Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER APRIL 8, 2009 ISSUE 1289

Tucson Observer Archives

Iowa Supreme Court Strikes Down G/L Marriage Ban

DES MOINES, IA (Observer Update) - In a unanimous ruling, the Iowa Supreme Court said that the state law banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional - upholding a lower court ruling, reported 365Gay.com. "The Iowa statute limiting civil marriage to a union between a man and a woman violates the equal protection clause of the Iowa Constitution," the justices said in the 69-page ruling.

The court also discounted civil unions as an alternative to marriage. "A new distinction based on sexual orientation would be equally suspect and difficult to square with the fundamental principles of equal protection embodied in our constitution," the ruling said.

The decision means that Gay and Lesbian couples may immediately obtain marriage licenses and be allowed to marry under Iowa law in 21 days. Several hundred people - supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage - gathered outside the courthouse for the release of the ruling. A number of state troopers also were on hand, guarding the entrance to the building.

When the ruling was issued, Gay rights supporters let out a massive cheer. "Today's victory is a testament to the strength of love, hope and courage," Camilla Taylor, senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal and lead architect behind the lawsuit told a news conference. "Our clients have shown an abundance of all three for many years and now at long last they will be able to marry. This will go down as another proud day in Iowa's long history of protecting individual rights."

Dennis Johnson, a former Iowa Solicitor General who also argued on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian couples had a message for Gay couples. "We have all of you courageous plaintiffs to thank: Go get married, live happily ever after, live the American dream," he said.

At the Legislature, Republican leaders renewed calls for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. But some GOP members said that in the days remaining in the session the focus should be on the economy. Democrats who are in control of both houses and the governor's mansion said they would not suspend the rules to deal with a proposed amendment.

"Today is a red letter day for the state of Iowa," said openly Gay state Sen. Matt McCoy (D) . "All of Iowa's citizens now have equal protection under the law. Thousands of Iowans who have worked hard, raised families, and paid taxes will now be afforded the opportunity to marry."

"As a life long Iowan, I know that fair-minded people throughout our state support equality for all. I have never been more proud of all the Iowans who have worked continuously for the advancement of human rights for all," McCoy said in a statement.

Among the opponents of Gay marriage gathered at the courthouse was Bob Vander Plaats, a GOP candidate for governor. Vander Plaats said the ruling will be a factor in next year's gubernatorial election.

He accused Democratic Gov. Culver and the Legislature of dragging their heels on pushing for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as being between a man and a woman. If they had gotten on with it "we wouldn't be dealing with this today," he said.

Religious conservatives across the country blasted the court ruling.

"Today Iowa becomes the first state not on either of the nation's two liberal coasts to impose homosexual 'marriage' or its mischievous twin, 'civil unions,' on its citizens through judicial tyranny. To call this decision bankrupt is to understate its perniciousness," said LaBarbera, president of the Illinois-based Americans For Truth About Homosexuality. "The evil genius of the pro-sodomy movement is that it targets noble institutions like marriage and adoption in the name of 'rights,' and then perverts them to normalize aberrant behaviors."

Six same-sex couples sued in 2007 for the right to marry. Polk County Judge Robert Hanson struck down the state Defense of Marriage lawn declaring it to be unconstitutional. Later the same day Hanson stayed the ruling pending an appeal.

The state Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case last December.

Assistant Polk County Attorney Roger Kuhle argued that Hanson had overstepped his authority.

Kuhle also said that state support of same-sex marriage would damage traditional marriage, arguing that it would indicate to future generations that marriage is no longer about procreation.

"One could easily argue, and we do, that fostering same-sex marriage will harm the institution of marriage as we know it," Kuhle told the justices. "It's not going to happen tomorrow. We're not going to see any changes tomorrow, next week, next year, in our generation. But you've got to look to the future."

Lambda Legal attorney Camilla Taylor, representing the six couples who challenged the ban on Gay marriage, told the court that the law violates Iowa's constitution. Taylor said that the constitution protects Gay people's rights to due process and equal protection.

Dennis Johnson, a former Iowa Solicitor General and now a Des Moines lawyer who also represented the same-sex couples, disputed Kuhle's arguments that there would be long-term detrimental effects to Gay marriage as "highly speculative."

"The question is: Why are same sex couples kept out?" Johnson asked. "They have families, they would benefit from the stability, the financial stability. Their children would benefit."

A poll released last year in Iowa found that a majority of people in the state support Gay couples rights but are divided on whether that should be marriage or civil unions.

The poll, by the University of Iowa, found that 28.1 percent of those surveyed support same-sex marriage, while another 30.2 percent support civil unions but not marriage. A third of those questioned oppose any recognition of same-sex couples, with about 10 percent having no opinion or refusing to answer.

In a separate case the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in 2008 that co-adoptions by same-sex parents were legal.

The case involved a Lesbian couple who had split up. While they were together one partner had adopted as a co-parent the children of her partner. When the relationship ended the birth mother asked a court if the other woman had visitation rights and could be compelled to pay child support.

A lower court ruled that co-adoptions by same-sex couples were illegal and threw out the case. The Supreme Court disagreed and ordered the lower court to revisit the case.

The ruling makes Iowa the third state to have legalized Gay marriage, after Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Vermont House on Thursday approved Gay marriage, but the Republican governor has threatened a veto. Same-sex marriage was overturned in California in November by voters and a challenge was filed in the state Supreme Court. A ruling is expected within the next 60 days.

G/L Marriage Legal In Vermont Also

Montpelier, Vermont (Observer Update) - Vermont has become the fourth state where same-sex marriage is legal, 365Gay.com reported. The House and Senate overrode Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a marriage bill. The Republican governor, as expected, nixed the bill Monday night when it arrived on his desk and sent it back to the legislature.

Dozens of Gay marriage supporters wearing Freedom to Marry stickers began arriving at the State House early Tuesday morning (April 7). The Senate voted 23-5 to override the veto. It then moved to the House, which voted 100-49 - the exact number needed to override the veto. While the broad spread in the Senate was predicted, the House vote went down to the wire. Tuesday morning, Democratic leaders said the vote could come down to a single vote, and they were right.

In vetoing the marriage equality bill, Douglas, in a prepared statement, attempted to portray himself as a moderate, putting the blame on the federal defense of marriage law. "This legislation does not address the inequalities espoused by proponents," the statement said. "Regardless of whether the term marriage is applied, federal benefits will still be denied to same sex couples in Vermont."

Douglas said that the legislation does not provide any additional benefits not already available under Vermont's civil unions law. Vermont was the first state in the country to legalize civil unions in 2000. Since then, LGBT groups have criticized the law for creating a "two-tiered" system - marriage for opposite-sex couples and civil unions for Gays.

The marriage law amends the old civil unions law to allow marriage of same-sex partners beginning Sept. 1. Civil unions, which confer some rights similar to marriage, would still be recognized but no longer granted after Sept. 1. The law also guarantees that churches would not be obligated to marry same-sex couples.

Vermont now joins Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa with legalized same-sex marriage. Marriage bills also are being considered in Maine and New Hampshire.

tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered & Protected - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

UPDATE

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.

Namoli Brennet To Guest Star At Desert Voices' Spring Concerts

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson's own nationally known singer/songwriter, Namoli Brennet makes a special guest appearance as Desert Voices draws its 20th season to a close with concerts on April 18 7:30 p.m. and 19, 3:00 p.m. at Pima Community College Center for the Arts, Proscenium Theatre at West Campus.

Namoli Brennet is a winner of the Tucson Folk Festival songwriting competition in 2007 and the 2008 Best of Tucson award recipient for Best Performing Artist. She is also a 4-time Outmusic award nominee whose music has been featured in the Advocate,

Gay West 2009 - Tickets On Sale

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.

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/.

LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund's 'Evening' Is May 1

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Ernesto Portillo, Jr. will return to be Master of Ceremonies for the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund's annual "Evening with Music and Friends".

The event is at the wonderful home of Michael Myers and Chas Baumgardner from 6-8:30 p.m. on May 1. The evening is devoted to enjoyment and features music from the Arizona Jazz Academy Ellington Band, a return engagement from competition-winning guitarist Alvaro Mendizabal, elegant hors d'oeuvres by Gallery of Food, and good drinks. This is a fundraiser for the many grants given by the Alliance Fund each year.

Tickets are $75 and information is available by contacting Randy Soderstrom at (520) 471-0966, Douglas.noffsinger@comcast.net, or alliancefund@cfsoaz.org.

Pride Law Legal Clinic, April 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Need some legal advice, well on tax day, April 15, the Pride Law Legal Clinic will take place, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

The Pride Law Legal Clinic is a free legal referral/services clinic to anyone in the community that is in need of legal help.

For more information, E-mail: bretton@email.arizona.edu.

Senior Pride - Movie Matinee April 13

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Senior Pride will be showing, Monday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the 1994 Australian classic comedy, The Adventures of Pricilla, Queen of the Desert, a film about three drag queens (two Gay men and a transsexual woman) driving across the outback from Sydney to Alice Springs in a large bus they have named Priscilla. The film stars Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce and Terence Stamp.

Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy the Seniors version of our youth lounge. Free and everyone welcome.

For more info contact Penelope Starr, (520) 624-1779 x 122, pstarr@wingspan.org.

Have You Thought About Joining A Bowling Team? Well, It's Time!

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Welcome to OZ, Tucson's newest gay/gay-friendly mixed bowling league is looking for people who would like to bowl and have fun. Welcome to OZ will be housed at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st Street (22nd & Kolb Rd). They will bowl on Thursday nights, practice at 6:45 pm and bowling at 7:00 p.m. Their inaugural summer season begins with a Kick-off Party on Thursday, May 14 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. with a 13-week schedule running May 21 - August 13 and will end the season with a Fun Night culmination event on August 20.

The Kick-off Party will be a time to get information about the league, meet new people, form teams, meet the board members and have fun. Teams will consist of three bowlers each. There will be a $3 fee for the Kick-off Party which includes shoe rental and 2 hours of bowling. Take a break from the summer heat and join us for some cool fun - BOWLING! For more information contact us at: welcometoOZ09@gmail.com.

It's never too late to have a ball! - so they look forward to meeting you on Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st St. (22nd & Kolb Rd).

OBSERVER

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

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

Office Closed Thursdays

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
Bill Morrow
Hunter Johnson
Horoscope:
Charlene Lichtenstein
Contributing Columnists
Mark R. Kerr
Jimmy Petrol
Jack Melichar
King Daevid MacKenzie

Publication of names or photos of any person or organization in the OBSERVER is not to be construed as indication of the sexual orientation of such person, organization or advertisers or any employees thereof.

Opinions that are expressed in Letters to the Editor or columns by contributors are not necessarily those of the OBSERVER, its staff or advertisers. OBSERVER assumes responsibility for its own editorial policy only.

Although OBSERVER has many fine advertisers, we do not accept responsibility for any claims made pertaining to their products and/or services.

*

Permission to reprint (except for separately copyrighted material) is granted when credit is given to the OBSERVER.

