Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Meet Tucson's New Chief Of Police Next Monday, May 18

TUCSON - The GLBT Community is invited to meet with Tucson's New Chief of Police Roberto Villaseñor, hosted by Rodney Glassman, Ward 2 City Councilman, during Woody's Karoake Night, Monday, May 18, 9 PM to 10:30 PM, 3710 N. Oracle Road.

New TPD Chief Roberto Villaseñor

Councilman Glassman said of the event, "I put this event together after getting a call on my cellular from Dave Huff, owner of Woody's, who had questions about our new Chief's position on diversity. I thought that there was nothing better I could do then bringing people together and allowing everyone to get to know each other."

This meet and greet, Glassman added, will have no formal program, rather everyone will be together to have a nice time, sing some songs, learn about each other, and build new friendships.

Glassman went on to state that, "I ran on a commitment of providing everyone with an equal seat at the table, embracing diversity, and making Tucson the greatest community to live, work, and raise a family. I am following through on my campaign commitment." For more information, call Woody's at (5200 292-6702.

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Representative Foxx Pens Apology To Shepard

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Rep. Virginia Foxx

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - U.S. representative from North Carolina Virginia Foxx has written a letter to Judy Shepard apologizing for her use of the word "hoax" in describing Shepard's son's 1998 killing not as a hate-crime murder but as a death that occurred during the commitment of a simple robbery, she said in an interview with Winston-Salem, N.C., television station WXII.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, also known as the Matthew Shepard Act, passed in the House on April 29. A companion bill to add LGBT protections to the existing federal hate-crimes law is awaiting a vote in the Senate. During the floor debate prior to the House vote, Foxx said of Matthew Shepard's 1998 murder, "But we know...it wasn't because he was Gay. The bill was named for him, but it's really a hoax." Foxx says she sent Judy Shepard a handwritten note apologizing for saying anything that "offended" her. "I know that she's hurting and I would never do anything to add to that."

Shepard appeared on The Rachel Maddow Show last week, unable to accept Foxx's earlier attempt at an apology. "It's apologizing for semantics, not for her sentiment or actually what she said, her insensitivity, and her ignorance," Shepard said. "She's apologizing for semantics." When asked directly whether she now believes Shepard's murder was a hate crime, she responded to WXII reporter Jermont Terry with a small laugh. "I think that I used the wrong word, and I think we should just let it go at that."

Despite coming under fire, Foxx still does not support the hate-crimes bill, which she voted against. "I think it divides people in this country. It sets up special classes of people." She went on to say she still regrets her choice of a "poor word" and that "unfortunately sometimes that gets blown out of proportion."

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Mass. Same-Sex Marriage Turning Five

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - Twenty years after he met the love of his life, nearly five years after their wedding helped make history, it took a nasty bout of pneumonia for Gary Chalmers to fully appreciate the blessings of marriage, 365Gay.com reported. "I was out of work for eight weeks, spent a week in the hospital," Chalmers said. "That was the first time I really felt thankful for the sense of the security we had, with Rich there, talking with the physicians, helping make decisions. ... It really made a difference."

At stake was the most basic recognition of marital bonds - something most spouses take for granted. But until May 17, 2004, when Chalmers and Richard Linnell were among a surge of same-sex couples marrying in Massachusetts, it was legally unavailable to American Gays and Lesbians. Since that day, four other states - Connecticut in 2008, and Iowa, Vermont and Maine this year - have legalized same-sex marriage, and more may follow soon. A measure just approved by New Hampshire's legislature awaits the governor's decision on whether to sign. But Massachusetts was the first, providing a five-year record with which to gauge the consequences.

At the time of those first weddings, the debate was red-hot - protests were frequent, expectations ran high that legislators would allow a referendum on whether to overturn the court ruling ordering same-sex marriage. Now, although Roman Catholic leaders and some conservative activists remain vocally opposed, there is overwhelming political support for same-sex marriage and no prospect for a referendum. According to the latest state figures, through September 2008, there had been 12,167 same-sex marriages in Massachusetts - 64 percent of them between women - out of 170,209 marriages in all. Some consequences have been tangible - a boom for Gay-friendly wedding businesses, the exit of a Roman Catholic charity from the adoption business - and some almost defy description.

"Having your committed relationships recognized - to say it's deeply meaningful is to trivialize it," said Mary Bonauto, lead lawyer in the landmark lawsuit. "I know people who'd been together 20 years who say, 'Getting married - it knocked my socks off.'" Chalmers and Linnell were among seven Gay and Lesbian couples recruited by Bonauto's team to be the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. They had been partners since meeting in Worcester in 1988, and now live nearby in Linnell's childhood house in the rural outskirts of Whitinsville with their 16-year-old daughter, Paige, whom they adopted as an infant. The south-central town of 6,300, with no Gay community to speak of, is relatively far from cosmopolitan Boston and the Gay vacation mecca of Provincetown, but the family feels thoroughly comfortable.

