



Tucson Observer Archives

Egg Roll Madness Ensues



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Thousands of kids ran amok on the south lawn of the White House for the annual Easter Egg Roll, and among them were the rainbow lei-clad kids of about 110 LGBT-led families who have traveled from states like Minnesota, South Carolina, New York, and California, reported [advocate.com](#).

"We told our rabbi we're not going as Jews, we're going as Lesbians," said Kim Bergman, who came from the Golden State with her partner, Natalie Bergman, and their kids Abby and Jenna, who are 13 and 10. "It's not about Easter for us. It's about being in the shadow of the White House as an invited guest."

The White House Office of Public Liaison reached out to Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council, several weeks ago to indicate they were interested in "making sure there was a diverse representation at the Egg Roll," according to Chrisler. FEC was issued 10 tickets, and sources say at least 5 other LGBT equality organizations received 10 tickets each, though a White House spokesperson would not confirm the actual number.

Bergman said the invitation from the White House was a welcome treat for her kids, who were old enough to understand the implications of the Proposition 8 vote banning same-sex marriage in their state. On election night, her kids had stayed up long enough to see Barack Obama get elected and then went to bed. "My eldest woke up the next morning, and the first thing out of her mouth was, 'Prop. 8?'" Bergman said, adding that Abby had actively tracked the issue and phone-banked for defeat of the measure. "It's great, especially in

light of Prop. 8, to have my kids feel a renewed affirmation."

Although the couple does not have a circle of Gay families around them, they have formed a strong support network with straight families on the island who stood firmly behind Starling's successful bid last year to win a seat on the school board. Prior to the election, an anonymous "concerned parent" circulated a letter warning other parents not to vote for Starling because of his sexuality and questionable morals. "It caused a backlash," he said. "A number of parents contacted me to say they were supportive. It was really surprising. We weren't expecting that."

Perhaps the biggest difference in this year's Egg Roll from past years' events is the lack of controversy surrounding the inclusion of LGBT-led families. "In 2006 a lot of people were really questioning what we were going to be doing there - whether we were there to protest, whether we would be holding up signs, whether we were going to borrow kids to get in," says Alisa Surkis, who along with her partner, Colleen Gillespie, first hatched the idea of organizing a Gay migration to the annual White House event three years ago. "That doesn't really seem to be a question now. I think everyone understands that we're families and we just want to go and have fun with our kids." The Brooklyn couple embarked on the journey this year with their two daughters - Ella, 6, and Zelda, 2 - along with a certain sense of satisfaction in having accomplished their original mission. "We just wanted our families to be seen," Surkis said, "and for the Administration now to be reaching out to our families feels pretty good."

Obama Administration Launches Campaign To Re- Focus Attention on HIV/AIDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Obama White House, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention have announced today a new five-year national communication campaign to combat complacency about the HIV/AIDS crisis in the United States, reported [365Gay.com](#). CDC data show that every 9-and-a-half minutes another person in America becomes infected with HIV. About 56,000 Americans become newly infected with HIV each year, according to the data released last year. The figures were significantly higher than in previous CDC reports.

Each year, more than 14,000 people die of AIDS and AIDS-related diseases. The new campaign has been dubbed "Act Against AIDS" "Act Against AIDS seeks to put the HIV crisis back on the national radar screen," said Melody Barnes, Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. "Our goal is to remind Americans that HIV/AIDS continues to pose a serious health threat in the United States and encourage them to get the facts they need to take action for themselves and their communities."

The campaign will feature public service announcements and online communications, as well as targeted messages and outreach to the populations most severely affected by HIV/AIDS, beginning with

African-Americans, with subsequent phases focusing on Latinos and other communities disproportionately impacted. To help achieve widespread use of the campaign messages within African-American communities, the Obama Administration also announced the "Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative," a partnership with 14 of the nation's leading African-American civic organizations to integrate HIV prevention into each organization's outreach programs. To promote broad use of the campaign messages, the CDC said it will collaborate with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation to focus on outreach and technical assistance to the media and the entertainment industry.

The Act Against AIDS campaign will be supported by a CDC budget of roughly \$45 million over the next five years, as well as the efforts of community, media, and public health partners across the country to promote and utilize campaign materials and messages.

"Right here in the United States, every 9 1/2 minutes someone's brother, sister, best friend, father or mother becomes infected with HIV," said Jeffrey Crowley, Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. "Yet, research shows that many of those becoming infected do not recognize their risk. This is a major concern, because lack of knowledge contributes to increased risk behaviors."

Gay West Rides Again On Saturday, April 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's outdoor fun fund raiser, Gay West, is now held in the cooler month of April at Old Tucson Movie Studios, 201 S Kinney Rd., Tucson. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the gate. Special VIP tickets, which include VIP seating and a reception with Lady Bunny, Neil Giuliano (former mayor of Tempe and GLAAD executive director) and Ruthie & Connie, and Lucinda Holliday are \$50. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, and continue until the last cowboy and cowgirl have hung up their chaps.

Gay West 2009 is bigger, better, and cooler than ever, with an entertainment lineup that features outrageous drag shows by two female impersonator icons: New York City's nationally-recognized Lady Bunny, and Tucson's own inimitable Lucinda Holliday.

A special VIP ticket (\$50) includes a hosted reception with Humanitarian Award winners Neil Giuliano and "Ruthie and Connie" (as seen in "Every Room in the House" on LOGO) as well as International drag star Lady Bunny and Tucson's own

Lucinda Holliday, and VIP seating for the shows. Tickets are \$18 at the gate and just \$15 in advance, before April 22nd at Wingspan (425 E 7th St) or Antigone Books (411 N 4th Ave at 7th St.) or online at the [GayWest2009.com](#).

The lineup also includes Old Tucson Studios' stunt shows, 'Hypno' Joe, a Hi NRG Dance Saloon, mechanical bull riding, great food and drinks, and much more!

"For over 20 years, Wingspan has been providing opportunities for Southern Arizona's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to come together and rejoice in all its glorious diversity," said Jason Cianciotto, executive director, Wingspan. "Gay West 2009 will be bigger, better, and cooler than ever as we celebrate with our community at Old Tucson Studios."



UPDATE

AGRA Co-Directors Announced

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - At its monthly membership meeting on March 8, the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A.) announced the selection of two co-directors for the RoadRunner Regional Rodeo in 2010.

The A.G.R.A. Board of Directors selected George Immerso and Dan Iversen as co-directors for next year's event. George has previously served as Assistant Rodeo Director for three years. Dan is a Founding Member of A.G.R.A. and has served the association as Rodeo Director and as President.

During the meeting, George and Dan reminded attendees that the RoadRunner Regional Rodeo will celebrate its Silver Anniversary when the event takes place Presidents' Day weekend, February 12-14, 2010. A.G.R.A. hosted its first rodeo in 1985, 25 years ago. They also reminded people to stop by the A.G.R.A. booth at this year's Phoenix Pride Festival, April 18-19. A.G.R.A. will also be participating in the Pride Parade that weekend.