*

Informing the Community
The Observer

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered Copyright Material Permission Granted
A Family Member of the Tucson Gay Museum

EDITORIAL

Don't Take Things For Granted

It was 1976 and the murder of a member of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) family of Tucson, Richard Heakin and the legal machinations of the judge in the case of three high school students charged (who were granted probation for taking a life) what sparked the LGBT and straight supportive community to action.

Through this event and the subsequent movement to make sure this legal injustice doesn't happen again and to ensure that the rights of LGBT citizens of the Old Pueblo are never trampled upon, Tucson became a "beacon" with its anti-discrimination ordinance adopted in February 1977, by a unanimous vote by the Tucson Mayor and City Council.

A campaign like this needed a voice, an outlet for people to know what was happening, to instruct people what the needed to do and where to go and importantly, to inform their elected officials of their support for the ordinance and that it was the right thing to do by voting in favor of it. With that, the Observer (then known as the Arizona Gay News) hit the newsstands.

Over the years, this publication has prided itself in providing an outlet for Tucson's LGBT community organizations, offering the news, an avenue for LGBT and straight supportive writers to get their start in journalism and to keep people aware of what is going on in the lives of Tucson's and Southern Arizona's LGBT family and how things could affect them, something the corporate media doesn't do.

In the past four decades, the Observer has helped to start marking Pride with an annual nonprofit event in Himmel Park and the formation of the Tucson Lesbian/Gay Alliance, publicize and assist in the effort to raise funds for those living with HIV/AIDS in the 1980's with the annual Jell-O Wrestling, AIDS Walk and PACT for Life fund raising events and holding an annual benefit for community organizations, to name a few of the many actions initiated.

Most importantly, this publication has provided something to the LGBT and straight supportive community of Tucson and thanks to the advent of the Internet, the online world, the history of Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities in the past four decades and thanks to the donations of many supportive people and several benefit fund raisers, it has a place on the World Wide Web for all to see, typos and all.

Unlike the corporate media, this publication is not produced for huge financial profit, a cheesy "tax write off," fast cars or fancy office space but to provide the Tucson and Southern Arizona LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities the news and views on issues of concern and an outlet for LGBT owned businesses, local groups and organizations.

Some readers may think that the Observer may always be there every week in print or online, taking it for granted the economic aspect of this endeavor, it does cost to put out a publication in print and online on weekly basis, one of the few such entities in the nation to do so, something the production staff of three and the community writers take pride in but the current economic realities will be a part of this, like the proverbial "rain cloud on the horizon."

When one reads the weekly edition in whichever form they prefer, take the time to look at all the advertisements, including the announcements and classified and if one is interested, go to those businesses and groups and spend your "pink dollar," at these places to help out the LGBT owned and straight supportive businesses and organizations.

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.

John Berry Confirmed

John Berry

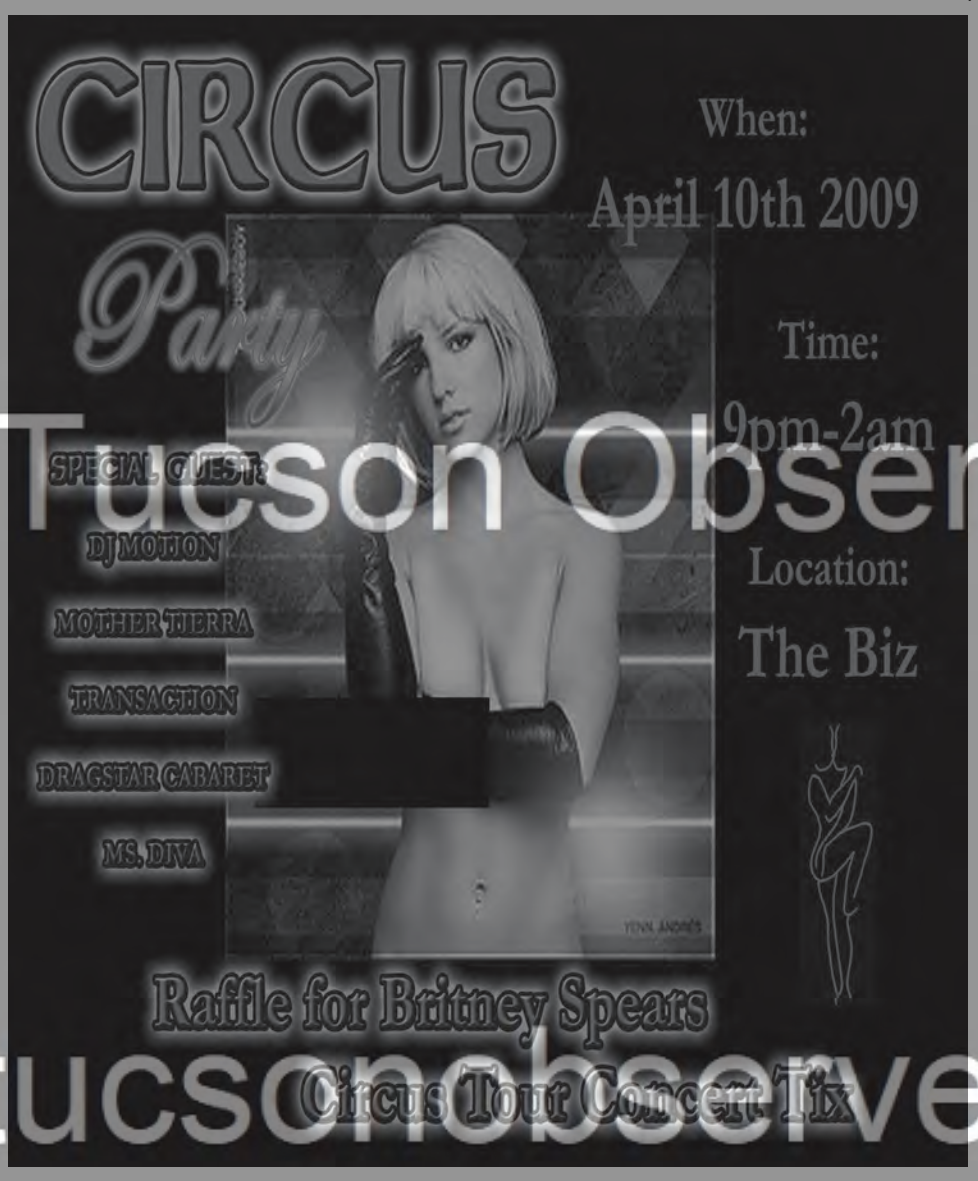
WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The United States Senate has confirmed John Berry as the next Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Berry was nominated by President Barack Obama on March 4, 2009, to serve as the Administration's chief advisor on human resources issues for the nation's 1.9 million Federal employees.

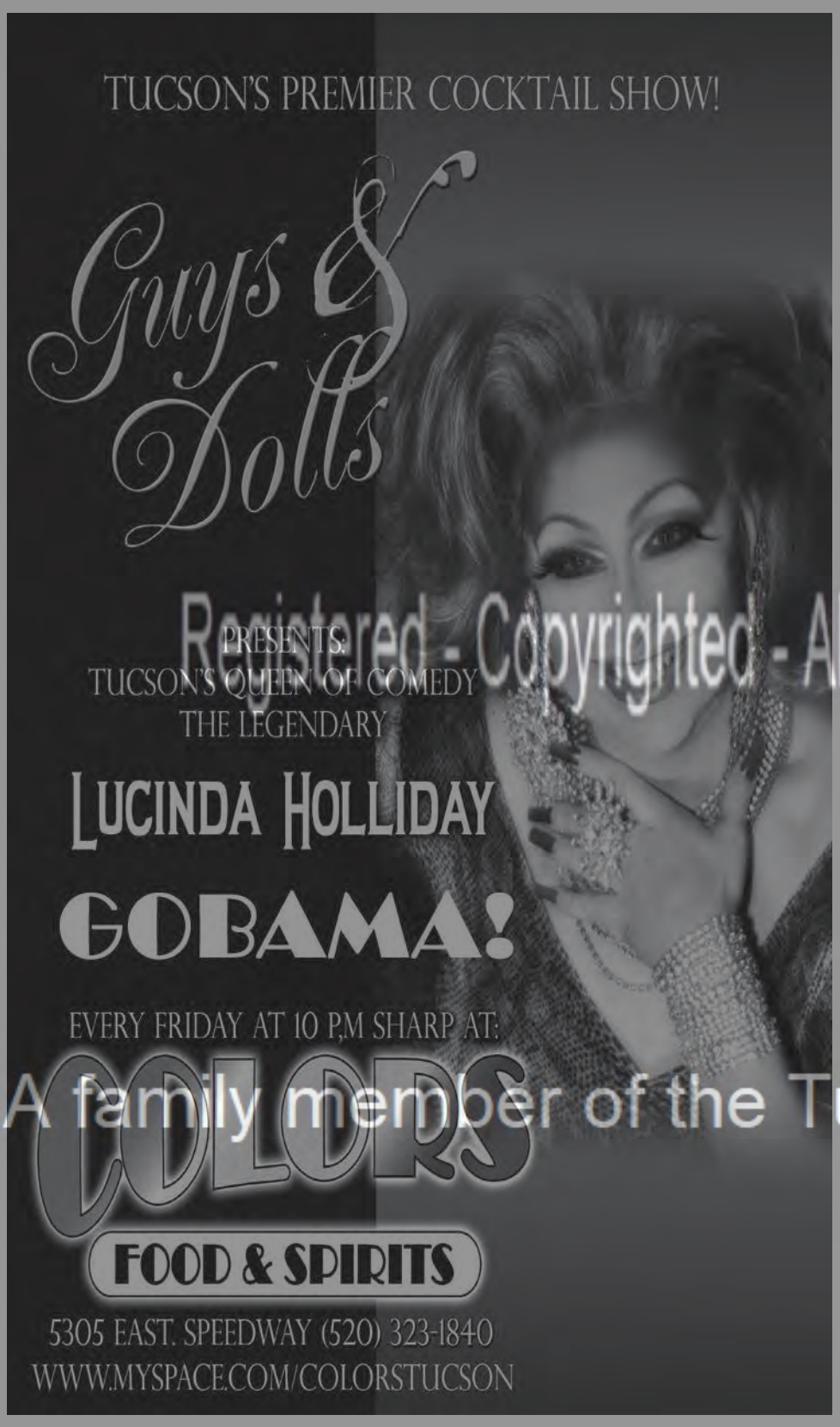
Among his primary responsibilities will be improving Federal recruitment strategies and expediting the hiring process for men and women with a rich mix of talents who wish to serve America through the civil service.

"I look forward to getting to work with the great men and women at OPM and to advancing the President's goal of ensuring that our country's best and brightest continue to be drawn into the service of our country," said Berry." [OPM]

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©





Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

COMMENTARY. . . .

Common Sense From The Heartland

(The following is an editorial from the April 5 edition of the New York Times, from which this is reprinted.)

Like the state's earlier landmark civil rights cases – striking down slavery in 1839, for example, and segregation in 1868 and 1873 – the ruling on Gay marriage by Iowa's Supreme Court is a refreshing message of fairness and common sense from the nation's heartland. A unanimous decision by the seven-member court approved marriage for couples of the same sex and brought the nation a step closer toward realizing its promise of equality and justice.

