Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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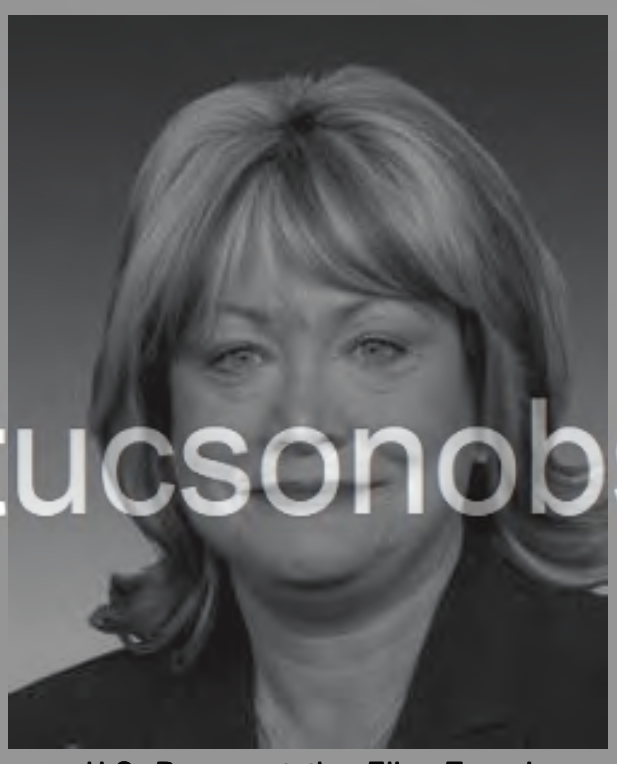
Tucson Observer Archives

## Who Will Take The Lead On DADT?



U.S. Representative Ellen Tauscher

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The chief sponsor of the legislation to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," Rep. Ellen Tauscher has announced that she will be resigning her congressional seat to take a post at the State Department, leaving the bill in flux, reported advocate.com.

LGBT activists immediately began floating the names of people who might make a good choice to take over sponsorship of the bill, but Larry Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, said the first consideration is really how long her confirmation will take. "As we've seen, it takes a long time," he says, adding that the process of vetting and confirming Obama administration nominees has "sort of ground to a halt" after some of the initial issues with people's tax returns.

A spokesperson at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that lobbies to end the ban on Gays serving openly in the military, said the organization was "in the process of looking at several strong champions in the House who can step in and take the lead," but they declined to name names. Rep. Susan Davis of California has turned up as a person of interest among some Washington insiders. Davis chairs the Military Personnel Subcommittee, where the bill is currently being held – the same post once held by the Military Readiness Enhancement Act's original sponsor, former Congressman Marty Meehan of Massachusetts. "Congresswoman Davis is probably the strongest and most logical choice to shepherd the bill on the House side," says Steve Ralls, who worked on the issue for eight years at SLDN. "She has enormous credibility with the armed forces, and she is someone that military leaders in her district and across the country look to to lead on issues like this in the Congress."

Korb suggested that someone like Rep. Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania might also make a good choice. "If you have someone like Congressman Murphy, who has a lot of military experience and is an Iraq veteran – someone who can say, 'Look, I was out there in the field and this was not an issue,' – that's what you would like to see." Murphy made a particularly strong showing of support for repeal of the policy during the first hearings on the issue hosted by Representative Tauscher last year, but he was elected in 2006 and is still relatively new to Congress. Perhaps an even greater wild-card question is who's going to carry the bill in the Senate. The Boston Globe reported last month that Sen. Edward Kennedy planned on sponsoring the bill and was looking for a Republican cosponsor before introducing it. Though Kennedy sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee and has long been a champion of LGBT equality, it's not clear how his ailing health might affect his leadership on this issue. Kennedy was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor after suffering seizures last spring.

## Early Treatment For HIV Act Re-Introduced

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A bipartisan bill that advocates say will save lives by allowing states to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive Americans has been reintroduced in Congress, reported 365Gay.com. The bill was filed by Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and currently has 44 co-sponsors. A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Senate soon.

The legislation addresses a gap in health care coverage for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS. Despite the fact that Medicaid is the largest single provider of HIV/AIDS care in the U.S., currently most adults with HIV are not eligible for Medicaid until they have progressed to full blown AIDS. Without Medicaid coverage, many low-income Americans are left without the critical care and medication needed to help slow the progression of the disease.

According to a study conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, enactment of this legislation would reduce the death rate among individuals on Medicaid living with HIV/AIDS by half over ten years. "Now that we have a President who is willing to sign, we urge Congress to pass this common-sense legislation that would save countless lives and taxpayer dollars," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "With early treatment, we'll be improving

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## New Charges Filed Against Mormon Church

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - The California group that in November charged the Mormon Church with failing to report the full extent of its financial involvement in Proposition 8 added to its complaint, 365Gay.com reported. Fred Karger of Californians Against Hate filed charges with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, accusing the church of creating the National Organization for Marriage as a front group for its efforts in the state, and of failing to report the costs as required by law.

The National Organization for Marriage was one of the leading political action committees involved in the successful campaign to ban same-sex marriage. Supporters of the ban raised more than $40 million. Karger based his new charges on memos leaked by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that show similarities between the battle in California and a campaign fought against same-sex marriage in Hawaii in the 1990s.

The amended complaint also charges that the LDS Church underreported non-monetary contributions to the Prop. 8 campaign such as compensated staff time for church officials and funds for TV and Web commercial production. A spokesman for the church denied the charges to The Salt Lake Tribune . A statement from the church says that the church did not establish the National Organization for Marriage and that all contributions "are a matter of public record." The California Fair Political Practices Commission continues its investigation.

## Gay Student Banned From Wearing Rainbow

PEORIA, AZ - A 14-year-old Peoria student says he was ordered by a principal to turn his rainbow wristband inside-out or stop wearing it to school, reported 365Gay.com. The cloth wristband has words "Rainbows are Gay" on it.

Chris Quintanilla says it is the latest in several anti-Gay experiences he has had at the school. After nothing was done, his mother went to the American Civil Liberties Union. In a letter sent to Peoria Unified School District, the ACLU said that the principal violated Quintanilla's constitutional rights, pointing to a 40-year-old landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing students' free speech and expression. "When I asked my son's principal why he wouldn't be allowed to wear his wristband to school anymore, he said some teachers found it offensive," said Natali Quintanilla, mother of the eighth grader. "My son is honest and happy about who he is, and I love him and support his right to be himself. There are a lot of things teachers should be more concerned about than one little wristband – like educating our children."

Quintanilla said that her son was harassed for being Gay earlier this school year. When she asked to the principal to do something to prevent the harassment she said she was told "If he didn't put it out there the way he does, he wouldn't have much of a problem." The Supreme Court has held that students have a right to free speech at school, and that includes Gay students. " The ACLU has won dozens of cases over the years where schools have tried to get away with illegal censorship," said Elizabeth Gill, staff attorney for the ACLU national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "A handful of teachers supposedly working themselves into a tizzy over one little wristband is hardly an excuse for violating Chris Quintanilla's right to free speech."

The ACLU letter refers to 1969's U.S. Supreme Court decision in which the Court wrote, "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights... at the schoolhouse gate." The letter also pointed to a Florida case in which a high school principal had attempted to ban rainbows at school. In that case, a federal judge ruled last May that the school had violated students' First Amendment rights. "When schools censor students like this, they are failing one of the most important civics lessons there is," said Dan Pochoda, Legal Director of the ACLU of Arizona. "Schools should respect the Constitution and encourage all students - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and straight - to appreciate and exercise their freedoms, rather than illegally trying to silence them." The ACLU has given the school ten days to respond to its letter. The school has yet to respond.

**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE**

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# UPDATE

## Desert Voices Concert April 18-19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices brings a phenomenal concert season to a close on April 18, 7:30 p.m., and 19, 3:30 p.m., at the Proscenium Theatre, Pima Community College West Campus.

"Out and Proud" celebrates 20 years of community performance with a retrospective featuring musical selections that commemorate the heritage, history and so many of the inspiring moments that have become hallmarks of all Desert Voices' concerts. Special Guest Star, Namoli Brennet, makes a return engagement in what has become a season long celebration of 20 glorious years as Arizona's Premiere GLBTS Chorus.

Some of the selections for this season's final concerts will pay a musical tribute to GALA, the international association of LGBT Choruses. Founded in 1982, GALA fosters artistic and organizational development through a wide variety of programs and services for over 170 member choruses and almost 10,000 vocalists worldwide. Tickets are still available but selling quickly as this will be the last opportunity to participate in what has been a tremendous Concert Season. As an added special gift to their audiences, Desert Voices is offering an additional 20% discount on tickets for groups of 10 or more. Just make your reservations before April 18. For ticket information, please call, (520) 791-9662 or visit desertvoices.org.

## March For Equality Casa Grande

CASA GRANDE (Observer Update) - This event is much like Pride, but it has a political twist. Instead of a parade, there is a march, starting at noon, Saturday, Mar. 28 to Casa Grande City Hall, 510 E. Florence Blvd.

There will be musical performers, influential speakers from organizations such as Equality Arizona, unified voice, and several others. There will also be stand-up comedy, drag performances, vendors selling food and rainbow decal, and a possible peformance by Desert Voices.

For more information, contact Christopher Hall, (520) 208 - 4681, christopher_hall@stu.centralaz.edu.

## Around The Old Pueblo

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Volunteering at Wingspan is a great way to meet some of the most interesting, smart, talented, fun people in Tucson! Volunteer Orientation is the first step and on Saturday, Mar. 28, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., at Wingspan (Anzaldua Room), 425 E. 7th. It will be a brief introduction to your community center and about the diverse volunteer opportunities available. Remember, Wingspan is very much a volunteer-run organization, we could not possibly exist without our outstanding volunteers! For more information, contact Madeline Porta at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779. ...

Interested in adoption or providing foster care? Please join Proud Families, a program of Devereux Arizona, for an interactive presentation on adoption and foster care, Saturday, Apr. 4, noon, at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. The need is greater than ever! Lunch will be provided. Proud Families is a Devereux Arizona program specializing in the recruitment and training of LGBT families for adoption and foster care. For more information, contact Laura Binette, (520) 296-5551, ext. 132, devereux.org/site/PageServer?pagename=az_index. ...

