



Tucson Observer Archives

DADT Repeal Bill Refiled

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the ban on Gays serving openly in the military was filed Monday (Mar. 2) in the House of Representatives.

The last attempt to void the Clinton-era law died at the end of the last Congress. The new attempt was filed by Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher, a California Democrat.

The Military Enhancement Readiness Act (MREA) repeals the ban, replacing it with new provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Armed Forces.

"This law has failed our country and our military for 15 years," Tauscher told an afternoon news conference. "It harms military readiness and discriminates against patriotic young men and women who want to serve their country. It's time for Congress to right this wrong."

Sen. Ted Kennedy (D) has reportedly been working on a Senate version of the bill to be filed this year, but wants a Republican to cosponsor it.

President Barack Obama has said that he supports repeal of the ban. The White House has called for a study that could take up to a year to determine the effect of allowing Gays to serve.

While previous attempts to repeal the law were bogged down when Republicans controlled Congress, there



Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher

is renewed hope the measure will pass with the Democrats now in control of both houses.

"Rep. Tauscher's bill will significantly improve our military readiness by allowing highly qualified linguists, medics, and intelligence analysts to serve openly in the armed forces," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

In January the American Psychoanalytic Association called for repeal of the law. A long list of retired generals and admirals also support repeal - including two former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, John Shalikashvili and Colin Powell. Even former Sen. Sam Nunn, the Georgia Democrat who sponsored DADT now says it is time to abolish the ban.

A 1993 study by the RAND corporation as well as two official military studies: a 1989 study by the Defense Personnel Security Research Center and the Navy's 1957 Crittenden report support allowing Gays to serve.

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. In addition an estimated 3,000 men and women each year choose not to enlist or re-enlist because of the law.

On March 13 SLDN members will be on Capitol Hill to lobby members of Congress to repeal the ban.

Previously Tauscher has supported the Matthew Shepherd Hate Crimes Act and an inclusive ENDA. She is currently serving her seventh term in Congress representing a suburban San Francisco district.

In the 110th Congress, Tauscher was appointed Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, becoming only the third woman in history to Chair an Armed Services Subcommittee. Tauscher is also the first California Democrat to be elevated to an Armed Services Subcommittee Chairmanship since 1992.

Gay Man Tapped To Lead National AIDS Office



President Barack Obama shown above with Jeffrey S. Crowley (insert), the new Director of Office Of National AIDS Policy.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The White House announced Thursday that Jeffrey S. Crowley will be the Director of Office of National AIDS Policy, reported advocate.com.

Crowley, a Senior Research Scholar at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute, will coordinate the federal government's efforts on HIV/AIDS policy and will help guide the administration's development of disability policies, according to a release.

"Jeffrey Crowley brings the experience and expertise that will help our nation address the ongoing HIV/AIDS crisis and help my administration develop policies that will serve Americans with disabilities," President Barack Obama said in a press statement. "In both of these key areas, we continue to face serious challenges and we must take bold steps to meet them. I look forward to Jeffrey's leadership on these critical issues."

The Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) is tasked with coordinating the government's efforts to reduce the number of HIV infections across the United States. During the 2008 election, President Obama pledged to develop a national AIDS strategy - a job which will now be spearheaded by the Office of

National AIDS Policy. ONAP also coordinates with international bodies in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The press release praised Crowley's 14 years of experience with working to improve access to health and social services for people living with HIV/AIDS, people with physical and mental disabilities, low-income individuals, and other vulnerable populations.

Crowley previously served as the deputy executive director for programs at the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). While at NAPWA, he helped implement key initiatives such as the National HIV Testing Day Campaign and the Ryan White National Youth Conference.

Crowley received his Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University's School of Hygiene and Public Health, and his Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Kalamazoo College. He also served in the United States Peace Corps as a high school science teacher at the Nsongweni High School in Swaziland.



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Abraham Lincoln | March 4, 1861

UPDATE

MODA Provocateur March 8

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

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

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

GLBT Chamber of Commerce Update: Host An Out And About

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Take Back The Night Yard Sale March 7

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A yard sale, for one day only will be held Saturday, Mar. 7 at the Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault, 1600 N. Country Club.

Proceeds from the yard sale will go to put on for Take Back The Night, the annual community-wide anti-violence event. The event honors all victims and survivors of violence, and reaffirms our community's commitment to ending sexual and relationship violence. The Take Back The Night Tucson 2009 event will be held on April 14 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Armory Park's outside stage. Sponsors of this year's Take Back the Night event include: DES Family Connections; Eon/Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation; Office of Chairman Richard Elias, Pima County Board of Supervisors; Our Family Services; Pima County Attorney's Office/Victim Witness; Pima County/Tucson Women's Commission; Project MORE High School; Rincon High School Peer Facilitators; Sahuaro Council of Girl Scouts; Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault; Southern Arizona Gender Alliance; Su Voz Vale; Tierra y Libertad/STR; and Wingspan Anti-Violence Project.

For more information, contact Rowan Frost, (520) 327-1171, Ext. 121.

EON Update:

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan reported that Eon, the program for LGBTQA youth were fortunate that several community donors wanted to fill so many of our wishes over the holidays and since, and their wish list has diminished.

However, the highest priority is to provide Eon's youth with this space, so basic needs, such as rent and utilities, are a huge part of that. The greatest wish now is for generous folks to donate the funds (however great or small) to Wingspan, that they would normally spend on items for Eon so that they are able to continue to provide this space for so many LGBTQA youth who have come to rely on their presence.

People can either donate online, at wingspan.org and follow the links or write a check to Wingspan, marking "Eon" in the memo box, and mail it to Wingspan, 425 East 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85705.

Tucson Roller Derby Update:

TUCSON (Observer Update) - It's a battle of champion teams at the next Tucson Roller Derby bout this Saturday night, March 7, when the 5th Season champs, the VICE Squad, take on the 1st Season champs, the Furious Truckstop Waitresses (FTW), at Bladeworld, I-10 at Grant in Tucson. The bout begins at 7:00 p.m. and between-period music will be performed by The Fisters. Advance tickets are available for \$8, door tickets costing \$10.

