



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

ISSUE 1281

Tucson Observer Archives

Picture It ! 4th Avenue Underpass Portrait Project - Free!

TUCSON - TucsonPortraitProject.com is inviting you to be immortalized on tiles for the new 4th Avenue Underpass! Put on your face and be seductive, glam it up or ham it up, look natural, Presidential, or anything you're feeling, on February 15 for the LGBT and HIV/AIDS community.

Your special photo shoot will take place on Sunday, February 15, from 2 to 5pm at IBT's back patio (616 N. 4th Ave., Tucson).

Similar to the awesome tile mosaic murals along the Broadway under-

pass gateway to Downtown, the 4th Avenue tiles will be 4x4 ceramic and embedded with minerals, rather than printed, allowing for a much greater longevity factor.

Tell your friends! Let's work to get everyone in our community to show up for this project.

Want more info about photographer Darren Clarke, the Project and the schedule? Check out: www.TucsonPortraitProject.com.

There is no charge to participate in this public art project.

National Equality Rally May 3



PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - The National Park Service (NPS) has issued a First Amendment permit to Equality Forum for a National Equality Rally at Independence Hall on Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2009 at Independence National Historical Park.

organizations are invited to be Co-Organizers without cost or legal obligation.

Information about the National Equality Rally and how to participate can be found at nationalequalityrally.org.

Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell are where the Gay Pioneers held the first organized Gay and Lesbian civil rights demonstrations called "Annual Reminders" each Fourth of July from 1965 to 1969. The Annual Reminders laid the groundwork for the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and the first New York Pride Parade in 1970.

Organization representatives will carry the name of their organization on pole-mounted placards.

Movement leaders will carry Equality messages. Organization members and the public will be offered American and rainbow flags.

The March for Equality on Independence Mall will pass by Benjamin Franklin's burial site, U.S. Mint, National Constitution Center, Federal Reserve Bank, Federal Office Building, U.S. Courthouse, Independence Visitor Center, Gay Pioneers Historic Marker, Liberty Bell Center and Independence Hall. After completion of the March for Equality, demonstrators will assemble on Independence Mall for a one-hour Equality program.

"Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell are where the movement was launched. With a new Congress and a President who describes himself as a 'fierce advocate' of our civil rights, it is the right moment for us to join hands at an iconic location to demand Equality," stated Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director of Equality Forum.

Equality Forum is a national and international GLBT civil rights organization with an educational focus. The National Equality Rally at Independence Hall will be held on the concluding day of Equality Forum 2009 (April 27 to May 3). Over 50 national and international movement leaders are participating at Equality Forum 2009. For more information about the National Equality Rally at Independence Hall, visit www.nationalequalityrally.org. For information about Equality Forum, visit www.equalityforum.com. For information about the Gay Pioneers, visit www.Gaypioneers.com.

Justice Department Rehires Attorney Fired For Being Lesbian

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Leslie Hagen has returned to her job as an attorney for the Justice Department, 10 months after she was sacked for being Lesbian.



from her position, and after an investigation by the inspector general it was discovered that Goodling had also been instrumental in preventing Hagen from seeking a new position within the Justice Department.

In attempting to fill Hagen's open position a nationwide search was conducted by the Justice Department. Hagen herself was one of the many who applied, and after several rounds of interviews, Hagen was offered her former position. On Monday (Feb. 9), Hagen assumed a permanent position at the department's Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys. (She had formerly worked on a yearly contract basis.)

Despite being rehired, Hagen's case is not closed. The department has not offered her an apology, nor has it agreed to pay the thousands of dollars she owes in legal fees. With Eric Holder now confirmed as the nation's attorney general, perhaps these issues will be reconsidered, reported advocate.com.

In 2006, Hagen was the liaison between the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorneys' committee on Native American affairs. She routinely received outstanding marks from supervisors, but as National Public Radio reported last year, she was removed from her job after a top aide to former attorney general Alberto Gonzales passed on a rumor to senior counsel that Hagen is a lesbian.

Despite sexual-orientation discrimination protections within the Justice Department, Hagen lost her job. Monica Goodling, senior counsel to Gonzales, was responsible for removing Hagen

Organizations, grassroots activists and straight allies will March for Equality on Independence Mall (from the National Constitution Center to Independence Hall) to rally for:

- Passage of trans-inclusive hate crimes legislation and Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)
 - Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)
 - Support for GLBT Health Issues
 - Equal benefits for same-sex families
 - Same-sex marriage Equality
- Regional, state and national organizations, people of color, progressive religious institutions, high school and college GSAs and straight ally

Federal Judges Rule Gov't Cannot Deny Same-Sex Benefits To Workers

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Two 9th Circuit judges, ruling in separate cases, have determined that the federal Defense of Marriage Act cannot be used to deny health benefits to the same-sex partners of government workers, 365Gay.com reported.

One case involved federal public defender Brad Levenson, who had been denied spousal benefits to his husband, Tony Sears. In a ruling issued this week, 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Reinhardt said DOMA was discrimination on the basis of sexuality and unconstitutional.

"Because there is no rational basis for denying benefits to the same-

sex spouses of [Federal Public Defender] employees while granting them to the opposite-sex spouses of FPD employees, I conclude that the application of [federal statutes] so as to reach that result is unconstitutional," Reinhardt said in a 15-page written ruling.

He also slashed one of the objectives of DOMA - to preserve traditional marriage. "Gay people will not be encouraged to enter into marriages with members of the opposite sex by the government's denial of benefits to same-sex spouses," he wrote.

The other case involved 9th Circuit staff lawyer Karen Golinski who had been denied benefits for her

spouse. Chief Judge Alex Kozinski skirted the constitutionality argument in his determination, ruling that the wording of DOMA was vague and ambiguous.

Both judges ruled as dispute resolution officials - a mechanism where employees within the federal judiciary who are prohibited from suing in federal court can seek redress. Because of this, the decisions are not legally binding outside of the 9th Circuit, which covers the West and includes Alaska and Hawaii.

President Obama has called for repeal of federal DOMA and legislation is expected to be introduced in the current session of Congress.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

UPDATE

Reveille Holding Auditions

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Reveille Men's Chorus is currently auditioning new members for their 2009 season. This is Reveille's 14th year of changing lives through music. Their upcoming program is titled "Make 'Em Laugh, Comedy in Music". If you've seen a Reveille concert before you know that humor has always been an essential element in their shows and this concert will be no different, showcasing the chorus's comedic as well as musical talents.

The program will be presented on April 25 and 26 at the Berger Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. Artistic Director Linus Lerner has selected a broad spectrum of music that parodies all elements of this crazy world we are living in. Audience members will be asked to check their sensitivities at the door; all bets are off and political correctness will be out the window. No sacred cow will be left unturned!

If you enjoy singing and have thought about joining Reveille in the past, it's not too late. Rehearsals are held every Thursday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Hall at the Historic Y, 300 E. University, just west of the 4th Avenue district. For more information call the Reveille line at (520) 304-1758 or you can visit them online at reveillemenschorus.org. Reveille Men's Chorus is dedicated to musical excellence and performs world-wide to promote human rights, diversity, and a world free of AIDS. ...

GLBT Commission Meeting Feb. 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues will be holding their monthly meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m. at the EOO Conference Room - First Floor, 100 N. Stone.

This commission acts for the City of Tucson Mayor and Council as an official advisory body on GLBT issues.

For further information please contact the City Clerk's Office at (520) 791-4213.

Phoenix DP Registry Opens

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Phoenix same-sex couples began registering Monday (Feb. 9) with the city's new Domestic Partner Registry, reported 365Gay.com.

To be eligible domestic partners have to appear in person at City Hall and sign a notarized document stating that they are in a committed relationship, are financially interdependent, and live in the same domicile in the City of Phoenix. They also must state that neither partner already is married, that the partners are not blood relatives and each is over the age of 18. It will cost \$50 to be registered and partners would receive a document attesting they are registered.

City Council approved the registry in December, a month after Arizona voters agreed to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage, although plans for it were well in the works before the November election. The registry was first conceived about five years when some council members began working with local hospitals to assure same-sex partners of patients were given a say in medical care. Arizona law has since been amended to provide rights to the domestic partners of the sick but same-sex partners do not have rights when it comes to the children of their partners. Additionally, some private companies which provide domestic partner health insurance often seek proof of a relationship.