Bumsted's, located at 500 N. 4th Ave., from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. will be hosting Gay Bingo with Tucson's Black Cat, Ajia Simone. Massive sandwiches, the best sweet potato fries in Tucson, tall drinks and non-stop fun with Tucson's Black Cat Ajia Simone at Bumsted's Bingo Night for Wingspan! Fun prizes and 20% of food and beverage tab (pre-tax) will be donated to Wingspan. Wednesdays: April 1 and April 15. For More Information, contact Mike Herdegen, (520) 624-1779, ext. 121.

## Mamma Mia In Tucson

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' MAMMA MIA!, the smash hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, returns to Tucson for eight performances only, from April 21-26 at the Tucson Music Hall.

Seen by over 30 million people around the world, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' global smash hit musical MAMMA MIA! is celebrating 6 sold-out years at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway, and is currently playing record-breaking engagements in Las Vegas and on National Tour in the United States.

MAMMA MIA! tickets are on sale NOW! Order online at broadwayintucson.com, by phone 24/7 with Ticketmaster at (520) 321-1000, or in person at the Tucson Convention Center Ticket Office, during regular business hours (Monday-Friday, 10:30am-5:30pm and two hours before any event at the TCC). Tickets range from $25-$69, and discounts are available for some performances for students, seniors and members of the military.

## Lambda Legal: Gay Not Defamatory

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Lambda Legal has told a federal court that calling someone Gay is not defamation and the court should dismiss a lawsuit by Howard K. Stern against former MSNBC host Rita Cosby, reported 365Gay.com. In her book, "Blonde Ambition: The Untold Story Behind Anna Nicole Smith's Death," Cosby claimed Stern, Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer and boyfriend, had a sexual encounter with Larry Birkhead, Smith's former boyfriend.

Cosby quoted two former nannies as confirmation, but both women later said they made no such claims. In 2007, after the book was published, Stern filed suit claiming that Cosby, in calling him Gay, was being defamatory and as a result he was entitled to collect damages. Lambda Legal filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York arguing that Stern's claims of defamation rest on the flawed premise that being called Gay would expose someone to public hatred and shame. Lambda argued that the premise is disproved daily throughout New York, including through the service of New York's many openly Gay and Lesbian public officials.

Validation of this type of defamation claim, and its underlying premise, would have a demeaning effect toward Gay men and Lesbians, similar to the effect caused by state sodomy laws before they were struck down by the US Supreme Court in 2003 in Lawrence v. Texas the amicus brief stated. "Saying that someone is Gay is not an insult. Being identified as Gay is neither bad nor shameful – in life and under the law," said Thomas W. Ude, Jr., Senior Staff Attorney at Lambda Legal. "At its core, defamation is about disgrace. Recognition of this defamation claim would demean Gay men and Lesbians by giving credence to antiGay biases that New York has repeatedly rejected." In Lawrence v. Texas Lambda Legal scored a major LGBT rights victory leading to a number of other successful LGBT cases at the state level.

## Early Treatment For HIV Act

Continued from Page One

the quality of life for HIV-positive Americans; we'll be reducing the number of infections by lowering viral loads; and we'll be saving money by treating the infection before it worsens."

Passage of the bill into law would create significant savings for taxpayers its supporter say, because early treatment for HIV-positive individuals would delay both the need for more expensive forms of treatment and the time at which individuals would become medically disabled. It could also reduce demands on the SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance Savings and Medicaid and Medicare programs.

OBSERVER

P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
Monday thru Friday

*Office Closed Thursdays*

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
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# TIHAN Signs On To Promote 'The Denver Principles'

TUCSON - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), has announced it is joining hundreds of others throughout the country in support of The Denver Principles Project. The project recommits to the historic Denver Principles–a self-empowerment manifesto written in 1983 by a group of people living with HIV/AIDS–with the goal of strengthening the voices of those living with HIV and asserting the right of people living with HIV to participate in the decision-making processes that fundamentally affect their lives.

A total of 362 service organizations, representing all 50 states, have pledged their support to the Denver Principles Project, with TIHAN being the first Arizona organization outside of Phoenix to formally sign on. See napwa.org/denverprinciplesproject/denver-principles.shtml for the full text of The Denver Principles.

TIHAN, the largest privately-funded provider of support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Arizona, has honored the principles of self-empowerment and advocacy since its founding in 1994. When two national groups, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) and POZ magazine, announced recently the lunch of an initiative to recommit to The Denver Principles, TIHAN immediately signed on.

"As an organization that affirms the value of all people and one that believes in empowerment and advocacy, TIHAN is committed to bringing people to the table to advocate for increased awareness about this disease, the ability to receive quality treatment and care, and for an end to the stigma that causes HIV to continue to be hidden," stated Executive Director Scott Blades.

TIHAN's coalition of compassionate individuals and faith communities works involve volunteers to decrease stigma, increase awareness and advocacy, and provide non-medical support services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The organization actively promotes the needs and opportunities for everyday people to get involved and volunteer to make a difference. "Whether through advocacy, education, service, prayer, or giving, there is something that every of us can do, and we believe that we are all called to do something to be part of the solution, and to help respond in the face of the greatest health crisis of our times," said Blades.

For more information, visit tihan.org or contact Scott Blades, Executive Director, (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

# Quality Claim Service Makes A Difference

By Dan Kalm (the Observer's official State Farm® agent)

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Headaches, hassles, and unnecessary strain in life can be reduced by researching the quality of claims service a company offers before purchasing an auto insurance policy. The few key areas to inspect are: customer satisfaction, customer choices and professionalism of claim representatives.

Customer satisfaction is one of the easiest to research. Independent firms, such as J.D. Power and Associates, rank customer satisfaction for auto insurance.

Quality claim service means prompt response and payment for what is owed for damage and quality repair work. Other intangibles can make the claims process less stressful. Here are a few questions to ask when shopping for auto insurance:

Is the person who sells me the policy, the same person I can trust to report a claim? Will there be someone who can answer my questions if I have one? Will I have my choice of body shops to repair my vehicle? Another measure of quality claim service is customer choice. Not only choosing the auto body repair shop, but even the choices you have in communicating with the company. With today's hectic lifestyles, some companies offer options to report claims in person, on the phone or even online, 24 hours a day.

Finally, professional claim handling can eliminate the unnecessary stresses related to an auto crash. Professional claim handling requires special skills. Claim adjusters need to empathize with the customer's situation to establish good communication and assist them in making a claim.

The professional needs to turn the anxiety of a customer not knowing what to expect into confidence that the claim will be handled fairly and quickly.

A car crash is already a stressful time in anyone's life. But the quality of claim service can differentiate insurance company A from company B. Knowing that you've researched a company before buying an auto insurance policy will give you an added confidence when the unexpected happens. Start by asking your agent about quality claim service.

(For more information, contact Dan at (520) 795-0231 or online at dankalm.com.)

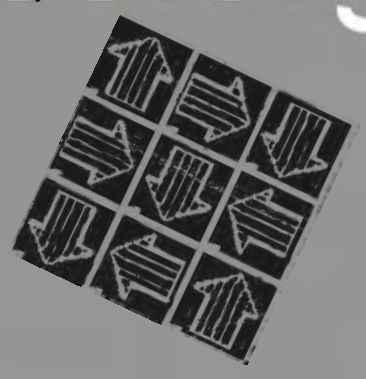
# Car Washes Kick Off Biz's Several Breast Cancer Benefits

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 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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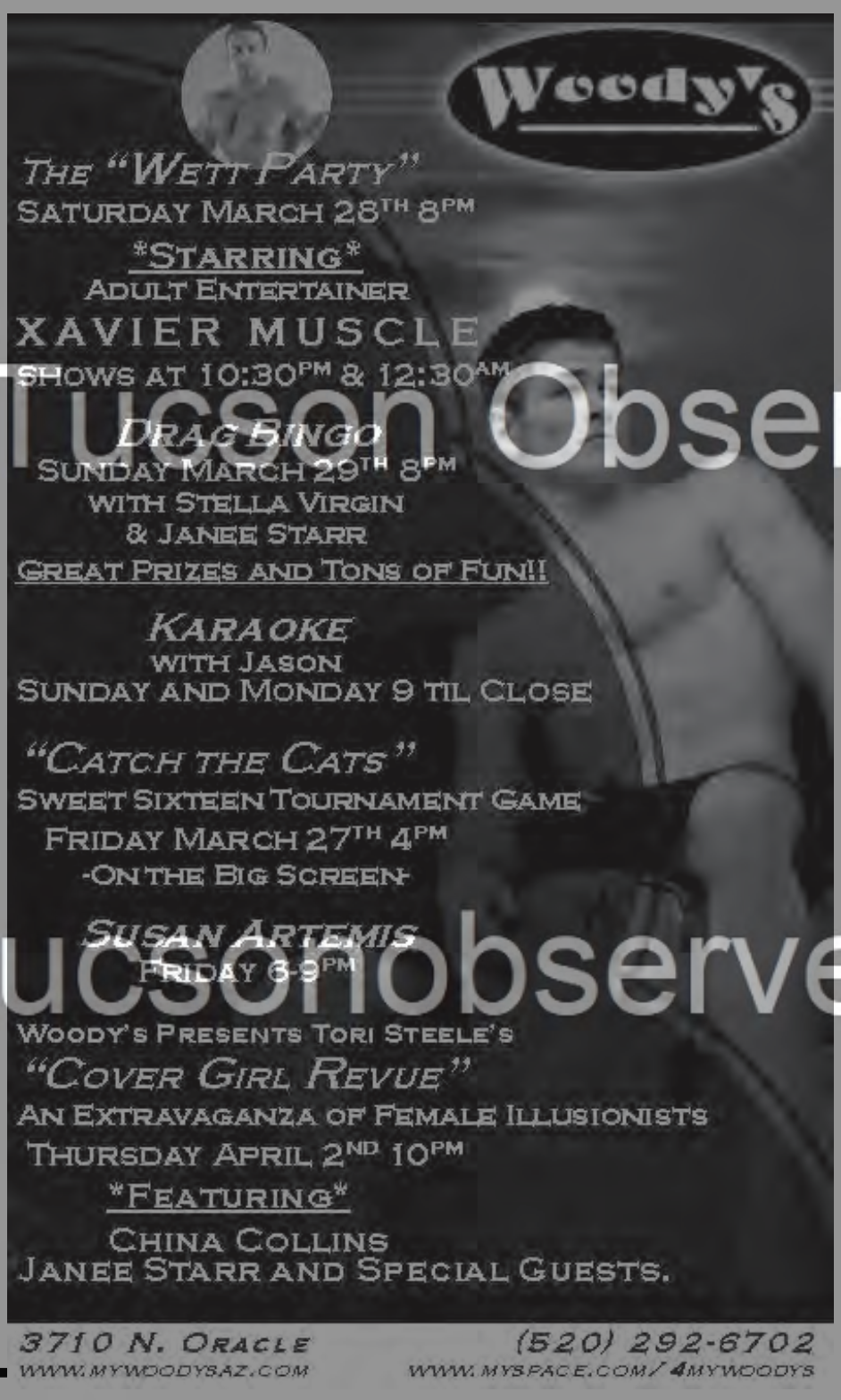