Iowa is only the third state, following Massachusetts and Connecticut, to legalize Gay marriage. California allowed such marriages for five months until November's election, when residents rejected the idea in a voter initiative. A ruling on the validity of that initiative is expected soon from California's Supreme Court. In finding no "persuasive justification" for the different treatment of committed Gay and Lesbian couples, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed a lower court holding of two years ago. That ruling overturned, on equal protection grounds, a 1998 state law confining civil marriage to a union between a man and a woman. Same-sex marriages could begin in Iowa before the month is out.

The new decision says marriage is a civil contract and should not be defined by religious doctrine or views. "We are firmly convinced the exclusion of Gay and Lesbian people from the institution of civil marriage does not substantially further an important governmental objective," wrote Justice Mark Cady, a Republican appointee. "The legislature has excluded a historically disfavored class of persons from a supremely important civil institution without a constitutionally sufficient justification." The immediate impact of Iowa's ruling was to make the failure to respect Gay people's freedom to marry, by courts and legislatures in states like New York, seem all the more shameful.

"When all is said and done, we believe the only lasting question about today's events will be why it took us so long," said a statement by Iowa's State Senate majority leader, Michael Gronstal, and House speaker, Pat Murphy, both Democrats.

Lesbian Mom Wins Deportation Delay

SAN MATEO, CA (Observer Update) - Shirley Tan has won a temporary delay so that she can appeal the deportation order that would have torn her from her life partner and their 12-year-old twin sons, 365Gay.com reported. The stay in executing the order to deport Tan back to her native Philippines was obtained with the help of Rep. Jackie Speier and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, both California Democrats.

Tan and Jaylynn "Jay" Mercado were married in San Francisco in 2004, when San Francisco issued marriage licenses in defiance of state law. Even if the California courts uphold the legality of pre-Proposition 8 marriages, the federal Defense of Marriage Act prevents Mercado from sponsoring her partner of 23 years for immigration. Were the women a married opposite-sex couple, Tan could be legal. The stay in implementing the deportation order was issued by the Department of Homeland Security. It will be in effect until April 22 so that she can file an appeal. Mercado has said that if Tan were deported she and their sons would move to the Philippines to keep the family together.

Legislation was re-introduced in Congress last month that would allow Americans in a same-sex relationship to sponsor their "permanent partners" for legal residency in the United States. The Uniting American Families Act was filed in the House by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and in the Senate by Sen. Patrick Leahy. Both Speier and Feinstein are cosponsors of the bill. With Democrats now in Control of the Congress and the White House, LGBT advocates are hopeful the measure will become law. Across the country, 37,000 couples face circumstances similar to that of Tan and Mercado.

Last month, the White House issued a statement about the Uniting American Families Act, saying "[President Obama] thinks Americans with partners from other countries should not be faced with a painful choice between staying with their partner or staying in their country."

Ultimate Fighting President Apologizes For Anti-Gay Slur

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Ultimate Fighting Championship president Dana White has apologized for a profanity-laced video blog in which he used an antiGay slur, reported advocate.com.

White posted the video to comment on a story that he disliked by mixed martial arts reporter Loretta Hunt of Sherdog.com. The story was critical of new UFC restrictions on how backstage credentials are issued to fighters' agents and managers. During the expletive-laden rant, White attacked Hunt for her use of anonymous sources, making derogatory remarks involving Gay people, women, and the mentally disabled.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation insisted that White apologize, which he did – in another video. "As far as the Gay and Lesbian community, my comments were never directed toward them," White said. "I have no problem with the Gay and Lesbian community. I am actually a supporter of many of their issues. The last thing that I would ever want anybody to think about me, or think is cool, is to go out and attack somebody because of their sexual orientation."

CALLING ALL DANCING (And Singing) QUEENS!

Join WINGSPAN and WOODY'S for an
ABBA-SOLUTELY FABULOUS KARAOKE CONTEST!
SPONSORED BY BROADWAY IN TUCSON
SUNDAY, APRIL 12 AT 9PM
at Woody's Bar, 3710 N. Oracle Road

Contestants will compete by singing their favorite ABBA song or Broadway showtune for a chance to win the GRAND PRIZE-a pair of front row seats to 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 Wingspan.

BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVAEUS'
MAMMA MIA!
THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL BASED ON THE SONGS OF ABBA®

LIVE ON STAGE AT THE TUCSON MUSIC HALL
APRIL 21-26
www.broadwayintucson.com 520-321-1000
TICKETS RANGE FROM $25 - $69
STUDENT/YOUTH TICKETS 50% OFF TUE/WED/THU/SUN EVE!
BROADWAY IN TUCSON
A NEDERLANDER PRESENTATION
WWW.BROADWAYINTUCSON.COM

Tucson Observer Archives

Across The Q Globe

Settlement In Microsoft Gay Bias Case

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - Microsoft and a British worker who sued the computer giant in London for alleged discrimination have settled the case out of court, reported 365Gay.com. Details of the settlement were not released under a confidentiality agreement between the two sides.

Jamie Durrant, 38, claimed in his complaint to a 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."

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Gay Bodies Pile Up In Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The bodies of two Gay men have been found in Baghdad's Shiite slum of Sadr City after a leading cleric repeatedly condemned homosexuality, an Iraqi police official said, 365Gay.com reported. The killings come after Shiite cleric Sattar al-Battat repeatedly condemned homosexuality during recent Friday prayers, saying Islam prohibits homosexuality. Homosexual acts are punishable by up to seven years in prison in Iraq.

The two men were believed killed by relatives who were shamed by their behavior, said the official. Police said they suspected the killings were at the hands of family members because no one has claimed the bodies or called for an investigation.

The killings come weeks after Iraqi police found four bodies in late March buried near Sadr City with the words "pervert" and "puppies" written on their chests, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information.

Court Convicts Two Of Promoting Homosexuality

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

MOSCOW, Russia (Observer Update) - Two Russian Gay activists were convicted of promoting homosexuality in Ryazan, southeast of Moscow, 365Gay.com reported. The Ryazan region is the only area in Russia with a law barring discussion of homosexuality to minors. The law is used to bar schools from any discussion of Gay issues.

Nikolai Baev and Irina Fet, both associated with Moscow Pride, were charged with "propaganda of homosexuality to minors" for carrying a banner advocating Gay rights close to a school and a library. The banner declared "Homosexuality is normal" and "I am proud of my homosexuality."

Baev and Fet said they wanted to show that the law is unconstitutional. The court fined the pair 1,500 rubles - about $ 50.00 each.

VENTURE-N
TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR

OPENS MON - SAT 9AM; SUN 10AM
1239 N. 6TH AVENUE TUCSON, AZ 85705 (520) 882-8224

Anti-Gay Bias Feared In Canadian Immigration Official

EDMONTON, Canada (Observer Update) - Gay and Lesbian groups in Canada argue that a newly appointed immigration official should be removed because he has previously expressed anti Gay views, advocate.com reported. Doug Cryer, a Conservative Party booster, was appointed last month to a three-year term on the Immigration and Refugee Board for the Toronto district. His selection prompted an outcry because of his opposition to same-sex marriage and previous defense of the church's right to say that homosexual behavior is "sinful."

"If you want to appoint him, put him on the Wheat Board, where he's not going to be making life-and-death decisions on refugee claims," Helen Kennedy, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian group EGALE, told the Edmonton Sun. Immigration Minister Jason Kenney defends the appointment, however, and notes that applicants have been appointed to similar positions from a variety of religious backgrounds.

A spokesperson for the IRB said that refugee claimants who suspect bias in a board member can ask that board member to step aside from the case, and appeal in court if the board member refuses.

Hawaii Senate Fails To Bring Vote On Civil Unions

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

HONOLULU, HI (Observer Update) - The Hawaii Senate has rejected an effort to force a vote on same-sex civil unions, essentially killing the measure, even though a majority had indicated it supports the unions, reported 365Gay.com.

The vote on the legislative maneuver fell three short of the nine required for a full Senate vote. About 18 of the 25 senators had indicated they support civil unions, but they lacked the political willpower to go against Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and most of her leadership team, which opposed the effort.

Hanabusa has supported civil unions but said she didn't want to override the normal lawmaking process by lifting the bill from its committee, where it had stalled on a tie vote.

Uganda Presses On With Anti-Gay Bill

KAMPALA, Uganda (Observer Update) - The Ugandan government vowed to move forward with a bill that would toughen the country's already harsh punishment of homosexuality, 365Gay.com reported.

Sex between two people of the same sex already is a criminal offense in Uganda - punishable by life imprisonment - although there are no records of any recent convictions. Now the government is prepared to expand the law, making it a criminal offense to be gay. The legislation would make any public display of being gay a crime.

International human rights and LGBT groups have called on Kampala to drop the bill and repeal the sodomy law.

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

H.R. 1913

Legislation to expand current federal statutes that deal with hate crimes has again been introduced, in the 111th Congress, when on Thursday, April 2, H.R. 1913, was filed by U.S. Representative John Conyers, D-MI and 42 cosponsors, for consideration in the Chief Clerk's office of the U.S. House of Representatives. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) own statistics, based on voluntary reporting, show that since 1991 more than 100,000 hate crime offenses have been reported.

In his comments introducing the bill, Rep. John Conyers stated, "Hate crime statistics do not speak for themselves. Behind each of the statistics is an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. Law enforcement authorities and civic leaders have learned that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into widespread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our nation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience. They should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution."

H.R. 1913, if approved and signed into law, would give the:

U.S. Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute bias motivated violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability;

Ability to provide the Justice Department with the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions either by lending assistance or where local authorities are unwilling or unable, by taking the lead in investigations and prosecutions of violent crime resulting in death or serious bodily injury, motivated by bias, and state and local communities, grants funding to combat violent crimes committed by juveniles, train law enforcement officers, or to assist in state and local investigations and prosecutions of bias motivated crimes.

National LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) organizations reacted positively to Conyer's reintroduction of a federal hate crimes bill, H.R. 1913 for this 111th Congress.

"Introduction of this important legislation marks the beginning of the end of a long-fought battle. After more than a decade, it is time for us to finally pass legislation that strengthens and expands federal hate crimes law; a bill that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. Laws ultimately reflect a nation's values and this legislation, once passed, will send a strong message that America rejects all forms of hate violence, including bias-motivated crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people," Rea Carey, Executive Director of the NGLTF said in a statement. "We are pleased that President Obama has expressed support for this legislation by voting for it in the Senate and by announcing he will sign the bill when it comes to his desk. We hope that the administration will play a role in assisting with passage in both the House and Senate."

"Each year, thousands of Americans are violently attacked just because of who they are. These crimes not only harm individuals, they terrorize entire communities. After more than a decade of delay, it's time to provide local police and sheriffs' departments with the full resources of the Justice Department to address vicious hate crimes," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Joe Solmonese in a statement.

H.R. 1913 has been referred to the U.S. House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee, chaired by Representative Conyers. To help lobby for the passage of this bill that has been introduced and voted on seven times in the past ten years, the HRC has set up a web site to organize the LGBT to help the effort, fighthatenow.org.

