



OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER

APRIL 1, 2009

ISSUE 1288

Tucson Observer Archives

NGLCC Members At White House For Obama Small Business Announcement



WASHINGTON, DC - National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce members shown in the State Dining Room at the White House (L-R): Bill Gehrman, President, Enroute Marketing, Philadelphia, PA; Kate Karasmeighan, Chief of Staff, NGLCC; Eileen Kessler, President, OmniStudio, Inc.; Wesley Combs, President, Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc.; Bob Witeck, CEO, Witeck-Combs Communications, Inc.; Megan Wallace, Wallace Law LLC. (Not pictured: Ingrid Duran and Catherine Pino, Co-Founders, D&P Creative Strategies. (PHOTO: Megan Wallace)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama reached out to the nation's small business owners to enlist their help in reviving the fading U.S. economy, and, for the second time in as many months, the leadership of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) was there, bringing along NGLCC's small business members to hear from the president and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

As the president unveiled his plan to get credit flowing again to entrepreneurs and business owners, LGBT business owners from the Washington region were in the audience at the invitation of the White House and the NGLCC.

"I think this administration more than any other is determined to include the views of every business group in the deliberations about what's best for the United States," said Justin Nelson, co-founder and president of the NGLCC. "We look forward to continuing to participate in those discussions."

This is the fourth time that NGLCC leadership and NGLCC-certified companies have attended White House-sponsored events in 2009, and it represents a significant departure from the last administration which made no attempt to include LGBT business representatives.

"The White House continues to recognize the importance of including the LGBT business community in its events because this administration understands it will take all of us working together to repair the economy," said Kate Karasmeighan, chief of staff and director of affiliate relations at the NGLCC.

At the White House event, Obama called small businesses "the heart of the American dream" and the core of "America's story."

"You deserve a chance. America needs you to have a chance," Obama said as he announced a series of initiatives to reduce taxes for small businesses, provide increased access to loans and decrease loan fees.

His words cheered LGBT business owners who noted that it was heartening to be included in the event alongside other American small business owners and to be recognized by the president as playing important roles in the economy.

"I believe this invitation to the LGBT business owners is one of many steps being taken to include, and even welcome, the LGBT community to the White House," says Megan Wallace, a lawyer and member of NGLCC, and PEN, NGLCC's Washington, DC area affiliate chamber. "I am more encouraged every day that the Obama administration is here to make positive changes, not just for the LGBT community, but for so many underrepresented groups. I appreciate the NGLCC's leadership in ensuring LGBT businesses are included."

"Being invited to take part in this White House gathering very early in this administration is a message for all LGBT business owners," said Bob Witeck of Witeck-Combs Communications, an NGLCC-member. "Once again, this is truly America's house, and we are not just part of the family but also part of the economic recovery itself."

Continued on Page Two

EDITORIAL

A Little Help From Our Friends Is Needed...Now!

(Due to financial constraints, the Observer will not be able to put out a print edition of the publication for the foreseeable future. If viewing this online, please read and consider it. The Observer has been there for the community since 1976 and hopefully the community will be there now for it.)

To paraphrase the title of the song, written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, released on The Beatles album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band in 1967, can describe the crux of this editorial and appeal to the community and readers of this publication during these troubled economic times, especially in lieu of the announcements by Cleveland, Ohio's weekly LGBT newspaper and the Advocate magazine, reducing the timeframe of their publication.

For the past thirty-three years, the Observer's goal was to provide Tucson's LGBT community a free, weekly newspaper, covering the issues of concern and through the rough beginning, the bad times and the good, this has been achieved with the hope of the betterment for all. Readers may or may not have agreed with the content but they can't state that every week, this publication wasn't there for the reading.

As time passed and with the advent of the Internet, things have changed for the Observer and every other newspaper, magazine or otherwise resulting in the reduction in size of many publications, as well as the readership viewing these endeavors by using a computer. Audio, video, podcasts and links to stories on such websites have become part of the lexicon.

This publication has been available online since 1996 and interactive with a blog, online at tucsonobserver.blogspot.com since April of this year. Is the Observer a little late to the game online, maybe or maybe not, since this publication isn't about "profit," but is for "informing the public" of what's going on in Tucson and the world from the LGBT perspective.

One of the pluses that the Observer has over other LGBT newspapers and magazines is the online archive. From 1976 to the present, people can access this publication to read or most importantly, learn about LGBT history and the HIV/AIDS crisis from the very beginning - a point the staff and management of this publication takes pride in knowing.

How was this achieved? With thanks to "a little help from our friends," also known as the LGBT and straight supportive community of Tucson, Southern Arizona and the rest of the

globe, with their contributions to get the print edition library copied by the Arizona State Archive into form to be uploaded to the Internet.

On the website, tucsonobserver.com, the archive is the most popular feature, with online readers looking at copies of the paper going back to this nation's bicentennial year. When a new edition comes out in print, it goes immediately into the archive for review, unlike other publications, which takes a couple of weeks to be able to be read online at the Pima County Public Library website or for a fee on the respective publication's web page.

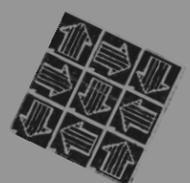
So why this editorial then? During these times, the Observer, in an effort to provide a free weekly publication to inform the readership of the issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, needs a little help from our friends to ensure that Tucson's LGBT history doesn't become lost.

Maintaining the archive online does cost the publication and readers are well aware that the newspaper has been scaled back to continue printing weekly at no cost to the readers and wants to do so for the future but some help would be appreciated to assist in alleviating costs in the interim.

What would happen if the website had to be closed down, put offline, for those needing to use the Observer archive? A trip to Phoenix to the Arizona State Archive would be the means then to be able to access old edition of The Observer, a potential tragedy for all and something that can be avoided with "a little help from our friends."

So when reading the Observer, either in print or online, consider making a small contribution to help defray the web/Internet costs to help keep the publication free, online and most importantly, weekly. This publication over the years has beaten the daily newspapers in this town covering the same issues concern the LGBT community and HIV/AIDS and will continue to strive to do so for the future.

At the website or the blog, people have the option of donating through the PayPal system but for those wanting to send a check, make checks payable to "The Observer," and mail them to P.O. Box 50733, Tucson, AZ 85703 and with "a little help from our friends," we all will get by during these times.



UPDATE

'Out and Proud' 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.

Mamma Mia April 21 - 26

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.

Reveille Performs 'Make 'Em Laugh' Comedy In Music April 24

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Friday, April 24, 8:00 p.m., Reveille Gay Men's Chorus will proudly present, "Make 'Em Laugh, Comedy in Music, April 24, 8:00 p.m., at the Berger Center for the Performing Arts, ASDB. 1200 W. Speedway Blvd.

Artistic Director Linus Lerner has selected a broad spectrum of music that parodies all elements of this crazy world we are living in. Audience members will be asked to check their

sensitivities at the door, all bets are off and political correctness will be out the window. No sacred cow will be left unturned!

Use code: WINGSPAN for online order, or mention WINGSPAN for phone tickets or at the door for a \$5 discount, which will be donated to Wingspan. For more information, go online to reveillemenschorus.org/.

Adoption And Foster Care Seminar April 4

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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.

TRD Copper Queens Beat Back Red Assault

By King Daavid MacKenzie

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Copper Queens continued their winning ways Saturday night as they defeated the Iron Curtain 87-73 in spectacularly defensive Tucson Roller Derby action at Bladeworld. Top scorer on the night was Copper captain #44 Dirty Teri with 46 points, displaying the form that won her the TRD Triple Threat trophy at last year's Wheelies Awards. The Iron Curtain's most stellar performances were turned in by two skaters for whom this is the first season in the Red Army, jammer #33 LUC3F3R with 38 points and Arizona derby legend blocker #67 Helen Wheels. Perhaps the biggest problem the Reds had wasn't so much anything the Copper Queens did, but the absence on the oval of last year's MVP #122 Kassi Nova, who attended but was not skating.