Paige, who brims with self-confidence, is helping form a Gay-straight alliance at her high school. When her fathers got married, she said, "all my friends were saying they wanted to come to the wedding." Chalmers, an elementary school curriculum coordinator in nearby Shrewsbury, and Linnell, nurse manager at a medical center, say they didn't need the wedding to prove their commitment to one another, but they appreciate the added legal stability and the recognition they get from others. "Before, we had wills, we had power of attorney," Chalmers said. "But the fact of the matter was, you can't make up for the thousand or so rights that are given to married couples."

They said many of the fellow townspeople they'd spoken with were unaware that Gay couples - pre-2004 - generally lacked these rights, ranging from income tax provisions to medical decision-making to property inheritance. Another plus: Explanations about family ties are easier now that "husband" is an option. "More than once," Chalmers recalled, "I was introducing Rich and said, 'This is my partner,' and they'd say, 'Oh, what kind of company do you own? What business are you in?'" Another of the seven lawsuit couples - Gina and Heidi Nortonsmith - live in the Lesbian-friendly college town of Northampton with their two sons - Quinn, 9, and Avery 12. Like their fellow plaintiffs, they married as soon as legally possible - on May 17, 2004.

Heidi, who is white, runs an emergency food pantry, while Gina, an African-American, is an elementary school classroom aide. Heidi gave birth to both sons, who are biracial, and the family name merges the moms' maiden names. "When we were getting ready to have the kids, we wanted to cross all our T's and dot all our I's, feeling there were so many protections for heterosexual married families that just weren't available to us," Heidi said. "When marriage finally happened, there was that emotional sigh of relief - just knowing there would be a legal framework, and a court of law would understand our family."

Heidi and Gina bridle at the contention of some Gay-marriage opponents that children such as theirs will suffer from not being raised by both a mother and father. "We have really great kids," says Gina. "It's been fun to have people see who we are."

UPDATE

26th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial In Tucson May 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Sunday, May 17, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) along with many other community organizations and members will be participating in the 26th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. This annual event will be held in over 1,200 other communities around the world.

The 26th Anniversary of the historic International AIDS Candlelight Memorial – one of the world's first public events against HIV/AIDS that continues to be led by communities worldwide – commemorates more than a quarter century of remembrance, community mobilization, and global solidarity. For 26 years, the Candlelight Memorial has brought people together in every region of the world to honor those lost to AIDS and demonstrate the importance of civil society, a movement in step with the spread of the disease itself.

The Tucson AIDS Candlelight Memorial is a family friendly event that will be held at Himmel Park near Speedway and Tucson Blvd. Music, speakers, performances, information tables and candle lighting will all be part of the memorial celebration.

Desert Voices Yard Sale May 16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices (desertvoices.org) will hold a yard sale on Saturday, May 16, 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at 4412 E. Holmes Street (off Columbus).

Lots of goodies, some new - furniture, golf equipment, clothes, computer wares, household items, gardening and lawn care - you name it, we will have it! Have items you would like to donate?

Give them a call at (520) 791-9662 and they can arrange to pick up. Desert Voices is a non-profit, supportive GLBTS chorus celebrating 20 years entertaining Tucson and the surrounding communities.

Fabulous Faygeleh LGBT Film Festival May 14-16-17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson International Jewish Film Festival is proud to present the 1st annual Fabulous Faygeleh LGBT Film Festival. The festival runs May 14, 16 & 17 in the auditorium of the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Road.

The Festival will be presenting the following films.

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. - Jerusalem Is Proud To Present. In the summer of 2006, Jerusalem was to host, for the first time in history, the World Pride events.

Saturday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. - Antarctica. Omer and Shirley are looking for warmth and enlightenment – anything that will help to thaw the chill encapsulating their hearts. Ticket Prices: $6/Adults; $5/Students, JCC Members, Seniors.

Sunday, May 17, 1:00 p.m. - Mom I Didn't Kill Your Daughter. Lior turns a camera on himself, and his video diaries–raw and brave–capture the fear, doubts, hope and excitement that come with change.

Sunday, May 17, 3:00 p.m. Darling: The Pieter-Dirk Story. Uys (pronounced "ace") was renowned for his drag alter ego, a dowager named Evita Bezuidenhout -think of Dame Edna with a political hammer.

Sunday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. The Secrets. Naomi, the brilliant and pious daughter of an ultra orthodox rabbi finds herself at a crossroads of life choices when her mother dies and she is expected to immediately marry her father's prodigy.

For more information, call (520) 299-3000.

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'You Will Sing Along And Want To Dance In The Aisles,' May 16

TUCSON (Observer Update) - (Tucson, AZ)- Larry Moore (aka Lucinda Holliday) & Arizona Onstage Productions present a classy night. Saturday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott, of celebrity impressionists on an elegant historic theater stage all to benefit three non-profits close to their hearts; The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), and Wingspan.