Fighthatenow.org includes testimonials, up-to-the minute updates on Congressional action, and specific action voters can take to ensure its passage and is also linked to their other lobbyist/activist site, EndtheLies.org, that confronts right-wing lies and distortions repeatedly used to defeat LGBT equality measures.

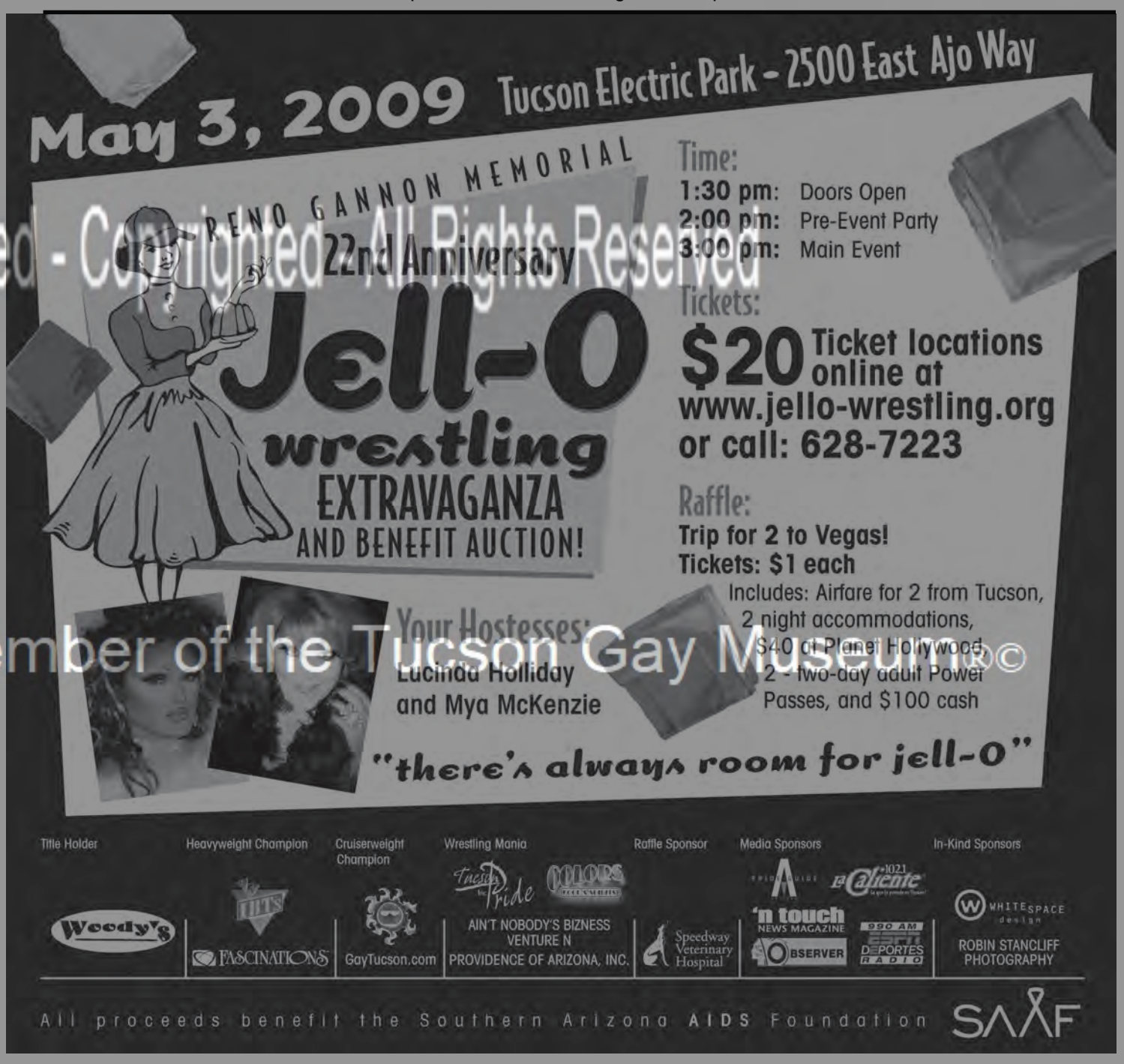
Cybil Shepherd's Daughter Comes Out

Cybil Shepherd with partner Clementine Ford

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Clementine Ford, the daughter of Golden Globes Award-winning actress Cybill Sherperd has publicly acknowledged she is Gay, telling the Advocate, "I am Gay. I just wanted there not to be this big emphasis on it, reported advocate.com.

In February, Ford revealed to Diva magazine that she had dated both men and women. When the magazine cover published the tagline "Clementine Ford comes out", the actress said she didn't technically come out and did not want to label herself. "My siblings and I would bring home men and women, and as long as they were human it wasn't a big thing," she said. "I never want to put a label on myself- but knowing that not everyone comes from such a liberal place, when something like Prop 8 comes out, you realize it's important to stand up and be counted."

Ford was married to Chad Todhunter for four years and was rumored to be dating her L Word co-star Kate Moennig- a rumor she didn't mind leaving ambiguous ("Clearly we did our jobs right if there are rumors....I hate to squash them, too. Whatever I say people are going to have their own ideas."), In the L Word, the Showtime drama following a group of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender characters, Ford played the onscreen daughter to her real-life mother Shepherd. Her character gets involved with Moennig's character for a brief romance (which is also interrupted when Shepherd walks in on their first rendezvous together). She has also appeared on House M.D. and Crossing Jordan.



Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Archived - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum ®©

Theatre Review

by Jack Melichar

Coming events at the Arizona Theatre Company: We embraced him last season as the inimitable New Yorker, George Gershwin, and the elegant and mystical Fryderyk Chopin. Every one of his ATC performances was greeted with standing ovations and calls for encores. Now, Hershey Felder completes his musical trilogy known as 'The Composer Sonata' with his brand new production, Beethoven, As I Knew Him. Based on a true story, the headstrong German genius Ludwig van Beethoven is brought stirringly to life through the eyes of his last surviving friend as well as through performances of some of the most eternally powerful musical masterpieces ever composed. Hershey Felder's performances have been heralded as "Dazzling... Sheer Genius!" by the New York Daily News, "Magic...Sublime!" by the Arizona Daily Star, and "A true passion powers his portrayal...Delightful!" by The Arizona Republic.

The show will be playing at the Temple of Music and Art from April 8-27. For ticket information, go online to Arizona Theatre Company.com or call (520) 622-2823. A review will follow in the next edition of THE OBSERVER. Soon to follow is another performance by Felder - HERSHEY FELDER IN CONCERT: THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK SING-ALONG. We are invited to a party featuring the greatest Broadway melodies. Peppered with tales of the composers who created them and the inspirations that guided them, you'll have the chance to be serenaded, sing along with the maestro, and capture the feeling of what it must have been like to attend an exclusive Broadway soiree full of sentiment, sass and enchantment. And if you're itching to go it alone, Hershey just might give you the chance to show what you've got in a solo performance from your theatre seat. Nobody throws a musical theatre party like Hershey Felder, so don't miss your chance to revel in the greatest show tunes that America has produced with one of the greatest showmen of our time. April 30 at 2 PM & 7:30 PM, May 1 at 7:30 PM, May 2 at 2 PM & 8 PM, and May 3 at 2 PM

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Shelters Slowly Adapt To Transgender Homeless

ATLANTA, GA (Observer Update) - Twelve years heading the Salvation Army's downtown homeless shelter had done little to prepare Janeane Schmidt for the recent night when a soft-spoken biological male transitioning into a female walked in, 365Gay.com reported. Schmidt didn't want to refuse someone in need. Having seen few such cases, however, and with limited space that winter night, she wasn't sure where to place the Transgender woman. The shelter has space for homeless men and women but not anyone in between.

"Rather than turn them away, we give them a cot," said Schmidt, whose staff allowed the woman to stay a week in the shelter's lounge - the only space they could find. "I don't even know of another shelter that takes the Transgendered" in Atlanta, Schmidt said. Nationwide there are plenty of holes in the safety net of shelters that catches men and women who have fallen on hard times. Activists say help is even harder to find for the Transgender homeless, whose nontraditional gender status raises questions about sleeping arrangements and shower facilities.

The people who run the shelters are taking note. From Phoenix to New York, shelters have fine-tuned policies to recognize preferred gender over birth gender, as they balance the needs of their mainstream clients with those of an unconventional segment of the homeless. Activists point to the deaths of homeless Transgender women in Atlanta and Austin, Texas, to underscore the need for shelter for all. Shelters in both cities are revamping acceptance policies and weighing the creation of trans-friendly space.

The Atlanta Union Mission is considering expanding one or more of its six area shelters, in part to accommodate Transgender people. "We don't know if we need an entirely different facility," spokeswoman Voloria Pettiford said. "We don't know how to meet that need, but there's a need."

Organizers say finding spots for Transgender homeless is equally important for others in the shelter. "Put yourself in the position of someone who's fleeing a domestic violence situation - they've come to the shelter as a haven to get away from a male presence in their lives, and they think they're in an environment that's all women," said Nancy Yarnell, head of the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children. It's tough to tally the number of homeless who are Transgender, a term that includes people who switch gender through surgery and hormone treatments as well as those who just dress the part. The homeless community itself is notoriously difficult to count.

A study last year of 646 Transgender Californians conducted by San Francisco's Transgender Law Center found that 20 percent reported having been homeless, and a third of those said they had been denied access to a shelter. Vanishing jobs are expected to increase homelessness, and activists say the problem is magnified for the Transgendered, whose appearance can make it hard to maintain employment.

Reva Iman is tall and busty with arms full of jingling bracelets and broad shoulders that betray her birth gender. She said she began living and working on the street after being shut out of jobs when she first came to Atlanta. "The street life of escorting and prostitution, that became my main line of survival," said Iman, who avoided shelters that demanded she dress "like a man" to spend the night. "You can't be yourself," she said.

Transgender women typically consider ditching their makeup and women's clothes an affront to the identity they've spent a lifetime accepting. Yet for shelter managers, allowing anything else creates other problems. Some argue biological women feel uncomfortable sleeping next to a biological man, whether or not he has breast implants. Others worry that residents with mental problems - common among the homeless - could lash out at Transgender guests.

At Atlanta's Peachtree and Pine shelter, director Anita Beaty is concerned with the safety of placing female-looking males among the 700 men sleeping there nightly. She has a small area for women, and a stream of Transgender women who know she won't turn them away. "We want to know how to respond better," said Beaty, who plans to discuss revamping shelter housing policies with Transgender activists further. In 2003, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Coalition for the Homeless released a guidebook for making dual-sex homeless shelters more welcoming to the Transgendered. Tips included adding shower privacy curtains and changing intake forms to include a blank space for gender - instead of male or female.

Shelters have made similar adjustments in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Phoenix, and Austin, Texas, where a Transgender homeless woman's recent death sparked an outcry. Police found former political candidate Jennifer Gale, who was born male and fell into homelessness, dead outside a church in December. Gay and Lesbian activists blamed a lack of space for the Transgendered in Austin's shelters. "When Jennifer Gale passed away, that definitely reignited the flame that we needed to start working on this more," said Dawn Perkins, community relations manager for Front Steps, which coordinates shelters citywide.