The bout started with a string of tight jams, with Dirty Teri finally breaking it wide open for the Copper Queens in the fifth jam with a ten-point score. LUC3F3R outscored Teri in the second half, leading the Reds in their huge 54-point comeback, but was not able to close the gap by the time the final buzzer sounded. Halftime entertainment was provided by Los Angeles band Psychostar, who also played the post-bout party at the Surly Wench Pub on 4th Avenue. Beginning with this bout, the TRD added "Bones" patches to their uniforms in tribute to their late chief EMT, Joe Bones, who died on March 7.

The next scheduled TRD bout will be an April 18 doubleheader, with the Copper Queens challenging the current league champion Vice Squad and the Iron Curtain taking on the Furious Truckstop Waitresses. The bouts will happen at Bladeworld, 1065 Grant Road. \$8 advance tickets are available at Bladeworld, Bookman's, the Surly Wench and tucsonrollerderby.com; tickets will be \$10 at the door, with children under 12 admitted free with a paying adult.

Gay West 2009 - Tickets Available Now!

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tickets for Gay West 2009, Saturday, April 25, 6:00 p.m., are available at Wingspan, Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave., and online and at gaywest2009.com!

It's going to be bigger, better and cooler than ever before. Join us at Old Tucson Studios as we honor Neil Giuliano and Ruthie & Connie with the 2009 GayWest Humanitarian Awards, and then enjoy entertainment from Lady Bunny, Lucinda Holliday and a whole host of Tucson's best talent.

For more information, contact Mike Herdegen, (520) 624-1779 ext 121.

NGLCC Mambers At White House Continued from Page One

Small businesses are integral to the success of the economy, having created some 70 percent of the nation's new jobs over the past decade. Loosening credit, which as dried up in recent months, will allow them to continue to thrive.

Under Obama's plan, the U.S. Department of Treasury will purchase up to \$15 billion in securities backed by Small Business Administration loans, growing the secondary loan market to free up capital for banks to make additional loans.

"Small businesses were feeling a bit overlooked by the stimulus plans and these initiatives signal that the administration recognizes the importance of our survival, said Eileen Kessler, president of OmniStudio, an NGLCC-certified business and a member of PEN. "It's very critical that benefits reach businesses like ours during these challenging times, because smaller firms lead the way in generating new jobs."

LGBT groups have been included in the administration's discussions on health care challenges as well and were invited to participate in a March 5 health care summit at the White House.

The other elements of Obama's plans for small business are:

- Increasing the government guarantee on certain SBA loans from up to 85 percent to up to 90 percent.

- Allowing businesses to write off up to \$250,000 on new capital equipment investments, nearly double the previous amount.

- Requiring banks receiving government aid to report each month on how much money they lend to small businesses.

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Office Closed Thursdays

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'Amancio': Documentary About Amancio Corrales, May 7



TUCSON (Observer Update) - A special event featuring a new documentary about Amancio Corrales, his family and friends, and how his murder was solved, will take place May 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway.

Sponsored by Wingspan's Reel Pride, AMANCIO...Two Faces on a Tombstone. A documentary film will be shown. As a young boy, Amancio Corrales immigrated from Mexico to Yuma Arizona with his parents in search of a better life. Gay and Hispanic, Amancio dreamed of one day being a performer in Las Vegas, but his dream was cut short on May 6, 2005 when Amancio's body was found floating in the Colorado River near Yuma. He had been brutally beaten and stabbed. He was just 23 years old. For the first time, the story of one man's journey to seek justice for the murder on behalf of Amancio's family and friends is revealed in this intriguing documentary AMANCIO...Two Faces on a Tombstone created by award winning documentary filmmaker Tom Murray.

Well known in clubs throughout northern Mexico and the Southwest for his performance work of female impersonation, Amancio was dressed as a woman the night he died. His amazing talent to recreate popular female singers on stage went above and beyond his contemporaries. While there seemed to be an initial flurry of interest in the murder, soon the incident began to fade from Yuma headlines. Was this a random event? Was this a hate crime? Would any evidence or clues be found that would lead to the murderer? Sensing that there was apathy on the part of local law enforcement area resident Michael Baughman became concerned, and believed

that justice would not be served unless someone took action.

AMANCIO...Two Faces on a Tombstone contains interviews with Amancio's family and friends and follows the three-year journey local activist Michael Baughman took seeking justice on behalf of a young man he had never met. Filmed in Yuma, one of America's hottest and driest locations, the documentary offers a fascinating and poignant look into a community forced to confront issues not often discussed such as sexual orientation and gender expression. Could justice be served in this environment?

The filmmaker and other special guests will be present for a Q&A following the film. For more information go online to amancio-themovie.com.

Lesbian Mother Faces Deportation

SAN MATEO, CA (Observer Update) - Advocates for binational same-sex couples say the wrenching predicament of a Lesbian mother in California illustrates why Congress needs to pass the Uniting Americans Families Act, advocate.com reported. Shirley Tan, 43, will likely be deported this Friday from her home in San Mateo. The deportation would separate Tan from her 12-year-old twin sons, her life partner, Jay Mercado, and her mother-in-law, sending Tan back to the Philippines, where she was a victim of horrific violence.

risk," Immigration Equality executive director Rachel B. Tiven said in a statement. "We are hopeful their members of Congress will introduce a private bill that would spare their twin boys and the boys' grandmother from having the country they love tear their family apart." A potential short-term alternative to UAFA, private legislation is introduced on behalf of individuals who demonstrate compelling circumstances, such as Tan's.

Tan applied for political asylum in 1995, and thought her case was still pending, until immigration officials knocked on her door this January. She told the San Jose Mercury News that her former lawyer never told her a deportation order was issued in 2002. Her bid for asylum failed because the threat to her life in the Philippines came from a relative - who shot her in the head when she was young over an inheritance battle - instead of from the government. Now, like 37,000 other couples in the United States, Tan and Mercado face the agonizing choice of either separating their family or going to live in a country their children have never known.

If Tan and Mercado were heterosexual and married, advocates say, Mercado could sponsor Tan for immigration, but federal law limits the definition of marriage to a man and woman. The discriminatory circumstances illustrate the urgent need to pass the UAFA, which would allow Gay and Lesbian Americans to sponsor their foreign-born partners just as straight citizens can. UAFA was reintroduced in Congress in February, and currently has 110 cosponsors in addition to chief sponsors Rep. Jerrold Nadler and Sen. Patrick Leahy. Proponents are hopeful that a Democrat-controlled Congress and a more supportive administration can move the legislation forward.

"Until the UAFA passes, families like Jay and Shirley's are at terrible



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Gates: Postpone Changes To 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Policy



whatever policy is the law. "Any change in the policy would require a change in the law," Gates said. "We will follow the law whatever it is. That dialog [to end the ban]... has really not progressed very far in this administration." The Pentagon policy was put in place after President Bill Clinton tried to lift the ban on Gay service members in 1993. Under the policy, military recruits cannot be asked about their sexual orientation. In turn, service members are banned from saying they are Gay or bisexual, engaging in homosexual activity or trying to marry a member of the same sex.

In early March, California Representative Ellen Tauscher introduced legislation that end the "don't ask" law. "It makes no sense to discharge capable service members for something as irrelevant as their sexual orientation," Tauscher wrote in a letter urging House colleagues to sign on as co-sponsors of the bill.