Entertainment will be provided by: Larry Moore - Your hilarious host as Barbie among others. Pheadra - As Selena and Shania Twain. Kenneth Blake - As Dolly Parton and Celine Dion. Cameron Knight - As an amazing Michael Jackson. Janee Starr - As Annie Lennox and Cher. China Collins - As Tina Turner and Janet Jackson and Tempest DuJour - Who mirrors Marilyn.

Tickets: $25 each or 5/$100. Tickets are available online at arizonaonstage.org or at the door. For more information, call (520) 882-6574.

Evening With Music And Friends Celebrates Alliance Fund Successes

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund held its "Evening with Music and Friends" annual fundraiser at the elegant home of Chas Baumgardner and Michael Myers on May 1, 2009. Ernesto Portillo Jr. served as the master of ceremonies for a nice crowd on a beautiful evening that celebrated the Alliance Fund's philanthropy. Ken McKinley and Nancy Pancino of Open Inn provided narrative on how the Alliance Fund's grant to their organization had been leveraged into a major funding success, and Portillo summarized the Alliance Fund's efforts since 2000. Funding of nearly $400,000 has been distributed among more than 70 projects that benefit the LGBT community or contribute to the support of diversity in Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Randy Soderstrom, the Alliance Fund Chairperson, also took the stage to thank the many individual and business sponsors of the Fund's efforts, including Pronto Printing, Eyelink Design, and Special Events Table Linens. He also introduced prominent members of the community in attendance including City Council member Rodney Glassman and representatives from Council member Karin Uhlich's office. Recognition and gratitude were extended to three leaders of important service organizations who attended– Jason Cianciotto of Wingspan, Wendell Hicks of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), and Scott Blades of the Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network (TIHAN). Michael Hutchins capped the formal program with a review of why philanthropy is rewarding and important to the LGBT community and to celebrating diversity in Southern Arizona.

Music by a young jazz group from the Tucson Jazz Institute, the "Blue Note Combo," was heard throughout an event that featured delicious fare from The Gallery of Food and was colored by arrangements from the Arizona Flower Market. Alvaro Mendizabal closed the evening with commentary on and performance of works for classical guitar.

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

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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Two Out Lesbians Considered For Supreme Court

Pam Karlan

Kathleen Sullivan

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Pam Karlan (left), a Stanford University law professor, is one of two out Lesbians rumored to be on Obama's list to replace Supreme Court Justice David Souter, who is due to retire this spring, advocate.com reported. Kathleen Sullivan (right), the out former dean of Stanford Law School, has also been frequently mentioned as a possible replacement for Souter.

Karlan told Politico.com in an e-mail, "It's no secret at all that I'm counted among the LGBT crowd" and acknowledged that she is one of many names in the ring. "Given the landscape, I'm flattered, but not fooled, by having my name tossed around," she added.

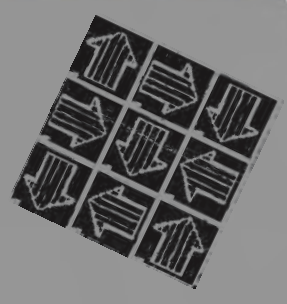
Karlan is the founding director of Stanford's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, which allows students to litigate live cases. She has also long advocated for the LGBT community. A Yale graduate, she has served as an assistant counsel and attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. In 2003 she wrote a law professors' amicus brief in Lawrence v. Texas, the landmark case that overturned remaining state laws against consensual sodomy.

BRIEFLY Q

DENVER, CO - A man already serving a life sentence for the murder of transsexual teen 18-year-old Angie Zapata has been handed an extra 60 years to his sentence. Allen Ray Andrade was convicted of murder after beating Zapata to death with a fire extinguisher in July 2008 and sentenced to life without parole. Now a judge has added 60 years for the additional charges of committing a hate crime, theft of a motor vehicle and identity theft. ...

SAN DIEGO, CA - California LGBT activists are rebuffing a bid by San Diego developer Doug Manchester to end a boycott of two of his hotels in San Diego over his support for Proposition 8, the measure which bans same-sex marriage in California. manchester owns the Manchester Grand Hyatt and the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina. Last year he donated $125,000 to Protect Marriage, the group behind the ballot measure. A group called Californians Against Hate immediately launched a boycott of Manchester's properties. The boycott has resulted in several groups canceling conventions at the hotels - costing Manchester's facility an estimated $2 million. ...