Groups or individuals interested in more information about the upcoming rodeo should contact George Immerso at rrrrodeodir2010@aol.com or at 480-628-4949. They can also contact Dan Iversen at divey73@aol.com or at 602-769-0293.

LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund's Event 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.

Reveille Concert 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, 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/.

Upcoming Events At Antigone Books

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us for an event at Antigone Books, located at 411 North Fourth Avenue, Friday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m., for the following:

Mary Ellen Barnes will discuss her new book, *The Road to Mount Lemmon: A Father, A Family, and the Making of Summerhaven* (U of A Press, \$17.95). This beguiling illustrated memoir of the Catalina Mountains is told by the daughter of one of the pioneers in the life and development of Mount Lemmon's communities. Barnes' father resigned from teaching in 1943 to devote his career to the development of this mountain oasis. He sold real estate, bought the village's tiny two-room store, installed a sawmill to build a larger store, and built the Mount Lemmon Inn. As Barnes spins her father's personal saga, she also gives readers a glimpse of the Catalinas before Tucson became a boom town, recalling adventures in the wild country, amid the local cowboys, rangers, ranchers and loggers.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

OZ Kick Off Party May 14

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 and 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).

Desert Voices Spring Concerts April 18-19

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. A former Desert Voices accompanist, Namoli returns for, "Out and Proud", a celebration of 20 years of community performance featuring music that commemorates the heritage, history and so many of the inspiring moments that have become hallmarks of all Desert Voices' concerts.

Some of the selections will pay a musical tribute to GALA, the international association of LGBT Choruses and its 25 years of fostering artistic and organizational development for over 170 member choruses and almost 10,000 vocalists worldwide. Tickets are still available and as a special thank you to our audiences for their 20 years of generous support, Desert Voices is offering an additional 20% discount on tickets for groups of 10 or more. Just make reservations before April 18th. For ticket information, please call, (520) 791-9662 or visit their website: desertvoices.org. Tickets are also available at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave.

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



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



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The Observer

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wingspan

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4 - 8 pm

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Mamma Mia Starting April 21

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.

Donate To The Observer

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 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. The paper has been financially able to put out a print edition for two weeks, but that doesn't signal rosy times ahead, help is needed.

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, offering it as a free paper, as it should be and hopefully can continue.

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.

Trial To Begin In Murder Of Transgender Woman

GREELEY, Colorado (Observer Update) - A trial is set to begin next week in the high-profile case of Angie Zapata, an 18-year-old Transgender woman who was brutally murdered in Colorado in July, advocate.com reported. Allen Andrade, 32, is accused of beating Zapata to death with a fire extinguisher in her apartment in Greeley, about 50 miles north of Denver, after he discovered she was biologically male. Andrade is charged with first-degree murder and a hate crime.

The case is believed to be the first time the murder of a Transgender person is set to be tried under a state's hate-crimes statute, reports The Denver Post. Colorado is one of only 11 states that includes protections for Transgender people in its hate-crimes laws.

Weld County prosecutors have expressed concern that the large amount of publicity the case has received could complicate jury selection. A full-page ad sponsored by 50 groups to commemorate the life and death of Zapata appeared online and in 22 Colorado newspapers.

Amancio: Documentary About Amancio Corrales, May 7

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

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

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

concerned, and believed that justice would not be served unless someone took action.

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

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



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COMMENTARY . . .

**Winning The Freedom To Marry?
Cue The Attack On Gays & Lesbians**

By Evan Wolfson

Computer-generated clouds roil on an apocalyptic backdrop as fake lightning flashes. Actors stiff as zombies recite horror stories, punctuated by protestations that they are animated by love. Is this new political ad warning of the economic hardships confronting families, a call to action on health care or job loss? Is it an effort to unite Americans to help solve our shared problems?

No, it's the latest assault on Gay couples seeking to build and spend their lives together in - cue spooky music - marriage

The ad was unveiled by the National Organization "for" Marriage ("NOM"), which ironically is against marriage for committed couples if they are Gay. It's brought to you by the folks who brought California the 40-plus million dollar Proposition 8 attack campaign, including the same front-group for right-wing funders and church hierarchies, and the same political consultant/public relations firm. Now that the unanimous Supreme Court in Iowa and a super-majority of elected legislators in Vermont voted to end same-sex couples' exclusion from marriage in the past week, NOM and its backers are funneling the ad into states such as Maine, New Jersey, and New York - whose legislatures are all weighing the evidence that shows no good reason for denying the freedom to marry to same-sex couples.

But beware: the NOM campaign is bait-and-switch. The real agenda here is not just resistance to marriage rights, it's undermining the broader civil rights laws that ensure that we can all participate equally in society, even if other people don't like us. Though they wrap it in marriage, the opposition is actually about Gay - and they are attacking the idea that civil rights laws should protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation at all. At a time when most Americans have had their fill of years of polarization and want to see us come together to deal with the pressing problems that hurt us all, Gay and non-Gay, could a negative ad campaign like NOM's work? Who would buy their obvious scare-tactics?

Alas, too many. NOM's public relations roll-out has already had some temporary traction in changing the subject from the merits of the case for marriage equality to the politics of this ongoing civil rights battle. And the agenda of the groups behind NOM is even more scary than just another cruel attack on Gay couples' freedom to marry. The campaign to "defend" marriage (as if marriage needed "defense" against couples seeking to marry) and to block even partnership protections for Gay families masks an effort to erode the whole idea of civil rights laws.

Consider what the actors in the NOM ad pretend to be:

A doctor who wants to discriminate against her patients, despite civil rights laws and medical ethics that the California Supreme Court upheld - in a case having nothing to do with marriage.

An officer of a New Jersey group that for years voluntarily operated a beachside pavilion with special tax-breaks that required it be open to the public - but then tried to turn down a Lesbian couple. The case did not turn on marriage, since New Jersey doesn't yet allow Gay couples to marry, but, rather,

basic civil rights laws about open access to public accommodations.

A Massachusetts parent who sought to dictate public school curriculum about the diverse families children will need to be aware of to thrive in a diverse world, and then wanted to remove her child from classes in a way that would have disrupted class and imposed unreasonable burdens on the school and other kids.

The law in California, as elsewhere, is that doctors can't discriminatorily refuse to treat patients - Christian, Muslim, or Jewish, Gay or non-Gay; that has nothing to do with marriage, and yet NOM incites fear. The law in New Jersey, as elsewhere, says that organizations running public accommodations such as restaurants or rental halls cannot discriminatorily exclude people - African American, Latino, or Asian, Gay or non-Gay; that has nothing to do with marriage, and yet NOM says that the discriminators are somehow the victims. The law in Massachusetts, as elsewhere, of course allows parents to teach their kids whatever they want, and even to send them to private schools or do home-schooling. The law also rightly sets rules for determining public school curriculum without having every parent, or special interest with an agenda, coming in and imposing their views on everyone else's kids - yours or mine, Gay or non-Gay.

