Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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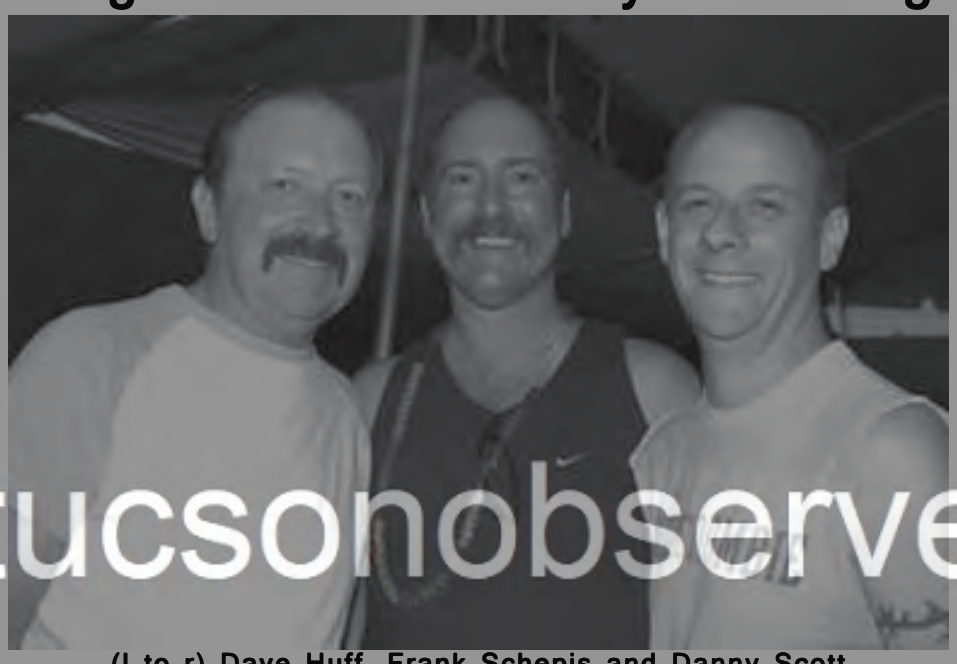
Judge Throws Out Woody's Red Tag



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(I to r) Dave Huff, Frank Schepis and Danny Scott owners of Woody's Bar on Oracle Road in Tucson

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Mari Herraras with the Tucson Weekly reported that on January 29, 20 people filed out of Judge Jeffrey Zlatow's courtroom in Tucson City Court hugging and shaking Dave Huff's hand to congratulate him on his win today against the city to remove the red tag placed on his business in mid-October. The red tag was the result of a series of complaints made by the manager of the Laurence Court apartments next door to the LGBT bar at the corner of Oracle and Prince roads. Arguments between Huff's attorney and the city attorney went back and forth on definitions of unruly behavior and specifics regarding the red tag ordinance.

Zlatow told those in his courtroom that he wasn't able to hear arguments on the constitutionality of the red tag - that would have to be heard in a federal or state court. He had to go by the current law which defines that unruly behavior can be made by a group of five people or more pestering one or more people; and only one person has to make a complaint for a citation to be considered. Testimony from Woody's bartender Jeffrey Branch conflicts with any definition of unruly behaviors. That October night the bar was hosting a wine tasting, and Branch says they had a keyboardist doing jazz, soul and oldies standards. He described the crowd as traditionally older that night - average age 50. "We pride ourselves in that we don't have typical bar problems," Branch says.

Besides testimony from Linda Howeth, the apartment manager and her husband, the city relied on a report from a TPD officer that said he heard noise coming from the bar that necessitated the need for the red tag. Problem for the state was that the officer never showed up. Zlatow told the courtroom crowd: "Remove the tag. The city has not carried its burden." Outside, just as Huff was asked to describe the red tag fight he was moved to tears. "It's been an ordeal," he says. "It's taken a personal toll on my lover and me. I hope nobody has to go through this."

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Huff says his case is a good example of why these ordinances don't work and why they are unconstitutional by allowing one person to make statements that can potentially ruin someone's business or life. When asked how he might respond in the future if the apartment manager complains again, Huff says, "I can't respond to someone who isn't telling the truth." Huff added that he doesn't feel safe, like he's the victim of a rape and the perpetrator has been released.

NGLTF's Carey Gives 'State Of The Movement' Address

DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey signaled action, ambition and inclusion in her "State of the Movement" speech at the 21st annual Creating Change conference in Denver on Friday (Jan. 30), pageoneq.com reported.

At the afternoon plenary session, Carey hailed the election of President Obama, our "community organizer-in-chief," and celebrated progress for LGBT rights made on local and state levels and announced the Task Force's plans to branch out from the more commonly taken channels of activism and advocacy. Not only did Carey urge the audience to remember the "big picture" on issues that LGBT people still face besides marriage rights, but she announced that alliances with organizations such as AARP, the NAACP and Planned Parenthood were in the works with aims to bring the real needs of LGBT people into the open.

"We will certainly keep our LGBT organizational friends. But, it is time for us to make new, substantive and strategic friendships with non-LGBT organizations with which we share common concerns," she said. "The time for isolating ourselves as a movement is over. We will never win on our own."

Also announced was a new partnership with the ACLU and Join the Impact for the upcoming "Tell 3" campaign, whose purpose is to motivate LGBT people to have "meaningful, real conversations" with three people close to them about their everyday lives and needs. "If every one at Creating Change has meaningful, real conversations with three people about our lives, about the things we care about," she said, "we will have made progress in changing the hearts and minds of thousands of people—people who will be voting on our rights next year and the years after that."

Carey also condemned racially charged discourse between members of the community, particularly in undue blame handed down to African-American voters in the aftermath of the 2008 election season, which netted the country its first African-American president, but also the infamous Proposition 8 in California.

"Sadly, shamefully, an incorrect statistic was put forth in the media and many people both in and outside of our community ran with it," she said. "I want to be clear: The blaming of African-American voters was wrong, despicable and inexcusable.

"The Task Force released a study with authors Ken Sherrill and Pat Egan that included actual voting data that showed that party affiliation, conservative ideology, frequent church-going

NGLTF's Director Rea Carey

and the voter's age trumped all other factors in the Proposition 8 vote–including race. The Task Force was criticized by some for being 'politically correct.' It is not politically correct to conduct sound research. It is not politically correct to challenge racism.

Have we done enough as a community to deal with our own racism and to make sure that our movement is one that reflects the true diversity of LGBT people? We sure haven't. But the finger pointing and scapegoating was an affront to the many people of color and others who worked on and with the campaign and to our allied organizations. Furthermore, it avoids the complexity of the work we still have to do to win equality."

Mormon Church Admits It Spent 100 Times More For Prop 8 Than Reported

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum©

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - Six weeks into an investigation by California's Fair Political Practices Commission, the Church of Latter-Day Saints has admitted that it spent nearly $188,000 more on the campaign to approve Proposition 8 that it had initially stated, 365Gay.com reported.

The Mormon Church previously insisted that it spent only $2,078 to support the ban on same-sex marriage, something LGBT leaders said was implausible in light of a number of visits to California by high ranking church officials, ads allegedly produced with church funds and the large number of church staffers working on the campaign. In November, Californians Against Hate filed a complaint with the Fair Political Practices Commission accusing the church of failing to report the value of work it did to support Prop 8. An investigation began in late November.

In a new filing with the state, the church now admits that among other expenses were $96,849 for "compensated staff time" for church employees who worked on the campaign, $20,575 for the use of facilities and equipment at its Salt Lake City headquarters, $26,000 for audio-visual production and travel expenses for church leaders to go to California. "This is exactly what we were talking about when we filed the suit," Fred Karger of Californians Against Hate told the San Francisco Chronicle.

The Church put an estimated $25 million into the battle to end Gay marriage in California. If the Commission finds the Church broke state election laws it could be fined up to $5,000 per violation. The Commission also could file an additional civil lawsuit. There have been protests at Mormon churches in California and Utah. In Utah, a number of churches were vandalized and hoax mailings containing a white powder were sent to Church leaders in Salt Lake City. No group has claimed responsibility, but some LDS officials have accused Gays.

Later this year, the California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a case seeking to nullify Proposition 8, which overruled the court's decision in May legalizing Gay marriage. In a separate case, a federal judge has denied a request by supporters of Prop 8 to keep secret the names of donors. The group behind the measure said public disclosure of their financial supporters put the donors at risk of personal harassment or boycotts to their businesses. In denying the motion, the judge said the public had a right to know who gave money to state ballot measures.

UPDATE

EON Youth Center Open House, Feb. 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Eon Youth Center will host an Open House, Saturday, Feb. 7, 1:00 p.m., (across from 425 E. 7th St.) to celebrate our fantastic new youth drop-in center. This event is an opportunity for community members, former and current Eon participants, family and friends to visit Eon.

Eon Youth Program is a collaboration of Wingspan and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation that provides support to LGBTQ youth ages 13-23 through social activities, sexual health workshops, educational resources, and support and supplies from the Homeless Youth Project. The new space is in a great location across the street from Wingspan.

For more information, contact Youth and Family Programs Manager Khara Ellasante (520) 620-6245.