The law has led to a large number of dismissals of Gay service members, with some 12,500 soldiers sent packing for acknowledging their homosexuality or after being outed as Gay. Tauscher said Washington's 25 NATO partners include 20 countries that allow open service and "none of them have experienced any detriment to troop morale or unit cohesion" – a core argument of those who support the restrictions. "It is time to allow the military to recruit and retain all of the qualified, talented individuals who wish to serve our country, regardless of their sexual orientation," she said.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Sixteen years after it began under former President Bill Clinton, there's no end to the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" ban on Gays serving openly in sight, reported pageoneq.com. Although President Obama has said he wants to end the ban, he's elected to "push that one down the road a bit," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Fox Sunday morning (Mar. 29). In January, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama would end the policy, but didn't give a time frame when he would do so. "I think the president and I feel like we've got a lot on our plates right now, and let's push that one down the road a little bit," Gates told Fox's Chris Wallace.

When Wallace asked Gates why there is money in the proposed 2010 budget to enforce the "don't ask" policy, the former Bush administration official said the Pentagon will enforce

Gay Worker Sues Microsoft For Discrimination

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - A British worker for Microsoft is suing the computer giant in London, alleging discrimination.

Jamie Durrant, 38, claims in his complaint to the labor tribunal that the company failed to take action despite numerous complaints he was being harassed by fellow workers.

Durrant, who earned about \$100,000 a year designing video games for Microsoft's Xbox 360 console, claims emails were circulated among employees with headings including "I'm Jim and I'm Gay," "Me and My Favorite Men" and "Ladies Are Bad." One, in which he was described as "Fag Boy Jim," was posted on the wall in the lunchroom at the Reading operation.

In his complaint, Durrant said that he is being treated for depression and has not been able to work for seven months because of the harassment. He said that when he brought the situation to the attention of Microsoft Human Resources in the UK, he was not taken

seriously. The complaint to the tribunal said that he was told by the HR department that all staff would be sent an email staff reminding them of "how to behave responsibly in a diverse office." Months later, when he asked why the email was never sent, he was told Microsoft UK would have to create a diversity policy first. Durrant claims that has never happened.

"This was not the first time there was homophobic content in the office," he said. "Previously, I had tried to deal with it myself. This time, I did not feel that I could." The complaint seeks about \$90,000 in damages. "I feel I should be compensated for the stress that this whole complaint procedure has placed on me, the amount of effort and time I have put into trying to get this resolved and acknowledgment that they have done nothing whilst the homophobic harassment continued, making my workplace uncomfortable and unpleasant," he told The Telegraph newspaper. Microsoft denies discriminating on the ground of sexual orientation and said it will vigorously contest Durrant's claims.

'Rumored Gay' Officer Wins \$1.2 Million

SANTA ANA, CA (Observer Update) - Newport Beach, Calif., police officer was awarded \$1.2 million by an Orange County jury who believed his claim that he was denied promotions partly because of false rumors that he is Gay, reported advocate.com.

The Los Angeles Times reports that Neil Harvey – a 27-year veteran of the NBPD – alleges he was passed over for lieutenant despite having more experience and more formal education than other candidates, and that former police chief Bob McDonnell never promoted anyone per-

ceived to be Gay. Harvey also claimed he was unpopular in the department because he previously reported misconduct by fellow officers.

"The one thing he's always wanted to do is be a police officer," Harvey's attorney, Jack Girardi, said. "There's a certain sense that this jury validated the reasonableness of the complaints he made. I guess that might make going back to work a little bit easier." In related news, police officers in Orange County have been accused of closing down a party at a local bowling alley because it attracted Gay patrons.

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In Tough Times For Gay Bars, Drag Shows Seek Straight Audience

ANCHORAGE, AK (Observer Update) - In Mad Myrna's drag dressing room, where a J.Lo song wound out among the wigs and gowns on a recent Friday evening, Isanoel Pinson leaned into the mirror, pursed his lips a little and smeared foundation on his forehead, reported the Anchorage Daily News. Pinson, who is in his 40s, started performing drag just after he immigrated to Anchorage from the Philippines in the early '80s. His first haunt was an old bar called the Jade Room. These days the crowds that come to his shows couldn't be more different than they were back then. "Oh. My. God," he said, applying a ribbon of glue to a false eyelash. "Before is all like Gay, Gay, Gay. Now would you believe? Our audience is all straight people. Couples!"

Myrna's has been home to a drag show for a decade, and straight people have long been part of the audience. But on some Friday nights lately, Gay patrons have thinned dramatically, replaced by military couples, bachelorette parties and curious young professionals. It's part of a national trend. From San Francisco to Pittsburgh, Boston to Nashville, Gay bars are closing their doors and shuttering drag shows, citing lack of patrons. There are plenty of theories why clientele is changing at Myrna's. People are making connections on the Internet. Growing social acceptance means there are few establishments where Gays don't feel comfortable. Simply put, the need for Gay bars is fading.

"I have this feeling now that it's like 'mission accomplished,'" said Mike Richardson, board president of the Imperial Court of All Alaska, one of the state's oldest Gay organizations. "We really don't need safety in numbers." Myrna's had to get creative to attract new customers to fill in where the old ones used to be, said manager Jeff "Myrna" Wood. Over the past few years, that has meant retooling the drag show to appeal to a wider audience. And now the venerable Gay bar depends at least in part on the dollars of straight customers to keep its doors open. As Wood likes to say, Gay or straight, "everybody's money is green."

The clock ticks toward 9 p.m. Paige Langit arrives in the dressing room with her mother, Donna Langit, carrying bags of costumes. Langit is 28. Lounge singer and comedienne, she's the sexy, bossy, busty co-host of the show. She's also a registered Republican with a boyfriend. She stands in front of the mirror in a pink bra, teasing her hair and caking on purple eye shadow. A queen named Mariquita squeezes in next to her, pawing through a make-up bag. Langit is the face of the new scene. The drag show, once the exclusive domain of Gay men and Transgender women, has morphed into a variety show — kinky and freaky — with

something for everyone, from burlesque to torch singing, along with a diverse stable of queens.

A singer and actress since her teens, Langit started performing at Myrna's in her early 20s after one of the drag queens saw her sing karaoke. She had a couple of Gay friends in high school but had no experience with drag. "I didn't know anything about the Transgender community," she said, but she enjoyed the personalities she encountered at the bar. "It was like, 'Oh great — a group of people who like to perform.'" Drag is mainly about exaggerated femininity, Langit says. Once she has her hair and make-up and magenta high-heels on, she feels a bit like a drag queen too. People in the audience wonder if she's a Lesbian or if she's a "real" woman. All that ambiguity is part of what makes the show interesting, she says. Lights dimmed, cocktails flowing and tables full, music pounds out of the speakers in Myrna's show hall. Scott "Daphne DoAll LaChores" Koeller, the other drag show co-host, is dressed in a red Sarah Palin-esque suit, enormous ratty blonde wig and matronly glasses. He takes the stage, warming the audience with a monologue full of double-entendre one-liners. Then Langit makes her entrance, sashaying into the spotlight in a tight pink top and white leggings, bubble gun in hand. An old cross-dresser and a young lady — a drag version of Regis and Kelly — their witty, bawdy banter serves as the backbone of the show, bridging generations and sexuality. Koeller makes a joke referencing a decades old commercial. Langit tilts her head to the side, her face blank. "I'll YouTube it," she says.

Soon an old-time burlesque dancer in a bustier and ruffled panties weaves through the audience starting her act. Then comes the lithe, shirtless male go-go dancer. Then the Karaoke crooner in a brown V-neck sweater. The room is full of whistles and belly laughs. There's a soldier in dress uniform and his wife in the front row. Today's audience is usually couples or single women, Wood said. "The girls want to go see the drag queens," he said. "Women are more tolerant than guys are." "You can always tell the straight people," says Koeller, "because they're the ones who come on time." Ilesha Jones, 32, who is not Gay, has become a regular at Myrna's. She started coming years ago because she had a friend in the show. She likes that the bar doesn't have a "meat market" feel, she said. "It's like OK, I'm here for the show," she said. "I know I'm not going to get hit on by guys."