These have nothing to do with marriage, and yet NOM would have public schools pretend that Gay people don't exist or, even worse, teach all kids that it is okay to look down on people who are different (including the parents of some of their classmates, and even other students themselves). The Human Rights Campaign issued a thorough refutation of the ad's deceptions. In a remarkable expose, HRC's EndtheLies.org website revealed the audition tapes for the NOM's attack ad, with actors stumbling through the scripts, reciting disproven claims about Gay people as a threat.

All of NOM's actors are invoking as supposed arguments against the freedom to marry examples that, as HRC puts it, "involve religious people who enter the public sphere, but don't want to abide by the general non-discriminatory rules everyone else does." But in a complicated world, where lots of people "disapprove" of other people's beliefs and lives, or race and religion, we can't allow our ability to have a job or a home, or get medical care or a marriage license, turn on whether our boss, landlord, doctor, or government clerk likes us. If we did, we'd have chaos. The point of civil rights laws is to make it possible for all of us to live together in one nation.

The Vermont legislature and the unanimous Iowa Supreme Court both offered reassurance that Americans can respect one another's religious freedom while protecting everyone's personal freedom and equality under the law. As Justice Mark Cady, a Republican appointee, explained: [W]e give respect to the views of all Iowans on the issue of same-sex marriage—religious or otherwise—by giving respect to our constitutional principles....The sanctity of all religious marriages celebrated in the future will have the same meaning as those celebrated in the past. The only differ-

COMMENTARY
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Politician Questions Zoo Over 'Gay' Elephant



POZNAN, Poland (Observer Update) - A right-wing Polish politician wants to know why his local zoo spent money on an elephant he calls "Gay," reported advocate.com. Michal Grzes, a counselor from the western city of Poznan, noted that the elephant, Ninio, prefers the company of other males, and challenged the zoo's fiscal wisdom for acquiring him.

"We didn't pay 37 million zlotys (\$11 million U.S.) for the largest elephant house in Europe to have a Gay elephant live there," said Grzes, according to London's Daily Mail. "We were supposed to have a herd," Grzes continued, "but as Ninio prefers male friends over

females, how will he produce offspring?"

Ninio, who is 10, has changed zoos three times in the past five years because of his aggressive behavior toward females, in contrast to his affectionate treatment of males. The head of the Poznan zoo contends that any conclusions about same-sex trunk intertwining are premature because Ninio will not reach sexual maturity until age 14. Grzes is a member of the Law and Justice Party. Two of the party's most high-profile members, the identical twin brothers Jaroslaw and Lech Kaczynski, have been outspoken in their homophobic views. Lech is the current president of Poland.

Mother Calls For State Probe Following Son's Death

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts (Observer Update) - A Springfield woman is calling for the state to investigate a charter school after her 11-year old son hanged himself following months of anti-Gay harassment, 365Gay.com reported.

Carl Walker-Hoover was found hanging by an extension cord on the second floor of the family home. His mother, Sirdeaner L. Walker, said that the New Leadership Charter School did nothing to stop the bullying despite her repeated complaints to the school. In an interview with the "Republican" newspaper, Walker said that the grade 6 student suffered taunts and threats from other students who made fun of him, insulted the way he dressed and called him Gay. The 11-year-old did not identify as being Gay.

A vigil for Carl was held at the school, but Walker said no one from the publicly funded school contacted her. The media was barred from the vigil. This is at least the fourth suicide of a middle-school aged child linked to bullying, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network said Friday.

Earlier this month, the parents of a Mentor, Ohio, high school student filed a federal lawsuit in connection with their son's suicide. Mohat, 17, went home from school on March 27, 2007, put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. In a federal lawsuit, the parents of Eric Mohat allege that he regularly "was called

'Gay,' 'fag,' 'queer' and 'h o m o' among other names" and that the school did nothing to prevent it. 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.



Carl Walker-Hoover

"You do not have to identify as Gay to be attacked with anti-LGBT language," said GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard. "From their earliest years on the school playground, students learn to use anti-LGBT language as the ultimate weapon to degrade their peers. In many cases, schools and teachers either ignore the behavior or don't know how to intervene."

Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT youth reported being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation, nearly half reported being physically harassed and about a quarter reported being physically assaulted, according to GLSEN's 2007 National School Climate Survey of more than 6,000 LGBT students.

COMMENTARY. . . .

Continued from Page Four
ence is civil marriage will now take on a new meaning that reflects a more complete understanding of equal protection of the law. This result is what our constitution requires.

The millions of dollars that NOM and its backers threaten to spend fostering yet another cultural and political war against Gay people and

threatening civil rights protections would be better spent addressing the real problems facing all our families today. What's truly scary is they don't seem to be feeling that love.

(Evan Wolfson is the Executive Director of Executive Director of Freedom to Marry, and author of Why Marriage Matters. This oped was reprinted from Huffington Post.)

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

'No Sexual Remarks Please, We're LGBT And We Mean It!'

In the midst of the hypocritical hyperbole and numerous references to a graphic sexual act taken to heart by the radical right for their protests, sponsored and televised by the Fixed Noise Channel, on Wednesday, April 15, millions of Americans filed their tax forms, electronically or by postal mail on the deadline to do so by the federal Internal Revenue Service or state tax officials.

A coalition of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) organizations (Marriage Equality USA, Join the Impact and the Human Rights Campaign) held a series of events at U. S. Post Offices across the nation highlighting the ongoing moral and financial costs of denying marriage equality to same-sex couples as well as the consequences paid by all Americans as a result of these discriminatory state and federal laws.

A study produced in 2004 by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) debunks the myth that granting same-sex couples the freedom to marry would cost the government money but would save taxpayer dollars. Same-sex couples aren't the only ones paying for marriage discrimination, all taxpayers fund this discrimination which amounts to as much as \$1 billion over the next 10 years.

For more information, go online to [taxday2009.com/...](http://taxday2009.com/)

Meanwhile, in the nation's capital, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and, more important, a Bronze Star winner and the first Iraq war veteran to serve in Congress has announced that he will take the lead in advancing legislation, H.R. 1283, to overturn the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy when it's current sponsor, Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), is confirmed by the Senate and moves over to the State Department to be President Obama's Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

U.S. Representative Patrick Murphy, D-PA, will be the lead sponsor on H.R. 1283, that if approved and signed into law, would repeal the 16-year-old policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," by amending title 10 of the United States Code, to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces by replacing the current policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces, referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and has 137 cosponsors.

H.R. 1283 has been assigned to the House Committee on Armed Services and its Subcommittee on Military Personnel....

In response to recent reports of the death and persecution of LGBT Iraqis, U.S. Representative Jared Polis, D-CO, has called for an investigation into "egregious human rights violations" carried out against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Iraqis while meeting with US and Iraqi officials on a Congressional Delegation visit to Baghdad.