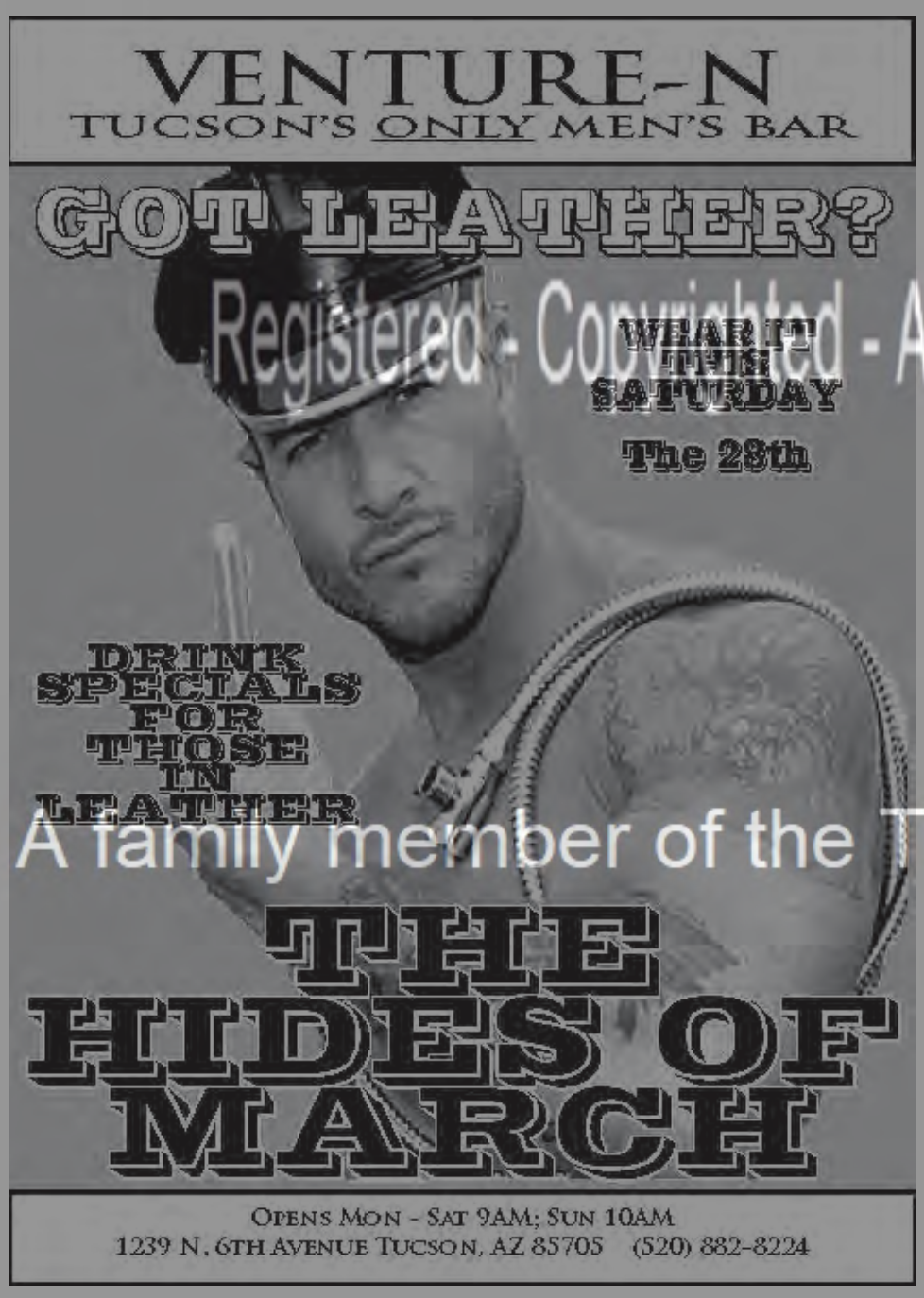


# Federal Judge Orders Louisiana To Issue Birth Certificate Showing Two Dads

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (Observer Update) - A federal judge has given the state of Louisiana 15 days to put both names of a Gay couple on the birth certificate of their adopted son, reported 365Gay.com. Oren Adar and Mickey Smith adopted their Louisiana-born son in 2006 in a New York court, where a judge issued an adoption decree. When Smith attempted to get a new birth certificate for their child, in part so he could add his son to his health insurance, the office of Louisiana State Registrar Darlene Smith told him that Louisiana does not recognize adoption by unmarried parents and so could not issue it.

Lambda Legal filed suit on behalf of Adar and Smith in October 2007, saying that the registrar was violating the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution by refusing to recognize the New York adoption. The Constitution holds that judgments and orders issued by a court in one state are legally binding in other states as well.

In December, U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey in New Orleans ordered the state Office of Vital Records to put the names of both fathers on the amended birth certificate. In his ruling Zainey said failing to amend the birth certificate violated the U.S. Constitution. Zainey issued the ruling without holding a trial. Louisiana attorney general's office asked Zainey to reconsider the ruling or order a full trial. Zainey rejected the motion by Attorney General Buddy Caldwell and ordered the state to comply with his original order within 15 days.

Caldwell said he will appeal the ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He wants the court to issue an immediate stay on Zainey's order until the appeal is heard. Meanwhile, a bill has been hastily filed in the state legislature that would make it illegal to revise birth certificates for people who would not qualify as adoptive parents in Louisiana. That would include Gay couples.

# U.S. To Sign U.N. LGBT Rights Declaration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Obama administration will endorse a U.N. declaration calling for the worldwide decriminalization of homosexuality that then-President George W. Bush had refused to sign, The Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com. U.S. officials said they had notified the declaration's French sponsors that the administration wants to be added as a supporter. The Bush administration was criticized in December when it was the only western government that refused to sign on.

The move was made after an interagency review of the Bush administration's position on the nonbinding document, which was signed by all 27 European Union members as well as Japan, Australia, Mexico and three dozen other countries, the officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Congress was still being notified of the decision. They said the administration had decided to sign the declaration to demonstrate that the United States supports human rights for all. "The United States is an outspoken defender of human rights and critic of human rights abuses around the world," said one official. "As such, we join with the other supporters of this statement and we will continue to remind countries of the importance of respecting the human rights of all people in all appropriate international fora," the official said.

The official added that the United States was concerned about "violence and human rights abuses against Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual and Bisexual individuals" and was also "troubled by the criminalization of sexual orientation in many countries." "In the words of the United States Supreme Court, the right to be free from criminalization on the basis of sexual orientation 'has been accepted as an integral part of human freedom'," the official said.

Gay rights and other groups had criticized the Bush administration when it refused to sign the declaration when it was presented at the United Nations on Dec. 19. U.S. officials said then that the U.S. opposed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but that parts of the declaration raised legal questions that needed further review. When it was voted on in December, 66 of the U.N.'s 192 member countries signed the declaration - which backers called a historic step to push the General Assembly to deal more forthrightly with anti-Gay discrimination. But 70 U.N. members outlaw homosexuality - and in several, homosexual acts can be punished by execution. More than 50 nations, including members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, opposed the declaration.

# Suit To Proceed Against Arkansas Adoption Plan

LITTLE ROCK, AR (Observer Update) - An Arkansas judge ruled that a lawsuit challenging a law banning unmarried couples from becoming adoptive or foster parents can move forward, reported 365Gay.com. In a hearing on the state application to dismiss the lawsuit, Arkansas Deputy Attorney General Justin Allen argued that no one has a basic right to to adopt or be adopted. Allen claimed that because intrinsic rights are not involved, the lawsuit cannot be challenged on constitutional grounds.

The ACLU disputed the claim and said the lawsuit should be allowed to continue, arguing that the law violates the federal and state constitutional rights to equal protection and due process. The law's ban affects both same-sex couples already prevented from marrying in Arkansas and opposite-sex couples who live together but are not married. In its argument, the ACLU said that the law is particularly harsh for same-sex couples. "With respect to Gay and Lesbian cohabiting couples, there is no rational relationship between Act 1 and promoting marriage because same-sex couples are legally precluded from marrying under Arkansas law," the ACLU said in its suit. "Thus, there is no incentive to marry that could possibly result in Gay couples marrying in the state." Allen disagreed, saying that the state regularly removes children from a biological parent when that parent is living with another adult and they are not married. Allen said the law is applied evenly to unmarried opposite-sex couples and to same-sex couples.

Among the couples involved in the lawsuit are Stephanie Huffman, who already adopted one child from the state in 2004 and her partner of 10 years, Wendy Rickman. They want to adopt another child or a pair of siblings through the Department of Children and Family Services, but can't because of the ban, which went into effect January 1.

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# Kerry Seeks Legal Status For Brazilian Gay Man

Senator John Kerry

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - Sen. John Kerry has asked the Obama administration to grant asylum to a Gay man who was forced to return to Brazil after he was married to a U.S. citizen in Massachusetts, reported 365Gay.com.