The Phoenix plan would remedy that, say supporters. "This policy really will strengthen all families, including Gay and Lesbian families," Sam Holdren of Equality Arizona, told the city council at the time of the vote. The registry is open to same-sex couples, plus opposite-sex couples who choose not to marry. About half of those on hand when the registry opened Monday were same-sex couples.

TIHAN Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), a consortium of 38 Southern Arizona faith communities providing a compassionate interfaith response to HIV/AIDS, announces the addition of new Board members and the election of its officers for 2009.

Newly elected Board members include: Dave Fredricks - General Manager/Controller of the Tucson Shopper; Terri McCormick, RN BSN CHPN - Home Health Nurse Case Manager for Tender Loving Care Home Health; Kris Marsh - Controller for Keegan Linscott & Kenon, PC, Certified Public Accountants; Dr. Heather Moroso, NMD - a naturopathic physician and the Executive Director of the nonprofit Positively Beautiful organization.

These new Board members will be formally welcomed at TIHAN's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Party on Monday, February 23, 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, 602 North Wilmot, at the intersection of Wilmot and 5th Street. The public is invited.

TIHAN's Board of Directors has elected the following officers: Tom Muller, Au.D. - Board President (second term) - Audiologist with the University of Arizona's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, member of St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church. Aimee Graves, M.A. - Board Vice President - Senior Director of Child and Family Services for CODAC Behavioral Health Services, member of Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Cathy Davis - Board Secretary - District Sales Coordinator for American Family Life Assurance Company (AFLAC), member of the Jewish faith. Melinda Sims, Major, US Air Force (Retired) - Board Treasurer - Administrative Assistant for Membership and Finance at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, where she is a member.

In 2008, TIHAN's education and awareness programs reached more than 5,000 people through presentations, sermons, spoken announcements, and information tables at community events and another 36,000 through faith community bulletins and newsletters. TIHAN's volunteer-based support programs served 267 people living with HIV/AIDS in 2008. Our Poz Café lunch program is the largest regular gathering place for people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona, having served over 10,000 meals to more than 500 people living with HIV/AIDS.

Special Benefit Performance Of 'Three Guys In Drag Selling Their Stuff' Feb. 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Beowulf Alley Theatre, located at 11 S. 6th St., presenting Three Guys in Drag Selling Their Stuff by Edward Crosby Wells, directed by Cynthia Jeffery is hosting a special event to benefit Wingspan, Thursday, Feb. 19 the special performance of Three Guys in Drag Selling Their Stuff will be followed by a reception catered by Pastiche Modern Eatery.

Diva, Lillian, and Tink (three men in drag) are having a yard sale to raise funds for Faberge egg in which to place the ashes of Diva's dead husband. We meet an entire neighborhood of characters through the eyes of the "ladies" during the course of their yard sale. This is a raucous, ranchy, gut-busting, more than a laugh-a-minute play. Contains adult content. Arizona Premiere!

Tickets are \$28 if purchased on beowulfalley.org and \$30 if you call Beowulf Alley to buy them. Either way, \$10 is donated directly to Wingspan and is tax-deductible, so please consider joining THEM for this fun show and for the reception afterwards! For tickets, call Beowulf Theatre at (520) 882-0555, or go online to beowulfalley.org.

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



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



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Informing the Community
The Observer



Valentine's Day

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Dance & Dessert

DJ Libby starts playing at 9 pm

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LGBT Leaders Weigh Obama's Faith-Based Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - LGBT activists are riled up over Obama's White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, saying the program lacks antidiscrimination protections for LGBT people, advocate.com reported.

President Barack Obama signed an executive order last Thursday (Jan. 29) that created a White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships — a 2.0 version of the Bush administration's faith-based initiative that will seek to strike more of a balance between secular and religious organizations in bringing aid to the nation's neediest. "There is a force for good greater than government," President Obama said at the signing, "that reveals itself not simply in places of worship, but in senior centers and shelters, schools and hospitals, and any place an American decides."

The program, which President Obama initially outlined in a campaign speech last summer, immediately agitated LGBT activists who fear any such initiative could be problematic on several levels: Religious organizations that receive federal funding could discriminate against LGBT people in their hiring practices and they could also decline to provide services to the LGBT population; certain organizations may not qualify for funding depending on the criteria established; and individuals who receive services might be proselytized to. During the Bush administration, grantees were in fact permitted to select employees based on their religious principles, and organizations that did not adhere to abstinence-only teaching standards were deemed ineligible for funding. The LGBT-friendly Metropolitan Community Church, with about 225 churches nationwide, for instance, concluded that they could not receive funds

based on their programming.

Reverend Dr. Cindi Love, executive director of MCC, called on President Obama to undo President Bush's executive order 13,279, which expressly allowed faith-based and community organizations to choose employees based on their faith and creed. "President Obama should issue executive orders that clarify that faith-based and community organizations [receiving federal funds] are governed by all applicable federal, state, and local antidiscrimination laws," she said, "and then strengthen provisions protecting beneficiaries from discrimination or proselytizing by service providers." This action would not, as many fundamentalists claim, force religious organizations to hire LGBT people. But any programs administered with the help of federal dollars would have to adhere to nondiscriminatory hiring practices.

"We're not trying to tell churches they can't hire a pastor who believes in what the denomination believes," said Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Religion and Faith Program, "we're simply saying that if they hire a social worker or a cook in the kitchen or a youth outreach worker, that person's beliefs and whether they're pro-LGBT or LGBT themselves should not stand in the way of their being hired." But even with such an executive order, LGBT people are left vulnerable in many areas of the country because no federal employment laws currently protect people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

President Obama did not address these thorny issues directly last week, instead painting rhetorical broad-brush strokes over deep divisions. "Instead of driving us apart, our varied beliefs can bring us together to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted; to make peace where there

is strife and rebuild what has broken; to lift up those who have fallen on hard times," Obama told attendees at the National Prayer Breakfast, where he mentioned the new initiative.

President Obama added that the goal of this office would "not be to favor one religious group over another — or even religious groups over secular groups," but rather to enable organizations that are working in the trenches to better America's communities. In the way of particulars, he said the funding eligibility of groups would be reviewed by the Department of Justice on a case-by-case basis and that a 25-member advisory council would be appointed to make policy recommendations. Reverend Joshua DuBois, a 26-year old Pentecostal minister who conducted faith outreach for the Obama campaign, will head the office.

Given the lack of specifics, most reporters referred back to details presented during the campaign when a similar outcry erupted. Materials sent to The Advocate stated that although no federal employment protections exist for LGBT people, "federal funding recipients — including faith-based organizations — should have to comply with existing federal, state and local laws, including laws prohibiting discrimination based on religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

LGBT activists were heartened to find that one openly Gay man, Fred Davie of the New York-based Public/Private Ventures, was one of the 15 people Obama immediately named to the advisory council. But in what has been a recurring theme for Gay advocates thus far, that enthusiasm was tempered by the fact that other council members included people who have promoted anti Gay policies.

Frank Page, for example, is past president of the socially conservative Southern Baptist Convention, which has close ties to Exodus International — an organization that attempts to "free" Gays from "homosexuality through the power of Jesus Christ," according to its website. HRC's Knox said the council's makeup was reminiscent of the president's continuing approach to creating dialogue. "What we're seeing is a pattern that the President is going to make all of us talk to each other," Knox said, noting that LGBT activists have already had occasion to take issue with President Obama's associations including homophobic gospel singer Donnie McClurkin during the campaign and Rev. Rick Warren at the inauguration. "What he's saying to us all is, I expect you all to come to the table and seek the common good. It's our role as leaders of the LGBT community to serve in that way but also to be clear that the common good does not mean looking just for what's good for the majority of people, but really what's good for everybody."

Whether the council is able to effectively recommend policies that benefit all Americans without disenfranchising certain segments remains to be seen. Fred Davie, reached by phone Friday, told Advocate.com he was confident the council could work together. "If we stick to the president's fourfold mandate and hear the words that President Obama spoke about trying to create mercy in the gray areas, I think we'll do just fine," he said. At the press conference Thursday, President Obama said the program's focus was on making community groups an active part of the economic recovery, supporting women and children and reducing unwanted pregnancies, helping fathers support their families, and fostering

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DAILY INFO @ WWW.MYSPACE.COM/IBTSTUCSON & WWW.IBTS.NET

SAAF UPDATE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Less than 1/3 of people who die in the U.S. each year have a will, and many of those wills are defective. Find out how a will can benefit YOU and the people YOU care about!