"The United States should not tolerate human rights violations of any kind, especially by a government that Americans spend billions of

taxpayer dollars each year supporting," said Polis in a statement. "Hopefully my trip and letters to US and Iraqi officials will help bring international attention and investigation to this terrible situation and bring an end to any such offenses."

In Baghdad, Polis met with the Iraqi Charges D'Affairs, members of the Iraqi Parliament's Human-Rights Committee, and US State Department officials in Baghdad, and gave them a letter outlining the allegations and urging their immediate investigation.

Thus far, the Charge D'Affaires has requested more documentation and the chance to speak with witnesses and victims. "We will now wait and see whether the Iraqi government is serious about protecting the human rights of all Iraqis and what role our own State Department can play in helping to protect this minority in Iraq," said Polis. "I am most disturbed by allegations that Iraqi government itself may be involved in the persecutions. This warrants an immediate investigation from both American and Iraqi governments."

Warsaw Reaches Out To Gay Couple

WARSAW, Poland (Observer Update) - The New York couple whose wedding video footage was used last year by President Lech Kaczynski in an anti-Gay rant has been invited back to visit Warsaw.

The conservative president used the video to stir fears about a European treaty that offers antidiscrimination protections for Gays and lesbi-

Why Was Amazon Delisting LGBT Books For Being Too 'Adult'?

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Author Mark R. Probst noticed that Amazon has been pulling the sales rank numbers from many LGBT books. When Probst wrote to Amazon about the issue, he received this response: In consideration of our entire customer base, we exclude "adult" material from appearing in some searches and best seller lists. Since these lists are generated using sales ranks, adult materials must also be excluded from that feature, reported thinkprogress.org.

Jezebel has a long list of the books that have been delisted, which fall into a wide range of categories. How-

ever, the LGBT books excluded include Nathan Frank's "well-reviewed empirical analysis of military policy," "Unfriendly Fire," and a biography of Ellen DeGeneres. Books remaining include the biography of straight porn star Ron Jeremy and "A Parent's Guide To Preventing Homosexuality." Jessica Valenti, whose book "Full Frontal Feminism" has also been delisted.

An Amazon spokesperson told Publishers and Weekly that "a glitch had occurred in its sales ranking feature that was in the process of being fixed. The spokesperson added that there was no new adult policy."

Police To Investigate Gay Pizzeria Party

BROOKLYN, NY (Observer Update) - Talk about the downside of popularity. A formerly little-known Gay party night at a pizzeria may become the subject of a police investigation, thanks to a recent spurt of publicity, advocate.com reported. Now that The New York Times has discovered the weekly "Fondle" party at South Brooklyn Pizza in New York City, police say they will assess whether the event's male go-go dancers violate the Big Apple's cabaret laws.

"Fondle" is held on Monday nights at the pizzeria in Carroll Gardens, a gentrifying neighborhood known for its

traditional Italian-American roots. The Gay party began in February, but it was the weekend ink and column inches devoted to male go-go dancers that piqued the interest of the NYPD, reports the Brooklyn Paper:

"That [Times article] was the first I heard of it," Capt. Kenneth Corey of the 76th Precinct, which covers Carroll Gardens, told members of the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association. "We're going to determine the legality of it. If they're outside of it, then we're going to take action."

Polish secretary of state Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka responded with a letter and an invitation to visit Warsaw. Fay said he was heartened by the tone of the letter, in which Junczyk-Ziomecka writes of reaching "over the rainbow" and of "breaking stereotypes." It's short of the apology and face-to-face meeting Fay and Moulton were seeking from President Kaczynski, but it's "a great first step," Fay told the New York Daily News.

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LGBT, HIV Groups Call For End Of Bush Health Care Rules

Transwoman City Manager Fired After Transitioning Gets New Job



great many Americans," said Rebecca Fox, director of the National Coalition for LGBT Health. "In a country where so many people struggle to access quality health care, HHS created another barrier. These regulations are particularly harmful for LGBT Americans, many of whom already fear being out to their healthcare providers and struggle to find and afford respectful, good quality medical care," Fox added.

LAKE WORTH, Florida (Observer Update) - Susan Stanton, fired two years ago from her job as city manager in Largo, Fla. after she announced she was transitioning, has been hired as the new city manager of Lake Worth, reported 365Gay.com. City commissioners voted this week to hire Stanton. She had been one of four finalists for the job.

seriously, traveling to Washington to lobby for workplace anti-discrimination legislation and passage of the Matthew Shepard Hate Crime Act. She applied for a city manager job in Sarasota, but narrowly lost out. She also was turned down for a similar job in Tempe, Ariz. Stanton will now begin contract negotiations with Lake Worth officials. Her salary is expected to be in excess of \$140,000 a year.

HHS has now proposed rescinding the regulations. If that does not occur, the regulations could cause confusion in everything ranging from who receives care to which organizations can receive federal funding and may result in federally funded programs and health care providers inappropriately refusing to treat LGBT or HIV positive patients in a medically sound, respectful manner, the groups said.

Stanton was fired in February 2007 as Largo's city manager after announcing in a newspaper interview she was transsexual and was intending to transition. Stanton said she decided to go public after the paper began asking questions about rumors that had begun circulating that Stanton had been seen at out-of-town locations in women's clothing. Stanton told the paper she had begun receiving hormone therapy and counseling - a requirement for transitioning. Following the publication of the interview, Stanton issued an email statement to all staff at Largo City Hall outlining the reasons behind the decision to transition and asking for tolerance. City Council said it placed Stanton on suspension because the transgender issue was dividing the staff. She was later fired. After the vote, councilors claimed Stanton was difficult to work with, and that was the reason she was fired.

"The Bush Administration put people with HIV at risk with these unnecessary regulations," said Bebe J. Anderson, director of Lambda Legal's HIV Project. "Unfortunately, discrimination and ignorance towards people with HIV are still common. The government must not invite or sanction discrimination against people with HIV or LGBT patients."

Stanton was then thrust onto the national stage - something she took

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A coalition of 38 LGBT and HIV advocacy groups is calling for the removal of an eleventh-hour Bush Administration expansion of federal rules prohibiting discrimination against health care workers on the basis of religion.

The groups, which include Lambda Legal and the National Coalition for LGBT Health, call the rules "unnecessary and confusing" and say they endanger public health. The new regulations went into effect on Dec. 19, 2008. At that time, HHS (Department of Health and Human Services) claimed they were needed to protect employees of organizations receiving HHS funds from having to perform procedures they find religiously or morally objectionable.

The 14-page letter submitted to HHS says the regulations could give wide latitude to health care workers to discriminate against co-workers or patients who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or living with HIV. "Federal law already rightly guarantees workers broad protections against religiously motivated discrimination," said Lambda Legal Senior Counsel Jennifer C. Pizer.