Genesio "Junior" Oliveira has been separated from his husband, Tim Coco, since August 2007, when he left the country after his request for asylum and an appeal were denied. Oliveira asked for asylum in 2002, saying he was raped and attacked by a physician as a teenager in Brazil, and feared persecution because of his sexuality. The Associated Press does not typically name rape victims, but Oliveira speaks openly about his case and allows his name to be used.

In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, Kerry said Immigration Judge Francis Cramer found Oliveira's testimony to be credible and his fear of living in Brazil genuine. However the judge denied the claim, saying the man "was never physically harmed" by the rape, the letter said. Kerry called the ruling "outrageous." "Tim and Junior have played by the rules since day one," Kerry said. "Junior's asylum claim is a legitimate one and has been recognized as such."

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# Study: Trans Students Victimized

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - A new study finds Transgender youths face extremely high levels of victimization in school - even more so than their Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual peers, reported 365Gay.com. But the study, by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, also found they are more likely to speak out about LGBT issues in the classroom. Called "Harsh Realities: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools," it is the first comprehensive study on Transgender students. Nearly nine out of 10 Transgender students experienced verbal harassment at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation and gender expression, more than half experienced physical harassment because of their sexual orientation and gender expression and more than a quarter experienced physical assault because of their sexual orientation and gender expression. The levels of victimization were higher than those faced by the non-Transgender Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual students who participated in the GLSEN "2007 National School Climate Survey."

"[This] demonstrates the urgent need for educators, policymakers and all who care about safe schools to address the disproportionate victimization of Transgender students and to improve the knowledge and understanding of all members of the school community about issues related to gender and gender expression," said GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard. "It is important to note, however, that in the face of extreme harassment, Transgender students are resilient and taking the lead to bring up LGBT issues in school," she said.

In addition to looking at comparisons between Transgender and non-Transgender students, "Harsh Realities" specifically examined the experiences of the 295 Transgender students who took the "National School Climate Survey." The high rate of victimization had a direct impact on school attendance and academic performance. Transgender students who experienced high levels of harassment were more likely to miss school because they felt unsafe and had lower grade point averages than those who experienced lower levels of harassment. Less than a fifth of Transgender students said that school staff intervened most of the time or always when hearing homophobic remarks or negative remarks about someone's gender expression. In addition, school staff also contributed to the harassment. A third of Transgender students heard school staff make homophobic remarks, sexist remarks and negative comments about someone's gender expression in the past year.

# G/L West Point Grads Come Out

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Thirty-eight West Point graduates came out of the closet, announcing the formation of an organization to fight the ban on Gays serving openly in the military, reported 365Gay.com. In a statement, the group said that they are prepared to help the military college make the transition to LGBT equality once the ban is lifted.

The organization, called Knights Out, said its members were again answering their call to duty, honor, and country - this time by coming out publicly and declaring their sexuality. "By publicly outing themselves, the 38 members of Knights Out ended once and for all the anonymity that has obscured from full view their service to the nation as West Point graduates," the group said in a statement.

"Knights Out seeks to reduce the stigma associated with sexual diversity by providing an open forum for discussion between out LGBT West Point graduates and their fellow alumni." The president supports changing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but LGBT advocacy groups say he is not moving quickly enough.

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# POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

## 'See Arizona Before It Closes'

A car in the parking lot, where the town hall meeting with the Legislative District 29 legislators took place, had a bumper sticker on it, saying "See Arizona Before It Closes." This turned out to be an individual with a support group for Arizona's parks, who was in attendance to urge that the state park's system not close due to the current economic crisis and the Republican-controlled Arizona's Legislature making draconian cuts to the state budget, including for the parks.

This individual, as well as others, gathered Saturday, March 21, to ask the legislators: Democratic state Representatives Matt Heinz, Daniel Patterson and Democratic state Senator Linda Lopez about the potential budget cuts the Legislature had made or were considering and what could be done about them. All three strongly urged those to call their fellow legislators, toll-free at (800) 352-8404 and the Governor, toll-free at (800) 253-0883 to let them know that they should consider all financial options available and not just, blithely, cutting the budget for the programs without taking in the full consideration of the fallout from the cut backs to Arizonans.

As people have expressed, to their federal legislators, their opinions and "outrage" in regard to the "bonuses" Wall Street firms that accepted federal bailout funds, were giving to those "employees" who caused the nation's financial downtown, so they should do so at the state level because communication was paramount then in Washington, D.C., and needed in Phoenix, since the Republicans - "accidental" Governor Jan Brewer and the "leadership" in each chamber of Arizona's Legislature aren't talking to each other or listening, with the prime examples of the approval of the cuts in the current fiscal year's budget jeopardizing the state's federal stimulus funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the secret negotiations by the Republican Legislative leadership on next year's budget for state government, breaking their pledge of openness and transparency they made when the session began in January.

That message can also be conveyed through avenues, especially for Arizona's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community, by getting involved in the political process this year as well.

Arizona's LGBT Democratic Party Caucus is moving forward with plans to ensure the election of LGBT-friendly Democrats and to ensure those issues of concern to the LGBT community are at the forefront. Phoenix's Pride event, to be held April 18-19, is the first event and the Caucus, as well as the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats will be taking part in the parade and need help. To assist, call Maurice Grossman in Tucson, (520) 323-2293, E-mail: klayhands@yahoo.com or C.J. Carenza in Phoenix, (602) 573-7782, E-mail: adplgbtcaucus@cox.net to sign up. This effort to "Change Arizona Next" though cannot succeed solely through volunteerism, so to contribute to this, there are two options, online at: actblue.com/page/azlgbt or by postal mail, made payable to the Arizona Democratic Party LGBT Caucus and sent to PO Box 1333, Bisbee, Arizona 85603.

For voters, including LGBT, in the Town of Sahuarita, on Thursday, April 16, ballots for the town council runoff election will be mailed out, for which residents have until May 19 to send in, voting for a strong, progressive candidate Rosanna Gabaldon.

In Tucson, specifically Ward 5, there is a committed, LGBT supportive, Democratic candidate for the City Council seat being vacated by the retiring Councilmember, Steve Leal, who has been the strongest voice for LGBT rights for the past two decades on that governmental body. That person's name is Richard Fimbres, the current Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Governing Board Member of Pima Community College and a national officer for the League of United Latin American Citizens, to name three of the numerous accomplishments of Richard's long, meritorious record of community service.

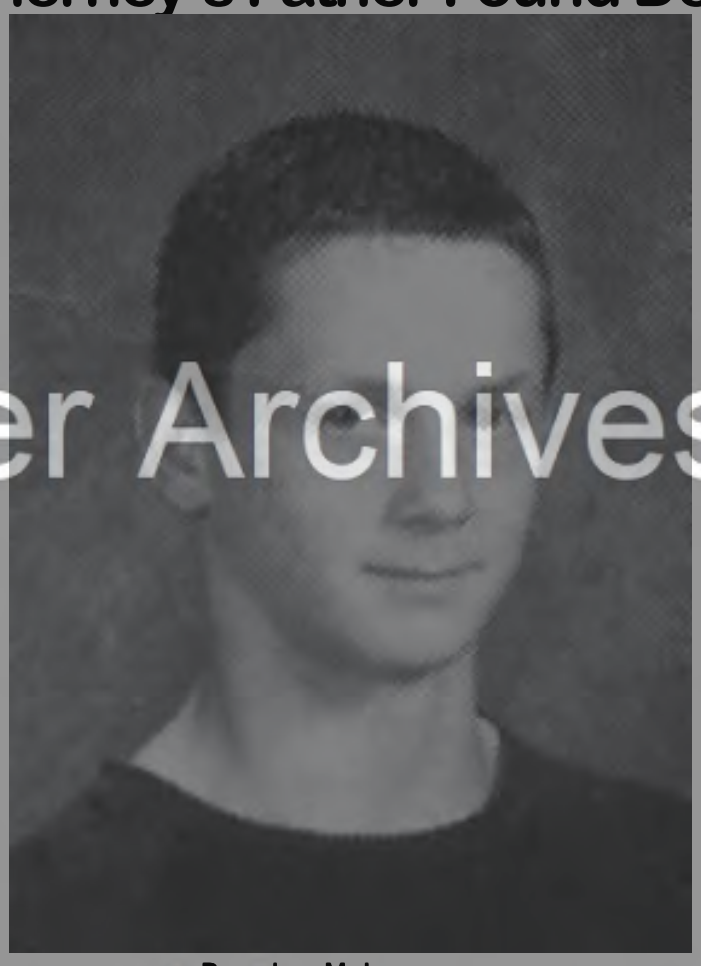
Richard Fimbres has been endorsed by Steve Leal, who is serving as a co-chair of his campaign. Leal said of Fimbres, "that many people have said they want the position but Richard is the only one who wants the job." To take part in Richard's campaign and to ensure another strong, LGBT-supportive and friendly voice on Tucson's City Council, E-mail the campaign at fimbresforcouncil@gmail.com, with your name and address. For more information about Richard, go to his campaign blog, online at fimbresforcouncil.blogspot.com.

Lastly but still very important, are Arizona's Legislative elections, which will take place in 2010 but with the potential of open seats due to term limits, campaigns have begun in earnest, this year, for those posts. One of which is in Legislative District 28, comprising central Tucson, which LGBT voters will have a wonderful choice in next year's Democratic state House primary election in Ted Prezeslki, a longtime supporter of LGBT issues for the past two decades, as a political activist, public servant, writer and blogger. Prezelski has filed the paperwork to run in District 28 and set up his campaign committee.

Prezelski intends on utilizing the Arizona Clean Elections Campaign, which allows people during this time who don't live in Legislative District 28, to contribute to his bid, through the initial committee, to raise seed money for the beginning expenditures, letters, envelopes, petitions, etc. People can give up to $130 for this. If so inclined, make checks payable to "Prezelski for Arizona 2010," and mail them to 1601 North Camilla Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85716.

Arizona's financial downtown, as well as the economic crisis the country is facing requires action by all people, regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, perceived or otherwise since one's wallet doesn't take those into consideration, only the "amount of funds" it has, had or doesn't.