The public is invited to attend a FREE Write A Will Workshop at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), 375 S. Euclid, 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 28. The workshop will address the importance of writing a will, the legal aspects of a will, and the charitable giving opportunities available through wills. The workshop will be led by attorney Doug Newman, P.C. of Douglas J. Newman, P.C. Attorneys at Law. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Michele Bart at (520) 628-7223. Who should come? Anyone interested in a "hands on" session about making or updating a will, how to protect even the most modest estate, and how to ensure that your wishes are known and respected. Workshop format: The workshop is a 60-90 minute interactive session that includes a question and answer component and a complementary workbook, "A Guide to Planning Your Will or Trust" for recording important information regarding the preparation of your will. Light refreshments and snacks will be provided. ...

SAAF is asking for the community's support in sending an official statement to President Obama requesting the development of a National AIDS Strategy and reallocation of funding for HIV/AIDS within the first 100 days of the new administration. To learn more about this effort or to add your name to the list of Southern Arizona supporters, please visit saaf.org. Supporting this very critical advocacy effort is easy and sends the message that we need action now for this 28- year public

health crisis that continues to see HIV infection rates rise while HIV testing declines. ...

The public is invited to enjoy a sneak preview of Moda Provocateur at a public rehearsal, on Sunday, February 15 beginning at 1pm, at La Encantada shopping mall (upper level in front of Ra). This show deviates a bit from the norm in that salons create the show segments and then work collaboratively with local boutiques and designers to dress their models. Sponsored by Udall Law Firm, LLP, Moda Provocateur 2009 features salons Avalon for Hair, Skin and Nails, Aveda Institute Arizona, Ahead of Style, John Paul Mitchell Systems SW Education Team hosted by Spirals Salon, and Style 7 Salon. The show also includes dance from A Tucson Dance Company, The World of HuertArt, and Project Runway Moda, a fashion design competition. Moda Provocateur has become well known over the past 5 years for pushing the boundaries of hair, style and entertainment. The actual trend-setting event will take place Sunday, March 8, 2009 at The University of Arizona Student Union Grand Ballroom, starting at 6:00 p.m.

VIP tables including dinner and pre-show entertainment are available, as well as reserved and student seating. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased at any of the participating salons, or by calling the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation at (520)628-7223 ext. 258 or ext. 250. Information about the event and types of seating available can also be found at saafmoda.org. Moda Provocateur raises funds for the SAAF programs and services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

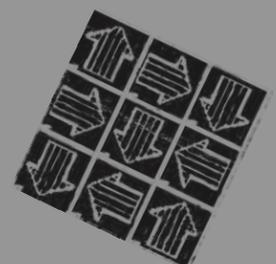
Oral Arguments On Prop. 8 Begins March 5

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - The California supreme court will begin to hear oral arguments on March 5 that will decide the fate of Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in the state.

The legal challenge is brought by groups like the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal, and the American Civil Liberties Union, who are arguing that Prop. 8 is invalid because the people of California have established safeguards that prohibit the underlying principles of the California constitution from being changed by a simple majority vote (Prop. 8 passed with just 52% of the vote). By taking away a right from one group, the lawsuit argues, Prop. 8 violates the most basic principle of our government: that all people are entitled to equal treatment under the law.

California attorney general Jerry Brown - who has voiced interest in running for governor of the Golden State - is also asking the court to invalidate Prop. 8 on the grounds that certain fundamental rights, including the right to marry, are inalienable and cannot be put up for a vote. On January 15, 43 friend-of-the-court briefs - from bar associations, religious groups, and legal scholars - urging the court to invalidate Prop. 8 were filed, arguing that Prop. 8 drastically alters the equal-protection guarantee in California's constitution and that the rights of a minority cannot be eliminated by a simple majority vote.

people differently based on their sexual orientation violate the equal-protection clause of the California constitution and that same-sex couples have the same fundamental right to marry as other Californians. Prop. 8 eliminated this fundamental right only for same-sex couples. No other initiative has ever successfully changed the California constitution to take away a right only from a targeted minority group. The National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal, and the ACLU filed this challenge on November 5, representing Equality California, whose members include many same-sex couples who married between June 16 and November 4, 2008, and six same-sex couples who want to marry in California. The California supreme court has also agreed to hear two other challenges filed on the same day: one filed by the City and County of San Francisco (joined by Santa Clara County and the City of Los Angeles, and subsequently by Los Angeles County and other local governments); and another filed by a private attorney. The California supreme court must issue its decisions within 90 days of oral arguments, advocate.com reported.



In May 2008 the California supreme court held that laws that treat

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE OBSERVER

LGBT Leaders Weigh Initiative

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PHOTO COURTESY UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE

LGBT Activist Fred Davie selected to Obama's Advisory Council

interfaith dialogue. "We'll be making recommendations about how government policy should be formed so that there's greater participation and greater accountability of and from community groups," Davie said, adding that the office would have no say in who receives money — a departure from how funding was handled by the Bush administration.

Davie, who attended Yale Divinity School and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister, is no stranger to the Obama team. The campaign sought Davie out following then-candidate Obama's announcement of the faith-based program last July and eventually asked Davie if he would speak to the transition team about his experience at Public/Private Ventures with promoting community groups, after-school mentor programs, and workforce development. "Over the course of my conversations with them, it became clear that I'm an openly Gay man," he said, "and they thought that added to the richness of perspectives and they welcomed me both as the president of PPV and because of the perspective I could provide coming from the GLBT community."

Davie said he believed that both Joshua Dubois and President Obama intended the LGBT community to have "full and complete inclusion" in this initiative and added that he saw "many opportunities to energize advocacy work" on behalf of LGBT people. "I will certainly add that perspective to this council," he said.

Knox hoped more faith leaders from the community would be appointed to the council and said they were pressing the point with the White House, though he declined to discuss the specifics of those conversations. "I do think the president is trying to do the best he can to create policies that will help everyone within his orientation of justice and fairness and equality," Knox said, "and we certainly want to help him be successful in that. But we can only help him if we're at the table."

Asked if there were compromises to be struck with the Christian right on LGBT concerns, Knox drew a distinction between council members like Frank Page and those who are more moderate-to-progressive, such as Joel Hunter of the Florida-based Northland Church or Jim Wallis of Sojourners in Washington, D.C. "My experience of interacting with evangelical leaders is that some are further along in their honest understanding of who LGBT people really are," he said, noting that some Christian conservatives are wrestling with how to reconcile being part of a group that "exists in large part to hate

LGBT people" and yet "serving a Christ who is about inclusion and love unconditionally."

Knox referenced the fact that Joel Hunter had signed onto a statement calling for passage of employment protections for Lesbians, Gays, and bisexuals, though it fell short of including transgender people. "For an evangelical like Joel Hunter to come that far — that represents real movement," he said. Conservative leaders who have shown movement on Gay issues can also suffer serious repercussions, he noted. One of the Christian right's most influential, Richard Cizik, who was chief lobbyist and vice president of governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, was forced to resign last December after he said he supported same-sex civil unions in a National Public Radio interview with Terry Gross.

"They take real risks in being part of these conversations, so we should honor that risk even as we continue to press them," Knox said. "We can never give up on them completely because what they need is education and the time to digest what they have learned and come to terms with it. It's our role to keep pushing them to not be satisfied with where they are today."

Civil Union Bill Advances In Hawaii

HONOLULU, Hawaii (Observer Update) - A bill that would give same-sex couples in Hawaii all of the rights of marriage but without the name has been approved unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee and LGBT rights groups are expressing cautious optimism it will become law, 365Gay.com reported.

The measure would legalize civil unions with all of the benefits, protections and responsibilities of marriage. It also would recognize domestic partnerships formalized in other states where they are legal. Marriages from Massachusetts and Connecticut would be regarded as civil unions.

Under the legislation, same-sex couples would have to obtain a license and then have the civil union performed by a judge, a retired judge or a member of the clergy.

Woody's

>> **THURS FEB 12TH 8:30^{PM}**
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- KARAOKE 9PM

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Odds And Ends

At the nation's capital, Washington D.C., the first positive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) legislation to be introduced in the 111th Congress will be the Uniting American Families Act (UAFB).