Tucson Pride, Inc. Announces 2009 Board And Pride Event

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson Pride, Inc. (TPI) elected its 2009 Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 12, 2008. The 2009 slate is:

President - Ethan Smith Cox (Returning), Vice President - Cris Soles (Returning), Secretary - Valerie Arnesen (New), Treasurer - Karon Bohlender (Returning), Members: David Ealy (Returning), Eric Granger (New), Tom Weaver (Returning), Emily Whittington (Returning), Michael Wolf (Returning), Pat Yuill (New).

TPI also announced this year's Pride event dates. They are: Pride Week 2009 June 19-28. Pride on Parade October 9, and Pride in the Desert October 10. TPI looks forward to seeing you at all of this year's events and wish you a year full of Pride and Celebration!

Desert Voices Fundraiser And Show, Feb. 7

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 the community through 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 18 & 19 at the Proscenium Theatre, Pima Community College West Campus. For ticket information please call, (520) 791-9662.

Around The Old Pueblo

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 6. To RSVP, please call Mike Herdegen at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779, ext. 121.For more information about GREASE - the musical, please visit: greaseonbroadway.com. ...

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. ...

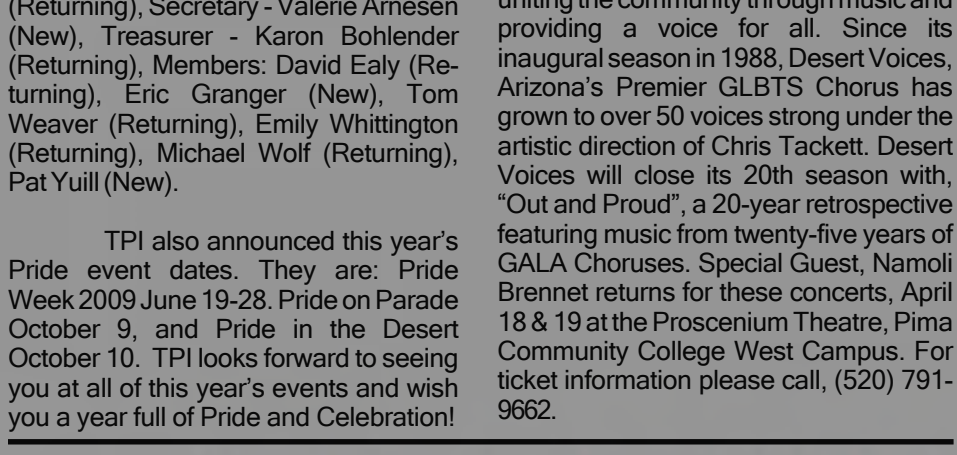
Capture and preserve important moments in the life of someone you've loved by creating an artistic reminder to treasure and share. Mixed media artist and retired hospice caregiver Kaitlin Meadows will help participants use creative techniques for weaving their personal photographs, letters, and memories into a Legacy Book. The workshop will offer fun techniques and innovative memory prompts to make the process easier. $7 materials fee. Sign up today, limited reservations available. Valentines Day, Saturday, February 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wingspan 425 E. 7th St. Contact Penelope Starr, Senior Programs Coordinator for reservations and more information, (520) 624-1779 x 122, pstarr@wingspan.org.

Marriage Equality Tucson Town Hall Meeting, Feb. 7

TUCSON - Please be a part of the first Marriage Equality USA - Arizona Chapter Town Hall Meeting at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested in helping to achieve the goal of full marriage equality.

Among the topics planned for discussion: Freedom to Marry Day" Tucson event, February 12; 0pportunities to engage our allies in our cause and educational outreach within and outside of the LGBT Community

This event is sponsored by Marriage Equality USA - Arizona Chapter. For more information, contact John Allard and Steen Lawson (602) 920-8010, tucson@marriageequality.org.



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COMMENTARY. . .

by Derrick Z. Jackson

Obama's Pledge To G/L Soldiers

BOSTON, Massachusetts - DON'T ASK too soon, our new pragmatic president says, if you want to do away with "don't ask, don't tell." The Boston Globe reported that President Obama wants to cooly build irrefutable facts to support ending the ban on openly Gay and Lesbian soldiers, and break down old attitudes in the Pentagon and among politicians. Many Gay activists seem prepared to give Obama at least a few months. Rea Carey, president of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said, "We're not worried we'll be left behind."

Cool pragmatism is getting a chance, especially given how the molten lava of President Clinton flamed out. During his 1992 campaign, Clinton spoke before 600 mostly Gay and Lesbian supporters in Hollywood, then the biggest such gathering. The San Francisco Chronicle said Clinton "choked up" in his address. The Globe said "his eyes filled with tears." In speaking about AIDS, he said he would give up his race for the White House "if I could wave my arm for those of you who are HIV-positive and make it go away tomorrow." He was resolute on lifting the ban on homosexuals serving in the military.

A 1992 General Accounting Office report said the Defense Department expelled an average of 1,500 Gay soldiers a year during the 1980s. The report said the Defense Department's own reports concluded that "there was no factual data to substantiate" claims that homosexual solders were a particular security risk. One draft report compared the ban on Gays to the former resistance to integrate black soldiers, commenting that none of the "dire consequences" and "predictions of doom" for discipline, group morale, and achieving military goals "has come true."

Clinton knew that when he said, "Every day that we discriminate, that we hate, that we refuse to avail ourselves of the potential of any group of Americans, we are all less than we ought to be. This country is being killed by people who try to break us down and tear us down and make us little when we have to be big." Clinton specifically said of the ban, "My fellow Americans, we have too much to do to endure quaint little rules. We can't afford to waste the hearts and minds of the Gays and Lesbians."

The quaint rules endured, as Pentagon and political backlash forced Clinton into the convoluted policy of upholding the ban but telling the military not to pry into personal affairs and essentially telling Gay and Lesbian soldiers to stay in the closet. It did not work. A follow-up Government Accountability Office report in 2005 found that expulsions were briefly cut in half in 1994 and 1995, but climbed back to over 1,100 a year in the last three years of the Clinton administration. Four out of five of the 9,500 total soldiers kicked out in the 10-year period from 1994 to 2003 were discharged simply for admitting they were Gay.

The estimated replacement cost for these soldiers was $95 million. The loss of skills was priceless in a post-9/11 world, as 322 of the kicked-out soldiers could speak some levels of languages such as Arabic, Korean, Russian, Chinese, and Farsi.

The American people get this, as CNN and Washington Post polls last year found that 75 percent to 81 percent of Americans say openly Gay soldiers should be allowed to serve. President Obama gets this, citing the 2005 GAO report on his new White House website, saying he "agrees with former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili and other military experts that we need to repeal the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. The key test for military service should be patriotism, a sense of duty, and a willingness to serve."

In his pre-inauguration speech at the Lincoln Memorial, Obama specifically mentioned Gay Americans among the people he hoped Americans could "recognize ourselves in one another." If Obama can get the military to recognize the value and valor of soldiers regardless of sexual orientation, even if it takes a few months more than the gauntlet of an executive order, cool pragmatism may be the new molten lava of true change.

(Derrick Z. Jackson is a columnist for the Boston Globe, from which this is reprinted.)

'SC Is So Gay' Crops Back Up In Budget Talks

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (Observer Update) - The "South Carolina is so Gay" advertising controversy from last summer sneaked back into public debate as the South Carolina House questioned the state's tourism director over budgeting and salary concerns. In an Associated Press article published by The Columbian, Director Chad Prosser's feet were held to the fire as S.C. House Rep. Brian White questioned why he wasn't in the office five days a week:

White said the controversy that erupted last summer over ads in London promoting South Carolina as a "So Gay" destination for Gay and Lesbian tourists seem to suggest he's not around enough. Prosser responded that was the misjudgment of one employee, who spent about $5,000 on the campaign from a fund he controlled, and who resigned. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter chimed in that not everyone in South Carolina thought the ads were a bad idea. "Quite frankly, as someone who is extremely tolerant of people and their choices, I was for a brief moment proud South Carolina had seen the need to reach out in this economy to people who might want to come," said the Orangeburg Democrat. "That was the silliest thing I've come across in a long time."

Of course, S.C. Gov. Mark Sanford, the same guy who directed the firing/forced resignation/"policy" and "procedural changes" inside the tourism department, supports his guy: Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer said the governor is very happy with Prosser's performance, and that lawmakers shouldn't single out the salary of a single agency head.