The straight men are almost always with women. In general men who come alone are "highly questionable" as a dating prospect, she said.

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Though it's not entirely impossible to meet someone. "Occasionally you get a lot of soldiers. I did meet a guy who just got back from Iraq." Members of the older generation might raise an eyebrow that she's spending time at a Gay bar, she said. But people her age don't think it's strange and most of her friends would be comfortable joining her. There are a number of bars in Anchorage with an integrated Gay-straight social scene, she said.

Backstage not everyone is happy. But then they wouldn't be drag queens without a little drama. Pinson, affixing a 3-foot-wide Afro wig, clicks his tongue, looking at the clock. The new acts take forever. He complains in Tagalog to Joebie Fernandez, a diminutive, smooth-skinned queen, who's sorting through a tackle box of earrings. There are eye rolls all around. The class of drag queens once at the center of the show are aging — most are at least 40 — and like a fading order of nuns whose convents are closing, fewer among the younger generation are stepping into their size 13 pumps. Some worry drag has become so mainstream, it may have lost its edge, so the younger generation isn't as interested. And, with

fewer bars, there's fewer places for new queens to learn the craft.

That's what makes Trevor "Ashley" Council unique. At 24, he's the youngest of the queens by at least 10 years. On his hands and knees, he's pulling shoes out of a suitcase, naming each style as he examines them: "French Whore. French Whore. Hooker Shoe." "I'm a boy during the day and girl on Friday nights and for special events," he says. He stands in front of the mirror in a black dress, fluffs his wig and flashes a set of perfect white teeth. He doesn't know what Gay bars used to be like but likes the way they are now. "I think the people who go there are the kind who are straight and more accepting of Gay people," he said. "It's nice to be around those kind of people."

Out on the main floor, bass from the speakers vibrates the drinks on the bar. Pinson waits off stage for her Gloria Gaynor number. Fernandez, in a leather bikini and dangling earrings, steps out to face the audience, opening a huge set of gold lame wings into a whirl of lights. And at least for now, the show goes on.

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

A Tale Of Two Cities, One Set Of Figures And A Windmill

It was the worst of times and the worst times when Thursday, March 26, a press conference was called in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital by the House Republicans, who were to unveil their "budget alternative" to the financial proposals set forth by President Obama.

House Republican's leader, Representative John Boehner of Ohio, opened the delayed press gaggle by stating "Here it is Mr. President," responding to President Obama's call challenging the GOP to draft an alternate budget instead of simply criticizing his version.

Called "the Republican Road to Recovery," the GOP's, pretty blue, pamphlet was 19 pages long, with no figures and a had a picture of a windmill.

Flash forward a few days and a couple of time zones to a land also in financial trouble, Phoenix, Monday, March 30, when the Arizona House Democrats unveiled a proposed budget for the state.

Unlike the U.S. House Republican leadership, the Arizona Democrats plan is a comprehensive responsible solution that restores cuts to children, middle-class families, education and the developmentally disabled, stops tax giveaways to big corporations and utilizes every federal stimulus dollar for Arizona, containing actual figures but no windmill pictures.

In the Arizona House Democrats' budget proposal, online at strongerarizona.com, it will:

Utilize the maximum of the federal stimulus funding that is available to Arizona in 2010;

Clean up government waste by stopping tax giveaways to big corporations and closing corporate tax loopholes;

Implement smart, responsible cuts across state government, including in our own House of Representatives and restore necessary funding to education and middle-class families that makes our economy thrive.

"It is key to our economic recovery and stability that we invest in education so that our children are competitive in the global economy," said Assistant House Democratic Leader Kyrsten Sinema, in a statement. "House Democrats' traveled around the state listening to Arizonans' concerns about deep cuts to the state budget and we developed a comprehensive budget plan that will move Arizona forward to a brighter future."

"The House Democrats' 2010 budget proposal prioritizes the issues that are most important to Arizonans. The proposal returns funding to universities, prevents further cuts to K-12 education, restores funding to keep parks open, and minimizes or eliminates cuts to AHCCCS, DES and DHS going forward (due to the severe cuts they previously suffered in 09)," state Representative Matt Heinz, D-Tucson commented. "While some cuts to agencies were necessary, we made them surgically instead of haphazardly to decrease the impact on our citizens. The overall package is a carefully crafted, common sense, and holistic approach to an unprecedented economic crisis in our state."

"Funding for this plan will cost the average Arizona household less than \$8 per month," wrote state Representative Steve Farley, D-Tucson. "The Governor's outline proposal of a \$1 billion temporary sales tax would cost that same average Arizona household more than \$30 a month. And her outline calls for twice the program cuts as our (House Democrats) proposal."

To read their plan, longer than 19 pages, and responsible proposals but no pictures of windmills and no ideas like moving all prisons to Mexico, cutting off funding to cities or wholesale firings of teachers, go online to strongerarizona.com.

San Diego Appeals Firefighter Gay Pride Ruling

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - The city of San Diego will appeal a jury verdict that found four San Diego firefighters were sexually harassed for being ordered to participate in a Gay pride parade and awarded them combined damages of \$34,300.

City Council voted 7-0 in a closed session to file the appeal.

The firefighters - Alex Kane, Chad Allison, Capt. John Ghiotto and Capt. Jason Hewitt - claimed they were subjected to sexually charged conduct and lewd comments while riding a fire engine in the July 2007 parade, which drew about 150,000 spectators.

Education Secretary Pledges Safe Schools For LGBT Students

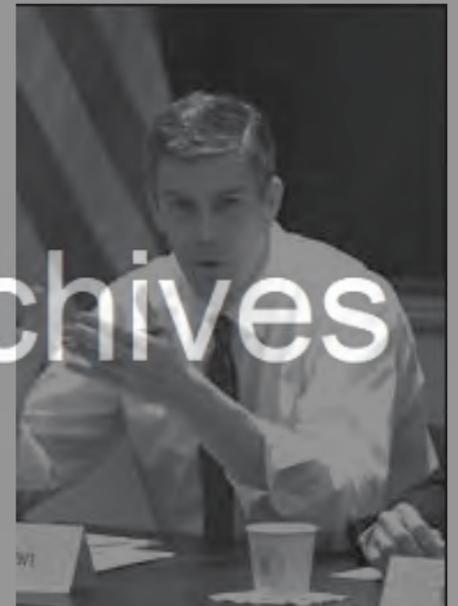
WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Education Secretary Arne Duncan has told a Gay student advocacy group that he intends to make schools safe for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, reported 365Gay.com.

Duncan made the pledge during a meeting with representatives of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and a delegation of students and teachers. It is the first time that a Secretary of Education has met with LGBT advocates. The Bush administration rejected calls to meet. "It was moving to witness these students and teachers sharing their personal stories of pain, rejection, resilience and hope with the nation's top education official," said GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard who attended the meeting.

"Secretary Duncan showed great compassion for their experiences, respect for their perseverance and dedication to identifying effective responses to school climate issues. I am confident that we will see growing engagement with these issues at the Department of Education and truly positive change."

Duncan also expressed an interest in finding ways to highlight the problem of bullying and harassment in national discussions about education, and requested further data on a number of proposed interventions.

GLSEN's biennial National School Climate Survey has repeatedly shown that LGBT students experience extreme harassment. Forty-seven percent of junior/middle high school students identified bullying, name-calling or harassment as somewhat serious or very serious problems at their school. Additionally, 69 percent of junior/middle high school students reported being assaulted or harassed in the previous



Education Secretary Arne Duncan

year and only 41 percent said they felt very safe at school.

The meeting with Duncan occurred a day before today's Safe Schools Lobby Day, where participants are asking their legislators to support the Safe Schools Improvement Act, which would establish a federal anti-bullying policy. The act would enumerate categories often targeted for bullying, including sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.