WASHINGTON, D.C. - While Kirby Dick's newest documentary Outrage is spurring controversy over the outing of closeted Gay politicians, a national news outlet is keeping the film's hypocritical key players in the closet. National Public Radio edited a review of the film by critic Nathan Lee, cutting out the names of some of the alleged Gay politicians like former senator Larry Craig and Florida governor Charlie Crist, who will announce his candidacy for U.S. senator. Out of protest, according to IndieWire.com, Lee removed his byline from the review, and in the online edition of the story wrote, "I'm proscribed from naming names right now, for example, by longstanding NPR policy on the subject." He also wrote a comment to the online version of the story explaining that he had done so to protest NPR's policy of protecting the identities of politicians "who actively suppress Gay rights, and thus whose sexual identities are of significant importance to the press," but Lee's comment was quickly removed from the site. An NPR superior said he cut the names from the review to protect the privacy of public figures. However, as Movieline.com has pointed out, the same news organization was quick to label American Idol standout Adam Lambert as Gay while he has not actually confirmed the rumors himself. The editorial on Lambert was based on a photo of Lambert kissing another man. Another segment on the show News and Notes following comedian Wanda Sykes's coming-out in November asked whether other African-American stars like actress and musician Queen Latifah might follow suit. Sources for Latifah's sexual orientation were limited to gossip websites and tabloid newspapers.



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Around The Nation

CLEVELAND, OH (Observer Update) - Same-sex couples began lining up early at city hall Thursday morning (May 6) to sign up under Cleveland's new domestic partner registry, 365Gay.com reported. Outside city hall, there was an air of excitement; inside a group of conservative pastors held a prayer service using the National Day of Prayer to denounce Gay unions. City Council approved the registry with a 13-7 vote in December. It was signed into law by Mayor Frank Jackson. "Let this movement be about building real bridges in Cleveland," Councilman Joe Cimperman, who filed the legislation, told The Plain Dealer newspaper. "It's not about marriage," Cimperman said. "It's about recognizing relationships. And this is just the beginning. Come on, it's 2009! This is the battle of human rights for our generation." The registry is mostly symbolic, but for Gay and Lesbian couples in the city it is a major step forward in a state where same-sex marriage is banned under the constitution. The registry will be open to all same-sex couples who live in the city. They will have to show they are in an interdependent relationship and live together.

It will not require city government or private businesses to provide spousal benefits to same-sex couples, but it could be used as proof of a relationship at those companies which do offer partner benefits. The registry is the third of its kind in the state. In 2003, voters in Cleveland Heights approved a partner registry. A conservative council member sued to overturn the vote but lost in court and was defeated in the nest election. In 2008 ,Toledo City Council approved a similar registry.

BATON ROUGE, LA (Observer Update) - The Louisiana legislature is moving forward with legislation that would bar the state from issuing birth certificates showing two people of the same sex as parents, 365Gay.com reported. The House Health and Welfare Committee has voted 12-3 to send the bill to the full House for a vote. Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) supports the bill. The measure grew out of a federal lawsuit brought by a Gay couple who want their names on the birth certificate of their adopted son. Oren Adar and Mickey Smith adopted their Louisiana-born son in 2006 in a New York court, where a judge issued an adoption decree. When Smith attempted to get a new birth certificate for their child so he could add his son to his health insurance, the office of Louisiana State Registrar Darlene Smith told him that Louisiana does not recognize adoption by unmarried parents and so could not issue it.

Lambda Legal filed suit on behalf of Adar and Smith in October 2007, saying that the registrar was violating the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution by refusing to recognize the New York adoption. The Constitution holds that judgments and orders issued by a court in one state are legally binding in other states as well. In December, U.S. District Judge Jay Zainey in New Orleans ordered the state Office of Vital Records to put the names of both fathers on the amended birth certificate. In his ruling, Zainey said failing to amend the birth certificate violated the U.S. Constitution. Zainey issued the ruling without holding a trial. In April, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals put a stay on the ruling to allow the state to appeal. The 5th Circuit ordered legal briefs to be submitted in the case and the Appeals Court is expected to hear the case later this year. Attorney General Buddy Caldwell said that the case brings up complex constitutional questions and is likely to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has ruled previously that there "are some limitations upon the extent to which a state may be required by the full faith and credit clause to enforce even the judgment of another state in contravention of its own statutes or policy." ...

OLYMPIA, WA (Observer Update) - Opponents of Washington state's newly enacted domestic partner law that gives same-sex couples all of the state rights of marriage without the name have started their bid to overturn the measure, 365Gay.com reported. The Washington Values Alliance filed paperwork Monday to begin the referendum process. They need to get more than 120,500 voter signatures by July 25 to qualify for the November ballot. The filing for the referendum delays the July 26 start of the law until the signatures are counted. If opponents qualify for the ballot, the law is delayed until the results of the November election. Gov. Chris Gregoire is expected to sign the "everything but marriage" bill into law within the next two weeks. President Larry Stickney said the legislation is the final step toward legalizing Gay marriage in Washington. The legislation makes domestic partnerships equal to marriage in areas of community property, guardianship and powers of attorney. It allows partners the right to refuse to testify against partners in court. And it provides the same remedies as married couples in ending a relationship, including the division of property.