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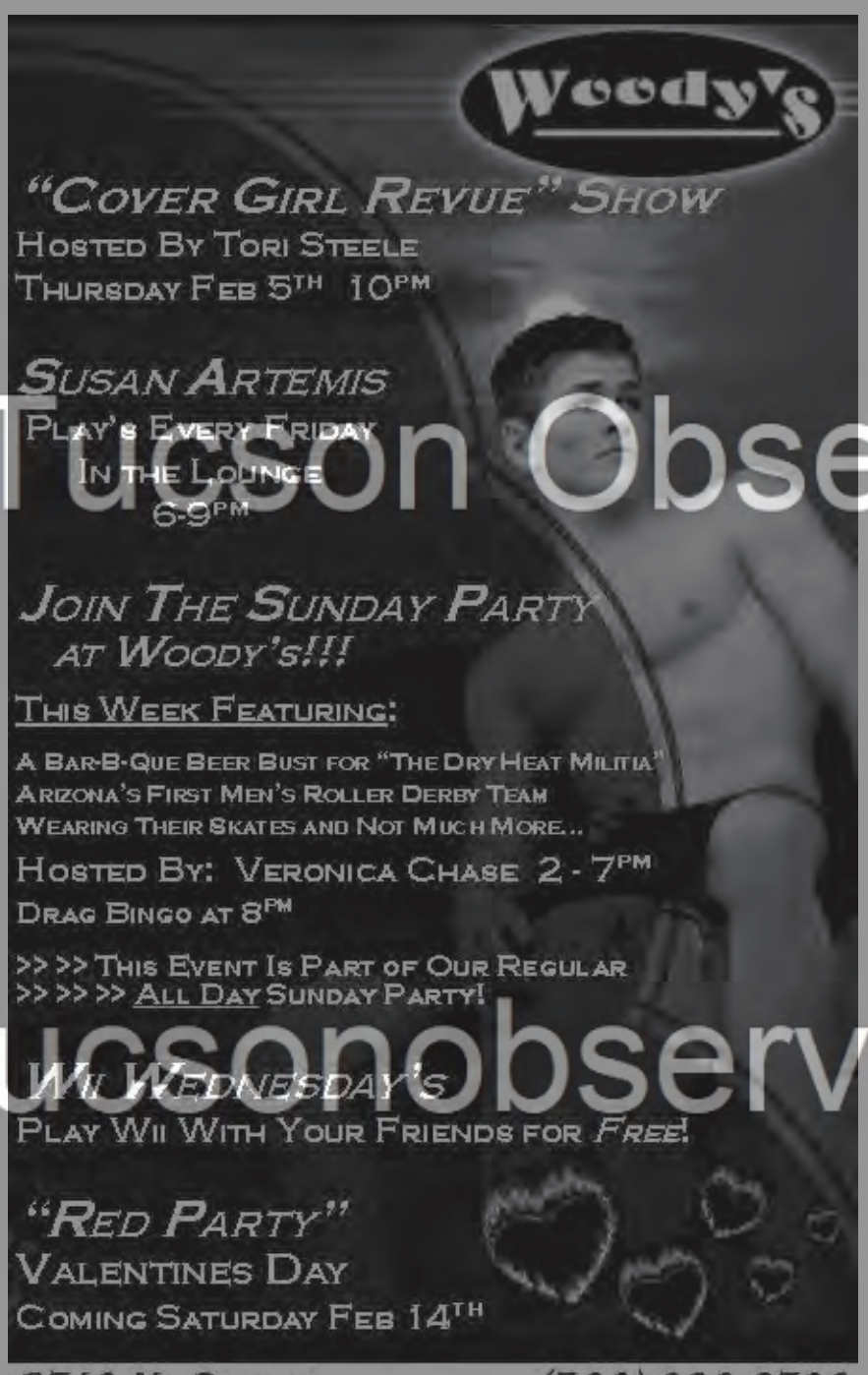

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Job Opening At SAAF

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.

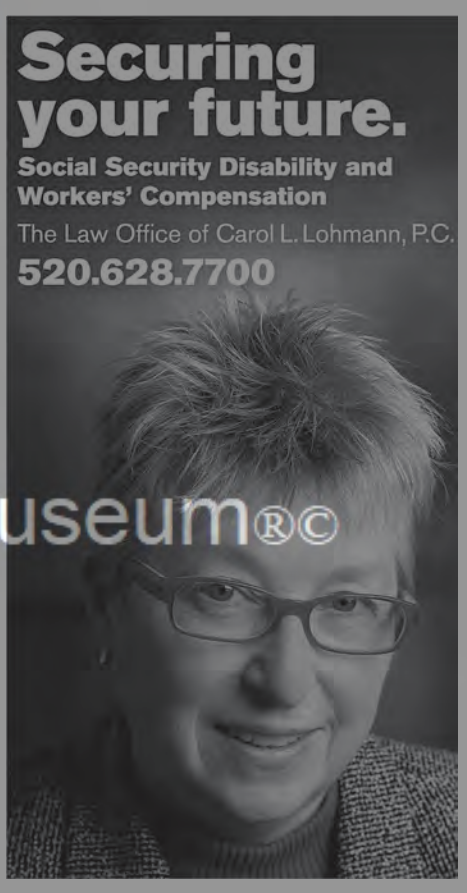
Preferred qualifications: Excellent communication and strong organizational skills. Bilingual/Bicultural (Eng/Sp) preferred. Must be able to work with minimal supervision and be a dependable, energetic, motivated self-starter. Experience working with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. 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.

Doctors Urged To Screen For Syphillis

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Health care providers in Pima County, need to step up their syphilis screening efforts, Michelle McDonald, MD the county's chief medical officer, has urged in a letter to area physicians, reported HIV Plus Magazine. The county has been dealing with a rise in syphilis for the past eight years, said McDonald. Before 2001 the number of infectious syphilis cases was typically fewer than 10 per year, and cases of congenital syphilis were rare. In 2008 the county recorded five cases of congenital syphilis and 71 infectious syphilis cases.

"We have been one of the communities in the country persistently affected by this outbreak, which began in approximately 2001. This outbreak is by no means peaking out and going away," McDonald wrote in her January 6 appeal to doctors. Primary care providers should screen patients for syphilis, especially if they report more than one sexual partner within the past year, said McDonald. Doctors who work in emergency departments or urgent-care settings should ensure that a syphilis test is included for anyone being tested for sexually transmitted diseases. And ob-gyns should consider screening women in their third trimester, especially if they have had a history of drug abuse, she said.

According to experts, the outbreak stems from the "deprioritization" of STDs by doctors, government officials, and the media. In Arizona there is also a language barrier for many Spanish speakers and a hesitance to seek care among some women because of their immigration status. "We really need a lot more emphasis [on syphilis] among health care providers and women of child-bearing age," said Melanie Taylor, MD, medical director of the Office of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis C Services at the state Department of Health Services.



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BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ

Arizona Super Bowl Viewers Get Flash Of Porn

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Janet Jackson's Super Bowl "wardrobe malfunction" was one-upped during 2009's game.

Comcast subscribers were treated to 30 seconds of porn from Jenna Jameson's adult Club Jenna channel in the middle of Sunday's (Feb. 1) game. According to reports, a brief clip showing a woman taking off a man's pants, with full-frontal male nudity, appeared on-screen in the middle of the game.

"We are investigating the cause, and working with engineers at Cox Communications to find out why this happened," Comcast's corporate affairs manager Kellie Maslyn said in a statement. Other cable providers in the area say their customers were not affected. The Federal Communications Commission has yet to issue a statement, reported advocate.com.

ESPN To Apologize Over Shaq Ad

BRISTOL, Connecticut (Observer Update) - ESPN says it will remove an ad that features Shaquille O'Neal and sports commentator Mike Breen after receiving pressure from several advocacy groups including the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

The homophobic promo for the network shows O'Neal rejecting a "fist kiss," or fist bump from Breen. After Breen called it a "fist kiss," O'Neal moves away from Breen on the couch, and says, "No fist kiss, no fiss love, no fist hump. None of that. You're a weirdo man. Stay over there. Fist kiss. Disgusting."

Both GLAAD and HRC have spoken to ESPN officials and the network says it will issue an apology soon, advocate.com reported.

Super Bowl Ad Rejected By Los Angeles Station

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - A Gay marriage equality group says a local Los Angeles TV station refused to run a same-sex marriage ad during Super Bowl programming on the advise of the National Football League, 365Gay.com reported.

GetToKnowUsFirst.org said Monday (Feb. 2) that it was informed Friday (Jan. 30) that the ad, featuring a Gay family, was rejected by KNBC after the station showed the ad to the NFL Legal Department. The group said that it was told the NFL considered the ad "advocacy," a category which the NFL says it excludes.

It is the second time in weeks that the ad, featuring a same-sex African American couple, has been rejected by an LA station. KABC refused to run the 30-second sport during its coverage of President Obama's inauguration. GetToKnowUsFirst.org Project Organizer John Ireland said he was shocked to see the other advocacy ads run during the NFL programming.

Gay Church Volunteer Airs More Haggard Accusations

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (Observer Update) - For more than two years, Grant Haas kept a secret from those he considered his family.

"It's a lot of pain, a lot of mistrust with that church," reveals the former volunteer at New Life Church. Back in the summer of 2006, Grant was invited to go to Cripple Creek by Rev. Ted Haggard, the man he trusted and looked up to as a mentor. "He asked me if we were going to be godly or bad that night," Grant says, recalling their trip. The former volunteer says that meant either hanging out as friends, or buying Haggard porn and masturbate. "I told him that I didn't want that," says Grant.

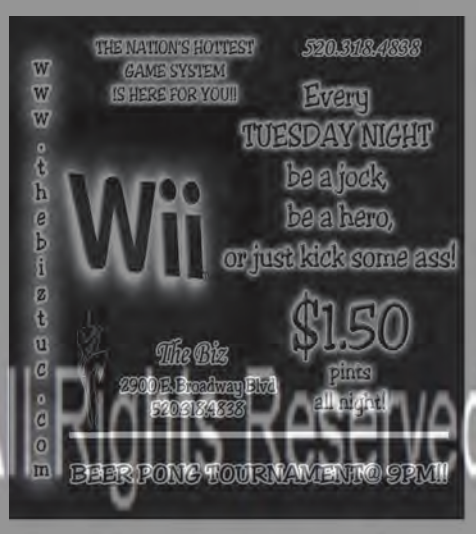
After a day in the small mountain town, both went back to Haggard's hotel room. Grant says he just wanted Haggard to be his pastor and friend, but according to the young man, as they were lying in bed Haggard asked if he could masturbate. Grant told him no, but says Haggard did it anyway. Grant's dream was to be a pastor of his own church, and with Haggard ready to help, he thought it would become a reality. Grant said that as their relationship grew, Haggard began text messaging him, sometimes in the middle of the night.