## McInerney's Father Found Dead



Brandon McInerney

VENTURA, California (Observer Update) -The father of Brandon McInerney, the 15 year old boy on trial for the murder of his classmate Lawrence "Larry" King, was found dead in his home, reported 365Gay.com

Bill McInerney was found yesterday morning by a friend who was to drive him to a preliminary hearing on his son's trial. The autopsy has shown the elder McInerney sustained an accidental head wound. Michael Tellez, a Ventura County deputy medical examiner, said that based on the scene, and the father's history, alcohol was an important factor. Toxicology tests need to be performed for more definitive results.

This whole case is tragic beyond measure. If you wrote it as a novel no one would believe it. A young Gay kid killed in his classroom. His alleged killer on trial as an adult. Now the suspect's father is dead.

## Lesbian Couple Appeals Order Removing Their Foster Child

Charleston, W.V. (Observer Update) - The West Virginia Supreme Court was asked to overturn a lower court ruling that removed a child they had reared from birth because the judge wanted the child placed with a married, opposite-sex couple, reported 365Gay.com.

Fayette Circuit Judge Paul Blake originally agreed to allow Kathyrn Kutil and Cheryl Hess be foster parents for the infant girl, following a positive assessment by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Court records show that the little girl was born to a drug addicted mother and the baby had cocaine, opiates and benzodiazepines in her system. Shortly after birth, the baby went through drug withdrawal. The father was unknown. The Department placed the child with Kutil and Hess, who had been approved as foster parents, when it could not find any blood relatives of the mother.

But nearly a year later, when the couple applied to adopt the little girl, both the Department and Judge Blake balked. Last year in his ruling, Blake ordered the child, removed saying the baby should be permanently placed in a home where the parents would be a married opposite-sex couple. The ruling said that he had agreed to allow the women to foster the child because it was the best option at the time. But he never intended it to be permanent. "I think I've indicated time and time again, this court's opinion is that the best interest of a child is to be raised by a traditional family, mother and father," Blake's ruling said.

In their appeal to the sate Supreme Court, the women argue that Blake exceeded his authority and violated their constitutional rights. The appeal argues that Blake is "setting a dangerous precedent" for discriminatory treatment of non-traditional families. A different judge recently approved Kutil's adoption of a 12-year-old girl whom she'd been fostering for over two years, the appeal notes. West Virginia law allows either single individuals or married couples to adopt. It says nothing about same-sex couples. The Supreme Court, when the notice of appeal was filed, issued a stay on implementing Blake's removal order and the child remains with the couple pending a final ruling by the high court. The justices gave no indication when that might be.

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# Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

## Digital TV? Yeah, I Got A Digit For Ya

Every week, my favorite radio listening is done without the benefit of a radio. It's a great hour of NPR Sunday morning sourcasm. The voice belongs to Harry Shearer. The radio show that I now have to download a podcast of every week, is Le Show, originating from KCRW in Santa Monica, California.

In recent months, Harry has really been biting the hand that feeds him in his jaundiced outlook on what he calls The Digital Wonderland, the changeover from analogue broadcast TV to digital broadcast TV.

God only knows how many years we have to look forward to Simpsons (and Family Guy and South Park, for that matter) reruns in any given day part. Now we gotta get ready to see our crap a lot clearer than ever before.

Not that I haven't experienced positive viewing from the introduction of digital TV subchannels. Being disabled, SSI doesn't allow enough for subscribing to cable or satellite TV.

PBS World on KUAS-DT/27.3, for reruns of Great Performances, American Masters, The American Experience and History Detectives, and LATV on KWBA-DT/58.2, for CMLL Lucha Libre (which kicks the snot out of Vince McMahon's increasingly lame product) and Mexican theatrical films with English captions, are the real must-see TV at my apartment but this Digital Wonderland is largely created with the same lousy crap that the Analogue Wasteland has been for ages. Nobody really needs a clearer picture of bigots like Pat Buchanan and Monica Crowley on The McLaughlin Group, and the Channels 11 and 18 2:00 a.m. junk movies are just as goofy in digital as they were in analogue the first time I saw them.

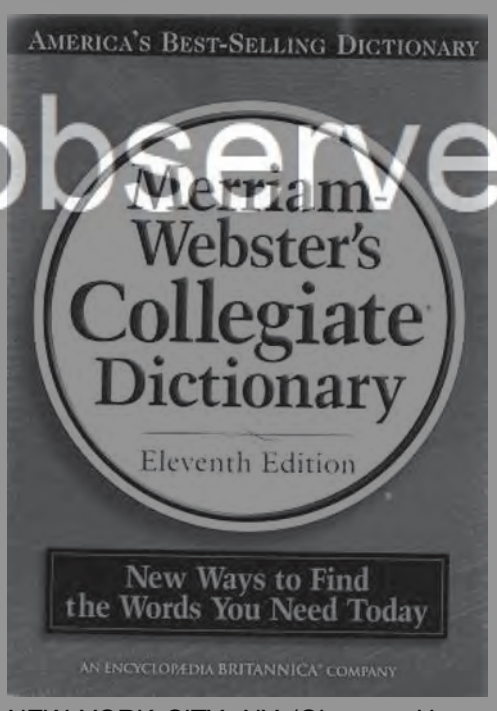
Unfortunately, most of the Tucson TV broadcasters have made lousy, if any, use of whatever opportunities digital TV allows for. There are no subchannels to the digital signals of KVOA/4, KMSB/11 or KTTU/18. The only commercial station that makes use of two different subchannels, KOLD/13, has only used 13.3 for NCAA Tournament basketball; otherwise, the only thing on it is a computer-generated apology that The Tube isn't available on it anymore, and that's been up at least since I moved here in August.

Are you guys telling me there's not enough unused movies and TV series in the Warner Brothers, Universal, Disney, Fox and Paramount vaults to create 24/7 movie channels to offer to the affiliates of their co-owned networks? Or not enough material resides in the vaults of the news divisions of NBC, ABC and CBS to offer documentary/history subchannels to those affiliates?

Even Arizona Public Media, which has utilized digital the most on their two stations in Tucson, leaves a bit to be desired. The programming of KUAT-DT/6.1 is duplicated on KUAS-DT/27.1, although, at least at my midtown apartment, both stations are received with identical signal strength. To these folk, I have a similar, but more detailed, question: with all the currently unused material in the vaults of PBS member stations, are we to believe there isn't enough to create a 24/7 vintage PBS subchannel? PBS World makes good use of the current material the parent network has to offer.

In fact, I've noticed that, while KUAT and KUAS both use two subchannels, Phoenix's KAET uses a third subchannel for rebroadcasting K-Bach, the classical music NPR affiliate. Considering how small a signal KXCI/91.3 has compared to the two APM FM stations, why not open up 6.4 or 27.4 for KXCI's audio coupled with, say, a news text service of some sort? Then again, I still don't hear Harry Shearer on KUAZ. I guess multiple runs of Car Talk and Garrison Keillor are more necessary in The Analogue Wonderland.

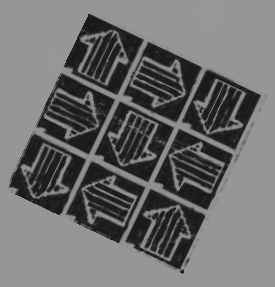
## Same Sex Marriage Gets Recognition In The Dictionary




NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Same-sex marriage might not be recognized in most states, but it is in the dictionary. Merriam-Webster included a secondary definition of marriage to recognize same-sex relationships several years before Gay couples were allowed to tie the knot anywhere in the United States, but the change had gone largely unnoticed until the ultra-conservative, virulently anti-LGBT World Net Daily news site reported it.

In its Web and print editions, Merriam-Webster defines marriage as "the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law." But in a nod to evolving ideas of love and English usage, the Springfield, Mass.-based company in 2003 added a secondary meaning for "marriage" as "the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage."

Merriam-Webster said in a statement that the edited entry merely reflected the frequency with which the term "same-sex marriage" had popped up in print and become part of the general lexicon.



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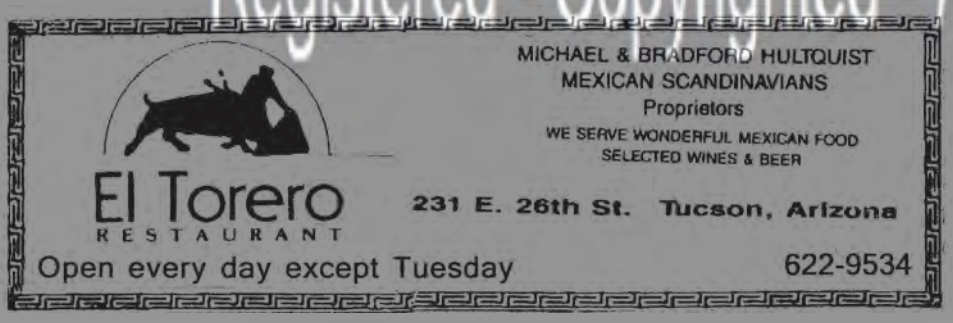