The Tucson Roller Derby is a non-profit cooperative operated by the league's member skaters. In the February 7th round robin tournament that opened the TRD's 6th Season, the VICE Squad took all of its mini-bouts by mostly huge margins. In addition to walloping the FTW 42-4, they beat the Copper Queens 28-17 and the Iron Curtain 29-23. The FTW dropped all of their mini-bouts in single-digit scoring, being additionally beaten by the #3 Iron Curtain 24-7 and the #2 Copper Queens 35-5.

Also on the Season Opener, the Saddlebrats, the all-star team of the TRD junior league Derby Brats, defeated the Los Angeles Junior Derby Dolls, 163-11. The next TRD bout at Bladeworld will be a "MetalBrawl" later this month, when the Copper Queens and Iron Curtain meet on March 28.

Game Day With Rainbow Families March 8

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come and join Rainbow Families, at Something Sweet Dessert Lounge, 5319 E Speedway (just west of Craycroft), 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., for an afternoon of board games and delicious desserts.

Rainbow Families will gather at Something Sweet Dessert Lounge. The lounge has some games, but please bring any of your favorites. Rainbow Families is a group of LGBT parents who have children. Everyone is welcome, with or without children.

For more information, contact Peter (520) 245-6659.

Car Washes Kick Off Biz's Several Breast Cancer Benefits

TUCSON - The Biz is raising as much money for the Susan G. Komen race for the cure as possible... and are seeking the communities help...on Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, March 28 they will be doing car washes at the Biz for a \$5 donation...all money raised from the car wash will be donated to the cause.

In addition, on Friday, March 27 they are having a fund-raising benefit at the club, with the help of Wingspan's breast health awareness team, all patrons will receive pink bracelets and again all money raised at the door will be donated.

Finally, on Sunday, April 19, the Biz crew (Biz For The Cure), will be walking in the race, as a team, to show their support to those who have or have had loved ones with breast cancer. They will end the walk at the Biz with a free Bar-B-Que to those who walked with their team and to those who have supported them. It will be a family BBQ and everyone is invited.

If you would like to join the 'Biz for a Cure' race team contact Hillary @the biz at 318-4838 for more information and race packet info. "Support the ones you love!"

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'Arizona Heatwave' Line Dance Team Wins IGRA Dance Finals

Obama Administration To Reverse Bush 'Provider Conscience' Health Care Policy



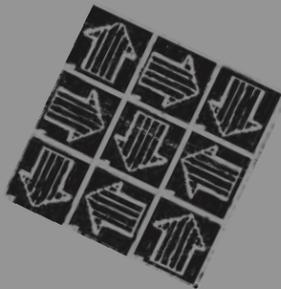
PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (AGRA) is proud to announce that its line dance team, the Arizona Heatwave, is the dance team champions of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA).

Carl Thompson. The Arizona Heatwave includes members who are classically trained, but the majority are relative beginners who have been dancing less than a year.

This new team of fourteen dancers stole the show when it performed for the first time in competition at IGRA's Dance Finals 2009 on February 21 in Las Vegas. The Dance Finals 2009 event also represented a first for IGRA: The rodeo association held the competition for the first time during its annual IGRA University weekend.

The group is already recruiting members for next year's competition. Interested parties should contact Ferdy Quezada at ferds84@gmail.com or Carl Thompson at thompsoncarlton@aol.com.

According to Heatwave organizer Ferdy Quezada, the Arizona line dance group had less than eight weeks to practice together before the finals. During their intensive sessions, the amateur dancers trained with and learned the original choreography of



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Obama administration is moving to rescind a federal rule that reinforced protections for medical providers who refuse to perform abortions or other procedures on moral grounds, an official said, reported the Associated Press on rawstory.com.

A Health and Human Services official said the administration will publish notice of its intentions and open a 30-day comment period for advocates, medical groups and the public. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the official notice has not been completed.

The Bush administration instituted the rule in its last days, and it was quickly challenged in federal court by several states and medical organizations. As a candidate, President Barack Obama criticized the regulation and campaign aides promised that if elected, he would review it. Abortion opponents hailed the Bush regulation, saying it clarified federal policies and raised awareness about the rights of medical providers to follow their consciences. But abortion rights advocates said it could reduce access to other services—allowing a drug store clerk to refuse to sell birth control pills, for example.

Federal law has long forbidden discrimination against health care professionals who refuse to perform abortions or provide referrals for them. The Bush administration's rule requires institutions that get federal funding to certify their compliance with laws protecting conscience rights. It was intended to block the flow of federal funds to hospitals and other institutions that ignore the rights of religious and moral

objectors.

The Obama administration supports the underlying federal laws that protect conscience rights, said the HHS official. But the administration was concerned that the Bush regulation could also be used to refuse birth control, family planning services and counseling for vaccines and transfusions.

"The administration supports a tightly written conscience clause," said the HHS official. "While we are concerned about the Bush rule, we also understand there might be a need to clarify existing laws." The administration will review comments from the public before making a final decision. Options range from simply repealing the regulation to writing a new one with a narrower scope.

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Supreme Court Rules Against Fred Phelps



Anti-Matthew Shepard and Anti-Gay monument that Pastor Fred Phelps wanted to display in Casper Wyoming, the scene of Shepard's murder.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday (Feb. 25) that anti-Gay pastor Fred Phelps does not have the First Amendment right to have his monument against Matthew Shepard - and more precisely against being Gay - displayed on government property, reports the Casper Star-Tribune.