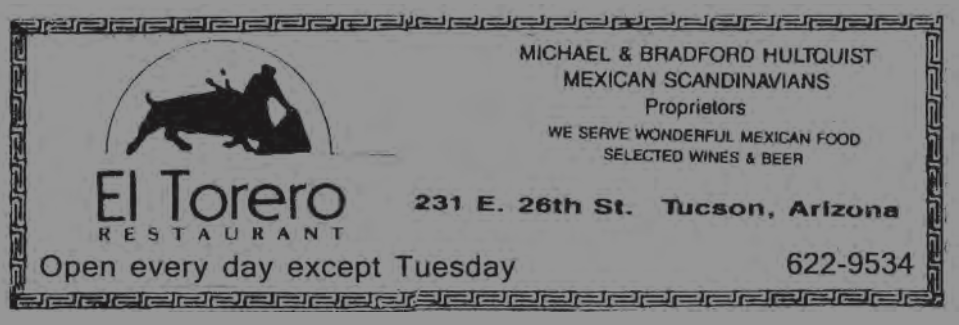
Drivers License Gender Identity Rules Eased In Mass.

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles has quietly reversed a the Gov. Mitt Romney-era policy that advocates said made it nearly impossible for Transgender people to change their gender designation on driver's licenses and state identification cards.

"We are pleased that the RMV enacted a policy that's consistent with medical guidelines and policies in other states," said Marc Solomon, executive director of MassEquality, an advocacy group for equal marriage rights.

"The previous RMV under the Romney administration had set a very onerous policy that wasn't based on medical science or the position of the medical community, and this reverses that," he said.





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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

A Day Of Common Sense In A Place Not Known For It

Arizonans, young and old, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and straight supportive, HIV negative and positive converged on Arizona's State Capital complex, 1700 West Washington in Phoenix for the 2009 Progressive Lobby Day held Tuesday, February 3.

This event is billed as to teach people to learn how Arizona state lawmakers work and themselves can make a difference in creating a just and compassionate Arizona and is sponsored by many statewide partnerships, groups and organizations, including the:

Anti-Defamation League, Arizona Advocacy Network, Arizona Women's Political Caucus, Business and Professional Women/Arizona, Center for Progressive Leadership, Democracy for America-Maricopa County, Equality Arizona, Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network (GLSEN) Phoenix, Human Rights Campaign, NARAL Pro-Choice Arizona, Planned Parenthood Arizona, Phoenix Pride, Fair Trade Café and Wingspan - Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center.

In addition to attending committee meetings and hearings and hearing speeches about the issues from the various groups, organizations and elected officials, including Arizona's Attorney General, Terry Goddard, those present had an opportunity to lobby their Legislators on issues of concern to them but the question posed was "will they listen?"

On Monday, February 2, the deadline passed for proposals to be introduced in their respective chambers in the Arizona Legislature and by the close of the legislative day, 1,010 bills, mandates, resolutions, concurrent, joint or otherwise had been filed, dealing with the usual inanity, such as creating more license plates, catalytic converters (new and used), regulations for releasing dogs and cats from a local pound, prohibiting horse tripping, the amount one can load in their truck to more tax cuts for the rich to satisfy the Republican's "thirst."

After the GOP-controlled Legislature gutted the Fiscal Year 2009 budget to deal with the financial crisis, the attention turned to the state budget for the next Fiscal Year (2010) which starts on July 1. With that looming budgetary crisis, some Arizona House Committees will be holding hearings on some of the 1,010 proposals.

At the deadline, several positive bills of note were introduced.

HB 2455, entitled "nondiscrimination; accommodation; employment; housing," this bill sponsored by Democratic state Representative Cloves Campbell of Phoenix, Daniel Patterson of Tucson and the openly Gay, state Representative Matt Heinz of Tucson, would expand current, state statutes on discrimination in employment, public accommodation and housing to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Openly Lesbian state Senator, Paula Aboud (D-Tucson), has filed several pieces of legislation for consideration during this session, those of note:

SB 1367, "sentencing; aggravating factors; misdemeanors," would expand Arizona's laws on hate crimes on felonious offenses to cover misdemeanor ones as well.

Entitled "employment discrimination; prohibition ," SB 1368 is a state version of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and protect the rights of employees from discrimination in their workplace based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Democratic State Senators Ken Cheuvront of Phoenix, Linda Lopez of Tucson and Meg Burton Cahill of Tempe have introduced SB 1397 "unmarried couples; responsibilities," which would create a statewide, domestic partnership registry, giving rights to an unmarried couple that had registered with the state in the following: hospital visitation, emergency medical decision-making, inheritance, burial and cremation duties.

State Senator Linda Lopez, Democrat of Tucsonand strong supporter of LGBT Arizonans has introduced SB 1410 "schools; harassment; bullying; protected classes," along with 21 other Democratic state Senators and Representatives as cosponsors. Lopez' proposal would protect LGBT students from harassment in Arizona's public school system.

Online, Arizona's Legislature can be found at azleg.gov or for those without Internet access, to reach their Legislators call (800) 352-8404.

Signorile And OUTQ On XM As Well As Sirius

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - "The Michelangelo Signorile Show" and all of the shows on OutQ began airing on XM Monday, February 2, in addition to Sirius. OutQ will air on Sirius 109 and on XM 98, to reach more than 19 million satellite radio subscribers.

For those who are confused: Though the two satellite radio companies merged last fall and became Sirius XM, they have remained as two separate services. Each service will continue to offer distinct channels as well as some channels which will air on both services.

OutQ will be one of those channels aired on both services, as part of basic service, which means XM subscribers will not pay any extra charge to receive it.

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Follow The Money: The Network Behind Anti-LGBT Funding

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Social networkers searching Facebook may not find "Elsa Prince Broekhuizen," but Prince Broekhuizen is part of an influential network, a friends-and-family association of wealthy, powerful people allied to push anti-Gay initiatives in a number of states and at the national level, Lisa Neff with 365Gay.com reported.

Status updates for Prince Broekhuizen might read, "Invested in anti-Gay initiatives, and won." And her social network of friends and associates would include Howard Ahmanson Jr., John Templeton Jr., Maggie Gallagher, Richard DeVos, James and Shirley Dobson, Phyllis Schlafly, Donald Wildmon, Gary Bauer and Tony Perkins. Some in this network get headlines and column inches. Some advise presidents. Some run campaigns. And some, somewhat quietly, organize behind the scenes and write the checks that finance anti-Gay ballot measures.

On Nov. 4, voters across the nation elected Barack Obama and change in the White House and solidified a Democratic majority in Congress. But voters in three states approved propositions amending their state constitutions to ban same-sex marriage, and voters in a fourth passed a measure intended to prohibit Gay couples from adopting children. The groups formed to promote the initiatives raised money the old-fashioned way – with individual contributions of a dollar and individual contributions of half a million, with business and non-profit donations of $25 and $1 million. Anti-Gay campaigns raised more than $30 million in California, $7.8 million in Arizona, $1.5 million in Florida and a still unknown amount in Arkansas.

In the weeks after the losses at the polls, GLBT activists delved into campaign finance reports to identify the deep pockets involved in the campaigns, especially in California, where Proposition 8 was passed to roll back marriage rights already won in the courts. "We do not want to spend our money at any business owned by individuals who supported this hateful initiative," reads a statement of purpose from Californians Against Hate, one of the groups that researched the financing of Prop 8. "This country was founded on the principle of liberty and justice for all. Our opponents have every right to contribute vast sums of money to take away our equal rights, and we have every right to fight back, and we will."

The earliest reports broadly identified the largest funder as the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints, which has heavily financed the anti-Gay marriage fight for more than a decade. The church and its members provided an estimated 70 percent of the Prop 8 money. Closer scrutiny revealed another big funder – the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven, Conn., and its California chapter donated $1.4 million to the Proposition 8 campaign. The group, chartered as a fraternal society and consisting of chapters throughout the country, may be best known for its insurance benefits to members and Friday night fish fries. But over the years Knights of Columbus and its affiliates donated hundreds of thousands to anti-Gay marriage initiatives including campaigns in Kansas and Arizona.

Fieldstead & Co., owned by savings-and-loan millionaire Howard Ahmanson Jr. of Irvine, Calif., invested $1.39 million in the Prop 8 campaign. The company's Web site describes its purpose: "Fieldstead is a private company that manages the assets of the Howard F. Ahmanson Jr. family. Among other things, one of the functions of Fieldstead & Company is to help manage the family's various philanthropic programs as part of a Christian worldview."

The Web site also features Time magazine's description of Ahmanson and his wife as being among "the 25 most influential evangelicals in America" for their "cornucopia of faith-based activism," including support for a foundation that promotes the Christian reconstructionist branch of theology advocating the stoning of biblical law-breakers.