# HOROSCOPES

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Make room for energetic Mars as it pushes its way through Pisces. There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come. Hurry up and move on it before it goes.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Gay Rams have a way of unearthing the truth even when it's deeply buried and practically invisible. There is no reason to accept anything at face value now since much of what is left unsaid is much more useful to you than what is exposed. Be strategic, calm, evasive and look under the surface for clues. There is plenty of time to manipulate them to your liking later.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Your life in general revs to a roar. Queer Bulls with a yen for company will find it ... in droves. Place yourself where it will do you the most good in the long term. There is a lot that you need to accomplish on a personal level over the next year or so and the connections you make now will decide whether that road is slick, gravelly or smooth. Hob nob from the top down.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You may become too too much in your quest for advancement. Pink Twins need to feel appreciated and recognized for their considerable efforts but how much can you ask of bosses now? If you are seeking employment, this is the time to try something unexpected that will heighten your profile and get yourself noticed ... but wearing a cellophane suit is not that thing.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Brush up on your various skill sets, Gay Crab. Higher education and other forms of study - both formal and informal - prove to be more valuable than you initially think. Your inquisitive mind needs nourishment beyond the occasional cable program. So carve out the time and ramp up the effort. Can an old dog learn new tricks? Only if they cruise the right bars.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Get ready for tax season, proud Lion. Despite your best efforts to put off the inevitable, it is time to turn to fiscally prudent and accurate analysis of your state of affairs. Survey the potential damage with a good advisor. But all is not doom and gloom; Expect a zetz in your love life. It is the spice you need to keep things interesting and passionate. Be flexible and very pliable.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Open enemies are no match for you! Queer Virgins can be diplomatic or aggressive and see success in whatever option they choose. Mold relationships more to your liking and needs but try to appear to be fair. For those seeking new liaisons, rely on your gut feelings as you scan the playing field. Displaying too much gut though is not recommended.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Maybe it is time for a pet or a workout. Or maybe a workout with a pet. Proud Libras are too stressed out. Anything that gets you to rest, relax and recharge has multiple benefits. Clean out your In box and push more into your Out box. You find alternative ways to clear and unload clutter. Use the time to tone and buff your bod instead of just lifting the occasional paper weight.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

There are no straight lines to success. Linear thinking will get you nowhere and actually take you far off the mark. Use your ample imagination and creativity to chart your course over the next couple of years. Queer Scorps are often very intense. Now put that passion to work on your own agenda. If that means throwing a not-to-be-missed basheroo, so be it.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers are not stay-at-home types but consider giving it a try this week. Find creative ways to enhance your surroundings and make them more stimulating and enjoyable. One great way is to plan the perfect get together with the usual unusual crowd that will have them talking for weeks. Well, even a couple of days is better than average...

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

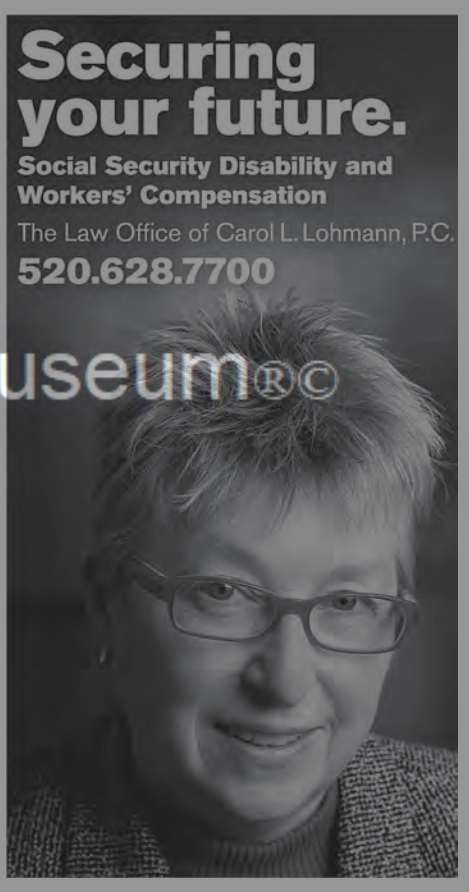
Pink Caps are expected to always be logical and exact. However this week your actions do not always match your words. While you think you can spread your oil and slide by, your grease could begin to fry and burn. If you find yourself criticized for saying one thing and doing another, just tell the confused crowd that you are running for political office.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

If money has been tight, this week will either help you invest more wisely or cajole you into unnecessary spending. But is it something that you want to risk right now, Aqueerius? Take care in any situation that requires a monetary outlay of any kind. Perhaps it is better to err on the side of thrift and cheapness. But don't worry, this too shall soon pass.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Last week you had exciting thoughts and this week you can match these thoughts with successful action. There is something energizing about you. Begin new projects, get yourself in front of important, meaningful projects. You make a strong advances that set the stage for future success. Don't wait for the world to rouse you. If you snooze, you will oversleep and lose.

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# COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

## Flight Nurse Proves Gays & Lesbians Don't Hurt Morale

Margaret Witt's idea of playtime was a bit unusual for a girl growing up the early '70s:

Dressed in a military uniform, she bandaged "wounded soldier" playmates, just like her heroines, Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton, had actually done in wartime.

"They had that little something extra. And I wanted to be like them," Witt said recently in explaining why she joined the Air Force 22 years ago. "I wanted to be all I could be. And I wanted to have not a job but an adventure."

As a military flight nurse, Witt quickly proved to be an extraordinarily talented leader. The Air Force featured her in recruitment materials for more than a decade.

But in 2004, Witt was told she was being investigated over an allegation that she was in a committed relationship with a civilian woman from 1997 to 2003.

The investigation led to her discharge, but also to a new opportunity to serve our country – by fighting the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Gay ban.

She won a groundbreaking ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that the military can't keep doing assembly-line discharges. Instead, it must prove that the targeted Gay service member actually undermines morale or unit cohesion.

The high-stakes case is headed toward what could be a dramatic moment: The military – represented by the Justice Department – must soon decide whether to ask the Supreme Court to step in.

If the top court, which has long ducked Gays-in-the-military cases, doesn't get involved, the next step will be a federal district court trial in which the military must prove that Witt's Lesbian relationship hurt military readiness.

"It is the first time that the military has been told, 'You have to show cause as to why it is that Major Witt's presence in the military will undermine morale and discipline in such a way that it will do harm to the military. And we know that they can't do that," retired Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, another Gay path-breaker, declared at a recent dinner where Witt was honored.

Witt went to great lengths to keep her military colleagues from knowing she was Gay: She and her then-partner lived across the state border from her base.

But judging from comments from Air Force personnel who served alongside Witt, they wouldn't have cared anyway. In legal documents, they said that what hurt morale was seeing her get booted out.

Major Faith Mueller said of Witt, "She plays an important role in ensuring the good order, morale and cohesion of our unit. ... I can say with confidence that her presence in the U.S. Air Force greatly enhances our squadron's combat efficiency and readiness."

In accepting the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network's Courage Award, Witt beautifully summed up why the ban can't pass close inspection: "As a flight nurse and operating room nurse, no one asked me what my sexual orientation was," she said. "They were just glad to see me."

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

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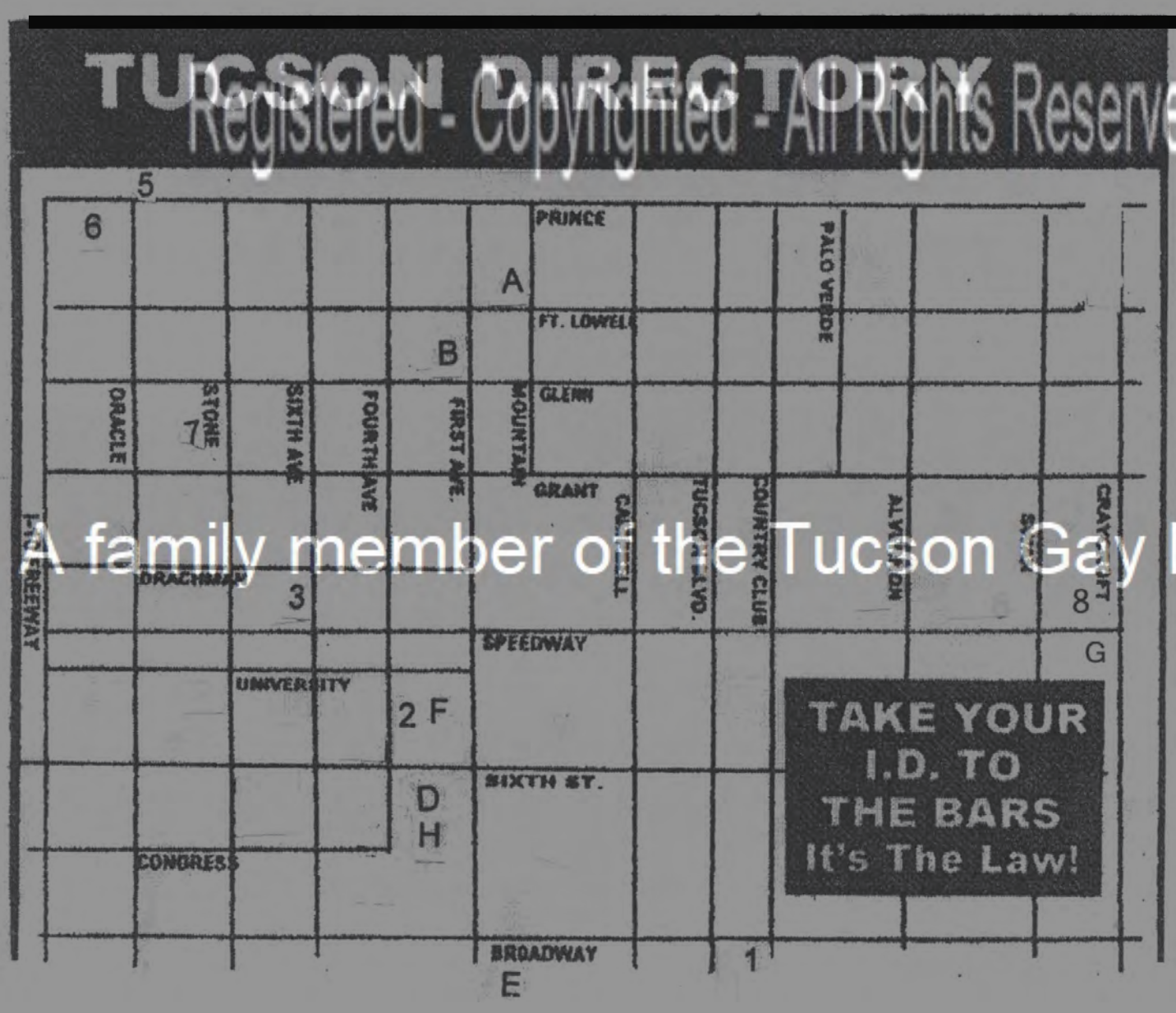


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# SAAF Update

## MAY 3 - 2 P.M.

Tickets for the 22nd Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction presented by Title Sponsor Woody's are $20 and on sale now!