The legislation expands on previous domestic partnership laws by adding reference to partnerships alongside all remaining areas of state law where currently only married couples are mentioned. The domestic partner law was enacted after the state Supreme Court in 2006 upheld Washington's so-called Defense of Marriage Act limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples. The court cited the argument that marriage was designed for the procreation of children. But the court noted the legislature could overturn the law or amend it to include Gay pairs. Since July 2007 when the original domestic partner law went into effect, more than 5,000 couples have registered as domestic partners. Under the law, partners must be 18 or order and not already married or in a domestic relationship with someone else. The law also requires that couples share a home and be financially dependent up one another. It also allows opposite-sex couples to register if one partner is at least 62 years old.

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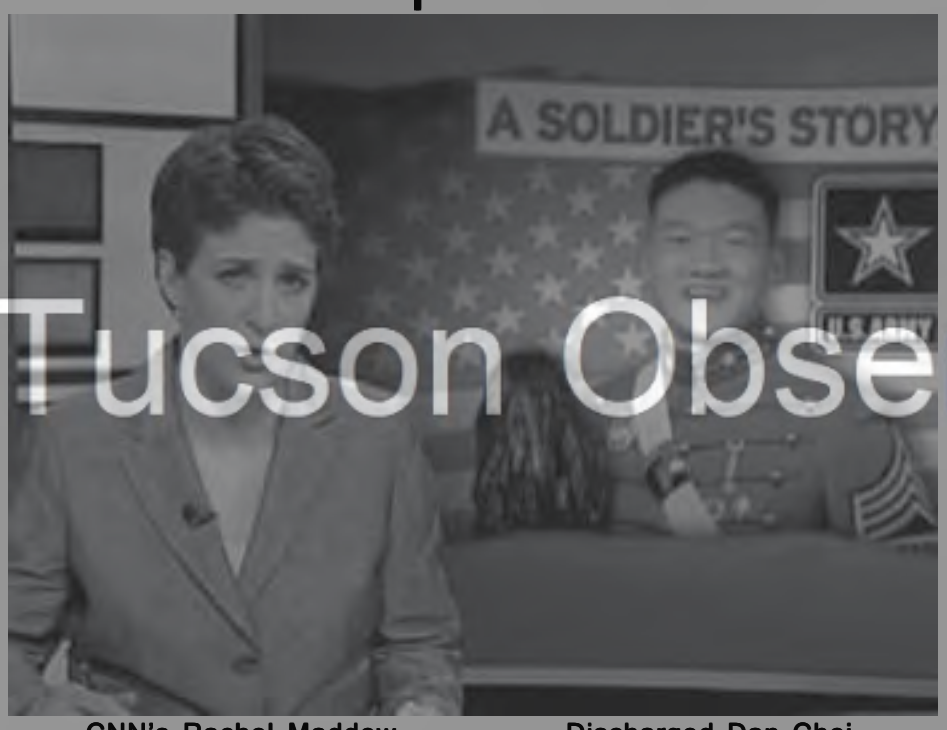
DADT- Discharged Dan Choi Speaks



CNN's Rachel Maddow Discharged Dan Choi

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - U.S. Army first lieutenant Dan Choi appeared on The Rachel Maddow Show on Thursday (May 7) to discuss his dismissal under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The appearance marked Choi's first interview since receiving word this week of his discharge for announcing in March that he is Gay. Choi, a West Point graduate, Iraq war veteran, and Arab linguist, told Maddow that he felt "extremely angry" when he received the discharge letter, primarily because of the implied insult to his unit's professionalism. He reiterated that sentiment on Friday on CNN's American Morning.

Choi told Maddow that after he announced his sexual orientation on her MSNBC program on March 19, members of his New York Army National Guard unit told him, "We know and we don't care. What we care about is, can you contribute to the team." Choi vowed to fight the charges against him, saying, "Don't lie. Don't hide. Don't discriminate. Don't weaken the military." On Thursday, Maddow presented what she called the latest "tangible evidence of President Obama's personal stance on the issue." This week, the president sent a handwritten reply to Sandy Tsao, a U.S. Army lieutenant who wrote a letter urging him to repeal the ban after she came out in January. "It is because of outstanding Americans like you that I committed to changing our current policy," Obama wrote. "Although it will take some time to complete, partly because it needs congressional action, I intend to fulfill my commitment."

However, others contend that Obama has the authority to suspend "don't ask, don't tell" without congressional approval. Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, writes that Obama can issue an executive order to suspend the policy.

Gavin Creel, Billy Elliot Lead Tony Nominations

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Nominees for the 63rd annual Tony Awards were announced in New York City on Tuesday morning (May 5). Billy Elliot: The Musical led the pack with 15 nominations, including Best Musical, followed by Next to Normal, which received 11 nominations, including a Best Musical nod.

Hair star Gavin Creel, who came out on Advocate.com in March, scored a nod for best leading actor in a musical, where he'll face off against American Idol castoff Constantine Maroulis for Rock of Ages. Shrek the Musica l and Rock of Ages rounded out the Best Musical category. The nominees for Best Play included Dividing the Estate, God of Carnage, Reasons to Be Pretty, and 33 Variations, advocate.com reported.