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Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Bad News For You From Good News Communications

LGBT Tucsonans are in for a larger assault on their very beings if a new radio station sale goes through. The euphemistically-named Good News Communications, headed by local preacher Douglas Martin, has filed with the Federal Communications Commission to buy KCEE-AM 1030, the "adult standards" radio station, for \$1,300,000. The selling party is Slone Broadcasting.

Good News is essentially a local front for one of the most viciously homophobic broadcast companies in the country, Salem. Good News' two current Tucson stations are the local outlets for Salem-originated programming, both overtly religious on KGMS-AM 940 and belligerently fascist on KVOI-AM 690. The purpose of the sale, according to an email sent to KVOI's advertisers by sales director Mary Martin, is to swap formats, sending KCEE's anaemic music format to the vastly weaker 690 kHz (250 watts during daylight hours, 3.2 watts at night) and place KVOI's bitter hate talk on the stronger 1030 kHz (10,000 watts daytime, 1,000 watts at night). In addition to carrying advertising from religious supremacists - when I tuned KVOI last week, the first thing I heard was a bizarre commercial for what claimed to be a "Bible-centered" used car lot! - the KVOI schedule is made up of some of the most vicious homophobes working in commercial radio today.

Take, as a first example, Michael Medved. This midday yakker became one of the more infamous political turncoats of the 1980s when he junked his progressive activism for a job at Rupert Murdoch's New York Post, where Medved became a glorified movie heckler masquerading as a critic. He also took the seat on PBS' Sneak Previews program originally held by the great Roger Ebert; that Sneak Previews folded in the mid-'90s while Ebert's TV career ended only a few years back with his throat cancer speaks volumes about the offensiveness of Medved's hackery. Last year, Medved, who is Jewish, issued a bizarre Holocaust denial of his own. When the memorial monument to LGBT victims of the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s was inaugurated in Berlin ten months ago, Medved made the following statement on his Salem-owned blogsite: "This commemoration follows a longstanding, misleading attempt to depict homosexuals as prime targets of Hitler. In fact, even historical material released with the memorial noted only 'an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Gay men deported to concentration camps' -and by no means all of them were killed...it's wrong to exaggerate the extent of victimization for politically correct P.R. purposes." Never mind that the first social group the Nazis imprisoned in the camps were homosexuals, and the 1934 "Night of the Long Knives" murders were primarily perpetrated on Gay Nazi leaders like Ernst Röhm, whose story I touched upon in these pages last December 10th. To dismiss any of the victims of the Nazis, let alone the earliest, displays a sickening contempt for humanity that, in any truly sane society, would disqualify Medved from holding any position in broadcasting, let alone the one Salem and Good News are pushing him with.

Another Salem hatchet man on the KVOI schedule is Dennis Prager, who airs in late mornings. During last

year's Proposition 8 campaign in California, Prager actually had the gall to tell his audience, "Equality, which is the primary value of the left, is a European value, not an American value." The 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of AMERICA be damned.

Also on the KVOI schedule are Rusty Humphries, whose favourite term for Gays is "heterophobe;" John Gibson, who took the death of Heath Ledger as an opportunity to ridicule the actor and his movie Brokeback Mountain; and proud biphobe Dennis Miller. Obviously, Good News' idea of responsible broadcasting is to build in their listeners what H.L. Mencken used to call "The Courage of Their Prejudices."

Of course, you, the Observer's readership, could file complaints with the FCC to stop the sale. But is your apathy stronger than Good News' hubris?

Bilerico Project Attacked In 'Internet Hate Crime'

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (Observer Update) - Bilerico.com, the site that hosts the popular LGBTQ political blog "The Bilerico Project," was attacked by a group of Eastern European hackers who have been attempting to shut down the site for the past year and a half, reported advocate.com.

According to Bil Browning, the blog's co-owner and editor in chief, problems first started after the feminist blog Shakespeare's Sister moved to Bilerico's server almost two years ago for protection from the same group of hackers. The move brought the Bilerico site to the hackers' attention and, even though Shakespeare's Sister has since moved servers again, the hackers have been relentlessly attacking the site ever since. "Most of the time," Browning explains, "they only get in for a few minutes and then we catch them. This time we were bombarded in the middle of the night, and by the time we caught on, it was too late."

The site was down completely for over nine hours and, even now, while the site is at least up and visible, a technical crew will have to spend the next several days combing through the site's archives, looking for any traces of the hacking that remain. "What is unusual, and maybe most disturbing," Browning noted, "is that they didn't leave messages on the front of the site, as most hackers do. They just took us down completely. They left no opinion, no discussion, nothing for the world to see. A coworker even referred to it as an 'Internet hate crime.'"

Browning put a note on The Bilerico Project's Facebook page to alert any fans of the site about what happened. The response so far, according to Browning, has been overwhelming. "I've been inundated with e-mails and just hundreds of Facebook messages," said Browning. "One message even read, 'Here's another gay techie. I'm yours. I'll take the day off work.' For someone to leave his paying job for a day to help us, that's just incredible."

As The Bilerico Project works to rebuild and repair after this attack, support from readers such as the "gay

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techie" has been heartening and is greatly appreciated by the Bilerico team. The hackers' attempts to thwart the political site may have worked for a few hours, but clearly, an outside attack only serves to strengthen the resolve of the community. The Bilerico Project's

site has the best possible protections in place to ward off attacks such as this - an indication of just how sophisticated and determined this particular hacking group is. "It's maddening," concluded Browning, "because U.S. law says we can't legally do a damn thing."

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COMMENTARY...

Why We Need The Transgender Day Of Visibility

By John Corvino

March 31 is Transgender Day of Visibility. I'm supposed to participate in a panel that day. I'm a bit apprehensive. Like many Gay people, I tend to tiptoe around Transgender issues. This surprises some straight people I know. They say, "But as a GLBT person yourself..." But I'm not a GLBT person. I'm a G person. (Nobody is a GLBT person. You get two letters at most, and that's only if one of them is T.)

social expectations about sex and gender. Compare "If you're born biologically male, you should grow up to be a man" with "If you're born biologically female, you should grow up to love a woman." The similarities between the two inferences seem to outweigh the differences.

Then there are those who question whether linking GLB to T might slow down GLB political progress, insofar as society has a harder time with trans issues than sexual-orientation issues. Even if you find those who raise such questions insensitive, it's hard to argue that they're being irrational. In general, society does have a harder time with trans people than Gay, Lesbian, or bisexual people, which is one reason why the trans community needs and deserves our support.

The bottom line is that there are a lot of us who could benefit from frank and open dialogue about all of these issues. Transgender Day of Visibility is an important step in that direction, and Gays—and everyone else—should support it.

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

One of my earliest experiences with the Transgender community involved an angry trans woman standing up after one of my lectures in the mid-90's. "You've talked for an hour about Gay and Lesbian issues," she griped, "but you've said nothing about ME. An hour-long lecture and not a word about me." I remember at the time not knowing quite how to respond. I figured she was referring to Transgender issues, because I was pretty sure she was trans. She was about 6'2", and to put it bluntly, she had man-hands. But I didn't want to say, "Oh, you're Transgender." Because if I said, "Oh, you're Transgender," I might come across as saying, "Oh, you're Transgender... and not very convincing at it."

Isn't it rude to guess? To me, it's like trying to figure out if someone you know is pregnant, or just getting fat. Better to wait until she brings it up. Of course, sometimes waiting is not an option, such as when a person's gender presentation is ambiguous and you need to refer to "him" or "her." You can only switch to the plural "they" for so long before it becomes obvious that you're avoiding gendered pronouns. I actually had this problem once with a student, whose name was as gender-ambiguous as [his? her? their?] clothing. Turns out she was a MTF who deliberately skated the line as "genderqueer"—something I discovered only when other students filled me in. But absent such informants, how does one politely ask?