Ticket Locations: online at jello-wrestling.org, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) - 375 S Euclid Ave or (520) 628-7223, Woody's - 3710 N Oracle Rd., IBT's - 616 N 4th Ave., Ain't Nobody's Bizness - 2900 E Broadway Blvd., Colors Food and Spirits - 5305 E Speedway Blvd., Coyote Moon Pub - 915 W. Prince, Venture-N - 1239 N 6th Ave., Yard Dog Saloon - 2439 N Stone. This year's celebration takes place at Tucson Electric Park, 2500 E Ajo, Sunday, May 3, 2pm and you are invited!

For more information on wrestling, raffle, or entrance to the party visit jello-wrestling.org or contact Jess at (520) 628-7223 or events@saaf.org. Proceeds benefit the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). ...

SAAF announces its new website-www.saaf.org.

The new site contains information about the programs and services offered for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS such as food programs, medications assistance, housing, dental, transportation, and much more.

The site also hosts information about SAAF's seven Prevention and Education programs which work to reach thousands of people each year through education and intervention programs for youth, men, and women.

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# Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

## Greenhouse Gassing Part Two

The Obamas are at it again. Instead of building her menus around the finest produce importers in Washington, a city whose tables are heavily laden with Chilean Strawberries at Christmastime, the First Lady is planting a garden.

This will be the first time American royalty has bothered itself with family farming since Mrs. Roosevelt's Victory Garden during the (last) Great Depression. The Bushes (and of course, the next President, Ms. Piggy Palin) only chop wood to show their down-homeyness; actually producing something from nothing means real work and regular attention.

Obama and his family are taking their roles as America's leaders seriously. Mr. Obama has even revived the Roosevelt "fireside chat"; his appearance on the Tonight show last week was the information coup of the first hundred days. People that would never watch an official presidential speech (most of us, me generally included) are drawn to such relaxed and informal programming. And programming it is.

If the Obamas have a prayer of fixing America, they must find ways to fix Americans.

The great boom-time in America was in the 1940's and 1950's, back when Americans were fresh from the privations of depression and war. Everyone had a garden. American males actually fixed things, like cars and lawnmowers and their own roofs. American women actually sewed clothing and cooked food. Televison was still a new thing and most Americans watched it only a little; most of those early, hard-working and economically successful Americans entertained themselves in the most satisfying way there is. They did things, made things and worked on things.

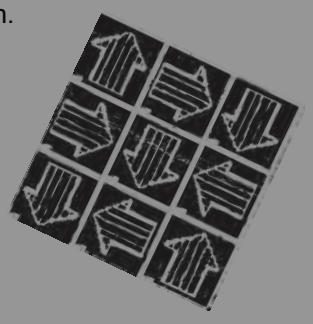
Today, of course, we have been too rich for to long to do anything of the sort. Our country has had the riches to squander supporting the unproductive, lazy and arrogant for so long that the national aspiration is, in a word, to do nothing. Ask any American what he or she would do if they had the means to do anything they liked and the answer will almost always be some version of "nothing". Many say "travel". Everyone wants to live like a sultan, being entertained by new sights, new sounds, rich food and lazy days by the pool. Never mind that the pool-side American would be hunted for its blubber in earlier times, mistaken for seals and small whales.

For a nation like ours that has fallen for the Siren song of leisure above all things, having lost all ambition, as a people, to be or do anything other than to direct the work of others, the call back to the plow, the wrench and the hammer is unlikely to succeed without divine intervention. Will the Americans once again find it within themselves to return to their roots and embrace hard work, finding fulfillment in doing rather than in having done?

Doubtful. Rather than support the first family in its genuine efforts to lead us into a better Eden, the press and the people are most likely to ridicule the first lady's farming efforts as impractical and inefficient. After all, the pandemic of laze has gone bone deep in the American psyche and the re-hab of the coming depression is still coming, not yet an effective treatment.

But there is another option; the Bush option. We can go on doing as little as possible, all the while consuming as much as possible, until the result is war. Already the Chinese are upset with us for devaluing the piles of American cash they have stashed away, the result of hard work and perseverance. If we keep, as a nation, doing nothing, those that suffer for our laziness will do something about it. In fact, they have already told us to stop printing money and calling it "stimulus". For them, it is just plain stealing, as every dollar we "create" to pump into our lazy economy devalues all the money already earned and held in savings.

Remember that you heard it here first and go plant an Obama garden.



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# Drag Show At Woody's Wows The Crowd

Last week at Woody's Bar on Oracle Road, they held a special drag show that all the old-timers especially enjoyed. Mr. Kenneth Blake was in town on a short vacation from his nightly appearances in Las Vegas. Blake lived in Tucson for some time and was well known to the local Drag Show lovers. Kenneth, Lucinda Holliday and Ajia Simone along with Bunny FuFu, Janee Starr and Tori Steele performed some of the great older songs that brought back great memories. Not only the elders enjoyed the performances, but the younger crowd loved it too! Here are a few photos in remembrance. Great show. Thank you Woody's.

# Anti-LGBT Group Accused Of 'Intimidating' Lawmakers

CHARLESTON, WVA (Observer Update) - A conservative Christian group opposing an LGBT equality bill and pressing for a constitutional amendment banning Gay marriage has been accused of trying to intimidate two West Virginia lawmakers, reported 365Gay.com. House Judiciary Chairwoman Carrie Webster and Delegate Barbara Fleischauer say they are on the receiving end of a telemarketing campaign by the Family Policy Council of West Virginia.

People in the two lawmakers' districts have been receiving calls saying that Webster and Fleischauer are blocking a ban on Gay marriage, according to The Charleston Gazette. The calls tell voters to send a message to the two politicians, and if the recipients choose, they are then patched through to Webster's or Fleischauer's office. Family Policy Council President Jeremiah Dys confirmed his group had hired a firm to make the calls "as part of our educational effort."

"We've been encouraging people to make calls to Delegate Webster and Delegate Fleischauer," Dys told The Gazette. "They are the two people standing in the way of 1.8 million West Virginians deciding the definition of marriage." Webster said callers are trying to "intimidate" her and Fleischauer. "They call my staff idiots. They call my staff God-haters," she told the paper. "I believe people should be able to exercise their free speech, but I do think it's a manipulation."

The proposed amendment has been referred to the House Committee on Constitutional Revision, which Fleischauer heads. If approved there, it would go to Webster's committee. Amending the West Virginia constitution requires approval of the legislature and a vote by the electorate.

# POET'S CORNER

ZERO'S
by Ron Rose - Tucson

They'll print some more money
So spend while you can
Enjoy it my dears
Til the shit hits the fan.
The zero's don't matter
So write some more checks
The problem is simple, the answer complex.
The plastic invasion has us in it's grip,
Just look at your balance, I'll bet it's a pip.
So spend all your money, tomorrow can wait
Today we must have it, the debts not so great.
Enjoy all your pleasures, just go the last mile
For when you count zero's, you ain't gonna smile.

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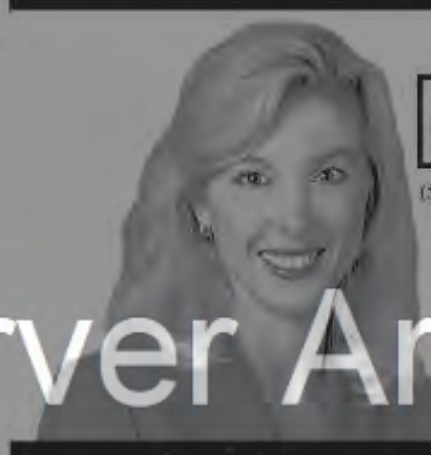
Personal Injury?



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## Study: LGB Americans More Likely To Be Poor Than Heterosexuals

tucsonobserverarchives.org

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law today released a first-of-its-kind report that shows Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) Americans are as likely, and in some cases more likely, to be poor than their heterosexual counterparts. Because the U.S. Census Bureau does not explicitly ask questions about sexual orientation, LGB adults and families have been invisible in poverty statistics. This first analysis of the poor and low-income Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual population synthesizes data from three major sources: the 2000 Census, the 2002 National Survey of Family Growth and the 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Surveys.

"The report highlights a significant segment of the poor and low-income population that has largely been ignored," said M.V. Lee Badgett, research director at The Williams Institute and an author of the study. "The data clearly undermine the persistent myth that the Gay community is monolithically affluent. As a group, quite the contrary is true." Though poverty is on the rise among all Americans, the authors of the study–entitled Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community–suggest that unique social and political aspects of LGB life play a role in contributing to higher rates of poverty in this community, including vulnerability to employment discrimination, inability to marry and higher numbers of uninsured.

"Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Americans are often susceptible to economic hardship," said Randy Albelda, a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. "Given that many Gay people have little recourse against employment discrimination and are shut out of institutions that promote economic security, it's really no surprise that we're seeing such high rates of poverty among this group," concluded Albelda.

The report was released this morning at an informational briefing in the U.S. Capitol for members of Congress, their staff and media. For the full report, visit law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute.

## Study Examines Effect Of Marriage On G/L Couples

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - The legal recognition of same-sex relationships, including marriage, influences how Gay and Lesbian baby boomers prepare for late life and end of life issues, a new study has found, reported 365Gay.com. Unmarried same-sex couples may suffer greater fear and anxiety around end of life issues than those in state-sanctioned unions, according to the findings.

The research was conducted by scientists at San Francisco State University, the University of Minnesota and George Washington University. It appears this month in the journal Sexuality Research and Social Policy. "We are just beginning to explore the effects of legal recognition of relationships among Lesbian and Gay adults," said Brian deVries, professor of gerontology and lead author of the study.

DeVries said that Lesbian and Gay baby boomers who live in states that do not legally recognize same-sex couples are more likely to have prepared for the end of life by completing such documents as living wills than those who live in states that do recognize their relationships. At the same time, these Lesbian and Gay people, single or part of a couple, are more likely to have greater fears and anxieties about end of life and later life issues. "The bottom line is that those who reside in states that do not recognize relationships or sanctioned marriages between same-sex couples feel less cared for and less cared about and must take extra legal steps to prepare for their later years," deVries said. "The absence of recognition of same-sex relationships conveys a sense of second-class citizenship and a stress associated with such unwelcome status."