"But everyone would agree that those protections cannot be absolute - they wouldn't allow a Jehovah's Witness surgeon to withhold blood transfusions from patients based on the doctor's religious objection, for example. These regulations - which can be seen as expanding existing protections so health care workers can harass co-workers or choose to treat some patients, but not others - should be rescinded, as the government is now proposing to do," said Pizer.

Studies show anti-LGBT bias is a persistent problem among health care providers, and religious disapproval of Gay people frequently contributes to that. In August 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that religion cannot be used as a legal excuse for doctors to deny infertility treatment to Oceanside Lesbian Lupita Benitez. Her doctors had claimed that California's constitutional protections of religion allowed them to refuse to inseminate her after 11 months of preparatory medications and surgical treatments, but the high court disagreed unanimously.

"If HHS's new regulations are allowed to remain in effect, they will have a negative impact on health care for a

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Will Vermont G/L Marriage Vote Encourage Lawmakers In Other States?

MONTPELIER, VT (Observer Update) - Vermont, which invented civil unions, became a pioneer again as the first state to legalize Gay marriage through a legislature's vote, suggesting growing popular acceptance of the idea, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The House barely achieved the votes necessary to override Gov. Jim Douglas' veto of a bill that will allow Gays and Lesbians to marry beginning September 1. Four states now have same-sex marriage laws and other states soon could follow suit.

In the vote, a "yes" was needed from two-thirds of those present to override the governor's veto. The goal was easily achieved in the Senate, which voted 23-5, but in the House it was much closer, 100-49. The speaker's announcement of the results to a packed Statehouse chamber, set off whistles and cheers among supporters whose hopes had been temporarily dashed last month when the Republican governor announced he would veto the measure if it passed the Legislature.

Among the celebrants: Former state lawmaker Robert Dostis and his longtime partner, Chuck Kletecka. Dostis recalled efforts to expand Gay rights dating to an anti-discrimination law passed in 1992. "It's been a very long battle. It's been almost 20 years to get to this point," Dostis said. "I think finally, most people in Vermont understand that we're a couple like any other couple. We're as good and as bad as any other group of people."

Dostis said he and Kletecka will celebrate their 25th year together in September. "Is that a proposal?" Kletecka asked. "Yeah," Dostis replied. "Twenty-five years together, I think it's time we finally got married."

Craig Bensen, a Gay marriage opponent who had lobbied unsuccessfully for a nonbinding referendum on the question, said his side was outspent by supporters by 20-1. "The other side had a highly funded, extremely well-oiled machine with all the political leadership except the governor pushing to make this happen," he said. "The fact that it came down to this tight a vote is really astounding." The measure had only 95 "yea" votes when it initially passed the House. But some changed their votes.

Rep. Jeff Young, D-St. Albans, who voted no twice because he's philosophically opposed to Gay marriage, joined most other Democrats in voting to override Douglas' veto. "I think if I wanted to continue my career here and have any chance of being effective, I had to vote with my caucus," he said. "You have some pet projects, you think you can help your district back home with things that need to happen," he said. "I want to get a railroading bill through. I wouldn't even have had a chance to testify, let alone get it through. Now, people will listen to me. It's the way the political game is played."

House Speaker Shap Smith said he didn't use any specific arguments to get lawmakers to switch. He said he had argued mainly that they should support the will of the legislative majorities on the bill's initial approvals - 95-52 in the House and 26-4 in the Senate. "I thought it was to some degree just a vote to recognize the work that the Legislature had done," the speaker said.

Sitting next to him was Rep. William Lippert, D-Hinesburg, a Gay man who championed both the 2000 civil unions bill and this year's Gay marriage legislation. "It's been an incredibly powerful personal journey," Lippert said. "I consider it my personal great good fortune to be a member of the Vermont Legislature under the leadership of speakers who have in fact prioritized civil rights for the community of which I'm a part. It touches me deeply."

Bills to allow same-sex marriage are currently before lawmakers in New Hampshire, Maine, New York and New Jersey. The three other states that currently allow same-sex marriage - Connecticut, Massachusetts and Iowa - each moved to do so through the courts, not legislatures. "For a popularly elected legislature to make this decision is a much more democratic process" because lawmakers have to answer to the voters every other November, said Eric Davis, a retired Middlebury College political science professor.

Courts typically deal with arcane points of constitutional law. While legislatures debate some of the same principles, the process may become much more personal. In Vermont, some of the most gripping debate came when Gay and Lesbian lawmakers took to the House floor last Thursday and told their own personal love stories.

Getting Gay marriage approved in a political, rather than purely legal, forum is a big step, said Boston University law professor Linda McClain, an expert on family law and policy. "What may give courage to other legislatures is that this legislature managed to do it," she said. She added that using the civil rights language of equality - the measure in Vermont was dubbed the marriage equality bill - could help make Gay marriage more acceptable elsewhere.

Opponents said they, too, believe activists will be emboldened in other states. The action comes just days after the Iowa Supreme court ruled that not permitting Gay marriage there was unconstitutional. "To the millions of Americans who care about marriage, we say get ready: President Obama and Democrats will use Vermont as an excuse to overturn the bipartisan federal Defense of Marriage Act," said Brian Brown, executive director of the National Organization for Marriage, which waged a radio campaign against the measure. "The next step is to ask the Supreme Court to impose Gay marriage on all 50 states."

The Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996, defines marriage as a legal union between a man and a woman, and provides that states need not recognize the marriage of a same sex couple from another state.

To date, the same-sex marriage movement's main gains have been in New England, which some attribute to Yankee liberalism and the gradual acceptance of Gay relationships after Vermont's groundbreaking civil unions law took effect in 2000. Douglas had announced his intent to veto the Gay marriage bill two weeks ago, saying he believed marriage should be limited to a man and a woman and calling the issue a distraction during a time when economic and budget issues were more important.

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Student, Brother File Federal Anti-Gay Bias Suit Against School

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - A federal lawsuit claiming anti-Gay bias at a high school in upstate New York has been filed by a former student and his sister, a sophomore, reported 365Gay.com. The suit claims that Charlie Pratt endured years of anti-Gay harassment during his time at Indian River High School, and his sister, Ashley Petranchuk, a sophomore who is trying to start a Gay-straight alliance, has suffered the same bias at the same high school years after her brother left. The school is located in Philadelphia, New York, northeast of Watertown.

Both siblings are represented by Lambda Legal and attorneys from the law firm Kirkland & Ellis. The suit was filed at the US District Court for the Northern District of New York. "The fact that this high school refuses to let Ashley form a Gay-straight alliance is just the most recent destructive and blatantly discriminatory act by the school," said Lambda Legal attorney Michael Kavey. "Especially given the abuse that Charlie endured, it's clear that Indian River High School officials need to better protect their students, not only by fighting harassment, but by recognizing students' right to form this alliance."