Performances in God of Carnage and Mary Stuart dominated the nominations for best lead acting in a play, while Jane Fonda was also nominated for her work in 33 Variations. In musicals, Stockard Channing was recognized for her leading role in Pal Joey, and Allison Janney scored for 9 to 5. David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik, and Kiril Kulish were nominated for Billy Elliot. Among the productions snubbed were Hedda Gabler and The Seagull, which received no nominations, and 9 to 5, which did not earn a nomination in the Best Musical category. The Tony Award winners will be announced on June 7 on CBS.

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Can You Take Steps To Prevent Memory Loss?

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) - Participating in certain mental activities, like reading magazines or crafting in middle age or later in life, may delay or prevent memory loss, according to a study released today that will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 61st annual meeting, HIV Plus Magazine reported.

The study involved 197 people between the ages of 70 and 89 with mild cognitive impairment, or diagnosed memory loss, and 1,124 people in the same age range with no memory problems. Both groups answered questions about their daily activities within the past year and in middle age, when they were between 50 and 65 years old. The study found that during later years, reading books, playing games, participating in computer activities, and doing craft activities such as pottery or quilting led to a 30% to 50% decrease in the risk of developing memory loss compared to people who did not do those activities. People who watched television for less than seven hours a day in later years were 50% less likely to develop memory loss than people who watched for more than seven hours a day.

People who participated in social activities and read magazines during middle age were about 40% less likely to develop memory loss than those who did not do those activities.

Geovax Begins Phase II HIV Vaccine Trial

ATLANTA, Georgia (Observer Update) - GeoVax Labs announced the first injections in its Phase IIa human clinical vaccine trial for its candidate HIV vaccine. The trial, designated HVTN 205, is being conducted by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN), which is funded and supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The HVTN has sponsored over 80 Phase I trials for the initial evaluation of safety and immunogenicity of candidate HIV vaccines. The results of these trials have merited only five Phase IIa trials since 1992. GeoVax is pleased to report that the first injections for its Phase IIa trial were conducted at the HVTN network sites at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and Nashville's Vanderbilt University. The trial will include a total of 225 volunteers (150 vaccine recipients and 75 placebo recipients) and take place at 13 HVTN sites: 11 in North America and two in South America. Sites in the United States include Emory University in Atlanta; Harvard Medical School in Boston; Vanderbilt University; the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.; the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle; the San Francisco Department of Public Health; the University of Alabama-Birmingham; and Columbia University in New York City. In South America, participants are to be enrolled in Peru at sites in Iquitos and Lima.

"I am extremely pleased that our vaccine merited moving forward through the HVTN," Harriet Robinson, Ph.D., developer of the vaccine and senior vice president of research and development at GeoVax, says in a press release. "This network provides a wide array of support for its clinical trials, from finances to statistical design and analysis; from community engagement to rigorous laboratory analysis. Working with the HVTN also affords us the input of the NIAID Prevention Science Research Committee, a committee with breadth of experience and knowledge in human vaccine development."

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Federal Legislative Update

With the approval of H.R. 1913, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA) of 2009, by the full U.S. House of Representatives, by a vote of 249_175 on April 29, all eyes, now turn to the U.S. Senate about expanding and enhancing federal statutes that cover hate crimes.

S. 909 was introduced in the U.S. Senate after the full House vote on H.R. 1913 on April 29.

Similar to H.R. 1913, the Senate measure which would expand current federal statutes covering hate crimes to include sexual orientation and gender identity, expanding funding to local law enforcement agencies to deal with these crimes and to allow the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate or prosecute such incidents if the local law enforcement agency cannot proceed or doesn't.

S. 909, which has 39 sponsors and co_sponsors, has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.

Through stories, statements and interviews, the sixteen year old policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the policy prohibiting Gays and Lesbians from serving openly in the country's armed services, seems to not be going away anytime soon but there is federal legislation pending.

H.R. 1283 has been introduced, which if approved and signed into law, would repeal the current policy. With 140 co_sponsors, the bipartisan legislation has been assigned to the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Legislation that would amend federal anti_bullying statutes to include sexual orientation and gender identity has been re_introduced in Congress. The Safe Schools Improvement Act was filed in the House by Representatives, Linda Sanchez (D_CA), Ileana Ros_Lehtinen (R_FL) and Carolyn McCarthy (D_NY).

H.R. 2262 would amend the Safe and Drug_Free Schools and Communities Act _ part of the No Child Left Behind Act _ to require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as race and religion. It would require states to include bullying and harassment data in their state_wide needs assessments reporting.

This legislation has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor for consideration.

So if one is sick of the small talk and the lack of inaction, follow these measures through the federal legislative website, Thomas (located at Thomas.loc.gov).

Call and E_mail your Member of Congress expressing support for these proposals, either through hrc.org or callcongress.org.

Get involved with local chapters of organizations, such as the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (sldn.org), the Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Educators Network (GLSEN.org), Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG.org).