Hate-Monger Pastor Fred Phelps

The Westboro Baptist Church pastor wanted his anti-Gay monument to be included in a Casper, Wyoming park that included several statues of historical significance, including a Ten Commandments statue donated by the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, reported ontopmagazine.com.

banned from entry into Great Britain to picket a Queen Mary's College production of the Laramie Project, a play based on the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. Shepard, a student at the University of Wyoming, was beaten, shackled to a post and left to die in a field by two men he had met in a Gay bar. He was found comatose, but died five days later.

Phelp's monument stated: "Matthew Shepard Entered Hell October 12, 1998, in Defiance of God's Warning 'thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind; it is abomination.' Leviticus 18:22."

The murder sparked outrage in the Gay and Lesbian community and calls for federal hate crimes legislation. The Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act might become law this year, ten years after his death.

The Casper City Council rejected the statue in 2003 and again in 2007. Phelps argued it was his First Amendment right to have his monument included.

The Supreme Court unanimously agreed that governments do not need to accept all the monuments they are offered. The decision came from a Pleasant Grove, Utah case.

Fred Phelps and his daughter, Shirley Phelps-Roper, were recently

Suit Seeks To Force Government To Extend Benefits To Same-Sex Couples

BOSTON, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - The legal advocacy group that successfully argued for sex-same marriage in Massachusetts filed suit on Tuesday (Mar. 3) seeking some federal benefits for spouses in such marriages, reported the New York Times.

"In our view, it's a straightforward equal-protection issue," said Mary L. Bonauto, civil rights project director for the group, referring to the constitutional mandate that laws be applied equally to everyone.

The target is the Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress in 1996, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage. That law denies federal benefits, like Social Security survivors' payments, to spouses in such marriages. Because same-sex marriage is allowed in only two states, Massachusetts and Connecticut, the number of spouses who are denied such benefits is fairly small. But Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the group planning to file the federal suit, believes the number will grow as more states consider granting Gay and Lesbian couples the right to marry. At least eight other states, including New York, are considering same-sex marriage bills.

The suit, to be filed in Federal District Court in Boston, does not challenge a separate provision of the act that says states do not have to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.

And while the Government Accountability Office has identified more than 1,100 federal statutory provisions in which marital status is a factor in rights and benefits, the suit focuses narrowly on equal protection as applied to Social Security, federal income tax, federal employees and retirees, and the issuance of passports.

"We picked programs every American can relate to," Bonauto said.

Continued on Page Five

Woody's

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COMMENTARY . . .

Are You Taking Advantage Of A Roth IRA?

By Dan Kalm - The Observer's official State Farm Agent

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Simply put...contributing to a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) may be a smart money move. The question then is...are you taking full advantage?

The benefit of contributing to the Roth IRA is the money you put into one of these accounts grows tax free and distributions may be made tax free. If you haven't opened a Roth IRA, do it now. You have until your tax deadline (typically April 15) to set up an account and make contributions for the previous year. Annual contributions are limited; currently the maximum amount is \$5,000.2 That means you can invest \$5,000 for 2009, giving you a solid start to your savings.

If you're just starting to invest, the Roth IRA should be one of your first options - even before you open a regular, taxable account or contribute to a workplace retirement savings plan. The only exception is if your employer offers a match on your 401(k) contributions. That's free money you don't want to pass up. You can invest in both a Roth IRA and a workplace retirement plan.

Not sure where to find money to fund your account? Consider investing your tax refund. About 70% of Americans will get a refund this year, and last year the average refund check totaled more than \$2,000. That amount would be a great start to a new Roth IRA. There are specific income restrictions for contributing to a Roth IRA. Contributions are

limited and based on the taxpayer's filing status and Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). When the taxpayer's income exceeds the eligibility limits for contributing to a Roth IRA, an eligibility phase out period begins.

For 2009, the MAGI phase out range for contributing to a Roth IRA is: More than \$166,000 but less than \$176,000 for a married couple filing a joint return or a qualified widow(er), or More than \$105,000 but less than \$120,000 for a single individual or head of household, or Less than \$10,000 for a married individual filing a separate return.

Your exact contribution amount can be calculated using the worksheets found in Publication 590 on the IRS Web site at irs.gov. Withdrawals are tax-free if you're over age 59½ and at least five years have expired since you established a Roth IRA. Otherwise withdrawals of gain may be taxable (unless the withdrawal is "qualified") and may be subject to a 10% tax penalty. An individual can contribute up to \$5,000 (or 100% of earned income, whichever is less) for tax year 2009. If you are over age 50, you are allowed to make additional catch-up contributions of \$1,000 for tax years 2008 and 2009. Your adjusted gross income may limit your contribution amount.

(For more information, go to Dan Kalm's website, dankalm.com or E-mail him at dan.kalm.mrot@statefarm.com.)

Suit Seeks To Force Government To Extend Benefits To Same-Sex Couples

Continued from Page Four

The plaintiffs in the suit include eight couples and three widowers, all of whom were married in Massachusetts after the state began allowing same-sex marriages in 2004. All have applied for federal benefits, Bonauto said, but have been denied because the federal government does not recognize their marriages.

Some of the plaintiffs are federal employees who cannot share their health benefits with spouses; others cannot file taxes jointly or are receiving less generous Social Security retirement benefits. The widowers include Dean Hara, the spouse of former Representative Gerry E. Studds. After Studds died in 2006, Hara, 51, was denied his Congressional pension and other benefits normally extended to surviving spouses of federal employees.

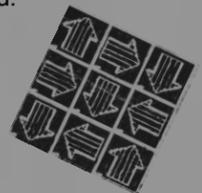
Another married couple, Melba Abreu and Beatrice Hernandez, estimate they would have saved about \$20,000 in federal income tax over the past few years if they had been able to file jointly. "In our case, the core of our American dream has always been for Melba and I to provide for one another," said Hernandez, 47, of Boston. "This presents a real threat to that, when we take a good hard look at our future years."