The lawsuit alleges Charlie Pratt was severely harassed throughout his time in the school district. Students attacked him relentlessly with anti-Gay and sexist slurs including names like "faggot," "sissy," "queer," and "fudgepacker," often in the presence of teachers who failed to intervene. Students also are alleged to have pushed him into walls and lockers, threatened him, threw food and other objects at him, spat on him, and vandalized his locker with anti-Gay slurs. Staff members at the high school joined the harassment by ridiculing Charlie with stereotypically effeminate gestures in front of other students, according to the suit.

Then-principal James Kettrick - now the district's superintendent - refused to take appropriate action, and instead told Charlie and his parents, Bobbi and Todd Petranchuk, that Charlie should "tone it down" to avoid harassment, Lambda Legal said in a

media statement. Lambda also said that the principal also refused Bobbi Petranchuk's request to train teachers to address antiGay bullying, and he failed to change the school's written policies to match state anti-harassment laws covering sexual orientation. Left with no other options, Charlie's parents withdrew him from school for his own protection, the suit said. "No student should have to fear for his or her safety and suffer the cruelty that Charlie has, especially in school where teachers and administrators should be protecting students and fostering their growth as members of a community," said Sudwiti Chanda, a partner in the New York offices of Kirkland & Ellis. "We hope that this lawsuit will ensure that other students like Charlie are given the opportunity they deserve to thrive in our public education system."

While Charlie was at the high school, the school repeatedly refused to allow students to form a Gay-straight alliance Chanda said. Last fall, Charlie's sister, Ashley Petranchuk, again requested a Gay-straight alliance to educate students on the importance of inclusion regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. She was turned down by the principal and assistant principal, who said such a club would bother parents and students. "I want to start this club so that no other student will have to experience the nightmare that my brother faced in his time here," said Ashley Petranchuk. "I owe it to him and to current and future students." The lawsuit includes claims on behalf of Ashley under the First Amendment, Federal Equal Access Act and state laws, which the attorneys say protect her right to equal treatment in forming a student club. Lambda Legal and Kirkland & Ellis LLP have notified the school that they are ready to file for a preliminary injunction compelling the school to recognize the Gay-straight alliance unless the school promptly agrees to do so without a court order. The lawsuit also seeks damages for Charlie for violations of the federal Constitution's Equal Protection Clause and Free Speech Clause, as well as for violations of Title IX, the Federal Equal Access Act, and New York state anti-discrimination laws.

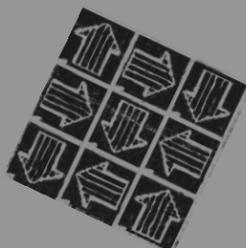
Columbia, Missouri Passes Partner Registry

COLUMBIA, MO (Observer Update) - By unanimous vote, Columbia city council has voted to establish a domestic partner registry for same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples who choose not to marry, reported 365Gay.com. While registering does not offer any specific rights in the city, it could be used as proof of a relationship for anyone wishing to add a partner to their employee health benefits in companies that offer health insurance to domestic partners.

Under the law, a couple must pay a \$25 fee to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, which will maintain the registry. Couples must attest they have lived together for at least 6 months. Each partner must be at least 18 years old and be mentally competent to form a contract. Partners must not be related by blood any closer than would bar a marriage in Missouri. Nor can they be married to any other person. The registry had the support of Mayor Darwin Hindman who said it shows "that this is an open, receptive community, tolerant community, of everybody. That's important, I think for our

self-respect and for the quality of life that we want to have in our community."

The measure also had the support of the Columbia Human Rights Commission and a broad number of citizens who packed the council chamber to make impact statements before the vote. One of them, a retired United Methodist pastor, received a standing ovation from the public gallery when he made an impassioned plea for passage. "These, my brothers and sisters, are the last group that has not yet been given what is their right," Rev. Dick Blount told the council. "That's all we're asking for. We're not trying to make the issue complex."



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Maine: Next Marriage Equality State

UGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - Now that same-sex marriage has achieved legislative success in Vermont, the marriage-equality conversation moves to nearby Maine. A bill to grant same-sex couples equal marriage rights in the Pine Tree State will be heard before a joint judiciary committee on April 24, reported advocate.com.

room for 400 more in the school cafeteria. During the hearing, the committee members will hear three-minute testimonies on two pieces of legislation. The first bill would allow same-sex couples to marry, while the other would create civil unions for same-sex couples.

"We have put a process in place that will make sure everyone's voice is heard on the 24th," Rep. Charles Priest, a Democrat, said in a statement. "Public input is vital for the committee to carry out its work." Local legislators report that they are receiving numerous calls about the legislation, both for and against.

Already, so many people are expected to attend the hearing in the capital of Augusta that officials have moved it from the statehouse to a local high school. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Cony High School auditorium, which seats 900 people, with

Colorado Governor Signs Partner Bill

DENVER, Colorado (Observer Update) - Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter has signed a domestic partner bill making it easier for unmarried couples to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners and leave property to their partners, reported 365Gay.com. The measure would apply to same- and opposite-sex unmarried couples.

"Today is a good day for Colorado and all Coloradans," said Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D), author of the bill. "This new law provides tools that allow individuals to designate the person they wish to make medical and end of life decisions and who will receive inheritance in the absence of a will, among other things. This is a good step towards providing equal treatment under the law for all of Colorado's families." Republicans, however, denounced the bill. Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R) dismissed the measure as "marriage light."

In 2006, voters passed a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. The same year, they rejected another ballot issue that would have given same-sex couples many of the rights of marriage, including property inheritance rights and the power to make medical and funeral arrangements.

The Designated Beneficiary Agreement Act was passed last month in the state House of Representatives and the Senate. The new law, which will take effect on July 1, will permit any two people - regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity - to enter into designated beneficiary agreements that confer specific legal rights and responsibilities, including the right to receive state employee pension benefits, the right to make medical decisions for an incapacitated partner, and the right to inherit if a partner dies without a will.

D.C. To Recognize G/L Marriages

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Congressional Republicans are vowing they will do all they can to block the District of Columbia (DC) from recognizing same-sex marriages that have been performed in areas where they are legal, reported 365Gay.com. In a preliminary vote, the DC Council unanimously approved the bill. It needs to pass a final time next month and then, like all DC laws, be reviewed by Congress.

ships. It includes such partner rights as hospital and nursing home visitations, medical decisions, and inheritance rights.

After the law was passed, then-President George W. Bush threatened to veto a bill in Congress providing federal funding to the District unless a clause was added stating the money could not be used to fund the domestic partner registry. With Democrats firmly in Control of the White House and Congress there is little that Republicans can do but denounce the DC measure. And another member of the DC council, David Catania, who also is Gay, said it is only a matter of time before the city takes up a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. "It's no secret that I have been working on legislation that would take us further," he told The Post. "This is the march toward human rights and equality. This is not the march toward special rights. This is the equal march and that march is coming here."