Campaign finance reports show that Ahmanson associates Roland Hinz, Robert Hurtt and Edward Atsinger III also donated sizable sums to the Prop 8 campaign. They have pooled their resources in the Allied Business PAC and the Capitol Commonwealth Group, according to the Californians Against Hate. The Prop 8 campaign also counted on support – about $1.1 million – from John Templeton Jr. of the John Templeton Foundation, the Pennsylvania-based group established in 1987 to financially sponsor studies of science and philosophy.

The National Organization for Marriage in Princeton, N.J., directed another $1 million to California to promote the anti-Gay measure. NOM's president is Maggie Gallagher, a syndicated columnist who was paid by the Bush administration to promote its marriage initiative. Focus on the Family spent about $539,000 in California and one of Focus' board members, Elsa Prince Broekhuizen, of the Edgar & Elsa Prince Foundation, donated about $450,000 to Prop 8.

Other sizeable donations to the Prop 8 campaign included $500,000 from the American Family Association of Tupelo, Miss., $409,000 from Concerned Women for America of Washington, D.C., $200,000 from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops of Washington, D.C., and $160,000 from the Vineyard Group of Mesa, Ariz. Some of those names show up in campaign finance reports for anti-Gay campaigns in other states last year.

Arizona's Prop 102 campaign did not attract the hefty donations that California's initiative drew. Reports for YesforMarriage.com list dozens of donors – homemakers and real estate agents, lawyers and pastors - who helped with contributions from $1 and up. But Arizona's anti-Gay campaign received $5,000 from Fieldstead & Co., the company that invested $1.39 million in Yes on Prop 8 in California. Focus on the Family donated more than $200,000 in Arizona, much of it in "goods/services" and Knights of Columbus contributed $100,000.

In Florida, Fieldstead & Co. contributed another $5,000, Focus spent $33,281 and NOM donated $10,000, according to campaign finance reports for Yes2Marriage.org.

Those who bankrolled last year's anti-Gay initiatives are not new to the fight.

Focus on the Family has been involved in anti-Gay initiatives since the early 1990s and, in more recent years, upped its donations despite downsizing plans at its headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo. Templeton, in 2006, donated $100,000 to an anti-Gay initiative in Virginia, and the Vineyard Group, which spent $160,000 in California in 2008, invested $10,000 in an anti-Gay Arizona initiative in 2006. In addition to serving as the Templeton Foundation's

Continued On Page Nine

5 Years And They're Still Howlin' At The Moon

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How do I love you? Let me count the ways this Valentine's February. Of course we may love for reasons that one cannot explain. And that is good too since Sun conjuncts dizzy foggy Neptune through most of the month. Don't put into dry words what can be accomplished by lusty actions.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

If you have designs on particular platonic pal, you may want to make your intentions known this Valentine's month. Proud Rams should not and cannot be dissuaded from actions stemming from their hearts, even if their common sense minds disapprove. Take a chance and see what happens. Or take a wait and see attitude and maybe they will come to you?

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

If you begin to feel exciting vibes at work, resist the temptation to take things to the next exciting step. February brings a heady lift to your career environment but it may just be a passing fancy with no momentum. Queer Bulls should build their professional reputation on solid bedrock and not on shifting sands. And that means no distractions of a sorted sort.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pink Twins have an urge to travel and cast their net globally this Valentines month. And why not? Make your best moves earlier rather than later. You have that certain special something that attracts interesting types from all corners. The trick will be to choose the best from the pride pack. Some are not who and what they appear to be. Maybe this is not a bad thing....

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

There is something about you that turns heads and gets hearts pumping. Whoo hoo! Not only are you especially alluring and attractive now, you also seem to know just what to say and do to enhance your sexuality and nab anyone you desire. Try to bottle it and pour it on all through this Valentine's month. Sizzling Gay Crab is on the menu... at least this month..

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

February is the perfect time to connect. Proud Lions who are in a relationship find mystical and romantic ways to cement the love. Those who are searching for the right match can find their eternal flame. While it is not usually advisable to accept things at face value (because there is always an underlying motive) you may find that vulnerability can be very attractive... for now.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins may over-do in exercise or diet this February. In your zeal to tone and buff, you may take things to the extreme. But that may not be a bad thing, after all. Love will find you pumping iron at the gym or perusing the occasional salad bar or even taking a brisk stroll around the park. The better you feel, the better you look. This is the month to become a looker.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Party hearty you party hound. February offers you a vast array of romantic possibilities and opportunities for creativity and fun. Find time to balance your artistic inspirations with your desire to just kick back. Proud Libras will find lovely hot spots by tagging along with lovely hot shots. But when does too much become too too much? I suspect you will know soon enough.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Keep your romantic interludes close to home this February. Queer Scorps can be passionate and jealous. What better way to keep your valentines all to yourself than by sequestering them in your castle? Be sure that you have enough provisions to keep them well fed and lubricated. Before you know it they make themselves comfortable and at home. You soon crave solitude.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers become very eloquent this February. Not only can you express your deepest feelings in a compelling and attractive manner, you can also deliver sharp advice or criticism in a way that is accepted by others. So why wait? Tell them how you feel and see if you can move certain things forward in your life. Next month it is back to the old foot in mouth.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Money comes in and goes out again. What is it about pink Caps this February that makes them so scatter brained about finances? It is very unusual ... and expensive. Whatever it is that tempts your wallet, try to sock away a few pennies for the proverbial rainy day. Spend only what you can afford to spend be sure to enjoy it to the hilt. Oops do I feel a drop?

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Not only do you make an unusual and glorious first impression, you also manage to charm acquaintances and assorted friends of friends. Expand your social circle and let your innate charm ooze out. Not only will you be able to increase your possible valentines, you may also find someone to help you launch some of your new pet projects. Hurry before it grows fuzz.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies can rely on their intuitiveness to help them out of a jam this February. Following your gut will help you avoid or triumph over any secret enemies. There is a great deal going on behind the background that could impact your plans. The secret to your success is to stay above the fray, do good Gay charitable deeds and trust in the gods to protect. Take revenge next month.

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Follow The Money: The Network Behind Anti-LGBT Funding

Continued from Page Seven

chair, the retired doctor has been associated with the pro-Iraq War Freedom Watch and the evangelical get-out-the-vote Let Freedom Ring.

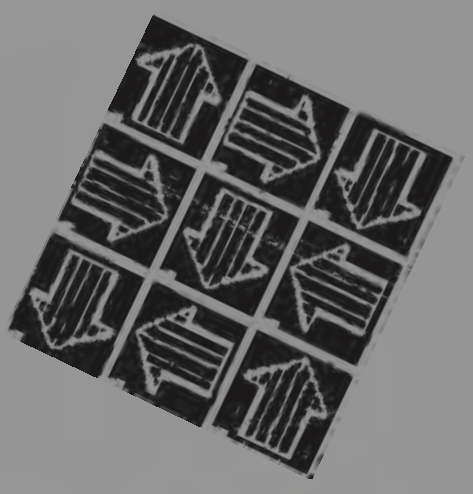
Elsa Prince Broekhuizen also has a history of financing anti-Gay causes, and her family has substantial involvement in the religious right. "Elsa was the top contributor, giving $75,000 to the Citizens for the Protection of Marriage, the group that was responsible for placing the same-sex marriage ban on the ballot in Michigan," said Bernadette Brown of the Triangle Foundation in Detroit.

Prince Broekhuizen's late husband Edgar Price helped start the Family Research Council, and, either independently or through the Edgar and Elsa Prince Foundation, Prince Broekhuizen has supported the Alliance Defense Fund, Focus on the Family, the Promise Keepers, the Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America and the Council for National Policy.

While GLBT activists criticize the right's "family values" efforts as anti-family, there's no denying the campaigns are family affairs.

Elsa Prince Broekhuizen's daughter, Betsy Prince, is married to Richard DeVos, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Elsa Prince Broekhuizen's son, Erik Prince, is the president of Blackwater. Like the Prince family, the DeVos family, whose money comes from Amway, contributed to the anti-Gay marriage initiative in Michigan in 2004 and elsewhere over the years, including $100,000 from Richard DeVos Jr. to the anti-Gay ballot push in Florida last year. "Both families are extremely conservative," Brown said.

A number of the leading individuals, foundations and businesses invested in the anti-Gay initiatives in 2008 have been associated with the Arlington Group, a somewhat secretive religious right network that proved an influential force in pushing anti-Gay initiatives in 2004 and 2006. The National Institute on Money in State Politics in Helena, Mt., reported that the Arlington Group's affiliates and associates donated about 40 percent of the contributions to nine anti-Gay initiatives in 2006 and about 85 percent in 2004.



Washington State Mulls Major Expansion Of G/L Partner Law

Olympia, Washington (Observer Update) - Legislation that would expand Washington's 2007 Domestic Partner law to provide all of the state rights and benefits of marriage and a bill to legalize same-sex marriage have been filed in the Legislature, reported 365Gay.com. Both bills are sponsored by Sen. Ed Murray and Rep. Jamie Pedersen, both Democrats and openly Gay.

The marriage bill is unlikely to advance this year, but Pedersen said he hoped it would lay the groundwork for the future. The expansion of domestic partnership law has a more likely chance of succeeding.

The original 2007 law provided inheritance rights when there is no will, hospital visitation rights and the ability to authorize autopsies and organ donations. The law was expanded last year to add rights in the areas of community property, guardianship and powers of attorney. It would allow partners the right to refuse to testify against partners in court. And it provides the same remedies as married couples have in ending a relationship including the division of property. The new provisions adds pension and public employee benefit rights for same-sex couples.