Another plaintiff, Herbert Burtis, 78, lost his spouse last year and would be entitled to about \$700 a month in Social Security survivor benefits if his marriage had been heterosexual. "Nobody else has to go through that begging to be considered equal to other married people," said Burtis, who married in 2004 but was with his partner for more than 60

years. Although federal courts have heard other challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act, Ms. Bonauto said, this is the first in which plaintiffs who were married in their state of residence applied for federal benefits and were denied them. Kris Mineau, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, a group that has lobbied against same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, said he did not think one part of the federal act could be singled out and struck down.

Erwin Chemerinsky, a constitutional law scholar and dean of the law school at the University of California, Irvine, said that the case seemed strong but that victory was not certain. "I think that under established equal protection law, they have strong claims," Chemerinsky said. "But it does raise issues that courts haven't dealt with before, so that makes it more difficult to predict what the courts will do."

Burtis, who was among hundreds of Gay, married residents of Massachusetts whom Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders reached out to, said he did not expect to receive federal benefits in his lifetime. "But at least I can be part of what I think would be a historic moment to help someone in a future generation get equality under the law," he said.



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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Stimulize This

If the local, state and national corporate hack media is to be believed, funding from Obama's economic stimulus package is all but a done deal and the proverbial "checks" for the states are en route but don't you believe it.

gressman Raul Grijalva, D-Tucson, said that the stimulus funding should be accepted.

"To reject all or some of the funding will cost more jobs and retain all of the drastic cuts in education and health care programs already enacted at the state house, Grijalva said. "We cannot allow this to become a political-ideological issue."

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson, said in an interview with the Tucson Citizen, "The intent of the stimulus package is to save jobs and provide funds for infrastructure, health care, education and a host of programs that are endangered by the economy and budget cuts enacted by the Arizona Legislature to cope with a \$1.6 billion deficit," adding, "the stimulus funding is different from bailout money approved for financial institutions and automakers in that the funds will provide benefits to average citizens who will feel the impacts of state budget cuts the most."

"We're passing money to the states so they don't have to cut their budgets" so drastically, Giffords said.

So what does Arizona's accidental Governor, Republican Jan Brewer feel about the ARRA? Like most Republicans, she doesn't, stating in an interview that she will consult with legislative Republicans on how to use - or whether to accept - the stimulus money. Right, the Republican led Arizona Legislature, who can't get the people's work done in 100 days and with a 45-day deadline (April 3), whom are we kidding?!

In an editorial in the Sunday, March 1 edition of the Arizona Republic, they state that "Gov. Jan Brewer needs to help make Arizona a contender for billions of dollars in federal discretionary spending and grants."

"... Next door in California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is making a muscular bid for every possible dollar. He's "more than happy" to take any cash that his fellow Republican governors turn down. If Arizona falters, other states will get our share ..." the editorial goes on to state. To paraphrase the quote from the movie "Caddyshack," "Well, we're waiting!"

When President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (also known as the Stimulus) into law on February 17, it marked the beginning of a 45-day window for each state to claim the funds allocated to it by the act - with the deadline Friday, April 3.

Under Section 1607 of ARRA, in order for a state to receive funds from the ARRA, governors have 45 days to certify that they will first of all "request and use" funds from the ARRA and second of all use them to create jobs and promote economic growth.

Under the ARRA, Arizona could receive more than \$800 million dollars. According to the site, 70,000 jobs will be created in Arizona alone thanks to the ARRA.

If a governor does not accept funds though, allocated to his or her state before that window expires, the state's legislature then has the option of certifying those two conditions itself.

Here is the Text of Section 1607: (a) CERTIFICATION BY GOVERNOR..Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, for funds provided to any State or agency thereof, the Governor of the State shall certify that: (1) the State will request and use funds provided by this Act; and (2) the funds will be used to create jobs and promote economic growth.

(b) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE LEGISLATURE..If funds provided to any State in any division of this Act are not accepted for use by the Governor, then acceptance by the State legislature, by means of the adoption of a concurrent resolution, shall be sufficient to provide funding to such State.

(c) DISTRIBUTION. After the adoption of a State legislature's concurrent resolution, funding to the State will be for distribution to local governments, councils of government, public entities, and public-private entities within the State either by formula or at the State's discretion.

As of press time, according to recovery.gov, only nine states: Connecticut, Ohio, Oregon, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Texas and Wisconsin have had requests filed, by their governor's for this.

Texas Republican Governor Rick "Good Hair" Perry, had publicly stated that his state wouldn't accept funding for unemployment benefits, part of ARRA, but was one of the first to file under ARRA.

As of press time, a total of twelve states: New Hampshire, Maryland, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, Virginia, Maine and Colorado have set up web pages, called state recovery sites.

One would think that the state Governors would be drafting their letters and getting them to Washington, D.C. quickly to ensure their piece of the "stimulus pie" - \$787 billion dollars.

In an interview with the soon-to-be out of business Tucson Citizen, Con-

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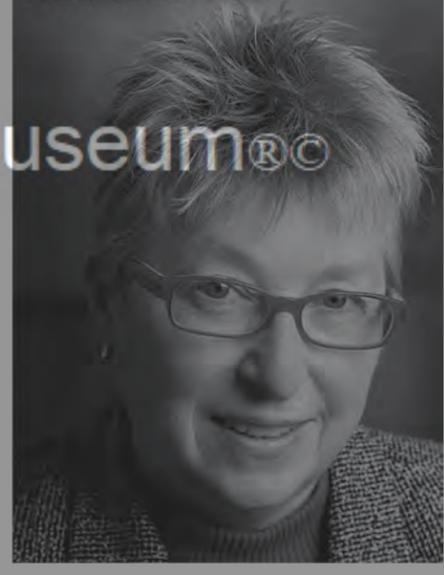
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Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Mephisto In Swing

In the wake of the Academy Awards, it's rather fitting that I start out this week by reminding you of one of the winners from the past, the Best Foreign Language Oscar winner of 1981, Mephisto. In it, Klaus Maria Brandauer portrays "a vain, brilliant German actor who sells himself to gain prestige when the Nazis come to power" (that's Leonard Maltin's synopsis, anyway). I've just been reminded that Brandauer's fictional character in the movie had a real-life musical counterpart - known throughout England during the early days of the Second World War as Charlie & His Orchestra.