Six years earlier, police found 52-year-old Alice Johnston dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in suburban Atlanta. In a suicide e-mail, the unemployed Transgender woman told friends she'd lost her home and had been turned down by city shelters, according to close friend Monica Helms, who testified about it to the city's homelessness commission in 2003. There has been some progress. In 2007, Atlanta United Way officials funded the creation of H.O.P.E Through Divine Intervention, a nine-bed program for Transgender homeless women. About 21 have moved on to permanent housing through the program, said associate director Kia Croom. Openings are rare and Croom said it should double in size to be effective, but there's no money for expansion.

tucsonobserverarchives.org
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©
Reproduced Copyright All Rights Reserved

Douglas J. Newman, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Corporations · Limited Liability Companies · General Business
Wills · Trusts · Estate & Estate Tax Planning · Probate

2650 North Country Club Road · Tucson, Arizona 85716
Phone 520-325-2053 · Fax 520-325-2274 · dougnewmanlaw.com

MORTGAGE RATES ARE AT A 52 YEAR LOW!

HOME VALUES IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA MAY HAVE HIT BOTTOM!

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET PREAPPROVAL FOR A HOME LOAN

STEVE BARRETO
(520) 323-3300
sbarreto@primecapital.com
www.primecapital.com

PRIME CAPITAL
Lic. #MB6502

El Torero RESTAURANT

MICHAEL & BRADFORD HULTQUIST
MEXICAN SCANDINAVIANS
Proprietors
WE SERVE WONDERFUL MEXICAN FOOD
SELECTED WINES & BEER

231 E. 26th St. Tucson, Arizona

Open every day except Tuesday 622-9534

PAT O's BUNK HOUSE SALOON

Check us out the next time you're in Phoenix

cool patio. hot guys.

now open at 8am • happy hour until 8pm

bunkhousesaloon.com • 602.200.9154 • 4428 n 7th ave

Community Friendly
Family Owned & Operated for 37 Years

SERVICE 4TH AVENUE STATION Since 1979

Oil Changes * CV Boots *
Brakes * Air Conditioning *
Radiator Power Flush *
Transmission Rebuilding *
Fuel Injection * Carburator
Rebuilding * Suspensions *
Clutches * Vehicle Inspections
Cooling Systems * Diagnostic
Analysis * Maintenance Service
Gas and Tires.

Phone (520) 882-8095 • Fax (520) 670-1597
802 N. 4th Avenue • Tucson, Arizona 85705

Lawsuit: Anti-Gay Bullying Led To Son's Death

MENTOR, Ohio (Observer Update) - The parents of an Ohio High School student say their son would be alive today if the school had prevented bullies from tormenting him, advocate.com reported. In a federal lawsuit the parents of Eric Mohat allege that he regularly was called "Gay," "fag," "queer" and "homo" among other names and that the school did nothing to prevent it.

Eric Mohat

"This harassment and bullying took the form of constant name-calling, teasing and verbal intimidation in one particular class and constant pushing, shoving and hitting both in class and in hallways of the high school," court papers say. The lawsuit names the school district, administrators Jacqueline A. Hoynes and Joseph Spiccia, and math teacher Thomas M. Horvath. All have declined comment in the case. Mohat, 17 at the time, went home from school on March 27, 2007, put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. "On the day Eric committed suicide, one of the students who had been harassing him said to Eric, in front of other students and, by information and belief, in front of defendant Horvath, 'Why don't you go home and shoot yourself? No one would miss you,'" the lawsuit said.

"The defendants knew or should have known about this constant harassment," the lawsuit claims. "Defendant Horvath knew about the harassment because most of the verbal harassment and some of the physical harassment took place in his classroom during a math class that he taught and because Eric complained to him about the harassment."

"When you lose a child like this it destroys you in ways you can't even describe," Eric Mohat's father, Willaim Mohat, told ABC News. The lawsuit does not seek punitive damages. Instead it wants the school district to recognize the suicide as the result of homophobia and for the district to implement an anti-bullying program to prevent other similar tragedies. The Mohats claim that three other students at the school committed suicide in 2007.

A study by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, found that 47 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 year and only 41 percent said they felt very safe at school.

Bagging It Up For The Pope

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - The Pope's gonna be pissed: The International Women's Health Coalition is selling condoms challenging the pontiff's recent declaration that they "increase the problem" of AIDS.

According to the feminist blog Akimbo, the condoms – adorned with a picture of Pope Benedict XVI and a message above his image declaring, "I said no!" – the rubbers are selling like hot cakes in France.

Spain countered the pope's anti-condom statement in March by sending millions of condoms to AIDS-ravaged Africa.

Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Trickle Down

All of us here in the real world, the one where we work and work without seeing any increase in our largely fictional savings, have been wondering what it would be like to get a little of the star treatment that the big-paycheck guys on Wall Street have been enjoying. What happens for the big boys is they get paid plenty, get to keep it when the "company" goes broke...and the taxes? Well, they pay 'em, of course...they have a nice bit left over after rent and all that, so they can.....but they often cheat even there.

So the IRS has been prying into the private "offshore" accounts of the American wealthy, looking for undeclared riches to tax. They have prevailed against some of the most venerable Swiss institutions and are poised to seize assets from the guys that have them tucked away in that cold, Northern country. But the difference between us and them is that even though the IRS can now access the Secret Names attached to all those Secret Swiss accounts, instead of playing hardball the government is offering a sweet deal. If you have a pile of money somewhere that you "forgot" to report, the IRS is willing to forego most of the usual penalties and interest if you just send them a note confessing your "oversight". On top if that, they will graciously forget to prosecute.

You have six months to take advantage of this sweet deal. The amazing thing about this country is that the Sweet Deal has to apply to everyone, not just the rich.

Which means if you are one of the tens of thousands of small business "owners" that have been forgetting to file taxes because you haven't got any money and didn't bother to file bankruptcy because you aren't as sophisticated as, say, Ex-Presidente G.W. Bush, who's companies are reported to have filed bankruptcy multiple times, you get to go home "free".

Of course, J.P. is not a Tax Man and you should get online and see for yourself what the IRS has offered delinquent filers this season. As always, the letter of the law is the path to safety.

The government has extended a little "tax amnesty" to the wealthy...and we get to ride in on their coat-tails, so long as we do it within the six-month time limit.

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered & Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

BRIEFLY Q

SYRACUSE, New York (Observer Update) - A grand jury has indicted a Syracuse man on charges of murder as a hate crime in the killing of Latiesha Green, 20, last November on a city street. Green, who was still legally known by her birth name, Moses Cannon, was in the process of transitioning. The indictment names Dwight R. DeLee, 20. In addition to the murder and hate crime charges DeLee is charged with second-degree murder and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. ...

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) Playboy magazine's former fashion director claims he was fired because of his sexual orientation and his age, 365Gay.com reported. Joseph DeAcetis filed a lawsuit in Manhattan Supreme Court saying the magazine's editorial director "made fun" of him because he is Gay and his hair was gray. The lawsuit says that the editorial director referred to homosexuals as "girls." The 45-year-old DeAcetis became a staffer at Playboy in 2005. He says his duties were gradually given to a younger, straight male assistant and a straight female editor. Playboy Enterprises spokeswoman Elizabeth Austin says the company "takes these allegations very seriously" and has been investigating internally. ...

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - A national union official says that men in England and Wales are discouraged from pursuing careers as primary school teachers not only by poor pay but by fears that they will be perceived as Gay. "It's important that there are male role models in primary schools, but a lot of the time we don't see them," said Tony Souter, joint divisional secretary of the National Union of Teachers, as reported by the Coventry Telegraph. "They are worried that if they say they're a primary school teacher, people will think they're Gay. Some of the smaller primary schools in England and Wales have no male teachers at all, which the government is attempting to address through a new campaign aimed at men. The campaign emphasizes the rewards of teaching in primary school, improved classroom resources, and increasing levels of compensation.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - UC Hastings College of the Law can deny recognition and funding to a Christian student group because it excludes Gays, Lesbians and non-Christians, a federal appeals court ruled, sfgate.com reported.

The San Francisco law school is entitled to require official student organizations to "accept all comers as members, even if those individuals disagree with the mission of the group," the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled. It said the school's policy is "viewpoint-neutral" and does not violate the rights of the Christian Legal Society.

The brief ruling cited the court's decision last year allowing a Washington state high school to deny recognition to a student Bible club that required members to endorse its religious creed. The club has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review that case. Both rulings allow public schools to "require religious organizations to include people in their groups who disagree with what the religious groups believe," said attorney Jeremy Tedesco of the Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian legal organization that is involved in both cases on behalf of the student groups. "That's a violation of the First Amendment, free speech and freedom of religion."

RABAT, Morocco (Observer Update) - Socially conservative leaders in Morocco are blaming foreign elements for a controversial seminar on gender and sexuality scheduled to be held in the North African country in April, advocate.com reported. Kif Kif, a Moroccan Gay group, announced that it would hold the seminar to help people address issues they may be reluctant to discuss for religious and cultural reasons. Homosexual acts are illegal in the Muslim nation.

Sex researcher Hassan Serrat was among those who expressed skepticism that the Moroccan Gay community could organize such an event without foreign interference. "They are definitely getting foreign support, especially from British and Spanish Gay rights associations," he told AlArabiya.net. Serrat suggested the assistance was the result of Spanish anger at the arrests of Gay citizens in Morocco. "It seems the International Lesbian and Gay Association delegated the homosexuals of Spain to defend those of Morocco," he said.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association is a network of groups working to advance Gay rights throughout the world. A spokesperson for Kif Kif denied that the organization is receiving help from foreign partners.