U.S. Representative Jerrold Nadler, D-New York, will file the bill on Thursday, February 12. Nadler has been the original, prime sponsor of UAFB, when he introduced the measure during the 110th Congress, in May 2007.

UAFB, if passed and signed into law, would require binational same-sex couples to prove that they intend lifelong commitment to one another as permanent partners, that they are financially interdependent, that they are currently unmarried to anyone else, that they are unrelated to each other, and that they are unable to "contract with that person a marriage cognizable under the Immigration and Nationality Act," according to the original bill. The bill would also change terminology to define those couples as "permanent partners" instead of "spouses." ...

With the funding for programs and services to help those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS to be severely reduced or eliminated altogether by Arizona's Legislature with the pending budget crisis, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and its Executive Director, Wendell Hicks, is urging everyone to take action by adding their name to a Proclamation to President Barack Obama requesting his leadership in creating a National AIDS Strategy.

This Presidential Proclamation asks for President Obama's leadership in creating a National AIDS Strategy, increasing and reallocating national funding for HIV/AIDS, and requesting his support to help put an end to new HIV infections. To "sign" this, send an E-mail to tvecchione@saaf.org with your name to be added to the proclamation, and include "National AIDS Strategy" in the subject line. ...

According to the sources at the Arizona State Capital, the budget boogie - the second act of dancing away the future of the state to please the handlers of the Republican-controlled Arizona House and Senate, the very rich, will continue, most likely for the next three months at a minimum

An interesting point Friday, April 24, will mark the 100th day of the First Session of this 49th Legislature, the Republican mandated day to finish all work and at \$62,163.29 a day to operate both chambers at 1700 West Washington in Phoenix, once again Arizonans, tax dollars are going to waste, again, and this isn't including per diem and mileage!

Online, Arizona's Legislature can be found at azleg.gov or for those without Internet access, to reach their Legislators call (800) 352-8404. Let them know, especially the "leadership" in both chambers to invest in the state's future and get the work done, quickly. ...

Even with all that is going on in Tucson, there are elections to be held in the city, specifically for the City Council seats in Ward 3, Ward 5 and Ward 6 and as previously reported, the first open Lesbian elected to political office in Southern Arizona, Karin Uhlich, has announced her intentions to seek another term.

Uhlich has been there for the

LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities during her tenure on the Council, helping to defeat Arizona Proposition 107 in 2006, spearheading the fight to battle Arizona Proposition 102 in 2008, so that Pima County voted down the measure, ensuring that municipal funding for programs and services to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities continue. Featuring her family, her wonderful partner Shannon and darling daughter Brennan in the Families You Know campaign initiated by Wingspan.

Before her election to represent Ward 3 on the Tucson City Council in 2005, Karin served as a volunteer on advisory committees to the Mayor and Council, including the Budget Advisory Committee, which she chaired in 1996, the Bond Oversight Committee from 1997 to 2003, and the Blue Ribbon Charter Advisory Committee in 2000. On the City Council, Karin has concentrated on improving the local economy with a particular focus on Tucson neighborhoods, families and small businesses; on improving public safety by attacking crime from all angles; and on setting a higher bar for transparency and accountability in City government.

For more information about Ward 3 Councilmember Karin Uhlich and her campaign, go online to karin2009.com.

V-Day Film: "What I Want My Words To Do To You", Feb. 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Women's Resource Center in collaboration with the Vagina Warriors presents "What I Want My Words To Do To You," Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Gallagher Theater, University of Arizona.

The film documents both the wrenching personal journeys undertaken by female inmates of a high security prison in New York. Through a series of exercises and discussions with Vagina Monologues creator, Eve Ensler, the women find the words that tell their own stories, and the power of those words to move the outside world. Admission: \$3 minimum donation.

For more information, call Tiffany Tedesco, (520) 621-3919.

Wingspan's EON Youth Center Open House

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Youth and Families Programs Eon Youth Center Reunion, at Eon, 426 E. 7th St., and open house, Saturday, Feb. 7, celebrated the program's history of success in providing a safe and supportive drop-in center and programming for Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth aged 13-23.

Eon alumni and youth met to show support for the program and to exchange stories on how the program gave them the skills and support for success. Recent data shows that 97% of Eon youth stated that attending Eon programming improved self-confidence.

The youth center is a collaborative program of Wingspan and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

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COMMENTARY...

by Owen West

An About-Face On G/L Troops

Generals are scolded for preparing to fight "the last war," but if President Obama intends to keep his promise to allow Gays to serve openly in the military, he would do well to study President Bill Clinton's attempt of 16 years ago.

The Clinton argument, based largely on protecting the civil rights of Gay troops, was systematically dissected by senior officers and legislators, who focused on how the presence of homosexuals could affect combat readiness. Generals circulated videos made by conservative groups depicting "Gay agendas." Senators brought television crews into cramped berthings. Congress reached a bizarre compromise: a law rendering homosexuality incompatible with military service, but allowing Gays to serve under a closet-friendly "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The lesson for President Obama is that this fight is not about rights, but about combat readiness. This is a propitious moment for seeking change: a nation at war needs all its most talented troops. Last year the principal architects of "don't ask, don't tell," former Gen. Colin Powell and former Senator Sam Nunn, said it was time to "review" the policy.

That's a polite way of saying they've changed their minds. So have many of us who wore the uniform in 1993 and supported a policy that forced some of our fellow troops to live a lie and rejected thousands who told the truth.

There are other aspects of history that may be helpful as well. The armed forces initially resisted President Harry Truman's 1948 order to integrate the ranks. But the Korean War forced trials by fire — in fact, the units with the highest casualty rates in Korea integrated the swiftest — and the Pentagon ultimately acknowledged that recruiting from across America's socio-economic spectrum produced the best force. After that, the military swiftly set the standard for race relations.

Servicemen continue to be fierce believers in the idea that diversity equals strength, yet during the Clinton effort on Gay troops most of us rejected analogies to racial integration. The homosexual threat to good order and discipline was behavioral, we argued, not physiological, and therefore unrelated.

It was a flawed argument. The underlying fears were the same as with integration: homosexuals jeopardized unit cohesion not because of their own conduct — after all, military law and command discretion encompass be-

havioral breaches — but because of the perceived reaction of those xenophobic troops who didn't want to cohabitate with people different from themselves. Today, this sounds like one of the "worn-out dogmas" President Obama identified in his inaugural speech. And it does a disservice to the ranks.

Maintaining "don't ask, don't tell" ignores a vast social shift since 1993. Only 26 percent of Americans supported Truman's order, so it was little wonder that desegregation stalled. When President Clinton announced his initiative, 44 percent of Americans were in favor of homosexuals serving openly, which perhaps explains the split decision of "don't ask, don't tell."

But today nearly 80 percent of Americans feel that way. As our troops tend to reflect the values of our society, lifting the homosexual ban will be easier now.

In addition, six years of war have clarified priorities. The battlefield has its own values, starting with courage. Sexual orientation falls somewhere below musical taste. What a person chooses to do back stateside, off-duty, in his own apartment is irrelevant in a fight. For months I lived with 12 other American advisers on an Iraqi outpost. There was a single pipe shower next to a hole that masqueraded as a sewer. But the reality of combat dominated personality quirks — nobody wondered about sexual orientation.

Most military jobs are office-based and provide sufficient individual privacy. Even in Iraq many of our fighting forces are comfortably housed with compartmentalized showers.

A 2006 poll of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans showed that 72 percent were personally comfortable interacting with Gays. Bonnie Moradi, a University of Florida psychologist, and Laura Miller, a sociologist at the Rand Corporation, summarized the study this way: "The data indicated no associations between knowing a Lesbian or Gay unit member and ratings of perceived unit cohesion or readiness. Instead, findings pointed to the importance of leadership and instrumental quality in shaping perceptions of unit cohesion and readiness."

The other readiness argument concerns recruiting. To fill its swelling ranks, the military now grants one in five recruits waivers for disqualifications that run the gamut from attention-deficit disorder to obesity to armed robbery convictions. In a press conference last fall, Maj. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the head of Army recruiting, said the relevant question in considering such applicants was, "Does that person deserve an opportunity to serve their country?" That's exactly right. And to choose a felon over a combat-proven veteran on the basis of sexuality is defeatist. Ask any squad leader.