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# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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 (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and 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)624-1779 x26 for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at $1.00

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# DAILY BAR CALENDAR

## SUNDAY

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + $1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & $1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, $2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.

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

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

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 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 ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close $5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".

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

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

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

## TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close Come play our Wii gaming system. Beer Pong Tournament w/ cash prizes starts 9pm.

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber).Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays $2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Dart Tournament, 7pm $3 entry fee/Pot Match.

WOODY'S - Open 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, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7

## WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. $7 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.

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

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

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

## THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

## SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 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 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

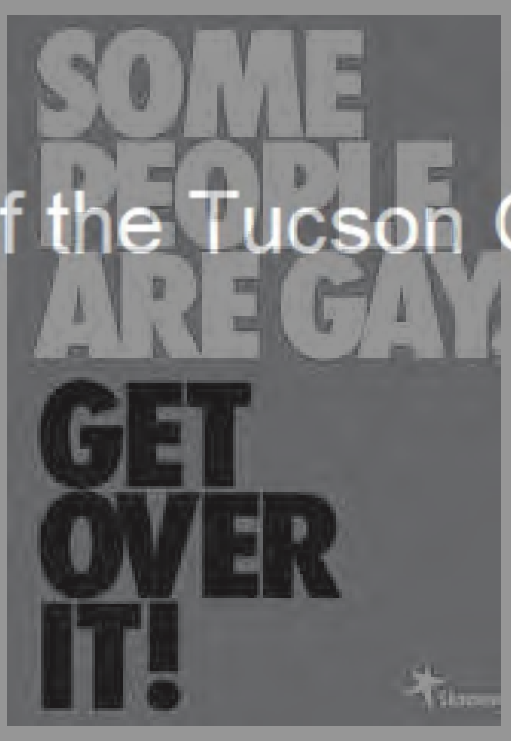
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio $1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

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

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

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




# BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 28

THE BIZ - Breast Cancer Benefit Car Wash starts at 10:00 a.m. Also, Latin Licious "Glow Party". Enter to win tickets to see Britney Spears live in Phoenix. Drawing April 10th.

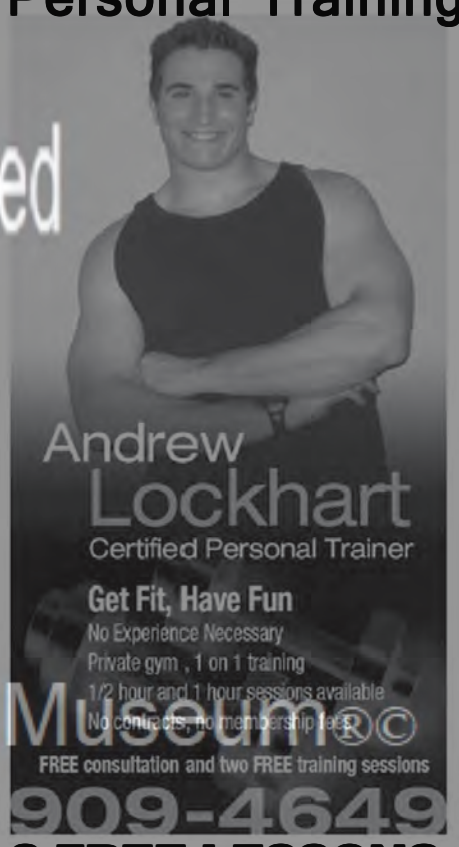
COYOTE MOON PUB - Koyote Kingz group performs beginning at 9:00 p;m.

VENTURE-N - It's that time again for V-Ns Hides of March. Join in the fun. It's a big celebration - don't you dare miss it! Drink specials for those in leather.

WOODY'S - "Wett Party" starring adult entertainer Xavier Muscle from the movies and internet. 8:00 p.m. to closing. $5.00 Cover. Shows at 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Strippers, Drink Specials and Giveaways. Don't miss this one!

Thursday, April 2

WOODY'S - Cover Girl Revue - an extravaganza of female illusionists at 10:00 p.m. Featuring Tori Steele, China Collins, Janee Starr and special guests.

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# Study: LGBT Of Color Face Greater Discrimination In Schools

Tucson Observer Archives

NEW YORK CITY, New York (Observer Update) - LGBT students of color face greater victimization at school, according to a new study, reported 365Gay.com. The research paper: Shared Differences: The Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students of Color in Our Nation's Schools, was released by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. (The link to the full report can be found on the Observer blog, located at tucsonobserver.blogspot.com)

The report documents the experiences of over 2,000 LGBT middle and high school students of color who were African American or Black, Latino, Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American, and multiracial. The researchers used data collected in 2007 as part of GLSEN's biennial survey of LGBT students along with results from in-depth individual and group interviews. "While research on the experiences of LGBT students has increased in recent years, few studies have examined the specific victimization of students who identify as people of color and LGBT," said GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard. "Our schools are diverse environments, and it is important to understand how our students experiences differ based on personal characteristics such as race and ethnicity. This report provides alarming evidence that we must act now to ensure sure that America's LGBT students of color are safe in school."

The report also provides descriptions of the experiences of LGBT students of color in their own words. "You could very well on any day hear someone yelling across the hall, 'fag,' etc," said a 10th grade Latino male student in the report. "I've heard it before. … It's hurtful because it's just not something that you say. And it's just generally hurtful. And I know that I'll just be walking in a hallway, and someone will just say under their breath with a group of friends, "fag" … and hearing things like that in my school - it kind of brings me down almost. It kind of negates any hope that I have for our school to be a better place."

The report found that across all groups, sexual orientation and gender expression were the most common reasons LGBT students of color reported feeling unsafe in school. More than four out of five students, within each racial/ethnic group, reported verbal harassment in school because of sexual orientation and about two-thirds because of gender expression. At least a third of each group reported physical violence in school because of sexual orientation.

More than half of African American/Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and multiracial students also reported verbal harassment in school based on their race or ethnicity. Native American students - 43 percent - were less likely than other students to report experiencing racially motivated verbal harassment. About a quarter of African American/Black and Asian/Pacific Islander students had missed class or days of school in the past month because they felt unsafe. Latino, Native American, and multiracial students were even more likely to be absent for for safety reasons - about a third or more skipped class at least once or missed at least one day of school in the past month for safety reasons. Native American students experienced particularly high levels of victimization because of their religion, with more than half reporting the highest levels of verbal harassment, and a quarter experiencing physical violence.

The report also found that performance at school also suffered when students experienced high levels of victimization. Students' overall GPA dropped when they reported high severities of harassment based on sexual orientation and/or race/ethnicity. Students experiencing high severities of harassment also reported missing school more often.

# Vermont Says OKI

MONTPELIER, VT (Observer Update) - The Vermont senate overwhelmingly approved a bill that, if passed, would grant same-sex couples rights to marry in the state. The senate approved the motion 26-4 in the second reading of the vote.

The final reading follows in the Senate, which is more of a formality, and not expected to change much. Next, it goes to a House committee, and then the full House, which also has a Democratic majority and is likely to pass the bill.

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# Don't Say 'Gay' Bill Introduced In Tenn. Legislature

NASHVILLE, TN (Observer Update) - One state lawmaker does not want homosexuality brought up at all in schools. Rep. Stacey Campfield said he believes the issue of homosexuality can be too complicated for young minds to understand, advocate.com reported.

Campfield filed, the "Don't Say Gay" bill, which would essentially ban teachers from talking about the topic. "I think our teachers need to stick with reading, writing, and arithmetic," Campfield said. "It confuses a lot of children that are already in a difficult part of life, and it's a very complex issue."

Campfield pointed to newspaper articles as examples of where homosexuality was being taught in schools, like a program in Knoxville that contains information on aids, Gay and Lesbian sex. He said second graders had access to the information. "Let's take this off the table, lets not talk about this to very young children, I don't see a problem with that," Campfield said.

# Genre Magazine Suspends Publication Due To Economy

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Genre magazine will temporarily suspend publication, due to the ongoing recession, company officials announced.

"We thank all of our readers, advertisers and editorial staff for their support throughout our more than 16-year history and hope that we can re-establish our relationship when times are better," company CEO David Unger said in a statement. He noted that the decision to suspend Genre does not have any impact on other publications produced by HX Media, Window Media or Unite Media, which include the Washington Blade, Southern Voice, South Florida Blade, New York Blade and HX magazine.

"Those publications will continue to publish and support their local communities," Unger said.

# Mexican Pol Hopes To Be Country's First Gay Mayor

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (Observer Update) - An openly Gay Social Democratic Party (PSD) politician is to stand for mayor of Guadalajara in Mexico. Miguel Galán, 31, will discover whether his party will put him forward as the official candidate at the end of this month, reports The Argentimes.

Guadalajara has a traditionalist reputation and is currently controlled by the conservative National Action Party, which Galán has accused of being homophobic. He has said the Gay community live as "second class citizens" in Mexico, adding that the country is "chauvinistic".

Galán, who opened Mexico's first Gay radio station, insists that while Gay rights are important to him they will not be his only objective. He hopes that the debate can go beyond his sexuality, but added: "If they [the opposition] want to talk about that it's my pleasure, but we will also talk about theirs."

# MP Walks Free After HomoTalk

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (Observer Update) - Iris Robinson, a member of the U.K. parliament from Northern Ireland, will not face discipline after people filed complaints with police over remarks she made about homosexuality on the air, according to BBC News. Robinson described Gay people as "disgusting, loathsome, shamefully wicked, and vile" on a BBC radio show in June 2008. The Public Prosecution Service announced that it would not further investigate the case, because Robinson did not commit an actual crime.

Eighty complaints were logged with police after she made the comments, according to London's The Guardian newspaper. Robinson, who is the chair of a government health committee, added that Gays can be "cured" by psychotherapy.

"I have a very lovely psychiatrist who works with me in my offices and his Christian background is that he tries to help homosexuals – trying to turn away from what they are engaged in," she said on the show. "I'm happy to put any homosexual in touch with this gentleman and I have met people who have turned around and become heterosexuals."

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