If the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender), HIV/AIDS and straight supportive communities don't express themselves on these important matters like how American's spoke out about the federal bailout and corporate bonuses, "yes we can," will be "no it won't."

Pepsi Urged To Drop Gay Ties

DALLAS, TX - A PepsiCo shareholder who describes himself as "a former Gay" urged the company to 'stop using shareholder profits to fund anti-hetero-sexual groups" at the firm's annual shareholders meeting in Dallas, 365Gay.Com reported. Greg Quinlan, a member of the conservative American Family Associated affiliated group Parent and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays, presented a motion asking stockholders to stop donating money to groups that he said "aim to discredit the ex-Gay community."

In his speech to shareholders, Quinlan described the Human Rights Campaign and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), as "Gay organizations that hate people like me." Over the past two years, Pepsi has given $500,000 to the Human Rights Campaign and $500,000 to PFLAG. "By funding PFLAG, PepsiCo promotes fear and hostility against the ex-Gay community and our supporters, and spreads lies about ex-Gay organizations. Diversity does not mean funding one organization so that it can attack another," said Quinlan.

His motion received five percent of the vote. Quinlan said he will keep pressing the issue at shareholders meetings. Under company rules, any vote receiving more than three percent remains active. PepsiCo produces Frito-Lay snacks, Pespsi-Cola and Gatorade drinks, Tropicana juices and Quaker foods. The company already is under a boycott.,

Joe The Plumber: "I Wouldn't Let Gays Near My Children"

NEW YORK CITY, (Observer Update) - Samuel Wurzelbacher, the Ohio man hailed as "Joe the Plumber" by Republican John McCain's presidential campaign last year, said he believes Gays are "queer" and said he won't allow them near his children, 365Gay.com reported. Nevertheless, Wurzelbacher said the decision about whether to allow same-sex couples to marry should be left to states.

"People don't understand the dictionary - it's called queer," Wurzelbacher told Christianity Today in an interview published this week. "Queer means strange and unusual. It's not like a slur, like you would call a white person a honky or something like that. You know, God is pretty explicit in what we're supposed to do - what man and woman are for." He added, "I've had some friends that are actually homosexual. And, I mean, they know where I stand, and they know that I wouldn't have them anywhere near my children. But at the same time, they're people, and they're going to do their thing."

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a national Gay rights organization based in Washington, dismissed Wurzelbacher's comments. "It would matter if Joe the Plumber mattered," Solmonese said. "One thing among many things we learned in the 2008 campaign is that he doesn't."

California High Court OKs Lesbian Student's Expulsion

RIVERSIDE, CA (Observer Update) - The California Supreme Court will let stand an appeals court ruling that a Lutheran school was within its rights when it expelled two students for allegedly being Lesbians, 365Gay.com.

The case began in 2005 after the school's principal, Gregory Bork, called the girls into his office and grilled them on their sexual orientation. One girl was allegedly coerced to say she loved the other. The next day, the suit said, Bork told the girls' parents they could not stay at the school with "those feelings." In a Sept. 12, 2005 letter to the parents, Bork acknowledged officials had seen no physical contact between the girls but said their friendship was "uncharacteristic of normal girl relationships and more characteristic of a Lesbian one."

The girls' attorney argued that the 142-student school in Wildomar was bound to comply with state civil rights laws because it functions as a business by collecting tuition and falls under the California civil-rights law that prohibits LGBT discrimination. The school is owned by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the nation's third-largest Lutheran church body. The California Lutheran High School Association, comprising three dozen churches and religious schools, operates the campus. The school argued that it is exempt from the rights law because it is run by a religious institution and does not accept state funding.

In 2008, a Riverside County Superior Court judge dismissed the case, ruling that was no legal basis for the girls' claim that the school falls under the law. The case was appealed and last January the 4th District Court of Appeal upheld the lower court ruling. Attorneys for the girls appealed to the California Supreme Court which declined to hear the case. The decision allows the earlier rulings to stand.

Generational Divide On Same-Sex Marriage Issue

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Though a new national poll suggests that a majority of Americans oppose the legalization of same-sex marriage, the survey also indicates a great generational divide on the issue, reported advocate.com. In a poll conducted by CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, 54% of respondents said marriages between Gay and Lesbian couples should not be recognized as valid, with 44% indicating they should be considered legal.

However, among those 18 to 34 years old, 58% said same-sex marriages should be legal. The number drops drastically to 42% among respondents aged 35 to 49, then to 41% among those aged 50 to 64, and only 24% among Americans 65 and older. "Young voters strongly favor marriage equality. They're the future of American politics," says CNN political analyst Bill Schneider.

Information from the poll also indicates an increase in the number of people who say they have a family member or a close friend who is Gay, up to 49%, from 41% in 1998. The number also increases to 58% among those aged 18 to 34. "People who say they have a Gay friend or relative support same-sex marriage," CNN polling director Keating Holland notes. "Most of those who say they don't know anyone who is Gay oppose Gay marriage."