In the end, however, there is one factor that outweighs public opinion, troop morale and recruiting combined. The military is a dictatorship, not a republic. It is built to win in combat. Its strict codes of conduct ensure good order and discipline.

If "don't ask, don't tell" is rescinded, military leaders will ensure smooth compliance, as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, has said. Cohesion depends on leadership. Our troops will follow the lead of our combat-tested professionals who base their opinions on what a soldier brings to the fight, and little else.

(Owen West, a commodities trader, served two tours in Iraq with the Marines. This oped is reprinted from the New York Times.)

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Lesbian Marriage Recognized In New Jersey For Divorce

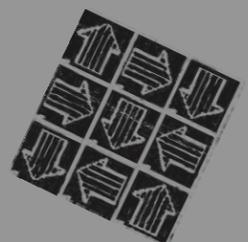
TRENTON, New Jersey (Observer Update) - Gay couples who were married elsewhere can be legally divorced in New Jersey, a Garden State judge ruled on Friday, Feb. 6.

La Kia Hammond, who now lives in Trenton, N.J., and Kinyati Hammond, now of Delaware, married in March 2004 in Victoria, British Columbia, according to the Associated Press. Superior court judge Mary Jacobson ruled that the state must accommodate those who were married and seek divorce in outside jurisdictions, as long as they're legally wed. "While the day a relationship ends is never happy," La Kia Hammond said in an American Civil Liberties Union press release, "I am relieved that the courts of New Jersey are allowing us to move on, rather than keeping our relationship status in legal limbo. Breaking up is painful enough, and I'm happy we won't have to face the hardship of having to fight just to make it official."

Those married in Canada can only request a divorce if they are

residents of the country. Currently, New Jersey grants civil unions to Gay and Lesbian couples, but does not allow full marriage equality. According to the ACLU of New Jersey, who co-represented La Kia Hammond, the state attorney general argued the couple should have been granted a dissolution of civil union, and not a divorce.

The couple lived together in North East, Md., after they were wed, but La Kia left Kinyati about three years ago. La Kia Hammond officially filed for divorce because she wants to marry another woman before she dies of muscular dystrophy, which La Kia was diagnosed with in 2005. Kinyati Hammond has not responded to the divorce filings, advocate.com reported.



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ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
 Your social life takes on a life of its own when Mars conjuncts Jupiter. Suddenly proud Rams are the one to be and the one to be seen. Put all your efforts into building up your social calendar and moving into new and important circles. Alas, as the week wears on, you could find yourself slipping down the scale and relegated to the sidelines. Push, push, push!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
 Gay Archers can be heard this week. You are especially eloquent for a change and are now able to advance any agenda you want. So don't waste the Mars conjunct Jupiter energy on hot air. Make sure that anything that you want to accomplish you set into motion now. Before long you will be whispering in the wind. Become a gale force yourself.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
 Make your corporate move as Mars conjuncts Jupiter. Queer Bulls need to concentrate and harness this blast of spit and fire. You find yourself in just the right place at just the right time. Do what you need to do to triumph over the competition and take control. Of course sometimes delegating the dirty work is a better approach. I'll never reveal the truth.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
 Money may be the source of all evil but this week you can make it work well for you. Pink Caps will learn their fiscal lesson and can apply it to their advantage. Consider spoiling a certain someone with something luxurious and expensive. Not only will you make your intentions known, your generosity will carry you for a while. Grab any advantage....

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
 There is something exciting going on that makes all pink Twins ready, willing and able to spread their loving influence to the highest levels and the widest audiences. Expand your horizons and make your mark globally. If travel is difficult or expensive, find new outlets for your electric personality. Shocking connections are possible ... and very welcome!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
 This is the week to start new projects, meet new people and break out of your usual routine. Aqueerians able to break the mold and they can remold any circumstance to fit their purpose. Good! This is no time to be lazy and expect the world to come to you. It is a time to spread yourself thin and show folks what you can do. Postpone that nap!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
 Gay Crabs can attract anyone who they choose to attract when Mars conjunct Jupiter. Maximize your personal charisma by creating a soft and cuddly look. You are almost too sexy, if that is possible. Spread the sugar and see how far your honey takes you. Valentine's Day is fast approaching and you will collect more than your fair share of hearts. Lucky thing!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
 Guppies will be unable to keep anything under wraps this week. Not only are hidden things pushed out into the open, you find that you had nothing to fear about the public scrutiny that will follow. What a relief! Dump all that psychological baggage and feel free and unencumbered. There may be a secret Valentine that turns out to be not-so-secret after all. Uh oh.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
 Make the most of your various relationships when Mars conjunct Jupiter. Not only do proud Lions ache to connect, they also find that there are many folks who reach out to them. If you are on the prowl, it is an excellent time to hunt. Don't be alone, especially this time of year. No one is an island. But if you had to be one, make it somewhere in the Caribbean.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
 Office politics will go your way this week. Queer Virgins can ascertain the lay of the land and tailor their moves to maximum benefit and advancement. You have a spark of genius that will captivate and inspire. See what you want to do, enlist the support of your co-workers and see how high or far you can climb. Maybe to the next cubicle....?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
 Light and fun activities become especially enjoyable when Mars conjunct Jupiter. Proud Libras find romance in a garden of earthly delights. See what makes you happy and go for it. Things glide your way and you may find that it is profitable as well as enjoyable. Too too soon this energy dissipates and you will be back to working for a living. How sad.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
 Roll out the welcome mat and get ready for the crowds, queer Scorp. Your home becomes a center of activity. Mars conjuncts Jupiter and sends happy company to your door. The secret to your success now will be to improve your surroundings in addition to ramping up the entertainment. Plan a few home projects and you will be sure to have some help this week.

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Around The Nation

Newly released figures from the California secretary of state's office show that the biggest contributor to the campaign to approve a ban on same-sex marriage in the state was the Knights of Columbus, the political arm of the Roman Catholic Church, which gave \$1.275 million. The conservative evangelical Focus on the Family, which fights LGBT issues across the country, gave \$657,000 in money and services. The amounts vastly surpass the \$189,000 in direct cash and compensated staff time from the Mormon church.

The new figures were turned over to the state weeks into an investigation by California's Fair Political Practices Commission that institutional donors to ProtectMarriage, the umbrella group behind Proposition 8, had not reported the value of workers salaries and other expenses. ...

A year after Oregon established a domestic partner registry, about 2,600 Oregon same-sex couples - about one in five - have registered. The domestic partner law allows same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples unable to marry to form legally recognized partnerships. It was passed by the legislature in 2007 and went into effect in January 2008. Under the partnership law, couples who register are guaranteed the right to visit partners in hospital and make medical decisions, file joint state tax returns, and have joint health insurance plans or take sick leave to care for their partners. The law was passed after a legal battle for Gay marriage failed. An analysis by The Oregonian newspaper of the couples who have registered shows that about half of the same-sex couples live in Multnomah County and 70 percent are women. LGBT rights activists say for some couples the partner law may not be practical, others are holding out - hoping the amendment eventually will be overturned and the state will allow them to marry. ...

The New Mexico Senate has once again put the kibosh on a proposed domestic partnership bill. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 5-5

on the Domestic Rights and Responsibilities Act. One member was absent, but legislation needs a majority to advance. The vote means the bill is virtually dead. The only hopes of reviving it would be for a member of the committee to end their opposition and call for a new vote, or for the House to pass a similar bill and send it to the Senate.

Guilty Plea In Tennessee Gay-Friendly Church Shooting

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (Observer Update) - An out-of-work truck driver pleaded guilty Monday (Feb. 9) and was sentenced to life in prison without parole for killing two people and wounding six others with a shotgun in a Tennessee church last summer, 365Gay.com reported.

Jim D. Adkisson, 58, had been scheduled to stand trial next month, likely claiming an insanity defense, but his public defender said his client changed his mind. After Adkisson entered his plea, Criminal Court Judge Mary Beth Leibowitz sentenced him to life in prison without parole.

Adkisson was accused of pulling a sawed-off shotgun from a guitar case on July 27, 2008, and firing three deadly blasts into an audience

watching a Sunday morning children's performance of the musical "Annie." Members of the audience of about 200 subdued him. Police say Adkisson targeted the church because of its liberal open-door policies, including acceptance of Gays, and fully expected to keep shooting until responding officers killed him.