The "Charlie" in question here turns out to have been one Karl Schwedler, who began the War as the director of the English-language broadcasting unit producing Nazi propaganda for external broadcast to the United States and the United Kingdom. He also fancied himself a crooner in the Bing Crosby manner, and when propaganda chief Joseph Goebbels wanted to put together a swing band for airing on those external broadcasts, it was Karl Schwedler who fronted the band as Charlie. There are two things to keep in mind about all this: one, that there were no swing bands in Germany under the Nazis, not for domestic listening anyway; and when the War broke out, while American shortwave stations may have sent Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen and "The Shadow" towards the British Isles late on Sunday nights their time, the BBC Sunday schedule was a bloody boring proposition.

During the days of the "Phony War" the British radio audience, whose movie theatres and concert halls had been closed at the beginning of the war as a safety precaution, found themselves listening in ironic amusement to the pompous newscaster William Joyce, the infamous "Lord Haw Haw," and the musical parodies of Charlie & His Orchestra. Those parodies are among the more unusual Nazi items to have survived the War. WFMU, the New Jersey freeform radio station, has two CDs' worth of the material in mp3s on their blog for free download; just point your browser at blog.wfmu.org and search for "Charlie & His Orchestra" - but be forewarned, there's a lot of offensive anti-Semitism among those spoof lyrics applied to the melodies of America's greatest tunesmiths, themselves often Jewish.

At first, the lead vocalist was actually a guy who had a heavy German accent and probably had to read the lyrics phonetically, not knowing what he was singing about other than something Hitler endorsed. That was circa October 1939. After a disastrous first recording session, that lead singer was ordered replaced, and Schwedler himself, with a lighter accent, took over for most of the band's remaining time on the air. Schwedler was an atypical Nazi. If there was a flamboyant playboy in wartime Berlin, Karl Schwedler was it, basking in the newfound prominence in the propaganda ministry thanks to his band's ironic popularity in England on Sunday nights. Some of those accounts, from those who were acquainted with Schwedler after the War in New York City, claim that he was also Gay, making him a candidate for the death camps if his superiors ever penetrated his closet. This was itself an interesting aspect, as one of the main uses for the band's records was sending them to P.O.W. camps for British, Canadian and American prisoners to listen to the things. The predictable reaction from the P.O.W.s

was breaking the 78s in disgust halfway through Schwedler's vocals.

By 1943, the war had taken a remarkable turn in the Allies' favour, with the Soviets bombing Berlin on a frequent basis. The Nazis decided to move much of the radio propaganda activities to Stuttgart, but, interestingly enough, while "Charlie & His Orchestra" made the trip, Schwedler stayed in Berlin for the remainder of the War. There were no Deutsche Grammophon studios in Stuttgart, with the band broadcasting directly from the radio station there instead. The new "Charlie" making the vocals on the last set of recordings clearly sang and spoke English without any trace of a German accent. After the Nazis surrendered, whereas "Lord Haw Haw" William Joyce was tried for treason and executed, Karl Schwedler was a wanted man for a different reason. The new head of the British Forces Broadcasting unit actually wanted to find and hire Schwedler to sing for their post-War Berlin station. But Schwedler, apparently fearing the same fate as Joyce, fled from Berlin to Bavaria, where he worked as a night porter at a hotel. Eventually, he moved back to Berlin, where he was spotted working as a croupier in a postwar casino, and shortly after that he took the opportunity to head to the United States, where he spent time in Greenwich Village before venturing westward. He appears to have returned to Bavaria to spend the rest of his life in complete obscurity. The recorded echoes of Charlie & His Orchestra, however, live on as a caustic curiosity of the 1940s, with Karl Schwedler continuing from the grave to provide a voice as a Mephisto in Swing.

Harvey Milk Sculpture Proposed For Utah Capitol

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - A Salt Lake City area man has a unique proposal to counter what he sees as growing homophobia among Utah politicians - a statue to Harvey Milk at the Utah Capitol, 365Gay.com reported.

Roger Carrier says the statue, honoring the openly Gay San Francisco politician who was assassinated, would serve as a constant reminder of the effects of bigotry to Utah lawmakers. "When I heard Senator Butters comments, I was disgusted and appalled," Carrier told KTVX-television.

In recent comments to a documentary filmmaker, Butters compared Gay activists to radical Muslims and said they are "probably the greatest threat to America going down." He also said Gay people lack morals. The remarks drew outrage not only from Gays and liberals but also from both sides of the aisle in the Legislature. Senate President Michael Waddoups removed Butters from a judiciary committee that Butters chaired and Democrats have called for greater sanctions.

Carrier, who is straight, said he never thought he would hear a public official speak that way, adding that the remarks have hurt Utah's reputation nationally. Carrier thinks that a Milk memorial would "speak volumes about our state." "I am doing this out of a sense of justice for the Gay community and not just for the Gay community, it's for everybody," he told KTVX. A retired teacher, Carrier said he believes same-sex marriage or civil unions are inevitable in the state.