"It's high time we send a clear, unequivocal message to those persons of the same sex and married in another jurisdiction that their marriage is valid in D.C.," The Washington Post quoted openly Gay city council member Jim Graham as saying. "I hope this city recognizes this is a human rights struggle." DC already has a domestic partner registry that was enacted in 2007 to the ire of Republicans. The registry allows same and opposite-sex unmarried couples to register their relation-

Nine Senegalese Men Appeal 'Unnatural Acts' Ruling

DAKAR, Senegal (Observer Update) - "Nine Senegalese men who were sentenced to eight years in prison for 'indecent conduct and unnatural acts' are appealing against the decision, reported Pink News.

men's counsel argued that there was no material proof for the accusations, no specific complainant had filed charges against the men and that the time of their arrests (after 10pm) was illegal.

The prosecution has not contested the defense plea. The nine men were arrested in December last year at the apartment of Diadji Diouf, a prolific LGBT leader, and sentenced in January

The men, most of whom belong to a group set up to combat HIV/AIDS, appeared at the Dakar Court of Appeal yesterday with their attorneys. The



POET'S CORNER

THE S. S. - GOP
by Ron Rose - Tucson

With hole stove in her fragile bow, the S.S. - GOP
Drifts slowly toward its watery grave, breaking up at sea.
Their ship just drifting rudderless, her captain numb with fear.
The lifeboats have been lowered, but there is no mate to steer.
McCain, her listless captain, he mutters S.O.S.
While Palin in a lifeboat screams please save my campaign dress.
Romney, Cantor, Huckabee, place deck chairs, strange to me
For like the poor Titanic, they'll soon break up at sea.
Sharks circle round the lifeless hulk, just Democrats with teeth
While slowly tiny bubbles rise, the GOP beneath.

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COMMENTARY....

by Deb Price

'Civil Unions' Father Paved Way For Vermont's Marriage Breakthrough

Vermont lawyer Tom Little is still the proud papa of "civil unions," nine years after introducing them to the world. But he no longer sees them as good enough to take the place of marriage. And neither does Vermont. In a wonderful breakthrough, the state's legislature became the first to open marriage to Gay couples by overriding a governor's veto. "The struggle for equal rights is never easy. I was proud to be president of the Senate nine years ago when Vermont created civil unions," Vermont Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin said. "I have never felt more proud of Vermont as we become the first state in the country to enact marriage equality not as the result of a court order, but because it is the right thing to do," he added.

To really understand how Vermont reached this marvelous place, we must look back to Little. He chaired the Judiciary Committee of his state's House when it coined the phrase "civil unions." The state's top court had ordered lawmakers to be fair to marriage-minded Gay couples. "Initially," Little recalls, "there was a certain amount of panic. 'Oh, my God, now we've got to deal with this!'" Little saw no chance of enacting the simple solution: opening marriage to same-sex couples. So, his committee scrambled to find another way to deliver the "bundle of rights" associated with marriage.

They rejected "domestic partnership" for sounding like "being hired to do laundry" and being linked elsewhere to very limited rights. With civil unions, most committee members "genuinely believed we were creating a parallel and equal legal system," Little told me. Civil unions proved to be an important way station on the road to full equality - offering in Vermont in July 2000 protections previously unavailable to America's Gay couples.

The option was embraced by Connecticut (2005), New Jersey (2007) and New Hampshire (2008). Although even today civil unions would represent a huge advance in most states, they are,

as Little now sees, a stopover, not a destination. "What I have come to understand is that I was wrong. (Marriage) is greater than the sum of its parts." The ex-lawmaker reached that conclusion on a listening tour as the head of a commission instructed to find out how civil unions had worked out.

On March 24, Little, himself married 31 years, reported back to his old committee: "The promise (of equality) has not been fulfilled." Just days after being urged to upgrade to marriage the legal status available to Gay couples, Vermont's Senate and House overwhelmingly embraced the idea. Gov. Jim Douglas turned into a roadblock, vetoing the bill. But the Senate overrode him, 23 to five. So did the House, 100 to 49.

Amidst the activity in Vermont, marriage passed the House in neighboring New Hampshire. To New Hampshire's east, one-third of the Maine legislature is co-sponsoring marriage legislation. To Vermont's south, Gay couples are marrying in Massachusetts (2004) and Connecticut (2008). The Midwest got in on the action on April 3, when Iowa's Supreme Court unanimously opted to go directly to marriage, not stop somewhere along the way. Iowa's Senate majority leader and House speaker cheered: "When all is said and done, we believe the only lasting question ... will be why it took us so long."

Vermont really got the ball rolling by becoming the first state to attempt to share all of marriage's rights and responsibilities with Gay couples. And Tom Little's inspiring story is proof that fair-minded lawmakers can grow to understand that there is no substitute for allowing Gay couples to marry.

(Deb Price of The Detroit News writes the first nationally syndicated column on Gay issues, from which this article is reprinted.)

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.: 08AD1712-8

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.

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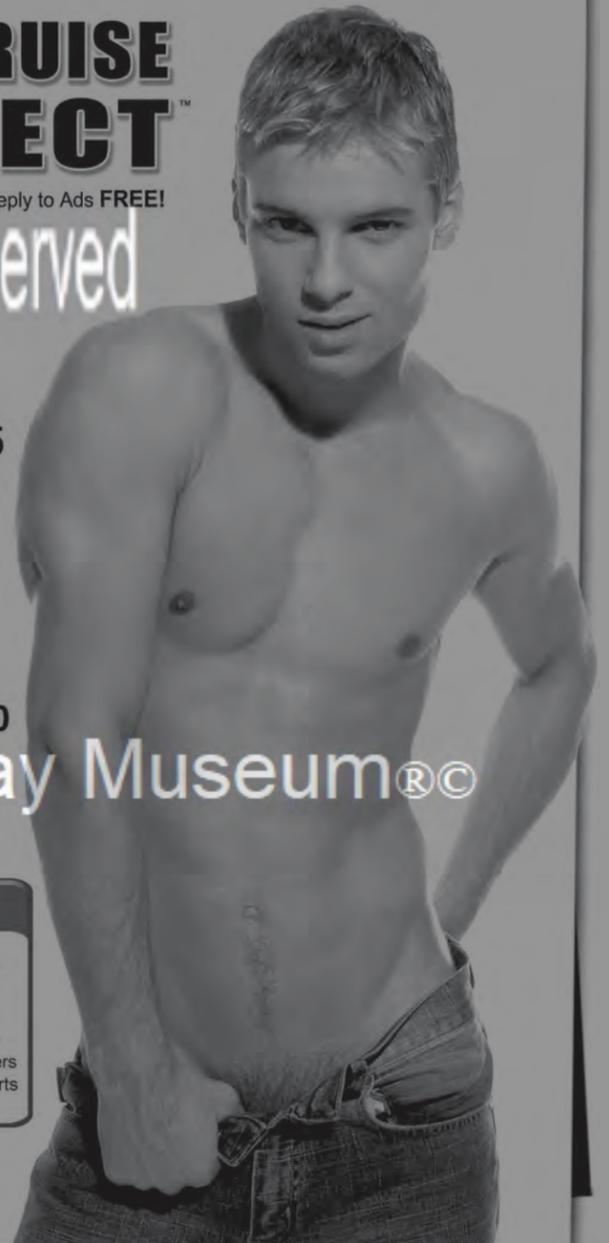
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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, pleases contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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

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

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BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)829-0117 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or 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 TEAMARIZONA 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 Giriz (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@yahoo.com. See you on the trails.