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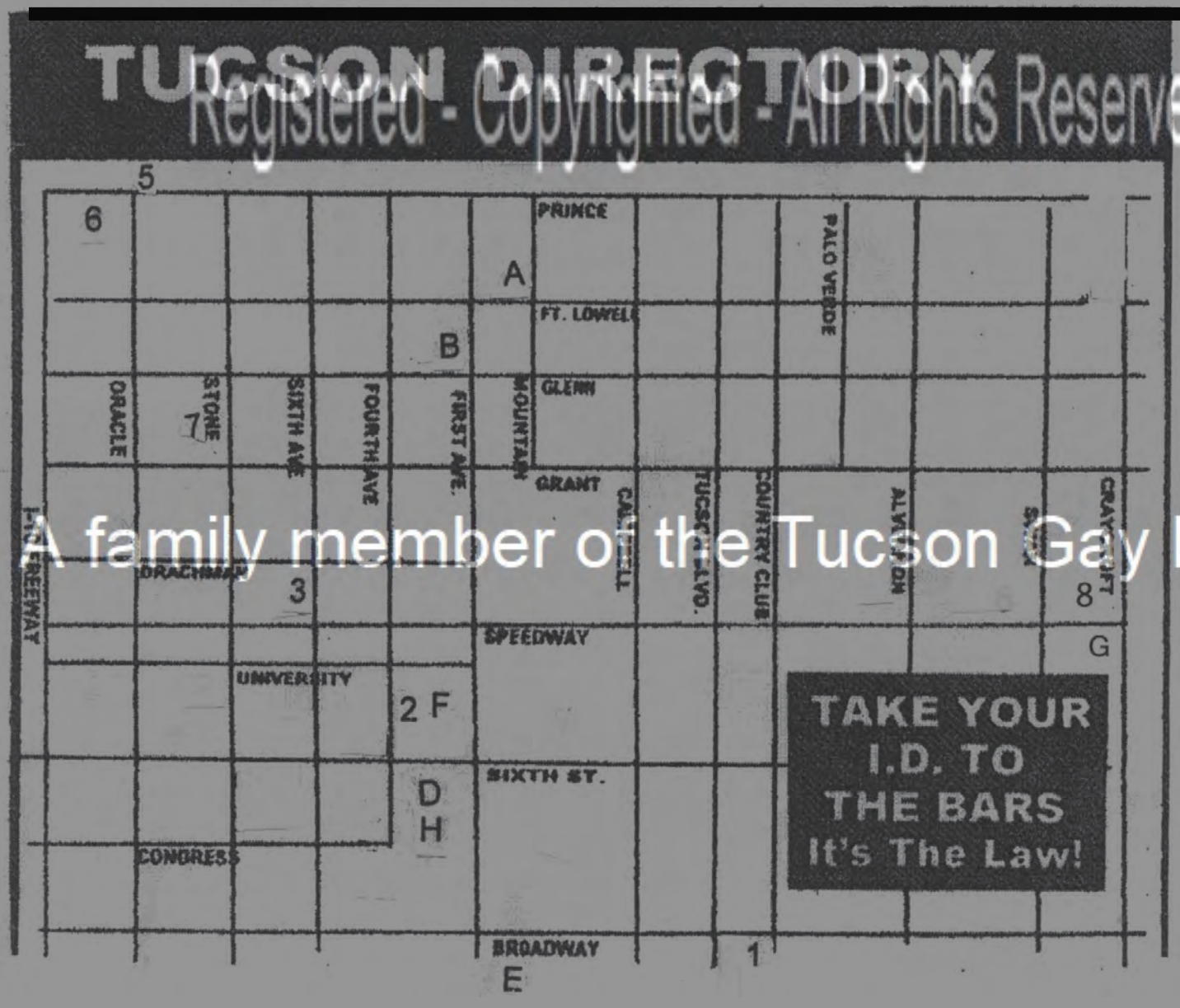

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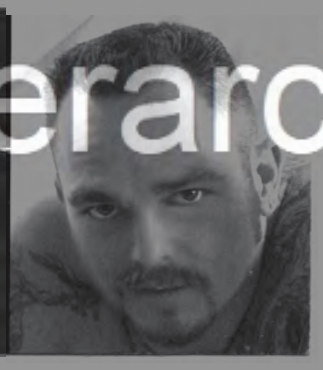

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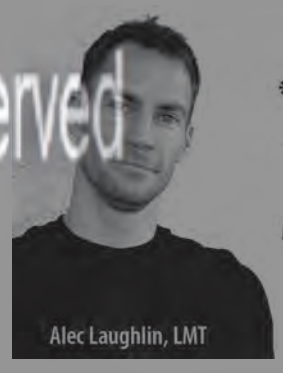

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Greenhouse Gassing

We have a winner. After weeks of waiting for anyone in Tucson to write to us here in the Petrol Central hot tub, we have a taker for the greenhouse we offered in this space for free. Which means that all the folks that have said to me, at one time or another, that they would like to have a "kitchen garden" and grow vegetables for the table, were just gassing.

We are coming to think that this gassing about all the things people say they would do, if only they had the opportunity, time, money, etc, is a significant component in CO-2 emissions, but that is another article. Just in case, stop gassing about it and lower your carbon footprint. On the other hand, Michael and Eric, otherwise known as "Those Feng-Shui Guys", have written in to the Observer Blog and want to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and get themselves some home-grown foodstuffs. This little effort on their part sets them apart from the general population, placing them with the group that President Obama says led this country to greatness. "The risk takers, the doers and makers of things have led this country to greatness." That's what I thought, too.

Meanwhile, the bankers continue to rake in the money, while the rest of us cut back. The boys on Wall Street, having had to "defer" bonuses, since they ran out of cash to pay them with, were happily collecting these bonuses out of the rescue funds the federal government sent them. Obama called it shameful and promised he'd be talkin' to them. Can you imagine getting a call from the President of the United States to hear him tell you that you have acted shamefully? Too bad shameful isn't considered treason. On the other hand, perhaps it is fraudulent..I don't imagine there is any shortage of people to take over for the happy bonus-crew if they get to go on a federally sponsored vacation, what?

The Americans I talk to talk of just making it through this "recession". They aren't talking about making big-bucks anymore; they just hope to hold onto jobs, houses and savings. Lots of savings gone away, devalued by the "creation" of money by the feds. See that dollar in your pocket? It is worth less today than a year ago because of the greed of the boys on Wall Street. There was a time when the nation didn't grow on credit, as it has been for the past few decades. Credit cards are a recent invention; the idea that it is smart to buy things you don't have the money for is a product of modern thinking. The idea is as bad today as it was a hundred years ago.

But while the American people sweat out the recession, few are doing anything new about it. Trucks that people don't need are selling again and everyone is still spending the bulk of their free time being entertained. Not risk-taking, doing or making things. The saddest thing that could happen is for Obama to find out that he is talking about people who are all gone...that America has too much of a sense of entitlement to even plant a vegetable garden. In that case, America will get what it earns: bankruptcy and war.

Thanks for writing, Eric and Michael. See you soon.

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FDA Says Rapid HIV Tests Good For 12 Months

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - OraSure Technologies announced this week that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved its request for 12-month shelf life from the date of manufacture for its OraQuick Advance Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test, HIV Plus Magazine reported.

The FDA approval is based on enhancements made by OraSure to the manufacturing process and product packaging of its OraQuick Advance test, and represents a six-month increase in shelf life over that of product currently available. The company anticipates having the enhanced product available for delivery starting in March. "The quality and accuracy of our products is our highest priority and these enhancements to our OraQuick Advance product represents years of work to make what we believe is the best product available on the market even better," said Douglas A. Michels, OraSure Technologies president and CEO, in a press release. "These enhancements will ensure that OraQuick Advance continues to deliver highly accurate results, consistently and in accordance with our FDA approved package insert claims."

OraQuick Advance is the first and only FDA-approved and CLIA-waived rapid point-of-care test that can detect antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2 in 20 minutes, using oral fluid, finger-stick or venipuncture whole blood, or plasma specimens. OraQuick Advance is used extensively throughout the country in public health settings, hospitals, community-based organizations, and physicians' offices.

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First Lesbian Prime Minister For Iceland Cabinet

Johanna Sigurdardottir

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (Observer Update) - Iceland has announced a new government that will be headed by the modern world's first openly Gay or Lesbian leader. Johanna Sigurdardottir was named new prime minister by the country's coalition political parties. Iceland's previous coalition cabinet of PM Geir Haarde collapsed last month under the strain of an escalating economic crisis, bbcnews.com reported.

Sigurdardottir's government said it would immediately start to tackle Iceland's crisis. "The government inherits enormous difficulties due to the banking and systemic collapse as well as considerable and rapidly increasing foreign debts and liabilities of the national economy," the new coalition said in a statement. It said its priorities would be replacing the board of governors of the central bank and to ask a parliamentary committee to look at the possibility of entering the European Union.

Sigurdardottir, a former social affairs minister, is the member of the Social Democratic Alliance. The 66-year-old's appointment as interim leader - until elections in May - is seen by many as a milestone for the Gay and Lesbian movement, correspondents say. "I don't think her sexual orientation matters. Our voters are pretty liberal, they don't care about any of that," Skuli Helgeson, Social Democratic Alliance's general secretary, told the BBC.