Regarding my angry questioner, though, I had no such doubts—just doubts about how to respond to her "nothing about me" complaint. At the time, I think I said something like "I don't know you, so how can I talk about you?" That was a reasonable answer then. But what about now? The truth is I still hardly ever talk or write about Transgender issues. That's partly because I'm no expert on them. There are only so many minutes in an hour (or lines in a column), and you can't cover everything.

But to be frank, it's also partly because I'm nervous about offending people whom society has already hurt enough. It's a touchy subject, and like many touchy subjects, it's often easier for those of us without a direct stake in it simply to avoid it. And that's probably as good a reason for Transgender Day of Visibility as any. Our discomfort around the issue—I know I'm not alone in this—means that we've got some learning to do. Bravo to those trans people willing to come out and teach us.

Some Gay people wonder why we get lumped with the Transgender community at all. Sexual orientation is one thing, they say, and gender identity is another. That's true as far as it goes, and perhaps it's better to talk about our overlapping communities than about a single GLBT community. Still, the alliance makes sense insofar as both (overlapping) groups suffer from rigid

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Washington Blade Outs LGBT Leaders' Salaries

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Washington Blade has published a report of the country's most prominent LGBT leaders and their salaries, including bonuses and benefits packages – and the results are somewhat surprising, advocate.com reported. Craig Shniderman, executive director of Food & Friends, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit providing meals and nutritional services for homebound people with HIV/AIDS, topped the list with a total salary and benefits package of \$382,200 in 2008.

That's higher than the Human Rights Campaign's Joe Solmonese, the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's Lorri Jean, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Neil Giuliano. To put those numbers into perspective, in 2008, L.A.'s Gay and Lesbian Center generated \$48.5 million in operating revenue, the highest among all the LGBT and AIDS groups in the survey. HRC placed second with \$41.4 million in revenue.

Food & Friends generated only \$7.9 million, putting Shniderman above the 90th percentile in salary and at the top of the survey for a nonprofit of the size of Food & Friends. Several LGBT leaders on the Blade's list agreed to significant pay cuts in 2009 in response to the faltering economy. Solmonese took a 10% pay cut for 2009, while Giuliano agreed to a \$20,000 pay cut with no health benefits. The Blade reported the salaries of 30 leaders of LGBT and AIDS organizations for the report.

John Berry Aces Confirmation Hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - John Berry, an openly Gay man who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to head the Office of Personnel Management, encountered a friendly confirmation hearing, reported advocate.com.

"It's obvious that this is a joyous moment for those who are here today,"

BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ



John Berry

said Sen. Daniel Akaka, the Democratic senator from Hawaii who presided over the hearing. About 50-60 people packed the room to support Berry, including his partner, Curtis Yee, Berry's brother and sister, and their immediate families. If confirmed, Berry would become the first Gay person to lead OPM, which essentially serves as the human resources department for the federal government's 1.9 million employees. Sen. Benjamin Cardin and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, both of Maryland, testified on his behalf, and when Senator Akaka gave the two congressmen an opportunity to leave the hearing after giving their testimony, Hoyer declined, saying, "I'm sticking with you, John." Berry served as Hoyer's legislative director for 10 years at the beginning of his career in Washington.

LGBT issues were not specifically mentioned at any point during the hearing, though Berry did speak passionately at one point about treating employees fairly. "The federal government does have to treat like employees similarly," he said. "We need to work together – the Congress and the executive branch – to look at this and ensure that there is fairness across the board." Berry said it was the "highest honor of my life" when the President called and asked him to serve in this "critically important" position. "I want to be the model employer for the country, for the world in fact," he said. "Everything I will do will flow from that vision."

Following the hearing, observers said the proceedings were noticeably warm and devoid of conflict. "I've been to a lot of these hearings, and there's just an unbelievable difference in (Berry's) ability to come in here and know exactly what he's talking about," said Beth Moten, the legislative and political director of the American Federation of Government Employees, who has worked with Berry for years. Moten noted that Republican senator George Voinovich could have been much more of an "attack dog" but instead focused on asking substantive questions. "The long and the short of it is, President Obama could not have made a better pick for OPM," Moten added. People familiar with the situation say no one has raised any objections to Berry's nomination. The final vote is likely to be taken in the next couple weeks.

Therapists Report Attempts To Turn Gay Patients Straight



LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - New findings in the journal BMC Psychiatry reveal that one sixth of British therapists have used methods intended to alter the sexual inclinations of their Gay patients. Seventeen percent of therapists and psychiatrists surveyed said they had used subtle strategies to help their patients control, and eventually change, their sexual orientation.

The survey's lead author cautioned against the use of such tactics in an interview with Reuters. "There is very little evidence to show that attempting to treat a person's homosexual feelings is effective and in fact it can actually be

harmful," said Michael King of University College London.

King and his colleagues surveyed more than 1,400 therapists, who identified their personal convictions and patient anxiety among the reasons for trying to change sexual orientation.

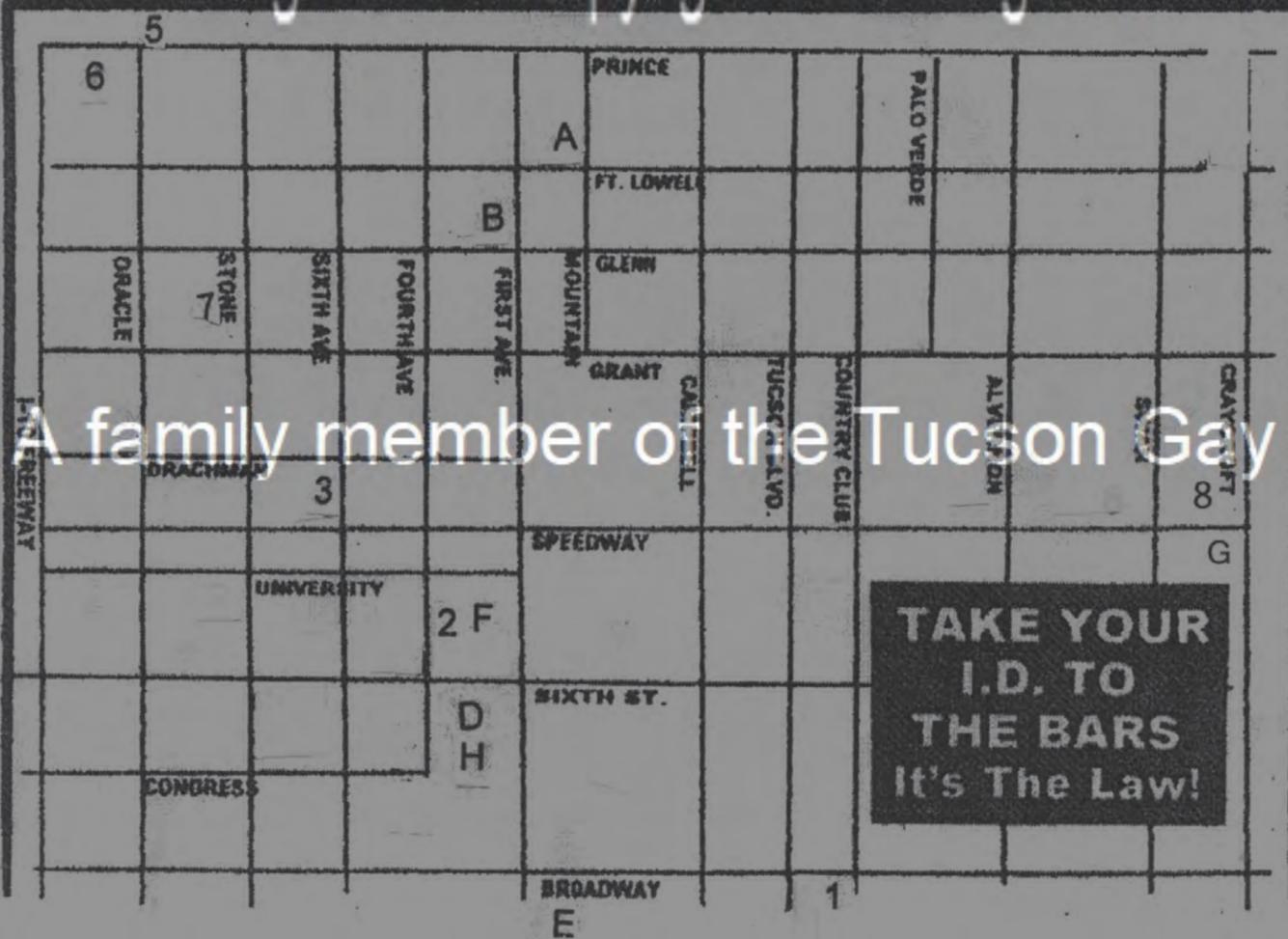
NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Legally married Lesbian couples will now have both names on the birth certificates of their children. The city Board of Health voted to make the change. Last May Gov. Paterson issued an executive order recognizing the marriages of New York Gay and Lesbian couples who had gone outside the state to wed. The order directed state agencies to revise their policies. The issuing of birth certificates is up to individual counties. It is believed the decision in New York City is the first of its kind in the state. The Board of Health decision, however, does not affect male couples where one partner has adopted a child or where one partner already is a parent. In those cases, the other partner must go through the adoptive process. ...