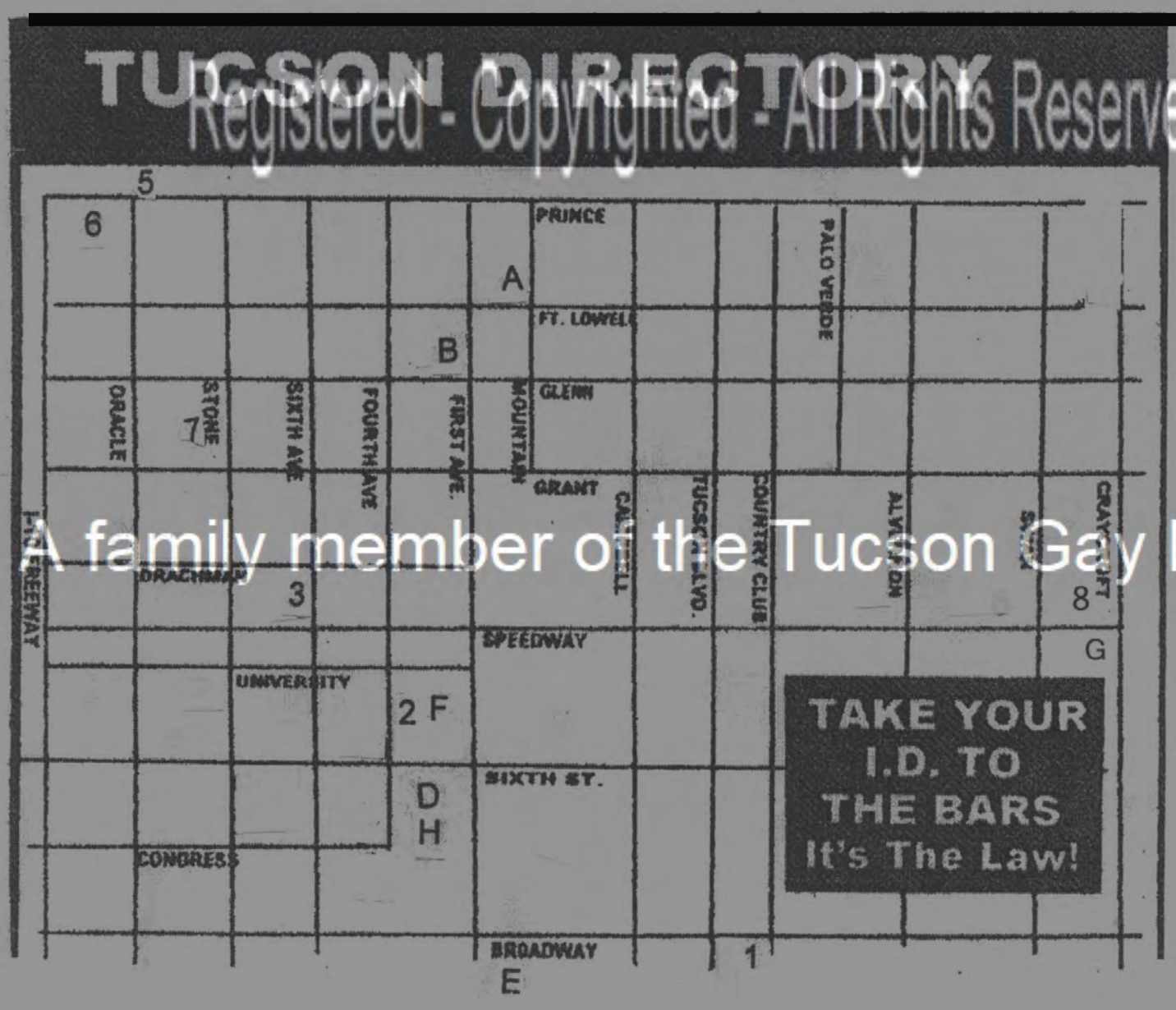
ALBANY, NY (Observer Update) - The Court of Appeals, the highest court in New York State, has agreed to hear arguments in two cases challenging the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in areas where they are legal, 365Gay.com reported.

Both cases were brought by the conservative Alliance Defense Fund which regularly challenges LGBT rights laws throughout the country. The two cases stem from an executive order in 2007 by then-Gov. Eliot Spitzer directing the Department of Civil Service in 2007 to extended health benefits to the same-sex spouses of state employees.

Last May, Gov. David Paterson issued an executive order recognizing the marriages of all New York same-sex couples who were wed in areas where they are legal. That order also is under court challenge by the ADF, but is not part of the cases being heard by the high court. In both cases, the court will hear that lower appeals courts have ruled that the executive order was legal.

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org

TUCSON DIRECTORY
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved



A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®

Community Bars

1. THE BIZ
   2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S
   616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N
   1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S
   3710 N. Oracle Rd, 292-6702
6. HOWL AT THE MOON
   915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. YARD DOG SALOON
   2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
   5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Organizations

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779

E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770

G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647

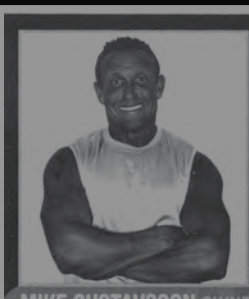
H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum©

MASSAGE
Alec Laughlin, LMT
See Special Rates And Discounts Online...
520.225.7982
8 Years in Tucson
92%
FREE JADE DRAGON in APRIL!
JADE DRAGON MUSCLE GEL
www.somatherapist.com

Eveland Home Improvement
Reliable Home Services
General Repair & Maintenance
Interior & Exterior Painting
Landscape & Yard Work
Roof Repair, Ceiling Fans & More
Bonded, Not Licensed
Steve Eveland
Handyman
18 Yrs. Experienced
Tucson, Arizona 85705
Phone 520-408-7022



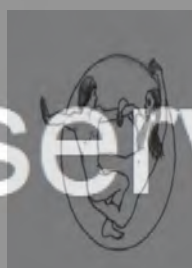
VALHALLA PHYSIQUE
PERSONAL LIFE COACHING
MIKE GUSTAVSSON OWNER
(520) 304-4404
valhallaphysique@gmail.com
• CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER
• NUTRITION CONSULTANT
• MASSAGE THERAPIST
• BODY COACH

Zimmermann Chiropractic
50% Off
Initial visit
Student & Military Disc.
2272 E. Speedway Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85719
CALL NOW: 520.326.9355

ARCHITIQUE HOMES, INC.
Call:
Neil Snyder
Betty Campbell
2561 E. Fort Lowell Rd.
Suite 2
Tucson, AZ 85716
Free Estimates
• REMODELING
• ADDITIONS
• NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION
In Business Since 1985
520-323-8855

NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIAN
BETTER HEALTH, BETTER MEDICINE™
20% Off
Initial visit
PAIN RELIEF ~ WEIGHT LOSS
FAT DEPOSIT DISSOLVE
2272 E. Speedway Blvd. Tucson, AZ 85719
520.326.9355

Richard M. Schickel
Be Healed, Be Happy!
Psychic/Spiritual Healer
Readings
Past Life Hypnotherapy
House Blessings and Clearings
520-668-3243
http://richardschickel.vpweb.com



JON THE HANDYMAN
Can do: Home, Office cleaning, Yard-Work!
You name it.....
CALL:
Phone: 619-977-6012
GEMINI--Handyman services.....

BEST PRICE PARTY SOUNDS
by DJ JOSH / Josh
Josh Krugjohann
Owner/DJ
• Commitment Ceremonies
• Pool Parties
• Birthdays
• Corporate Parties
• Christmas Celebrations
• Theme Parties
phone (520) 398-6497
cell (619) 993-9717
Josh@BestPricePartySounds.com

It's a great time to buy a home...
Buy a home with $100 down!
HUD is currently offering a special program for buyers of HUD owned properties. Properties are limited, call for the details.
First time home buyers, call about the federal tax credit of up to $8,000 and Down payment assistance grants!
CALL Mike at 272-6959
Century 21 CENTRA REALTY
Call Mike Pollock
REALTOR®
272-6959

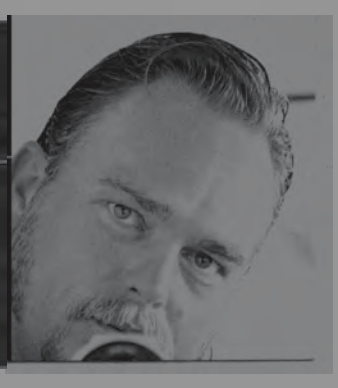
Charles Weasner
REALTOR® GRI
(520) 906-8103
Steve Redmond
REALTOR®
(520) 548-2096
Uptown, Downtown, ALL around the Valley!
LONG REALTY COMPANY
TucsonFoothillsLiving.com

DUI SR-22
MIKE PIERCE INSURANCE
FREE QUOTES
888-8888
AUTO, LIFE, HOME, MEDICAL
COMMERCIAL, PROPERTIES, CONTRACTORS BONDINGS

Presidio
Hair and Nail Salon
Ed Thibeault
985 N. Alvernon
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 321-9626

RICH MUSZYNSKI Ph.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
520.906.7048 Phone
520.296.8157 Fax
5956 E. Pima, Suite 130
Tucson, AZ 85712

4400 Hair Salon
Greg Yedding
Hair Designer / Stylist
520-322-5858
azspyder@msn.com
4400 E. Broadway Suite 106
Tucson, Az 85711



Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Inc
Kayla R. Boyer, DVM
Small Animal Veterinarian
(520) 321-4235
3736 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716
www.speedwayvet.com

Joel
Color, Highlights, Cuts
4400
Hair Salon
4400 Broadway/Swan
322-5858

FUNERARIAS DEL ANGEL
Hay un ángel cerca de usted
Ricardo "Richard" Hernandez
Manager/Funeral Arranger
Funeraria Del Angel
7 E. University Blvd.
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-624-3685
Fax 520-624-9185
ricardo.hernandez@sci-us.com
Dignity
Mention this ad get 7% discount on SERVICES

A. Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.
Counseling - Psychotherapy - Consulting
6812 North Oracle Rd. Suite 100
Tucson, Arizona 85704 520-797-2117

Nikolaus Groesser
REALTOR®
520.918.5216
nikg@longrealty.com
LONG REALTY COMPANY

TUCSON GLBT
Chamber Of Commerce
Inclusive ▼ Engaged ▼ Professional
P. O. Box13312
Tucson, AZ 85732
info@tucsonglbtchamber.org
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

Michigan Ruling Protects Kids Adopted By G/L Parents

DETROIT, MI - The Detroit News reports on a landmark Michigan appeals court ruling that not only protects all the children of the state's Gay parents but also stands as an important legal guidepost for courts elsewhere. The appeals court affirmed that the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause requires that states respect each other's adoption decrees.

With the constitutions of 29 states banning either Gay marriage or any type of legal recognition for same-sex couples, the Michigan court drew an important line: Such a ban targets relationships between adults. But adoption remains a relationship between an adult and a child, and states must honor adoption decrees. In late December, the Ohio Supreme Court rejected a Lesbian's argument that Ohio's anti-Gay amendment invalidated a court-approved custody agreement she had signed with her partner before their breakup. And in 2007, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit struck down Oklahoma's "Adoption Invalidation Law," which refused to recognize out-of-state adoptions by "more than one individual of the same sex." Oklahoma also was ordered to give a child who had been born there a birth certificate listing both of her California adoptive mothers as her parents.

Detroit News reporter Deb Price writes, "Regardless of whether states are ready to respect Gay couples, they have a responsibility to protect adopted children. And that, as the Michigan court concluded, means honoring their ties to their legal parents."

Tucson Observer Archive

Milk On A Postage Stamp

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - The Bay Area Reporter on efforts to have a postage stamp issued featuring artist Jim Leff's portrait of Harvey Milk.

Daniel Drent, an openly Gay man who lives in Cincinnati, is coordinating the effort to convince the U.S. Postal Service's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a Milk stamp. He would like to have approval of the stamp to coincide with what would have been Milk's 80th birthday on May 22 in 2010.

Should the committee select the Milk stamp next year, it would not be released until 2012 at the earliest. 'I think this proposed version of the stamp is a wonderful representation of Harvey. It shows his charm and personality in his face, and the rainbow colors for the USA, signify the LGBT movement,' wrote Drent in an e-mail after being shown Leff's artwork. 'I would be thrilled to submit this design to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee when I submit the letter to request this long deserved honor for Harvey Milk.' ...This is the second time a push has been made to see a Milk stamp be issued. In 2005 San Francisco's 11-member Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution calling on the postmaster general to issue a Milk stamp."

tucsonobserverarchives.org

e-Harmony Launches G/L Matchmaking Service

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - The heterosexual dating website agreed to start Compatible Partners for same-sex couples as part of the settlement of a discrimination suit. EHarmony comes out of the closet, the Los Angeles Times reported.

