challenge is that in this virtual organizing sphere, you can have a million come to a website, but it doesn't mean a million will do something," said Cathy Renna of Renna Communications, a public-relations company that services many major Gay organizations. "There are pros and cons to it," she added. "I was stunned by how many people showed up at the marriage [Prop 8] protests. And they weren't the same people who usually show up at these things. It's very refreshing for someone like me who does this for a living."

Even with Day Without a Gay was more successful in the abstract, such a netroot efforts pays off anyway, Jones said, by catching the attention of mainstream media. A Day Without a Gay was reported by ABC News and the New York Times, among others. TV and newspaper coverage is one way that netroots ultimately reaches those who are exclusively offline, mostly to older or poorer Americans. Age, however, is not an excuse for staying away from netroots. The Obama campaign reached audience young and old. "This stereotype just hasn't born out," Scola said. Josh Levy, a writer at PersonalDemocracy.com, added that the media portrayal of netroots participants is much younger than it really is. The average age of a netroots participant is in the 40s. Another advantage for netroots participants is that anyone can take on leadership.

Before netroots, campaign initiatives began with core people showing up to a meeting for planning. Scola reflected that with the impending passage of Prop 8, many were galvanized to take matters into their own hands to initiate netroot protests, switching to a bottom-up approach. Such efforts include Equality Camp, a campaign for marriage equality in California, and the aforementioned Join the Impact and Courage Campaign. As activists gear up for more battles for LGBT rights, it is without doubt that netroots will have to be integral to these efforts. Emerging netroots sites also show that one can make any level and length of commitment they choose and still help affect change, and that the barrier for participation and taking on leadership is virtually nonexistent. And best of all, they're nearby and free.

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