CHARLESTON, WV (Observer Update) - A bid to advance an amendment to West Virginia's constitution to ban same-sex marriage has failed. Republicans and social conservatives had pushed the amendment, but it languished in a House committee. Republican delegates attempted to drive the bill directly to the floor for a vote. The bid failed 67-30 along party lines. Amending the West Virginia constitution requires approval of the legislature and a vote by the electorate. ...

MONTPELIER, VT (Observer Update) - A poll by a Vermont state senator shows that a majority of residents support marriage equality, despite the governor's intent to veto a same-sex marriage bill making its way through the legislature. The unscientific poll, taken by Republican senator William Doyle, is a 40-year tradition to assess the general consensus among 12,000 Vermonters on topics such as abortion and the drinking age. This year, 55% of residents said the state should grant marriage equality to all residents, while 38% said it should not, according to the Associated Press. For the same poll question in 1998, 61% of respondents said that the state shouldn't grant same-sex marriages, and 32% said it should.

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Barney Frank Clarifies Homophobe Comment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) hit the news circuit, explaining why he called Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia a homophobe in an interview with 365Gay.com.

"What a 'homophobe' means is someone who has prejudice about Gay people," Frank told Boston radio station WBZ. Scalia, he said, "makes it very clear that he's angry, frankly, about the existence of Gay people" in his written opinions. In a statement, Frank said, "The point is that Justice Scalia goes far beyond simply denying that there is a constitutional right here and makes clear his support for the discriminatory policies based on his condemnation of homosexuality."

Frank pointed to the 2003 Supreme Court case Lawrence v. Texas, which struck down anti-sodomy laws. The Court voted 6-3 to eliminate sodomy laws, but in a strong dissent, Scalia said that the ruling served an "agenda promoted by some homosexual activists directed at eliminating the moral opprobrium that has traditionally attached to homosexual conduct." Frank told WBZ, "If you read [Scalia's] opinion, he thinks it's a good idea for two consenting adults who happen to be Gay to be locked up because he is so disapproving of Gay people."

He told CNN that there are "Two opinions written by Justice Scalia

in which he makes it very clear that he thinks it's a terrible idea for people who are Gay or lesbian to have equal rights. It's not based on his views on marriage. Obviously, there's a legitimate debate about marriage."

Frank also referred to the 1996 Supreme Court case Romer v. Evans, in which the Court struck down Colorado's anti-Gay Amendment 2, which prevented any municipality from protecting people based on their sexual orientation. Frank said that Scalia "again vigorously denounced the majority in the court for finding that it was unconstitutional to discriminate against people, again, not in marriage but a basis of their political rights, he said, 'Well, of course, we disapprove this. We often disapprove of things like murder.'

"I mean, literally, when he was looking for comparisons to the public disapproval of homosexuality, the first thing he said was murder," Frank said.

Frank's clarifications came after an interview with 365Gay's Ross Palombo, in which Frank said that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as between a man and a woman in federal law, would eventually go to the Supreme Court-but he said, "I wouldn't want it to go to the United States Supreme Court now because that homophobe Antonin Scalia has too many votes on this current court."

Teen Charged In Killing Of Gay Journalist



Accused Killer John Katehis

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - The teenage boy accused of stabbing a New York journalist pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and weapons charges, reported advocate.com. Sixteen-year-old John Katehis, who was arraigned in Brooklyn, is being held without bail.

Police say that he admitted to stabbing George Weber, during a drug-fueled rage, according to Newsday. Katehis allegedly went to Weber's Brooklyn home, answering an ad on Craigslist to be paid \$60 for rough sex. Kaehis told detectives that he killed 47-year-old Weber in self-defense. However, police don't believe the claims

since Weber's body was found bound at the ankles with duct tape, and stabbed about 50 times. The night of the stabbing, witnesses said that they saw Katehis pacing outside of the apartment, and others said they saw him on the train with a bloody hand, according to WCBS News. When he reached a hospital, he told medics that he cut his hand on a bottle. Katehis's parents sent their son to stay with family in upstate New York. They then told police where he was, and he was returned to the city to enter police custody.

Weber worked at WABC-AM news in New York. He had also worked on broadcasts in California, Colorado, and Pennsylvania.

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Across The Q Globe

Serbian Lawmakers Pass Anti-Discrimination Law

BELGRADE, Serbia (Observer Update) - Serbian lawmakers narrowly gave final approval to an anti-discrimination law that is part of pro-Western reforms but was strongly opposed by the Serbian Orthodox Church and other conservatives, reported 365Gay.com.

Parliament passed the bill with a slim majority of 127 votes in favor to 59 against - one more vote than was needed for passage in the 250-member parliament. The remaining deputies did not attend. The law bans any kind of discrimination, whether based on race, religion, sexual orientation or gender or other factors. The legislation was part of reforms to align the nation with European Union policies and was crucial if Serbian citizens were to gain the right to travel without visas to the 27 EU member nations. But its adoption triggered public turmoil in Serbia, which is predominantly conservative.

The Serbian Orthodox Church, supported by other religious groups, had requested changes to the articles on Gay rights and religious freedoms. It has argued the law could be open to misinterpretation and misuse. Other critics have said it runs counter to Serbian tradition. The government initially withdrew the law to review the church's remarks, but that angered liberals. In the end, the government made no major changes. Apart from banning discrimination, the law also provides for a special state representative to monitor possible discrimination, and outlines punitive measures.

Report: Closeted Gay Men Fueling HIV In China

BEIJING, China (Observer Update) - Chinese society's taboo on Gay sex and the pressure to enter into opposite-sex marriages is fueling HIV and spreading the virus into a wider segment of society, a medical researcher says, 365Gay.com reported.

"The stigma and discrimination against homosexuals in Chinese society have prevented Gay men from revealing their sexual orientation or taking HIV/AIDS tests and treatments, holding back the efforts to curb the disease," Prof. Zhang Beichuan of Qingdao University told the official Xinhua news agency. With the help of LGBT groups in nine major cities, Zhang polled men in Gay bars and bath houses. Of the 2,250 Gay men surveyed, 20.7 percent were married to women. Other surveys have found that as many as 90 percent of China's Gay population is closeted.