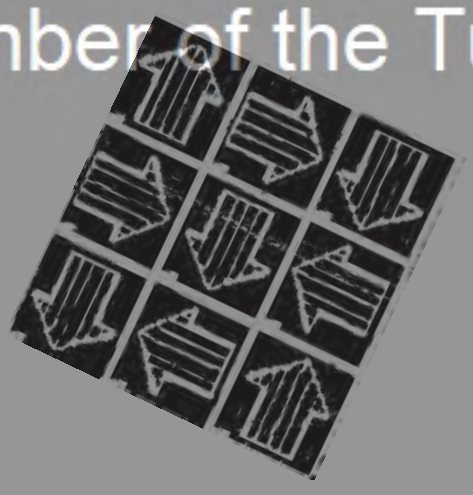
The adamantly heterosexual dating website, which has accepted only male-female couples since its inception in 2000, is launching a Gay matchmaking service called Compatible Partners. But EHarmony's new relationship with the Gay community is more like a shotgun wedding: The company agreed in November to start the dating service as part of a settlement with the New Jersey attorney general in the wake of a discrimination suit.

Dating site consultant Mark Brooks says Compatible Partners will be watched closely. "This will be one of the most scrutinized products in Internet dating," said Brooks, who hasn't worked for EHarmony. "They will have to introduce an A1 product." It's not a comfortable fit for EHarmony's founder, Neil Clark Warren, who based the original service – which requires applicants to fill out lengthy questionnaires – on his own practice as a psychologist. "It's what I did for 40 years," said Warren, 74, who is retired but remains on the board. "I never had a Gay couple." Warren is the former dean of the psychology graduate school at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. Much of the early promotion of EHarmony was done by well-known figures in the evangelical community, some of whom preach against Gay rights.

As part of the settlement, Pasadena-based EHarmony must make a "good-faith commitment" to promoting Compatible Partners. But the company seems as nervous as the groom at a rehearsal dinner, insisting that the only on-the-record interview be with Chief Executive Greg Waldorf. That interview was canceled when the company learned Warren had spoken with The Times.

Reproduced Online With All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©



Come Home with Troy...
and I'll donate 10% of my net income generated by this ad to your favorite charity.
520.955.3634
TROY GOODWIN
A World of Experience Right Here in Tucson
COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
Owned and Operated by NRT LLC
www.ISellTucsonRealEstate.com

Assisted Living
"Home With Heart"
We offer a private home providing services by experienced people who care and understand:
* PRIVATE ROOM
* PERSONAL CARE
* HOME COOKED MEALS
* TRANSPORTATION
* ACTIVITIES
* SPECIAL SERVICES UPON REQUEST
Call Janet to arrange personal tour and interview
(520) 272-1206 - (520) 546-7541

ON-SITE COMPUTER REPAIR
Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting, Inc.
WE FIX PCs AND MACs!
Repair - Maintenance - Networking - Upgrades- Webhosting - Web design
Computer running slow?
Popups?
Virus?
Adware or Spyware?
New hardware?
Want to share your internet connection?
(520) 312-2630
We'll save you time, money and frustration!
We come to you!
A+ Certified
7 years experience!

Hair By Hunter
A Mobile Hair Service
Why leave the house! We come to you!
Hunter Johnson (520) 370-1625

LGBT Protections Bill Dies In The North Dakota House

BISMARCK, ND (Observer Update) - Representatives in the North Dakota House have voted to leave Gays and Lesbians exposed to discrimination. Lawmakers voted 54 to 34 to reject a measure that sought to ban discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation, On Top Magazine reported.

Senate Bill 2278 was introduced by Senator Tom Fiebiger, a Democrat from Fargo, on January 19 and won approval by the Republican-led Senate by a 27-19 vote. Fiebiger, the father of a Gay son, told The Concordian that passage of a Gay protections law had become his "passion" in recent years. The bill defined sexual orientation as the "actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, or gender identity" of a person. The term "gender expression" appeared in the original draft of the bill but looks to have been removed in the final reading. Religious groups would have been exempt from the law's provisions.

Opponents said the law would have meant a state endorsement of a "lifestyle choice." "[Being Gay or Lesbian] is not something that you're born with, that you have no choice in," said Rep. Robin Weisz, a Republican from Hurdsfield, told the AP. "It is a behavior, and it is a lifestyle choice." The Focus on the Family-related North Dakota Family Alliance said the bill would "provide for special status, not equality" and would be "detrimental" to religious liberties and organizations. Other opponents took aim at the bill's inclusion of Transgender people, arguing such protections would allow sexual predators access to children. Republicans hold a nearly 2-to-1 majority in the House.

Federal Lawsuits Allege Chicago Police Officer Harasses G/L Citizens

CHICAGO, IL (Observer Update) - Four federal lawsuits were filed against Chicago Police Officer Richard Fiorito. This in addition to three existing lawsuits claiming Fiorito targets Gays and Lesbians with "falsified DUI charges", regularly berates motorists with homophobic slurs and uses excessive force. According to the Windy City Times and the Chicago-based Gay Liberation Network, Fiorito "consistently ranks near the top of the list for DUI arrests for all Illinois cops" and the arrest pattern is an "ongoing scheme to rake in overtime pay for court appearance."

The lawsuits were announced in the lobby of the Dirksen Federal Court Building, where community leaders, victims and their attorneys were present. Fiorito's excessive pattern was detailed in a statement by attorney Jon Erickson and the GLN. Officer Richard Fiorito allegedly rang up false charges so frequently against Lesbian and Gay drivers in the heart of the Gay North Halsted entertainment district that out of his earshot, his fellow officers disparaged the charges to the people he pulled over.

According to several of Fiorito's victims, the transport officer from the 23rd to the 19th Districts routinely informs defendants that "Fiorito is an overtime whore and the arrestee should get a lawyer." No official action has been taken to curb Fiorito, 60, who is assigned to the 23rd District "Town Hall" police station at Addison and Halsted. Fiorito is among the state's highest writers of DUI tickets and arrested over 300 people for DUI last year.

In two separate cases of Lesbians arrested by Fiorito, the lock-up officers at the Belmont and Western 19th District station made entries on the arrest report that directly contradict Officer Fiorito's account.. In one report, the lock-up officer wrote that the subject was "not under the influence of alcohol/drugs," and that "Chicago Police Officer Neita was unable to detect the smell of alcohol coming from subject." In another report, the lock-up officer wrote, "arrestee entered women's lockup she seems to be fine at this time is speaking clearly."

Attorney Jon Erickson says "these cases are just the tip of the iceberg" and as many as "11 more similar suits" will be filed against Fiorito over the next six weeks.

Hate Crime Charge Tossed In Brooklyn Murder Case

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (Observer Update) - As closing arguments take place in the trial of Omar Willock, the accused killer of Gay 20-year-old Roberto Duncanson (pictured), the case's judge tossed the hate crime charge against Willock, according to New York's Gay City News, reported advocate.com.

Willock's defense team was pushing for the charge to be dropped, which would have increased the minimum prison he faced if convicted. Now, if found guilty, Willock could be charged with second-degree murder or first-degree manslaughter. Judge Neil Firetog removed the charge, saying, "I've decided as a matter of law the hate crime case is not made out. I think it was a contributing factor, but under the law it has to be a substantial factor."

A jury is deciding whether it was Willock or his twin brother, Omari Willock, who murdered Duncanson, who was stabbed to death in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood in 2007. Testimony hinges on that of Belinda Toon, who identified Omar Willock as the man who argued with Duncanson just after midnight on May 12. Allegedly, Willock repeatedly called Duncason a "faggot" as he followed him down St. Marks Avenue. The two came to blows before Duncanson was stabbed four times in the back, and later died at Kings County Hospital.

POET'S CORNER

ZERO'S

by Ron Rose - Tucson

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

Personal Injury?

SHOWARD Law Firm
(520) 622-3344 • toll free (866) 307-2147 • fax (520) 327-1667
Auto Injury
Medical Malpractice
Premises Liability
Products Liability
Sarah J. Showard
Attorney at Law
Bank of America Building
33 North Stone, Suite 1430
Tucson, Arizona 85701

IN THE MIDDLE
of a major life change
WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

If you're between jobs, in school, or starting your own business, don't sweat it. I have plans from Assurant Health designed with your needs in mind. To find out more about short term, student or individual medical coverage, call me today.

Dan Kalm
2632 N Campbell Ave
Tucson, Arizona 85719
520-795-0231 Office
520-795-0758 Fax
dan@dankalm.com

See a local State Farm agent for more details on coverage, costs, restrictions, and renewability. Assurant Health products are underwritten and issued by Time Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, which is financially responsible for these products. No member of the State Farm family of companies is financially responsible for these products. Assurant, Assurant Health and Time Insurance Company are not affiliates of State Farm.

ASSURANT Health

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR
STATE FARM INSURANCE
STATE FARM IS THERE.®

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com®

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A Publication Member of the Tucson Gay Museum

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, $5.00 MINIMUM

MASSAGE

FULL BODY MASSAGE FOR A MAN by a Man. $40/hr. Discreet. West Tucson - Kinney & Ajo. 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Call Darvin 520-404-0901. 1291

QUITE AMAZING MASSAGE by an athletic, masculine man for men. Tucson Mall area. $49/hour, $110 outcall. 12pm-10pm. David, 520-891-5004 1289

MATURE MASSEUR offers pain relief, stress relief massage. 9am - 9pm daily. $49/hour. 10 years experience. Near UofA., St. Mary's Hospital, Downtown. Dick, 520-331-3350 1288

RELAXING FULL MASSAGE. I work with the pressure that feels good for you. 30 min. east of Tucson. Roger 520-971-5884. 1292

BETTER THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE & Bold TANTRIC SESSIONS ! My sensitive touch gives you an exceptional experience ! Creating a sacred space, for 27 years. Call Marc - 881-4582 (8 AM - 8 PM. Professionally trained -Touching in Tucson since 1983. 1293

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS
Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson . 1295

WANTED

FREE STORAGE SPACE IN TUCSON urgently needed. Either in a private dry basement, garage or elsewhere for Gay publisher's back file of books (many non-profit). Locked space and access for the curator of books is essential. The space needed, including working space, is equivalent to about 1/3 or a garage. Person/group offering space will receive 30 different complimentary books. Please call 520-884-9355 for more information.

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

Re: **In Re: Petition of Deborah Cornelius for the Adoption of Madeline Nichole O'Neal and Connor Michael O'Neal** In the Superior Court of DeKalb County. Case No.: 08 AD 1712-8

To: Father (Donnie Kellog) of the above named minor children:

You are hereby notified that the above-styled action, **Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and for Adoption**, was filed against you in said court on October 16, 2008, and that by reason of an Order for service of summons by publication entered by the court on, you are hereby commanded and required to file with the clerk of court and serve up **Phyllis R. Williams,** Petitioner's attorney, whose address is **315 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Suite 321, Decatur, Georgia, 30030,** an answer to the complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of the order for service by publication.