Sigurdardottir - who has never hidden her sexuality - is, nevetherless, very private about her personal life, never discussing it in public. She married her companion Jonina Ledsdottir in 2002, according to AFP news agency. Sigurdardottir is one of Iceland's most popular politicians. Her appeal has held up even as confidence in the government itself has plummeted, amid the economic crash, soaring unemployment and street protests.

Born in the capital Reykjavik in 1942, Ms Sigurdardottir studied commerce before becoming a flight attendant for Loftleidir Airlines in 1962. After nine years at the airline, during which time she began a parallel career as a union organiser, she left and got an office job at a packaging firm in the capital. Ms Sigurdardottir was first elected to Iceland's parliament in 1978 and was given her first ministerial office - social affairs - in 1987. In 1994, she left government and unsuccessfully stood for the leadership of the Social Democratic Party. She then formed her own party, the National Movement, which won four parliamentary seats in the next year's general election. The party later merged with the Social Democratic Party and two other centre-left groups to form the Social Democratic Alliance (SDA), which they hoped would counter the dominance of the right-wing Independence Party. It was not until after the 2007 election, however, that the SDA got a chance to govern, albeit in a left-right coalition with the Independence Party.

Holocaust Memorial Day Observed

LONDON, England (Observer Update) - Holocaust Memorial Day was observed Tuesday (Jan. 27) in memory of some 6 million people put to death by the Nazis. Most of the victims were Jewish, but an unknown number of Gays, Roma or Gypsies, Communists and dissidents were also murdered, 365Gay.com reported. Under Paragraph 175 of the German penal code which banned sexual intimacy between members of the same gender, an untold number of Gays and Lesbians were rounded up by the Nazis and sent to concentration camps where they were subjected to medical experiments including lobotomies, and forced to work in labor camps.

Estimates of Gays and Lesbians persecuted by the Nazis range from several thousand to a quarter million. A large number of those interred were sent on to the gas chambers. "The murder of six million Jews and countless Roma, Poles and other Eastern Europeans, Gay men and Lesbians, trade unionists, disabled people and political and religious opponents of the Nazis was not a sudden and frenzied explosion of hate, but a horror that had been methodically and carefully planned," said British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in a statement. "Hatred may begin with small acts of prejudice or bigotry - but it rarely ends with them. That is why we all have an obligation to stand up to hatred."

Monuments to Gays murdered during the Holocaust are in Berlin Copenhagen and Amsterdam in Europe, San Francisco and Sydney. A monument is planned in Tel Aviv, Israel. In Jerusalem, the Yad Vashem Museum on the Holocaust features a small exhibit dedicated to Gay and Lesbian victims of the Nazis. The American Holocaust Museum in Washington also has an exhibit dedicated to Gays and Lesbians.

Columbian Court Extends Marriage Rights To Same-Sex Couples

BOGOTA, Columbia (Observer Update) - Gay and Lesbian couples in Colombia are entitled to the same rights as straight couples in common-law marriages, the country's Constitutional Court ruled.

In April 2008 Gay rights group Colombia Diversa, the Centre for Law, Justice and Society (Dejusticia) and the Group of Public Interest Law at the University of the Andes, filed a lawsuit for equal rights for unmarried heterosexual and same-sex partners. The court's ruling means that civil and political rights such as nationality, residency, housing protection and state benefits will now be granted to same-sex partners. Colombia's 1991 constitution promises equal rights for all citizens.

Although homosexual relationships were decriminalised in the 1980s, serious human rights violations against LGBT people are commonplace. The South American country of 45 million people is heavily Roman Catholic, and there is significant discrimination against Gay people, despite recent court rulings granting rights to same-sex couples.

Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Tucson Roller Derby Rolls On 'N On 'N On

On Saturday (Feb. 7) at 4:30, Bladeworld at 1065 W. Grant becomes the hub of My Universe for a few hours. That's when Tucson Roller Derby cranks up its 6th season of action. Actually, the first to be on the flat track will be the Derby Brats, TRD's highschoolers' league, who skate against the Los Angeles Derby Dolls' junior league all-stars for a full 60-minute bout. The TRD women will be taking to the track at 6:30, with a round robin schedule of 15-minute mini-bouts allowing all four of the teams in the league - the Furious Truckstop Waitresses, the Copper Queens, the Iron Curtain and the 5th Season Champion VICE Squad - to take each other on. The TRD also has an all-star unit, the Saddletramps, who hold bouts against other leagues' all-star units. For you uninitiated types, this ain't your mama's Roller Derby. Growing up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, I got two and a half TV hours of that version every Saturday. First would be the "Roller Derby" brand out of SFO over WBAY-TV/2 from Green Bay, with Sherri Erich and the late great Joan Weston leading the Midwest Pioneers against Quebecois Francine Cochu's Cincinnati Jolters or whatever outlaws the infamous Ann Calvello picked feuds alongside. That would usually be at 1:00 Saturday afternoon. Then at 6:30, following AWA "All-Star Wrestling" and some cheesy AIP drive-in horror flick, KFIZ-TV/34 from Fond du Lac aired the 90-minute version of "Roller Game of the Week" from Los Angeles' KTLA/5, with the inimitable Dick Lane commenting on the latest exploits of "Psycho" Ronnie Raines, before and after joining the L.A. Thunderbirds circa '71; "Little" Danny Reilly, whose Reilly's Renegades were outlaw thugs with no fixed hometown; and the immortal Shirley Hardman of the T-Birds' women's squad.

It was that T-Birds' women's squad that was pretty much pseudonymously immortalised in the 1972 movie KANSAS CITY BOMBER, with Raquel Welch as the queen of the banked track and a brief appearance by Jodie Foster as Raquel's daughter. Jodie claims to have not seen the film until only a couple of years ago, at which time she declared it to be a celluloid turd. Phil Ochs, the great folk singer of '63 Greenwich Village, was asked to write and record a theme song for the movie; Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer rejected it, but Ochs had A&M Records put it out as a single anyway. He wanted to stage a world premiere for the song on the T-Birds' track at an Olympic Auditorium TV taping (say it with me, everyone: "Richmond 9-5171!"), but T-Birds owner Bill Griffiths refused. But all that is digression. The TRD and Derby Brats' game is not "Psycho" Ronnie Raines' game of almost 40 years ago.

Mind you, there are similarities. The most notable is that the game is still played on quad skates, not inline rollerblades. And scoring remains the same, having a designated skater, the jammer, on each team try to lap as many members of the opposing team as possible within the oval track during a jam, usually 2 minutes if the league belongs to the Womens' Flat Track Derby Association. Last time I checked, this is the only sport where opposing players can score points at the exact same split-second. The full name of the WFTDA should clue you in to two of the biggest differences from the '70s game: although there is a men's Derby unit in Tucson, the vast majority of current-day municipal Derby leagues are of all women skaters, and although there are some banked-track leagues here and there, WFTDA member leagues like the TRD skate on the same flat surfaces that roller hockey is played on.

The third big difference is that, unlike the kayfabe days of "Psycho" Ronnie Raines, the current-day bouts are played for real. They aren't a "work," like Hulk Hogan's choreographed rasslin'. The trappings are a wild spoof of the old days, with skater names straight out of Batman's roster of supervillains. VICE Squad staple Whiskey Mick and my Arizona Bruisers pal Helen Wheels, now part of the Iron Curtain, are among my current TRD favourites. But these women have a sacred fire burning in their collective soul, and they guard it with a legitimacy and ferocity worthy of the toughest NFL Cardinal or Charger. Of course, this sport also has a unique appeal for lesbian and bisexual women. It's a relatively rare milieu wherein they don't have to take any guff whatsoever about their bedpartnership. Unfortunately, the WNBA still draws homophobic wisecracks - the allegedly "progressive" radio station I was on in Phoenix last year saw staffers crack some of the nastiest I've ever heard off-mic. But these 'phobes know a rollergrrl will legitimately kick their ass the split second they pull too much of the same crap with them.

This grassroots flat-track Derby revival (the TRD is a non-profit skater cooperative) largely traces itself back to one of the Austin, Texas, leagues circa 2002, according to TRD historian and co-founder Kim Sin. The following year, Ivanna S. Pankin co-founded the AZ Roller Derby in Phoenix, and never wanting TUS to pass up anything PHX gets, the TRD was developed almost simultaneously. Since then, the AZRD has seen three different breakaways, the Derby Dames and Renegades leagues and last year's short-lived Arizona Bruisers team (that last outfit eventually absorbed into the Dames structure). The Derby Brats remain Arizona's only highschoolers' Derby unit. The TRD website, tucsonrollerderby.com, has any other info you'll need about Saturday's bout. KDM sez to check it out.

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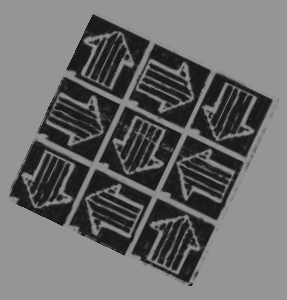

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Giuliano Steps Down From GLAAD

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Neil Giuliano

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced that its current president, Neil Giuliano, will step down later this year to pursue "personal interests" and complete a book about his personal and professional life.