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March may come in like a lion but it should come out as anything or anyone it wants. A burst of Aqueerian energy across four planets demands that we take a stand on important issues. Don't just hang around trying to look important. Take it to the streets. It is time to march forth!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
Spring may be in the air but queer Scorps are perfectly content to laze around the house. Well maybe laze isn't the right word since you are full to overflowing with zesty energy. Move a few things around, repair frayed connections with relatives, settle into a comfortable routine and open up your house to hordes of guests. Maybe they will spring clean for you...?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Friends will be much more important to you now so find ways to expand your personal outreach. This may require greater time investment with those who can help you advance your cause. Put personal preferences aside and rub elbows with the influentials rather than the loveables, Gay Ram. Who knows what a little rubadub can produce?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)
Gay Archers are full of great ideas and have some strong and pointed opinions. Your enthusiasm propels you to share your bon mots with anyone and everyone. However there are times to speak out and there are times to sit back and quietly listen. Will you be able to recognize the difference now? Probably not. But all will be forgiven... eventually.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls might be buried neck deep in career issues. This can be a good thing if it enables you to remove barriers to success and speed up your corporate progress. Of course, you might also undiplomatically upend any progress if you rush rush. But if you keep your opinions to yourself and maintain a cunning careful eye on the prize, you wind up on top... for a change.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)
Money issues come to the fore for the next few weeks and not a moment too soon. While pink Caps love luxury and status, they may have overspent their budget. Stop bleeding red ink and start to focus on the bottom line. By getting your finances under control, you will soon be better able to plan for your eventual comfy retirement. Or something like that.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Travel beckons and pink Twins must heed the siren call. March may raise your burn-out potential but a quick and easy refresh can save the day. Even if money is tight and work demands are crushing, find creative ways to escape from your usual skin and try something new and energizing. You needn't travel far, only differently. But trying a new route to work does not count.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Aqueerians cannot be blamed for feeling pretty darned great all through March and that is because they now have boundless energy and charisma. Don't sit on your sofa and procrastinate. This is the time to get up and get going on any long term project. Meet and greet and try to be sweet. You will need these folks' help in the coming months. Charm and conquer.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
The next few weeks sizzle as you cook. Gay Crabs find that their personal hottness hits a high. Don't stew in your own juices while the rest of the world looks on. Venture Out and see who responds. Before you know it your dance card fills up and you have your choice of delicacies. Are your eyes too big for your stomach? Good! Gluttony is not a sin this month.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
While there is a caldron of activity bubbling behind the scenes, Guppies can soon get a sense of what is what and how to get what they want. March is the month to expand your spiritual outreach and get more involved in charitable efforts. Your karma is building. Listen to your inner voice... unless it suggests that you bar hop in the nude.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
You may want to change the dynamics of a certain relationship. Are partners giving you what you want and need? Be honest in your appraisal. If things have gotten stale and boring, the status quo may simply no longer do. Proud Lions are antsy and ready for a ramp up or a change. Put your cards on the table and see what happens next. Gin!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
If you find yourself buried in miniutia and paperwork, it is an excellent time to prioritize, queer Virgin. All this hubbub is creating unnecessary stress and does not get the work done. Resolve to clear off your desk and turn your attend to your overall well being and health. Conserving your energy now will pay huge dividends later when the job push is on. Lucky you...

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
With little prompting, proud Libras find ways of having fun and getting into mischief. Nothing can hold you back now because you have ample energy reserves and your optimism is high. And things are beginning to go your way. Use this luck and creativity to find new solutions to old problems. Mine your gems for future profit or just wear them to dazzle the crowd.

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Obama Administration Releases Secret Bush Anti-Terror Memos

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Justice Department on Monday (Mar. 2) released a long-secret legal document from 2001 in which the Bush administration claimed the military could search and seize terror suspects in the United States without warrants, reported the Associated Press on rawstory.com. The legal memo was written about a month after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. It says constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure would not apply to terror suspects in the U.S., as long as the president or another high official authorized the action.

Even after the Bush administration rescinded that legal analysis, the Justice Department refused to release its contents, prompting a standoff with congressional Democrats. The memo was one of nine released Monday (Mar. 2) by the Obama administration. Another memo showed that, within two weeks of Sept. 11, the administration was contemplating ways to use wiretaps without getting warrants. The author of the search and seizure memo, John Yoo, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

In that memo, Yoo wrote that the president could treat terrorist suspects in the United States like an invading foreign army. For instance, he said, the military would not have to get a warrant to storm a building to prevent terrorists from detonating a bomb.

Yoo also suggested that the government could put new restrictions on the press and speech, without spelling out what those might be. "First Amendment speech and press rights may also be subordinated to the overriding need to wage war successfully," Yoo wrote, adding later: "The current campaign against terrorism may require even broader exercises of federal power domestically."

The links to the released memos are as follows and can be found on the Observer blog (tucsonobserver.blogspot.com):



Intelligence Surveillance Act to Change the "Purpose" Standard for Searches (09-25-2001)

* Memorandum Regarding Authority for Use of Military Force to Combat Terrorist Activities within the United States (10-23-2001)

* Memorandum Regarding Authority of the President to Suspend Certain Provisions of the ABM Treaty (11-15-2001)

* Memorandum Regarding the President's Power as Commander in Chief to Transfer Captured Terrorists to the Control and Custody of Foreign Nations (03-13-2002)

* Memorandum Regarding Swift Justice Authorization Act (04-08-2002)

* Memorandum Regarding Determination of Enemy Belligerency and Military Detention (06-08-2002)

* Memorandum Regarding Applicability of 18 U.S.C. § 4001(a) to Military Detention of United States Citizens (06-27-2002)

* Memorandum Regarding October 23, 2001 OLC Opinion Addressing the Domestic Use of Military Force to Combat Terrorist Activities (10-06-2008)



* Memorandum Regarding Status of Certain OLC Opinions Issued in the Aftermath of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001 (01-15-2009)

* Memorandum Regarding Constitutionality of Amending Foreign

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by Jimmy Petrol

Girl On A Boat (Fourth in a series)

(The continuing story)

The young man was proving slow to move from the dock to the boat. He watched the girls work, wanting to show his superiority by telling them how to do things, but he was hampered by the fact that he knew nothing whatever about sailing.