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust \$2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, \$3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping 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 1/2 price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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.

Saturday, April 18
THE BIZ - It'S HotFlash night with DJ Hill spinning all your favorites from 5:30 til 9:30 p.m.

COYOTE MOON PUB -4-8 p.m.. it's the Wingspan Tea Dance, followed at 9:00 p.m. entertainment by the Spurloafers. An evening of music and dance.

WOODY'S - "Wett Party". 8 P.M. TO 2:00 a.m. starring adult entertainer Eric West performing at 10:30 and 12:30 signing autographs and meet and greet. Hot dancers all night plus xxx give aways.

Sunday, April 19
WOODY'S Beside their usual fun packed events all day long on Sundays this week come out and support Woody's Jell-O wrestling teams in a special fundraiser. 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.

April 20 Through 24 it's Western Week at VENTURE-N. Check it out you cowboys!

Wednesday, April 22
WOODY'S - Green Party! Celebrating Earth Day 8 p.m. to closing.

Saturday, April 25
WOODY'S - Sign up for Woody's bus to Gay West. \$15 Wrestling. \$15 roundtrip.

Sunday, May 3
WOODY'S - Sign up for Woody's Buss to Jell-O Wrestling. \$15 round trip.

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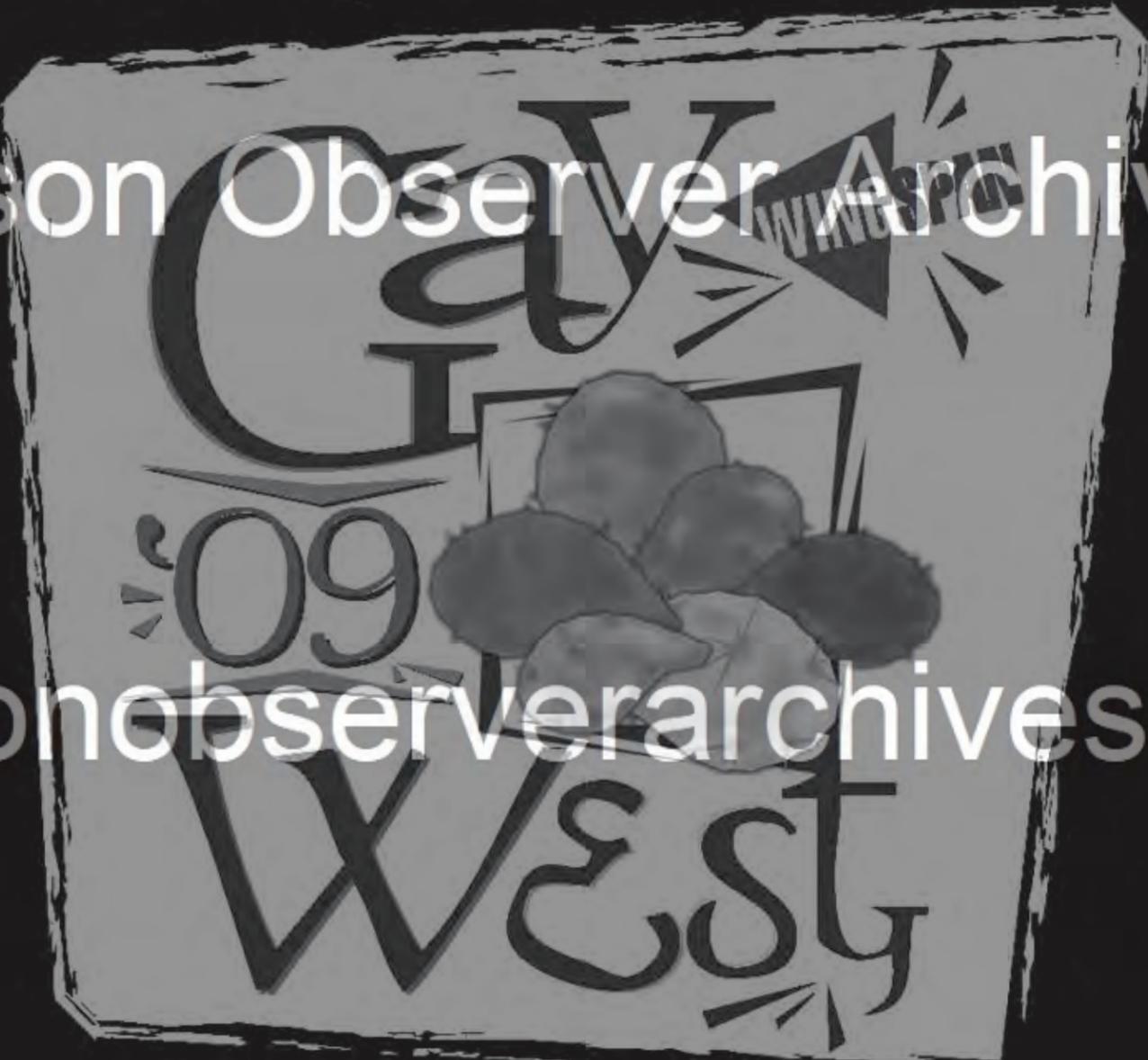
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April Events - Open to All

Every Wed, Bear Coffee at Raging Sage, 2458 N Campbell, 7-9 pm.
Every Fri (except Fri 4/10) Bearinis at The Shelter, 4155 E Grant, 6:30-8:30pm.
Fri April 10, Social Pot Luck Dinner & Meeting, Ward 6 Office, 3202 E 1st St; Bring dish to pass. Just come!
Thur April 16, Dinner Out, Crossroads, 4th Ave & 36th, 6:30-8:30 pm. **RSVP email or 829-0117 to attend.**
Sat April 18, Beer Bust and Burgers at Yard Dog, 2449 N Stone, 3-7 pm. Proceeds benefit Food Bank.
Thur April 23, Bear Bingo, Casino del Sol, 6:30-10 pm. Email us or call 829-0117; leave msg for more info.
Email & suggestions for events: bop@botop.com
See our web site for most current info on events.
Our 2009 Charity is the Tucson Community Food Bank. Proceeds from special events including beer busts, other events and our annual Fiesta in January benefit this charity.

Saturday, April 25th, 2009 • 6pm

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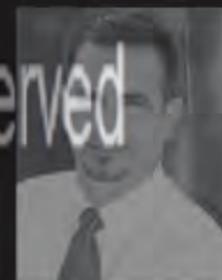


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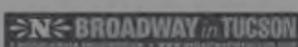
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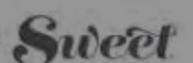
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