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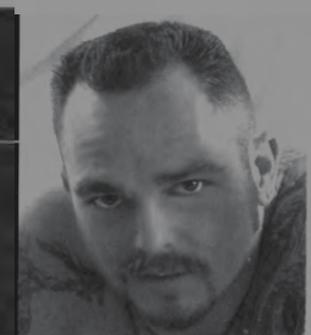
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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Girl In A Boat (First in a series)

Like burglars, the young man and cute young lady hung near the entrance to the marina proper. They were without a key to open the gate that led to the boats; being guests meant waiting for a boat owner to come along and let them in.

They had come to meet another girl; this one could get a boat from the sailing club for the night, meaning to drive it into the short waves and heavy current of the Columbia. The girls called it fun. The young man was not sure it would be fun; he was already cold and a little intimidated by the darkness.

They could see their Captain on her borrowed boat from the top of the big catwalk that led into the maze of floating docks. She was busy stripping off the bright blue sail covers, stowing them below, coming out with sheets and tiller-pole; rigging the little day-sailer properly for the fresh, hard breeze that had come up on the Columbia.

They'd waited for another sailor to open the chain-link gate at the top of the ramp and came in with him, the pretty girl chatting him into an easy comradery with a quick point at the girl on the boat and a smile. She had a way about her that set people at ease, especially the men that frequented the marina.

Most were over fifty, she thought, and more than a little solitary. They had, to a man, associated boat-ownership with easy association with bikini-clad sailors, eager to go for a sail on weekends with an occasional barbeque and sleep-over.

They had been wrong, of course, and the solitude of the marina was only broken by pinocle nights in the clubhouse.

The codger that let the pretty young lady in was, of course, happy to do it, almost regardless of her intentions. Females were scarce anytime on the docks; doubly so at night. Dusk was on the river, and the fading light provided perfect illumination of her smiling, friendly face.

It was, of course, perched directly above her lithe body, which was nearly painfully like the sort of female equipment the poor fellow had envisioned capturing, spider to fly, with his sixty-thousand dollar sailboat.

It was sad for him to notice that there was a young man with her as she skipped down the steep catwalk, moving easily and quickly; she had good boat legs. The young man with her looked a little sullen; he had made no motion or word of thanks as they passed through the gate on his warrant.

He had stood by like a bodyguard as she had been politely informative; he now followed, a little prissily, down the catwalk. His hands were in his pockets; clearly, he had no boat-sense. Perhaps he would fall overboard...the happy thought warmed the old fellow as he trundled off towards his own little hole in the water he called home. It was a thirty-two foot long hole, and it tended to dampness.

To be continued ...

NYC's Oscar Wilde Bookshop To Close

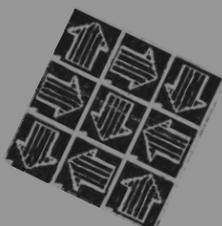


NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - It has been at the forefront of the Gay liberation movement since it opened in 1967, but New York's Oscar Wilde Bookshop, the world's oldest Gay bookstore, is about to close - a result of the world economic turmoil, reported 365Gay.com/

Founded in Greenwich Village by gay activist Craig Rodwell its first home was on Mercer Street but later moved to its current home at 15 Christopher St. It has faced bomb threats, smashed windows and graffiti with the words "kill fags" written on the walls. Six years ago, with the growth of major chains and internet bookselling, the shop nearly folded. It was saved at the last minute by a new owner and briefly saw a revival - mainly from

tourists from outside the country.

But the global downturn in the economy has virtually ended the visitors from Europe and Asia. In addition internet and big box bookstores have continued to take market share. In an e-mail to customers owner Kim Brinster said the store will close on March 29.



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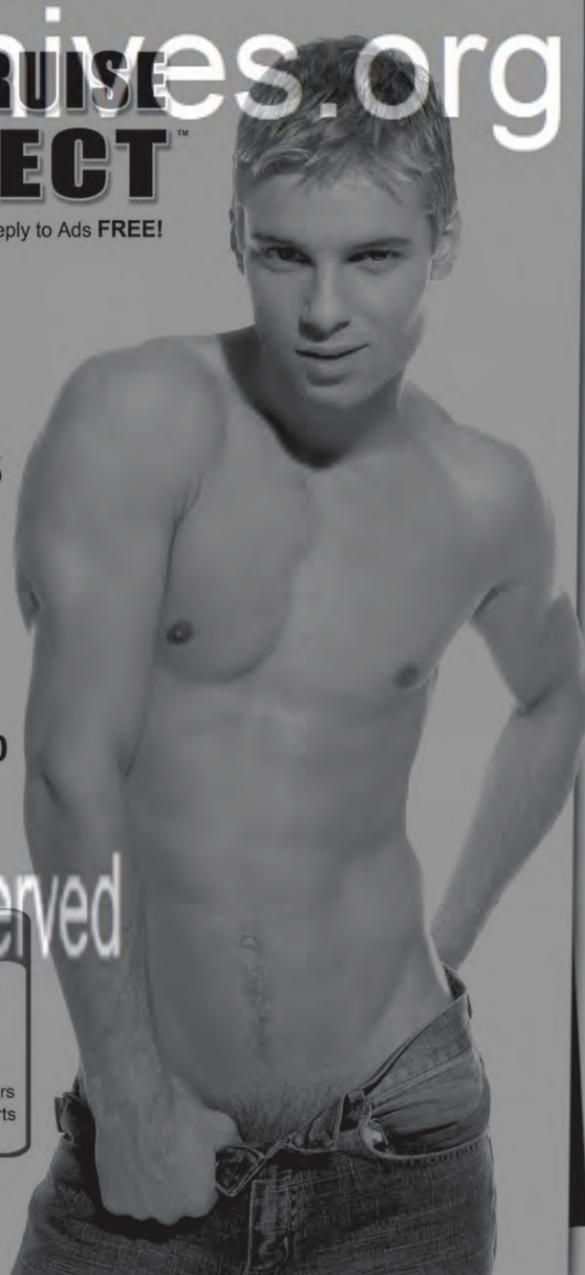
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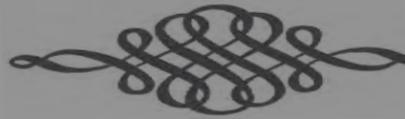
First Firing Under DADT For Kansas National Guard

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (Observer Update) - The Kansas Army National Guard has dropped its first soldier under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the policy that bars openly Gay people from serving, 365Gay.com reported. Amy Brian was discharged following an investigation that began when a civilian co-worker reported to authorities Brian had been seen kissing another woman in a checkout line at a Wal-Mart store.

Brian had served in the National Guard for nine years, including a tour of duty in Iraq. She joined up in 1991 and served until 1994. In 2003 she re-enlisted. Brian, who previously was married and has one child, said she had never tried to hide her sexuality to those

she worked beside. She she came out to her family when she was deployed to Iraq.

Since DADT was enacted, more than 12,000 servicemembers have been dismissed when it was learned they are Gay. According to statistics from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network which advocates for Gays in the military an average of two service members are dismissed under the law every day.



POET'S CORNER

TAB HUNTER and ME - by Francis E. Crowley, PhD Copyright 2009

A little boys memories
of a busy, crazy mom;
she took me to the movies;
fed me Chinese feasts.
We both fell for your big screen
muscles, Tab,
and I filled with desire
like the desert's flood in winter;
the crazy patchwork quilt
of guilt and glory
projected on my open heart.

Twelve at the time in 1953
I saw ISLAND OF DESIRE alone
and broke a taboo. With you,
Tab, my gay childhood in the movies
felt like soft sunshine on my face
but at home it was another story.
It turns out that we share a lot:
mothers in parallel tracks
cracked from overworked childhoods;
absent dads, emotionally for me
(literally for you) one sibling, too;
I craved you, I wanted to be you
in the cracked mirror of Hollywood
dreams.

My body screamed that night
like a teen-aged girl's
for your tight, tanned skin,
your milky smile, blonde curls
and rich vein of cowboy blood

lost in the sand.
I loved your horse sense,
splashy, spaghetti Westerns
in contrast to heart-throbs,
Anthony Perkins, Rock Hudson,
buttoned-up boys like me
in a straight jacket
trapped in half-lives, split images,
hidden homos, unhappy men..
Hunks hoping to pass.
You never came out, Rock!
What a crock!!