It was disconcerting to him to have to listen to a couple of girls, especially girls he wanted to have sex with, telling him all about something he had no interest in. He had come sailing with them strictly because it had occurred to him that he would almost certainly get to screw them both in the boat. He had not envisioned the river like it was; black, cold water, chill wind, frightening. It galled him that these two little girls were apparently excited to get out onto the Columbia; he had only seen it from the great bridges that spanned it. Glancing down, he had seen the sailboats playing in the breezes and begun to form the same kind of cliché'd romanticism the old sailor had; fresh, healthy, easy women.

This business of "Sit there, hold this when we say so, don't go anywhere and listen to what we say and do it" was a bit much. In fact, it was getting plainer and plainer that the order of the night had lots of work in it. Work, he knew, meant no sex; girls were no fun that way. He didn't know for sure about sailing, but they tended to get all caught up in

studying and actually got mad if a guy tried to get even the slightest little quicky out of them when they were doing it. Especially in public. The docks looked awfully public...the old asshole that had opened the gate for them was just across from them on the next dock, sitting in his boat, eating. He was watching too; the boy had the distinct feeling that the old fart was watching *him* to protect the girls from him. This galled him too.

He stood, toeing the deck with his hundred-dollar tennis shoes that never saw a pace above a slow walk and stuck his hands into his back pockets. The girls were done with the sails; they were looking at him, heads cocked to the side; perhaps he didn't know it was ok to get onboard.

"Hey," the athletic one called, "get onboard; were almost ready to go." She smiled sweetly at him; he had been the subject of much conjecture and she wanted to have him on board. Out on the dark, scary river they'd see what he was made of. At work, he was all tough guy and sweetness, pretending to be a chivalrous knight-in-shining armor. He made a big deal out of cluing her in to which guys were 'players', which were secret misogynists, who made sexual comments behind their cute little backs. She liked him, had come to trust him. She extended a hand over the rail.

(To be continued ...)

Dobson Resigns As Head Of Anti-LGBT 'Focus On Family'



James Dobson

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (Observer Update) - Conservative evangelical leader James Dobson has resigned as chairman of Focus on the Family but will continue to play a prominent role at the organization he founded more than three decades ago, The Associated Press has learned, reported 365Gay.com Dobson notified

the board of his decision, and the 950 employees of the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based ministry were informed at a monthly worship service, said Jim Daly, the group's president and chief executive officer.

Dobson, 72, will continue to host Focus on the Family's flagship radio program, write a monthly newsletter and speak out on moral issues, Daly said. Dobson's resignation as board chairman "lessens his administrative burden" and is the latest step in a succession plan, the group said. Dobson began relinquishing control six years ago by stepping down as president and CEO.

While Focus on the Family emphasizes that it devotes most of its resources to offering parenting and marriage advice, it is best known for promoting anti-LGBT stands in politics. Focus officials have acknowledged difficulties in raising money from younger families critical to its future. The economy also has hurt. Last fall Focus on the Family eliminated more than 200 staff positions, its largest employee cut-backs ever.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Gay Employee Sues Costco Again To Retain Job

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - A Gay employee who successfully sued wholesale giant Costco for allowing a hostile work environment has returned to court, this time to get his job back. Juan Valera of Los Angeles is arguing to the L.A. superior court that Costco has failed to rehire him as a photo manager as an act of retaliation to his original suit, according to KABC. On December 3 he was awarded \$420,000.

A new general manager, John Weaver, came to the warehouse in

Inglewood, Calif., in 2005. Valera had been working at that location for more than two decades. Weaver had casually used the word "queers" in a statement. Valera took a leave of absence to deal with stress. When he returned to work, he found that his pay was cut and his workload doubled, his attorney Leo Terrell said. According to the report, Valera was forced to take another leave of absence. When he returned he was demoted to cashier and was eventually stripped of his benefits. The defense argued that Valera lost his benefits under Costco policy because he was gone for six

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Porn In The USA: Conservatives, Utahans Are Biggest Consumers

BOSTON, Massachusetts Americans may paint themselves in increasingly bright shades of red and blue, but new research finds one thing that varies little across the nation: the liking for online pornography. A new nationwide study of anonymized credit-card receipts from a major online adult entertainment provider finds little variation in consumption between states.

other consulting client runs dozens of adult websites, though he says he is not at liberty to identify the firm. That company did, however, provide Edelman with roughly two years of credit card data from 2006 to 2008 that included a purchase date and each customer's postal code. After controlling for differences in broadband internet access between states - online porn tends to be a bandwidth hog - and adjusting for population, he found a relatively small difference between states with the most adult purchases and those with the fewest.

"When it comes to adult entertainment, it seems people are more the same than different," says Benjamin Edelman at Harvard Business School. However, there are some trends to be seen in the data. Those states that do consume the most porn tend to be more conservative and religious than states with lower levels of consumption, the study finds.

The biggest consumer, Utah, averaged 5.47 adult content subscriptions per 1000 home broadband users; Montana bought the least with 1.92 per 1000. "The differences here are not so stark," Edelman says. Number 10 on the list was West Virginia at 2.94 subscriptions per 1000, while number 41, Michigan, averaged 2.32.

"Some of the people who are most outraged turn out to be consumers of the very things they claimed to be outraged by," Edelman says.

Eight of the top 10 pornography consuming states gave their electoral votes to John McCain in last year's presidential election - Florida and Hawaii

Edelman spends part of his time helping companies such as Microsoft and AOL detect advertising fraud. An-

POET'S CORNER

DOGTOWN by Ron Rose - Tucson

The cobbled streets of Milkbone, where sleeping dogs do lie, In Dogtown, Arizona, beneath the desert sky The Mayor is Pat Pit bull, no gangs do rumble here Graffiti non existent, pit bulls in still such fear Border collies hunt illegals, chihuahuas go to jail Coyotes sent to prison, they're carried by the tail Policing is terrific, police dogs do their job Our police chief rides a Harley, and really scares the mob Deputy Rottweiler, rides shotgun at his side A nasty doxy pincher, along just for the ride Our ethnicle population, in ghettos they do dwell French quarter for the poodles, their houses are quite swell The English are so proper, Spaniels, Setters, too They seldom come a "cropper" the Queen would love this crew These Irish, these Red Setters, chase rabbits all the day The Afghans have their habits, strange in every way We also have our athletes, Boxers lead the list If I failed to mention them, they'd hit me with their fist In Dogtown, Arizona, our leaders bark and growl, Yes, living here in Dogtown, will really make you howl.