"In western countries, only a fraction of homosexuals would get into heterosexual marriages. But in China, about 70 to 80 percent of Gay men had the intention of marrying a woman sooner or later," Zhang told Xinhua. The survey found that about half of the men polled had looked for strangers to have sex. More than 18 percent participated in group sex and 13 percent said they paid for sex. When questioned about sexually transmitted diseases, more than 20 percent said they had experienced an STD during the past six months. Less than a quarter had taken an HIV/AIDS test, with 2.2 percent positive. Zhang told Xinhua that society needs to show a greater understanding and tolerance toward Gays. He also said the government needs to provide better access to HIV/AIDS education.

Japan OK's Foreign Marriages For Gay Citizens

TOKYO, Japan (Observer Update) - The Japanese government will recognize the marriages of nationals who legally marry their same-sex partners outside the country. According to Agence France-Presse, the Japanese justice ministry told local authorities to issue certification to those who want to enter same-sex marriages in foreign countries, advocate.com reported.

The island nation does not issue domestic marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and has not previously let LGB nationals sponsor their foreign-born partners for citizenship. A similar law, introduced in February by U.S. representative Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat, is making its way through Congress. The Uniting American Families Act would allow Gay Americans to sponsor their foreign-born partners to become citizens. Gays cannot currently sponsor their partners for citizenship because, in the eyes of the federal government, same-sex partners cannot be considered spouses.

The proposed legislation would require binational same-sex couples to prove that they intend lifelong commitment to one another as permanent partners, that they are financially interdependent, that they are currently unmarried to anyone else, that they are unrelated to each other, and that they are unable to "contract with that person a marriage cognizable under the Immigration and Nationality Act," according to the original bill. The bill would also change terminology to define those couples as "permanent partners" instead of "spouses." Japan was one of the nations that supported a recent U.N. document calling for the international decriminalization of homosexuality.

Life Sentence In UK Gay Slaying

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - A 20-year old Liverpool man has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the death of an 18-year old Gay man who was brutally beaten and dumped on a street to die.

James O'Connor was 19 when he beat and kicked Michael Causer to death after a drunken party. He was one of three men charged in the killing. With good behavior, O'Connor could be out of prison in about 11 years.

O'Connor pleaded guilty in a deal with prosecutors that took a hate crime charge off the table. His co-defendant, Michael Binsteed, 19, pleaded guilty to perverting the cause of justice and was given 34 weeks in custody that was suspended for two years.

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by Ron Rose - Tucson

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The third accused, Gavin Alker, 19, who had been charged with murder but pleaded not guilty, was absolved by a jury last month.

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m. or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - 'L' Word showing 7pm & 9:30pm (Progressive drink specials) - First: \$3 Well; Second: \$1.50 pints. Last Special is 2-4-1. Following L Word, Out Loud Open Mic. If you have talent join our open night mic - Starts 10:45 pm.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

IBT's - 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 HIV/AIDS clients with their Veterinary bills).

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

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 1/2 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 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open noon- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, 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 Domestic and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. "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). Full Menu 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour UNTIL 8. Hip Hop & R&B. Drink Specials all night called out by DJs. Special Performances.

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 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 Domestic and Well, 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1 Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starlett'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 open 11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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.

Friday, April 10

THE BIZ - It'S Circus Nite! Specials guests include the Transaction Dance Troupe, Dragstar Fire Troupe, Diva and much more. Get here early.

Sunday, April 12

WOODY'S - Calling all dancing (and singing) Queens! Join the crowd here for the "Abba-solutely fabulous Karaoke Contest sponsored by Broadway in Tucson. The fun begins at 9:00 p.m. when contestants compete by singing their favorite ABBA song or Broadway showtune for a chance to win the Grand Prize - a pair of front tow seats at the opening night of Mamma Mia on April 21. Also there will be other fabulous prizes awarded throughout the night as well as great drink specials! A \$10 donation is suggested at the door to benefit Wiingspan.

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COMMENTARY...**Justice Cannot Come Too Quickly
For Couple Separated By Doma**

By John Kerry United States Senator

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - Tim Coco and Junior Oliveira should not have had to wait this long to start their married life together. But because the wheels of justice often move too slowly, I have asked the Obama Administration to help me reunite the couple as soon as possible. I have asked the administration to come down on the side of fairness, justice and compassion and allow Junior to return home to Massachusetts to his husband.

Tim and Junior met in 2002, and they were legally married under Massachusetts law in 2005. But they have been separated since 2007, when Junior's request for asylum was denied by a federal immigration judge and appeals board and he was forced to return to his native Brazil. Junior asked for asylum because he had suffered a brutal attack and rape at the hands of government officials in Brazil. The judge who presided over the asylum request found that Junior's testimony was "credible" and his fear of Brazil "genuine." Indeed, there is ample evidence that homosexuals in Brazil are subjected to intimidation and violence. The ministry of health there reported 180 killings of homosexuals in 2004.

Incredibly, though, the judge ruled that Junior "was never physically harmed" by the rape and, consequently, denied his asylum request. An immigration appeals board upheld the ruling and shortly thereafter Junior returned to Brazil, where he has remained for nearly two years, away from his husband. Tim and Junior are legally married in Massachusetts, but federal law does not recognize their marriage, one of the reasons why, when Junior's asylum request was unjustly denied, he was forced to leave his husband.

I understand the critics who believe that the asylum request is a shortcut for reuniting Tim and Junior, and who would prefer that the battle be fought over the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Make no mistake: I support legislation to amend our immigration laws so that this kind of injustice does not occur again, and I vehemently opposed the wrongheaded 1996 so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" that helped put loving couples like Tim and Junior in this position in the first place. But Tim and Junior have been waiting for years for a fair shake under the law. Congress is unlikely to act quickly enough for Tim and Junior. That's why I have asked Attorney General Eric Holder to review Junior's case to determine whether the denial of his asylum request was an error. Such a determination would allow Junior to return home to Tim.

We are where we are - and we can't afford to ignore the legitimacy of Junior's asylum claim. Massachusetts has been at the forefront of ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation, be assured equal protection under the law. I am proud to be a part of those efforts. I worked with Governor Deval Patrick and progressive legislators to help defeat a discriminatory constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. And at the federal level, I have supported legislation to provide domestic partners of federal

employees the benefits available to spouses of federal workers. I have voted against DOMA - only one of 14 senators to do so.

Yes, I will continue to work toward the day that DOMA and other such misguided laws and policies are overturned. But I'm not willing to force Tim and Junior to wait for that day. No couple should, and no senator should take off the table the immediate step that can be taken to reunite a loving couple - today.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

**Vermont Governor To Veto
G/L Marriage Bill**

MONTPELIER, VT (Observer Update) - Gov. James Douglas (R) announced that he will veto same-sex marriage legislation if it, as expected, passes the House, reported 365Gay.com. Until now, Douglas has been silent on whether he would exercise his veto power, saying only that he thinks the state's civil unions law is sufficient.

The Gay marriage bill passed the Senate 26-4. The House began hearings on the legislation.

It is expected that the bill will encounter little difficulty in the House, but the vote will be much closer than in the Senate. Whether it will garner enough House support to override the veto is unclear.

Delaware Votes For G/L Rights

DOVER, DE - Two G/L victories swept Delaware Thursday, when the state Senate defeated a constitutional ban on Gay marriage and the state House passed a bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Delaware already has a law limiting marriage to a man and a woman, and Senators expressed concern that the constitutional ban was unnecessary. "I believe that the constitution ... should be not a place where rights are restricted but where there is a positive affirmation of the rights of all of the people of Delaware," Sen. Brian Bushweller (D) told DelawareOnline. The anti-discrimination bill, which prohibits prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment, public works contracting, public accommodations and insurance, has passed the House three times before, always dying in the Senate in committee.

Because of changes in procedural rules, however, activists are hopeful that this time, the bill will make it to a vote on the Senate floor.

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