Now you're 78, Tab,
It's not the same face
on the back of your book,
but I'm still hooked on ISLAND OF
DESIRE,
my harbinger of sexual springtime,
my fantasy in sticky sheets. Now
I'm at home in my own skin
on my inner movie screen.
In my own shoes I still feel
the cougar's sudden spring,
see hemorrhaging sunsets in the desert
I admire your horse sense,
your intuitive gift for a whole life
even without a wife. Linda Darnell
never did it for me either.

Copyright 2009,
Francis E. Crowley, PhD.

Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Hatred On Its Last Legs

As I write this, I have just passed the minute Monday morning (9 February) when I became exactly 48 years old. No presents have arrived yet, but it's likely that I won't be getting the two items I've been asking for in recent years - a mid-range iPod and a Kansas City Monarchs (Negro League) baseball cap. If anyone can spare such items, I'm still open to receiving.

But, as I've also frequently done throughout the last couple of decades, I've just spent a few hours reflecting on a message spoken on the 1963 day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The speaker was Chet Huntley, co-anchor of the evening newscast on NBC-TV. That night, Huntley took a minute and 17 seconds to deliver the comments that follow; the comments did not make much of an impression at the time, and I first learned of them in 1988, when the A&E Network replayed NBC's tapes from that hideous day. Huntley's thoughts were:

"It's a logical assumption that hatred - far-left, far-right, political, religious, economic or paranoiac - moved the person or persons who today committed this combined act of murder and national sabotage. There is in this country, and there has been for too long, an ominous and sickening popularity of hatred. The body of the President, lying at this moment in Washington, is the thundering testimony of what hatred comes to and the revolting excesses it perpetrates.

"Hatred is self-generating, contagious, it feeds upon itself and explodes into violence. It is no inexplicable phenomenon that there are pockets of hatred in our country, areas and communities where the disease is permitted or encouraged or given status by those who can and do influence others.

"You and I have heard, in recent months, someone say, 'Those Kennedy's ought to be shot.' A well-known national magazine [The National Review] recently carried an article saying that Chief Justice [Earl] Warren should be hanged. In its own defense, it said it was only joking. But the left has been equally bad.

"Tonight, it might be the hope and the resolve of all of us that we've heard the last of this kind of talk, jocular or serious, for the result is tragically the same."

Relatively few people today even recall what Chet Huntley looked and sounded like; he retired from NBC News in 1970 and died of cancer a couple of years after that. And the disease he spoke of that night has yet to be eradicated. Many of the names discussed every February, Black History Month, fell at its hands. Before JFK, there were Emmett Till and Medgar Evers, and after JFK there were Civil Rights activists named Schwerner, Goodman and Cheney. For the very same reason, Malcolm X once told Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We're both dead men," within months he was proven right.

The list merely begins there. There's also President Kennedy's brother Robert and Dr. King's own mother. Chilean folk singer Victor Jara and many Cambodian pop singers of the 1960s and 1970s were murdered by their governments for making the wrong sounds. Olof Palme, the former Swedish premier, enacted the wrong legislation. Steven Biko supported the wrong regime change. One jerk considered George Moscone guilty of both.

Not all of the disease's victims are commonly recalled. Who among us remembers Allard Lowenstein or Ruben Salazar? On the other hand, if I need to remind you of Harvey Milk and Matthew Shepard, you're obviously reading the wrong newspaper. In the two decades since A&E reran Huntley's comments, Chet's former industry has largely been turned over by its administrative string pullers to creatures like Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and a local species of vermin who trades under the misnomer "Jon Justice," all of whom make their daily bread by misguiding our neighbors into what H.L. Mencken once described as "the courage of their prejudices." Resultantly, the stock values of the industry's companies have plummeted down a bottomless hole.

After all of this, I must make mention of a small incident from last week which has given me a tremendous level of hope that the disease is within range of a cure. In the year of my birth, 1961, a young African-American civil rights activist named John Lewis was beaten in Rock Hill, South Carolina, for sitting down at a "Whites Only" bus station lunch counter. One of the men who beat him was Elwin Wilson, who'd hung a black doll in a noose from the tree in his front yard.

Last month, the Rock Hill Herald got a phone call from a couple of men who had just read one of that paper's articles, about local civil rights activists' reactions to President Obama's inauguration. One of the callers was Elwin Wilson, and they expressed their desire to apologize to the activists for their violence of 48 years ago. The Herald documented the men breaking bread at another diner which had been "Whites only" in '61. But Elwin Wilson didn't stop there. Last week, Wilson also personally apologized to John Lewis, who is now a member of Congress, representing a section of the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Wilson extended his apology at Lewis' Congressional office in Washington.

It is little events like these that lead me to paraphrase Dr. King's last public speech and believe the Promised Land is within sight for us LesBiGays, too. And I'm also led to directly quote another victim of an assassin's bullets, John Lennon, in the very words that his assassin had earlier mocked him for singing: You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one.



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Informing The Community



Gay Publisher In 'Receivership' With Feds

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - An investment fund that finances Window Media, the owner of several gay publications including the Washington Blade and Genre magazine, is going into "receivership" by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The government agency will then sell off the fund's assets, redistributing the proceeds to investors, advocate.com reported.

Gay City News in New York reports that Avalon, the investment firm, has been entrenched in a "continuing violation" with the SBA. Avalon constantly borrowed money from the SBA, from 2000 to 2007, eventually culling \$38 million to acquire more properties and other ventures. As part of the deal with the SBA, Avalon was required to have at least half of the value of the loan in assets, but Avalon's assets fell below the required \$19 million. A lawsuit filed against Avalon

by the SBA shows that the company had little money left by 2008, as investors pulled out of the fund, and other properties the company invested in had lost value.

Window Media owns the Washington Blade, Southern Voice, South Florida Blade, David Atlanta, 411 Magazine, and Bitchsession.com. Avalon also has a non-majority stake in HX Media, which publishes HX magazine and the New York Blade. Unite Media owns the majority of shares for HX Media. According to the report, a typical receivership spans a 3 1/2 year period, depending on the economic climate and the state of Avalon's assets. The SBA usually recovers 63 cents per dollar for investors and taxpayers.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum® Teen Beaten To Death In Unprovoked Homophobic Attack, Court Told

Liverpool, England (Observer Update) - The gruesome details of the murder of an 18-year-old Gay Liverpool man were laid out before a jury as the trial of his accused killer began in a case that shocked Britain for its callous disregard for life, 365Gay.com reported.

Gavin Alker, 19, is on trial for the killing last July of 18-year old Michael Causer. As the prosecutor laid out the evidence Alker stood quietly in the prisoner's box. The

court was told that the two men were part of a group that had met during a night out at a local pub. After heavy drinking the group went to the home of one of the men's grandmother to "sleep it off". At some point Alker allegedly discovered from either Causer or one of the other men that Causer was Gay. Alker took a heavy hardbound American history book from a shelf, went into the room where Causer was sleeping and used it to batter Causer's head. He then beat and kicked him repeatedly the court

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I'm a single, 52 years young GWM. I'm a non smoker (if you smoke, outdoors only). My simple rules are: No drama, No drugs, No heavy drinking, and No revolving doorbell trade. You must be financially stable, and someone I can count on. I have a cat (Sheba) who I value more than most two legged people, so kitty-friendly is a must. I'm including in the \$495/mo rent, basic cable, utilities, laundry use and WI-FI service. Parking would be half of a covered carport.

I am asking for a \$300 security deposit and references, just so it protects BOTH of us. Music and movies are my source of entertainment; it would be great if they were for you too. Please note, I will respect your privacy and you may come and go as you please. I'm an average guy when it comes to cleaning, so I guess that means I prefer a house that looks lived in, rather than a museum. So along those lines - You are an adult, and I'm not your mother, so you are expected to clean up after yourself. I value my home and ask that you do too. So if you're interested in meeting, hit me back. Available starting the week of 03/01/09, a 6 to 12 month arrangement is preferred, but all offers will be considered. I look forward to sharing my home with you!

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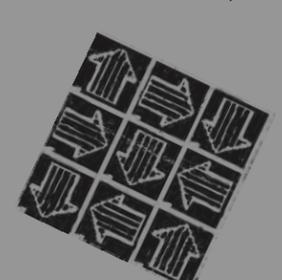
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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

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

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

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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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 OUToberFEST. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit www.lctucson.org or write: Lutherans Concerned/Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*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

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 - Starts 10:45 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 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

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 1/2 price 4-6pm. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. 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 Domestic and well and 1/2 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 noon- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioscas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-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 Domestic and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open Noon-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 10pm.