Giuliano has been president of GLAAD for 3-1/2 years. Prior to his work with GLAAD, Giuliano was mayor of Tempe, Ariz., and was a university administrator and faculty associate at Arizona State University. "I have informed the national board of directors of my decision to step down as president later this year and look forward to a successful and smooth transition of leadership for GLAAD," Giuliano said in a statement released by the organization. "It's been an honor and privilege to work professionally in the movement for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender equality for the last 3-1/2years. The views of the American people on LGBT issues are clearly moving in the right direction, toward supporting full equality, and it has been a great experience to serve on the front lines, leading an amazing organization at such a historical time in the movement."

GLAAD reported in a press release that under Giuliano's watch, the nonprofit's annual budget increased from $7.5 million to $11 million. Giuliano has been influential in orchestrating projects including outreach to Gay youths and faith communities and 2007's acquisition of the Sundance Film Festival's Queer Lounge.

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Baldwin Asks Clinton To Fix Inequities For G/L State Department Employees

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - In a letter sent Monday (Feb. 2), out Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to address inequities in employment practices concerning Gay and Lesbian State Department employees. Joined by Sens. Russ Feingold and Ron Wyden and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Baldwin wrote:

"The lack of equitable treatment could force dedicated, intelligent, and needed FSOs (Foreign Service Officers) and officials to make an unfortunate choice between serving their country and protecting their families. As you noted during the question and answer session of your Senate Foreign Relations confirmation hearing, many other nations now extend training, protection, and benefits to the partners of LGBT employees. Further, the State Department's past inattention to these disparities places it below parity with the best employment practices used in the private sector, where the majority of Fortune 500 companies extend employee benefit programs to cover the domestic partners. Without remedying these inequities, the State Department may fail to attract and retain qualified personnel."

Baldwin and her fellow legislators specifically asked Clinton, among other things, to institute: Inclusion in travel orders for same-sex domestic partners of Foreign Service Officers (FSOs); Access to training, including all language classes, area studies, and embassy effectiveness classes for same-sex domestic partners of FSOs; Emergency evacuation and medevac from post when necessary for same-sex domestic partners of FSOs; Access to post health units for same-sex domestic partners of FSOs; Visa support for same-sex domestic partners accompanying FSOs to overseas postings, and for same-sex foreign-born domestic partners accompanying FSOs to postings in Washington or elsewhere in the U.S.

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

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

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

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

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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

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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 5pm-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 5pm-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 5pm-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 5pm-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 3-7

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-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. Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Starting Feb. 13th Escandalo Saturdays w/Camival 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.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 5
WOODY'S - 10:00 p.m.Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue" an extravaganza of Female Illusionists.

Saturday, February 7
COYOTE MOON PUB - February Birthday Party! Born in February? Party starts at 9:0 p.m. Join the Birthday Celebration and get drink discounts all night. Plus, enjoy classic rock by Two Sons.

Friday, February 13
THE BIZ - "Gay Prom 2008" Special guest DJ's Motion and Mother Tierra and a special performance by Human Project. Hosted By Celine.

Saturday, February 14
WOODY'S - Valenti's Day "Red Party". More later

YARD DOG - 3RD Annual Chili Cook-off. Sign in with bartender. Turn in by 5:00 p.m. Judging at 7:00pm

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Rainbow Foot Soldiers Statement On Arizona Civil Partnerships

By Buck Bannister and
Sandra Senecal

Rainbow Foot Soldiers sympathizes with those who wish to advance the cause of LGBT equality. With recent losses in both California and Arizona this election cycle many of us feel a desire to do something positive for the community. Recently, we submitted a list of questions to Mr. Phillip Cotton the major backer of the measure in order to clarify statements made by him about his proposal.

To date, Mr. Cotton has yet to respond to our very simple questions. Particularly, we were concerned about the far reaching claims of the proposal including that it would provide equal access to employer backed health insurance for partners. As the New Jersey Commission reported, employers continually use the DOMA and ERISA statutes to segregate their LGBT employees in Civil Unions. We also questioned his statements on the measure insuring immigration status for same-sex partners, again since these are Federal laws it seems far-fetched to think that a state law would have any effect.

It appears from study and consultation with other groups that this proposal is based, in large part, on a model of the law passed in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, the political structure of the United States is quite different and these differences have not been taken into account in the wording and marketing of this measure.

Finally, the Right Wing has already expressed their opposition to the Civil Partnerships proposal and vowed to turn out their base should it make the ballot in 2010. At this time, as we note the swing in the political climate of Arizona where native son, John McCain nearly lost to a liberal Democrat in November. We feel the timing of this could be disastrous as we try to elect LGBT friendly legislators. Early analysis indicates McCain's own Senate seat could be in jeopardy as well. Providing a flash point issue that is unlikely to pass could derail other gains in state and even national races. Traditionally, LGBT rights issues have been used by the Religious Right to swing elections by mobilizing their base. This time, a member of our own community will be providing the ballot initiative for them to rally around.

We continue to support full and equal access to Civil Marriage for all LGBT people. Were this proposal to actually be a step on that road we would happily get behind it. However, we feel that the proposal and the reticence of the backers to accept input, answer legitimate concerns, and otherwise not be completely honest with the community about the flaws of their proposal make it necessary for us to oppose this measure and urge all LGBT people of conscience and their allies to do the same. Our day is coming, we must fight on for full equality and inclusion in our great society.

(Rainbow Foot Soldiers was created to provide direct action and engagement on matters relating to the LGBT community in Arizona and elsewhere. Eschewing "checkbook activism" the group actively works to promote direct action through protests, neighborhood canvassing, visibility, and civic engagement. For more information, rainbowfootsoldiers.com.)

COMMENTARY. . . .

by John Corvino

The Truth About G/L Adoption

I don't have children, I don't want children, and I don't "get" children. Some of my friends have children. I like their children best at two stages of their lives: 1) When they're small enough that they come in their own special carrying cases and stay put in them. 2) When they're big enough that they don't visit at all, but instead do their own thing while their parents do grownup stuff.

In between those stages, children tend to run amok, which makes me nervous. My house is full of sharp and heavy objects. I did not put them there to deter children–honest!–but I am more comfortable when children (or their parents) are thus deterred. It's safer for everyone involved. Having said that, I admire people who have children. I have a flourishing life largely because I was raised by terrific parents. When others choose to make similar sacrifices, I find it immensely praiseworthy. Which may be why opposition to Gay adoption makes me so angry.

Mind you, I am not by nature an angry person. Regular readers of this column know that I go out of my way to understand my opponents. Rick Warren compares homosexuality to incest? Well, what did he mean by the comparison? What was the context? What's motivating him? Attack Gay parents, however, and my first impulse is to pick up one of the aforementioned sharp and heavy objects and hurl it across the room. That's partly because these attacks criticize adults who are doing a morally praiseworthy thing. And it's partly because the attacks hurt innocent children, toward whom I feel oddly protective, despite my general aversion.

Back in November, a Miami Dade circuit judge ruled that Florida's law banning Gays from adopting is unconstitutional. This is very good news. The Florida ban took effect in 1977, the era of Anita Bryant and Jerry Falwell. We've come a long way since then–or so I'd like to think. Yet the Florida religious right is trotting out the same old arguments, repeatedly insisting that having both a mother and father is "what's best for children."

Let's put down our sharp and heavy objects for a moment and try addressing this calmly.
Every mainstream child health and welfare organization has challenged this premise. The American Academy of Pediatrics. The Child Welfare League of America. The National Association of Social Workers. The American Academy of Family Physicians–you name it. These are not Gay-rights organizations. These are mainstream child-welfare organizations. And they all say that children of Gay parents do just as well as children of straight parents.

But let's suppose, purely for the sake of argument, that they're all wrong. Let us grant–just for argument's sake–that what's best for children is having both a mother and a father. Even with that major concession, our opponents' conclusion doesn't follow. The problem is that their position makes the hypothetical "best" the enemy of the actual "good". Indeed, when discussing adoption, it's a bit misleading to ask what's "best" for children.

In the abstract, what's "best" for children–given our opponents' own premises–is to not need adoption in the first place, but instead to be born to loving heterosexual parents who are able and willing to raise them. So what we're really seeking is not the "best"–that option's already off the table–but the "best available."

What the 1977 Florida law entails is that Gay persons are NEVER the best available. And that's a difficult position for even a die-hard homophobe to maintain. It's difficult to maintain in the face of thousands of children awaiting permanent homes. It's difficult to maintain in the face of Gay individuals and couples who have selflessly served as foster parents (which they're permitted to do even in Florida). It's difficult to maintain in light of all the other factors that affect children's well-being, such as parental income, education, stability, relationships with extended family, neighborhood of residence, and the like–not to mention their willingness and preparedness to take on dependents. What the Florida ban does is to single out parental sexual orientation and make it an absolute bar to adoption, yet leave all of the other factors to be considered on a "case-by-case," "best available" basis. Meanwhile, thousands of children languish in state care.

For the sake of those children, I resist my urge to hurl heavy objects at the Florida "family values" crowd. Instead, I ask them sharply and repeatedly: Do you really believe that it is better for children to languish in state care than to be adopted by loving Gay people? Those are the real-world alternatives. Those are the stakes. And our opponents' unwillingness to confront them is an abysmal moral failure.

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, columnist for 365Gay.com, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralist" appears Fridays on 365Gay.com. For more about John Corvino, or to see clips from his "What's Morally Wrong with Homosexuality?" DVD, visit johncorvino.com.)

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