Water of Life
Metropolitan Community Church
The Rev. William H. Knight, D.D., **Interim Pastor**
"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." Sydney Smith, (1771-1845)
Sunday Worship: 10:15am Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.
3269 North Mountain Avenue
Tucson AZ 85719
(Just North of Ft. Lowell)
292-9151
www.wolmcc.org

CALL•CRUISE CONNECT™
SO MANY GUYS - Listen & Reply to Ads FREE!
MEGA phone
Tucson
520.791.2345
Phoenix
602.993.4567
480.505.1011
623.298.3500
FREE code 4270
CALL NOW!
For other cities call
(888) MegaMates
Where FREE Means FREE!™
- FREE to create a profile
- FREE to record a personal ad
- FREE to listen to public ads
- FREE to send messages
- FREE to accept chat requests
- FREE to accept calls from users
- FREE to receive message alerts

& So Much More . . .
MegaMates.com®
VISIT US ONLINE
24/7 Friendly Customer Care 1(888)MegaMates 18+ ©2008 PC LLC

Why The Pro-LGBT Movement Should Welcome Religion

(By the Rev. Rebecca Voelkel National Religious Leadership Roundtable)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Anti-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) ballot initiative efforts have caused a furor in the pro-LGBT movement, and much of it has to do with religion and its role in our community – both in our pro-LGBT efforts and in those efforts against our community.

As LGBT religious folks, we often find ourselves in the midst of a squeeze-play between our religious communities and our colleagues in the secular LGBT movement. But, I believe that we, as LGBT religious folks, have a unique and powerful role to play.

In particular, our movement, as it engages our opponents who are overwhelmingly religious, must claim the theological and moral authority of our pro-LGBT voice. Justice and equal protection under the law are more than legal questions, they are moral questions. And they spring from deeply rooted religious understandings of how God or the divine has created all and blesses all and calls upon all to respect, dignity and love. Thus, it is critical – both to winning campaigns and to building a stronger and more vibrant movement – to have religious voices, spiritual voices speaking with moral and theological authority as to the rightness and the justice of our efforts.

Secondly, as we look around the world and throughout history, we see that successful movements for justice have had a spiritual power that was more than the rightness of a legal argument.

In the book Gandhi and Jesus: The Saving Power of Nonviolence, Terrence J. Rynne lifts up the fact that there were four major movements in the 20th century that have radically transformed their societies through the use of Gandhian nonviolence. They are the civil rights movement in this country, the solidarity movement in Poland, the movement that deposed Marcos in the Philippines and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. In each of these, people of faith were at the core and the methodology of Jesus and other religious traditions were woven throughout the movements.

The key to this Gandhian/spiritual approach is that of recognizing the humanity of all involved in any given situation. Both the oppressor and the oppressed have their humanity devastated. To transform oppression is to liberate all involved. This recognition of the humanity of all means that that which is created beyond the dismantling of the oppression has the possibility of being life-giving, not just a change in who is oppressor and who is oppressed.

For the LGBT movement – particularly the religious LGBT community – this Gandhian wisdom can be a guiding light.

But I worry about our larger LGBT movement. We often seek to be transformative of our world without recognizing the spiritual transformation that is necessary within our ranks.

Particularly as we move toward and amongst a spiritual season within many religious traditions – approaching the pagan marking of Equinox, in the midst of the Christian practice of Lent, the Jewish preparations which lead to Passover, the upcoming celebration, for some Muslims, of Milad un Nabi, the approaching marking of Magha Puja Day for Buddhists and many others – can our larger LGBT movement join hands with its religious and spiritual colleagues to be about the spiritually transformative work that is ours?

(The Rev. Rebecca Voelkel is the Institute for Welcoming Resources and faith work director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.)

KXCI COMMUNITY RADIO
Request Line
622-5924
KXCI.ORG
91.3 FM TUCSON

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered Copyrights - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO – a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)829-0117 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 of visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/ potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COPPER RAINBOW BISTRO at David's Oasis Camping Resort, Bisbee, AZ 520-979-6650
www.azgaycamping.com
Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member $15.00
Bar Hours:
*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $100 off.
*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at $1.00

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. EDAN...Exotic dancer appreciation night. DJ spins Hip Hop & R&B and all request dance. $5.25 drink specials.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. $3.50 Skyy Cocktails, $2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open noon- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

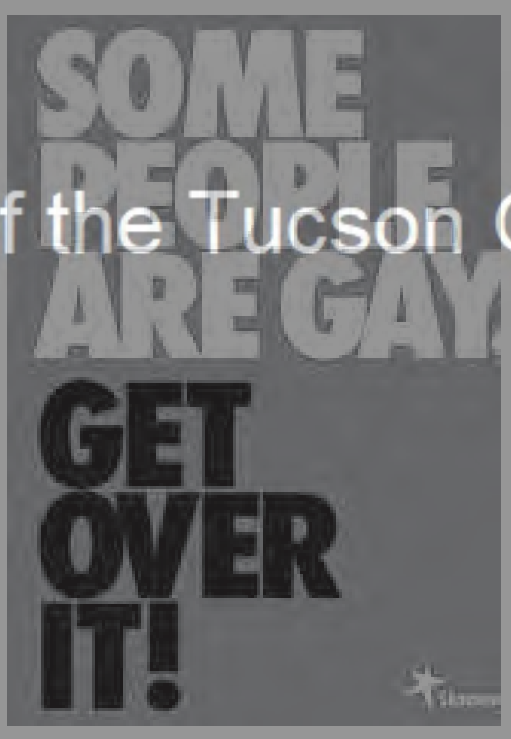
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

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

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

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



BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, April 10

THE BIZ - It's a Circus Party! Specials guests include the Transaction Dance Troupe, DJ Motion, Mother Tierra, Dragstar Cabaret, Diva and much more. 9:00 until 2:00 a.m. Get here early .

WOODY'S - Have an April Birthday? Celebrate it here.. Cake, Balloons and champagne toast.

Saturday, April 11

COYOTE Moon Pub - Birthday Party for all born in April. Celebrate with Two Sons playing classic rock and blues..

Sunday, April 12

WOODY'S - Easter Party with a special full day of partying to raise funds for Wingspan. Drink specials, raffles, giveaways and Easter Egg Hunt. Then at 9:00 p.m., 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 row 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 Wingspan.

Wednesday, April 15

COYOTE MOON - Karaoke is back with entertainment by Y-Not.

Thursday, April 16

WOODY'S - Cover Girl Revue at 10:00 p.m. Starring Tori Steels.

tucsonobserverarchives.org
Tucson Observer Archives
A Community Member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©
Copyright All Rights Reserved

COMMENTARY. . .

Iowa Marriage Equality: What Now?

DES MOINES, IA (Observer Update) - As quickly as eyes could finish scanning the 69-page ruling from the Iowa supreme court that struck down the law banning same-sex marriage, conversation turned to what happens next for marriage equality in the Hawkeye State, and in the nation.

The most immediate reaction among marriage-equality supporters in Iowa this morning seemed to be one of joy, and relief. "When all is said and done, we believe the only lasting question about today's events will be why it took us so long," said state senate majority leader Mike Gronstal and house speaker Pat Murphy, both Democrats, in a statement.

In its unanimous ruling, the court maintained that the Iowa statute limiting civil marriage to a union between a man and a woman violates the equal protection clause of the Iowa constitution. Same-sex couples may begin to marry in Iowa on April 24, and since Iowa's marriage law has no residency restriction, out-of-state Gay couples will be eligible for Iowa marriage licenses as well.

In the weeks ahead, attention will turn to the state legislature, where marriage-equality opponents and the minority Republican leadership are already calling for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Such an amendment would require approval in consecutive legislative sessions and in a public vote, which means marriage-equality opponents will have to wait until 2012.

Despite the lag in time, marriage-equality leaders say it is important to act now to strengthen support for the court decision among legislators and the public. "In Iowa, the immediate work is supporting the elected officials in their effort to stand by this decision," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry. "They're going to come under tremendous pressure to overturn it."

Attitudes toward marriage equality in Iowa also matter. According to the Des Moines Register, a poll in February 2008 showed that 62% of Iowans said they believed marriage should only be between a man and a woman. State residents were split on whether the constitution should be changed to ban same-sex marriage, however. "The further work in Iowa over the weeks and months ahead is helping the rest of the people in Iowa to see that families are helped and no one is hurt by the decision," said Wolfson.

From a national perspective, leaders expressed optimism that the ruling from the Iowa supreme court could affect the pending decision on the validity of Proposition 8, the ballot initiative that repealed last May's marriage-equality ruling in California. A decision on Prop. 8, as well as the 18,000 same-sex marriages that were performed while the institution remained legal in California, is expected by June 3.

"In addition to being happy for the families in Iowa, we are also very happy because this really strengthens our Prop. 8 challenge," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights and lead counsel for the effort to overturn Prop. 8. "The Iowa supreme court really focused on why equal protection is so central to the Iowa constitution and Iowa's government. That is really the essence of our argument in the Prop. 8 case," Minter said.

In fact, some say, the court decision in Iowa, as well as recent votes in favor of marriage equality in the New Hampshire and Vermont legislatures, suggest a growing backlash against Prop. 8. "I think Prop. 8 was a wake-up call to a lot of people who were complacent or on the sidelines and who didn't really do enough," says Wolfson. "And I think there is a greater determination now on the part of many nonGay and Gay people to take action and not let this drift in by itself."

G/L Group Disbands: 'Work Is Done'

HARTFORD, CT (Observer Update) Saying its work is done, a Connecticut LGBT rights group will disband at the end of the year, 365Gay.com reported. For a decade Love Makes A Family fought for adoption rights for Gay and Lesbian couples and for same-sex marriage rights in the state.

Last year, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have the right to wed in Connecticut. The state's 2005 civil union law doesn't give same-sex couples equal status of married heterosexual couples, the court said. The lawsuit was brought by the Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the same group that won marriage equality in Massachusetts.

But it was Love Makes a Family that was instrumental in swaying politicians and the public. The legislature currently is in the processes of passing a bill updating dozens of state laws to conform with the court ruling. "We accomplished our core purpose, and we want to end on a high note," Anne Stanback, executive director of Love Makes a Family, told a news conference. Stanback made the announcement surrounded by members of the group and beside a huge picture of a Gay couple slicing a wedding cake. Stanback said that even though Love Makes a Family will officially disband, it will maintain a political action committee to endorse LGBT-positive candidates.

The bill to harmonize state law with the high court marriage ruling was approved by the Judiciary Committee on a 30-10 vote. It now heads to a vote by the Senate.

The omnibus bill would remove gender references in current state laws and transform same-sex civil unions into legally recognized marriages as of October 2010.

The measure also would strip language from a 1991 state anti-discrimination law that says Connecticut does not condone Gay marriage and will not set quotas for hiring Gay workers or encourage teaching in school about "same-sex lifestyles."

Tucson Observer Archive
tucsonobserverarchive.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©