ROOMMATE WANTED !

One roommate wanted to share 1664 sq. ft. home near 22nd Street and Old Spanish Trail. You would have TWO 10' x 11' front bedrooms (perhaps make the second your computer/TV room) a completely private bath with soaking tub, and shared use of the dining/living room, kitchen, outdoor patio and gas grill.

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!

Call me, Sam, 647-9591 or 795-8573

were the exceptions. While six out of the lowest 10 favored Barack Obama. Churchgoers bought less online porn on Sundays - a 1% increase in a postal code's religious attendance was associated with a 0.1% drop in subscriptions that day. However, expenditures on other days of the week brought them in line with the rest of the country, Edelman finds.

bought 3.6 more subscriptions per thousand people than states where a majority disagreed. A similar difference emerged for the statement "AIDS might be God's punishment for immoral sexual behavior." "One natural hypothesis is something like repression: if you're told you can't have this, then you want it more," Edelman says.

Residents of 27 states that passed laws banning Gay marriages boasted 11% more porn subscribers than states that don't explicitly restrict Gay marriage. To get a better handle on other associations between social attitudes and pornography consumption, Edelman melded his data with a previous study on public attitudes toward religion. States where a majority of residents agreed with the statement "I have old-fashioned values about family and marriage,"



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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

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

www.azgaycamping.com
Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member \$15.00
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*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$100 off.
*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m. or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

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 Matinis \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

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

YARD DOG - Open 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 10;pm.

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.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 7
THE BIZ - Breast Cancer Benefit Carwash 9:00 a.m. Minimum donation \$5.00

COYOTE MOON - March Birthday Party with Two Sons performing classic rock and blues.

Sunday, March 8
THE BIZ - Season finale of the 'L' Word - 2 hours

COYOTE MOON - Miss Gay Tucson America Pageant hosted by Lucinda Holliday. \$15 donation t door. 7:00-11:00p.m.

YARD DOG - 2:00 p.m. Billiard Tournament and Burger Bar.

Friday, March 13
THE BIZ - 15th Year Anniversary Bash. Jaeger Promo-Go Go Dancers and give-aways!!!

WOODY'S - March Birthday? Celebrate at Woody's - Balloons, Cake and Champagne Toast.

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

Tuesday, March 17
WOODY'S - Woody's famous St. Patrick's Day Party. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Party favors and drink specials!

Personal Training

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California Supreme Court Hears Prop. 8 Challenge

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - The California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Thursday (Mar. 5) challenging Proposition 8, the measure passed by voters in November that bars same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

organizing principles of state government cannot be made by simple majority vote through the initiative process, but instead must, at a minimum, go through the state legislature first.

Proposition 8 was passed by voters by a slim 52 percent. The American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights immediately filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the vote. They were joined by additional suits by the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles and a legal opinion by California Attorney General Jerry Brown. The lawsuits charge that Proposition 8 is invalid because the initiative process was improperly used in an attempt to undo the constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone, by eliminating a fundamental right from just one group - Lesbian and Gay Californians.

The California Constitution itself sets out two ways to alter the document that sets the most basic rules about how state government works, the groups said in a written brief to the court. Through the initiative process, voters can make relatively small changes to the constitution. But any measure that would change the underlying principles of the constitution must first be approved by the legislature before being submitted to the voters. That didn't happen with Proposition 8, and that's why it's invalid, the petitioners said.

They also say that Proposition 8 improperly attempts to prevent the courts from exercising their essential constitutional role of protecting the equal protection rights of minorities. The suits say that under the California Constitution, such radical changes to the

Brown's office took a slightly different approach, arguing in its brief to the court that Proposition 8 should be invalidated on the ground that certain fundamental rights, including the right to marry, are inalienable and cannot be put up for a popular vote. The brief said the measure should be overturned because it deprives people of the right to marry - an aspect of liberty that the Supreme Court has concluded is guaranteed by the California Constitution.

Lawmaker Half-Apologizes For Linking Gays With Murderers

DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - A Colorado Republican says his choice of words may have been wrong, but he is not backing off from a condemnation of homosexuality as a sin. State Sen. Scott Renfroe has been at the center of storm of controversy after telling the Colorado Senate that homosexuality an "offense to God," reported 365Gay.com.



Colorado State Senator Scott Renfroe

"When we create laws that go against biblically what we are supposed to stand for, we are allowing to go forward a sin," Renfroe said on the Senate floor. "We are taking sins and making them to be legally OK. That is wrong. I'm not saying this is the only sin out there. We have murder. ... We don't make laws making murder legal."

Renfroe delivered the attack during debate on a domestic partner bill that will make it easier for unmarried couples in Colorado, including Gays and lesbians, to make medical decision for incapacitated partners and leave property to their partners. Despite Renfroe's remarks, the measure passed the Senate.

The Greeley Tribune in an interview published Thursday. "I probably could have been more eloquent." But he is not exactly backing away from the tenor of his remarks saying that all sin is equal.

LGBT civil rights groups blasted the senator for the comparison of Gays to murderers, and demanded an apology. "I apologize if my use of words did upset people, I guess," Renfroe told

"Homosexuality is seen as a violation of this natural creative order and is an offense to God the creator who created men and women, male and female for procreation," Renfroe told The Tribune. He also said that he did not think that people should not follow an Old Testament verse that says homosexuals will "surely be put to death."

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 Attorney at Law

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Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church

The Rev. William H. Knight, D.D., Interim Pastor

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." Sydney Smith, (1771-1845)

Sunday Worship: 10:15am

Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.



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