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

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 Noon-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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

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 Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Starting Feb. 13th Escandalo Saturdays w/Carnival Latino. Latin Hip Hop, Top 40s & Reggaeton music will be spun. Guest DJs. \$5 Cover. oGo dancers male and female. Shot specials allnight. .

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

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 open 11am-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 Noon-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 12
WOODY'S - 8:30 p.m. "Circus" a benefit show for Jasmine White running for Miss Gay Tucson America.

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.

WOODY'S - Celebrate your birthday here. Cake, balloons, champagne toast 10pm.

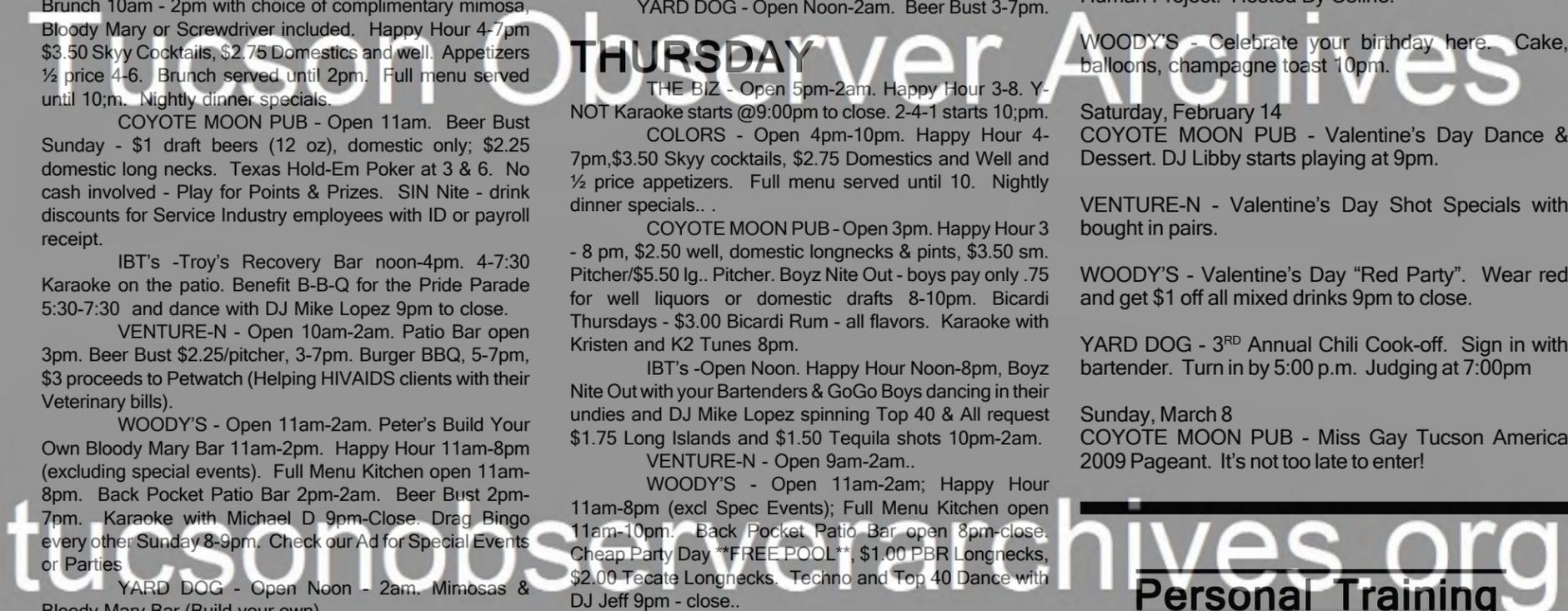
Saturday, February 14
COYOTE MOON PUB - Valentine's Day Dance & Dessert. DJ Libby starts playing at 9pm.

VENTURE-N - Valentine's Day Shot Specials with bought in pairs.

WOODY'S - Valentine's Day "Red Party". Wear red and get \$1 off all mixed drinks 9pm to close.

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

Sunday, March 8
COYOTE MOON PUB - Miss Gay Tucson America 2009 Pageant. It's not too late to enter!



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Court Asked To Reject Bid To Dismiss Lesbian's Case Against Florida Hospital

MIAMI, Florida (Observer Update) - Attorneys for a woman denied access to her dying partner are asking a federal judge to reject a motion by Jackson Memorial Hospital to have a lawsuit against the facility dismissed and to allow the case to proceed to trial, 365Gay.com reported. The suit was filed by Lambda Legal, which is representing Janice Langbehn.

Langbehn and Lisa Pond had planned to take their three children on a family cruise. The Olympia, Washington couple had been together 18 years and with their children were looking forward to the holiday. But just as they were about to depart on the cruise last year from Miami, Pond, a healthy 39-year-old, suddenly collapsed. She was rushed to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami with Langbehn and the children following close behind.

Once Langbehn and the children arrived at the hospital, the hospital refused to accept information from her about Ponds's medical history. Langbehn says she was informed that she was in an anti-Gay city and state, and she could expect to receive no information or acknowledgment as family. A doctor finally spoke with Janice telling her that there was no chance of recovery.

Other than one five minute visit, which was orchestrated by a Catholic priest at Langbehn's request, and despite the doctor's acknowledgement that no medical reason existed to prevent visitation, neither she nor her children were allowed to see Pond until nearly eight hours after their arrival. Soon after Pond's death, Langbehn tried to get her death certificate in order to get life insurance and Social Security benefits for their children. She was denied both by the State of Florida and the Dade County Medical Examiner.

The lawsuit alleges negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The Public Health Trust of Miami Dade County, which runs Jackson Memorial Hospital, denies wrongdoing. The hospital claims that it has no obligation to allow their patients' visitors nor any obligation whatsoever to their patients' families, healthcare surrogates, and visitors. The Public Trust has asked the court to dismiss the case. A hearing was held in federal court in Miami. "We are here today to ensure that families get the respect they deserve at Jackson Memorial Hospital and to prevent Janice's tragedy from happening to anyone else," said Lambda attorney Beth Littrell. "This family deserves to have its day in court."

Landmark Mass. Lesbian Couple Now Filing For Divorce

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - The Lesbian couple whose passionate love led to the groundbreaking legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts have called it quits and filed for divorce.



But one-time international Gay icons Hillary and Julie Goodridge, who share custody of their 12-year-old daughter, Annie, are less eager to be poster partners for Gay divorce. Their case, filed in Suffolk Probate and Family Court, is impounded. "I wish I could talk them into staying together, but I don't see how. They had a great thing going. I love Julie, and I always will," said Hillary's mom, Ann Kiernan Smith, 82, of Florida, who believed the couple would outlast their critics.

lawsuit famously persuaded the state Supreme Judicial Court in 2003 to make Massachusetts the first state to recognize same-sex marriage. They became one of 168 couples to file for divorce in Suffolk County in January.

The Goodridges' landmark

Anglicans Seek To Extend Moratorium On Gay Bishops

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (Observer Update) - Anglican world leaders urged their churches to maintain a 5-year-old moratorium on consecrating another openly Gay bishop and developing prayers for same-sex unions, as they try to restore unity in their fractured fellowship.

North American conflict, leaders said.

"If a way forward is to be found and mutual trust to be re-established, it is imperative that further aggravation and acts which cause offense, misunderstanding or hostility cease," the Anglican leaders said Thursday. The statements were released as the Anglican archbishops, or primates, ended a five-day private meeting in the Egyptian coastal city of Alexandria.

Utah's Governor Backs Civil Unions, Common Ground

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. of Utah announced his support for Utah's Common Ground Initiative, queerty.com reported.

Originally four bills, the Initiative which would offer a variety of basic rights to LGBT Utahns-not only that, but he says he supports civil unions as well.

The Common Ground Initiative has taken a battering in the State House and Senate and only two measures, a fair housing bill and a domestic partner bill, remain, but the Beehive gov said he supported both. Gay rights leaders replied, "We'll take all the help we can get."



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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

An Anglican advisory panel also raised deep concerns about a North American province sought by theological conservatives to rival the Episcopal Church, 365Gay.com reported. Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the Anglican spiritual leader, will arrange professional mediation for all leaders involved in the

Personal Injury?

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