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Obama Caving On Gays In The Military

by Aubrey Sarvis

"We've begun to change the culture of Washington," President Obama said in his boffo remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner Saturday night (May 9). Sounds good. But the next morning on ABC's This Week, George Stephanopoulos asked the president's National Security Advisor retired Marine General James L. Jones if he thought DADT will be overturned. Jones replied, "I don't know," and then what is clearly one of the main talking points, "We have a lot on our plate right now."

Sounds like the same old Beltway blab to me. There was more of it, just the usual stuff: "preliminary discussions with the leadership of the Pentagon . . . [this] is not going to be a light switch but more of a rheostat in terms of discussing . . . a very sensitive issue and it has to be discussed over time . . . all sides have to be heard . . . We will have long discussions about this. It will be thoughtful. It will be deliberative. The president I know will reach out to fully understand both sides or all sides of the issue before he makes a decision . . . ." Surely this doesn't represent the vision and the work plan we've been hearing about from the White House and some of our allies. In Washington we know about commissions and study groups and promise-them-anything when you're trolling for votes but after the election . . . well, memories fade. What candidate Obama said then is not what President Obama is doing now - at least in regard to "don't ask, don't tell." In October 2007, candidate Obama, responding to a question on DADT, said, "Anybody who is willing to serve our country and die on a battlefield . . . that's the criteria for whether or not they should be able to serve in our military. England doesn't have this policy. Israel doesn't have this policy. It's an outdated policy."

That same autumn he said, "America is ready to get rid of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. That work should have started long ago. It will start when I take office. America is ready to get rid of the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy. All that is required is leadership." Ringing words from candidate Obama. But that was then; this is now. President Obama has said almost nothing. Where is the leadership today? It's not coming from the president. President Obama is caving. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mike Mullen, General Jones, and Chief of the U.S. Central Command General David Petraeus seem to be calling the shots for their Commander-in-Chief. What's the evidence? The president's defense team presented their department's budget to President Obama, and the president sent it to the Hill last week. This Wednesday hearings begin in the House Armed Forces Committee. Nothing in the Obama defense budget provides for the elimination of "don't ask, don't tell."

More evidence? Karen De Young wrote in the Washington Post last week, "When Obama was under pressure to review the military's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy on Gay service members, Jones said he went 'to see him personally on it' and advised him not to add another controversy to his already-full plate. The president, Jones said, took his advice." Apparently so. "Calling the shots" is not the metaphor the Defense Secretary and the officers mentioned earlier would use because in truth it is the president who calls the shots. While the president is playing basketball, a game he is pretty good at, his senior advisors are playing kick ball, as in "let's kick this ball down the road." Unfortunately, they're pretty good at kickball. The metaphors are flying all over the place. Mixing them up a bit more, "we've got a lot on our plates right now." We hear that a lot. No one could deny it. Has there even been a president who hasn't had a full to overflowing plate? In the meantime one or two men and women are being discharged every day for who they are. This has nothing to do with national security or unit cohesion or any of the other buzz words like "full plate." Those words just cover up a crass political calculation made at the expense of the at least 13,000 men and women already discharged because of who they are.

Who they are is Gay. On March 19th, Lieutenant Daniel Choi told an audience of millions on MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show, "I am an infantry platoon leader in the New York Army National Guard, and by saying three words to you today–I am Gay–those three words are a violation of Title X of the U.S. Code." Indeed they were. Last week the Army wrote Iraq veteran Lieutenant Choi, West Point Class of 2003, Arabic major and fluent in the language, that he was being dismissed. The letter says, in part, "this is to inform you that sufficient basis exists to initiate action for withdrawal of federal recognition in the Army National Guard for moral or professional dereliction. Specifically, you admitted publicly that you are a homosexual, which constitutes homosexual conduct. Your actions negatively affected the good order and discipline of the New York Army National Guard."

Not exactly a friendly note. President Obama may not have signed it, but what is now his policy dictated it. In fact, more than sixty translators have been discharged under "don't ask, don't tell." One of them even made headlines Saturday in Israel, where of course being Gay in the military is no big deal. The big deal was that the Army fired an Arabic linguist. A few days ago Second Lieutenant Sandy Tsao got a note quite different in tone. In January, on the Chinese New Year, she wrote President Obama, explaining that "today is also the day I inform my chain of command of who I am." Who she is, is Gay. She went on to say, "I have fought and overcome many barriers to arrive at the point I am today. This is the only battle I fear I may lose." Well, she did lose. She will be out of the Army May 19th because she told her superiors that she is a lesbian. It took just four months.

But last Tuesday, in the same week she was informed she'd been fired, she received a handwritten note on White House letterhead from the President: "Sandy – Thanks for the wonderful and thoughtful letter. It is because of outstanding Americans like you that I committed to changing our current policy. Although it will take some time to complete (partly because it needs Congressional action) I intend to fulfill my commitment." Nice words, a nice souvenir for Lieutenant Tsao, and it's encouraging to know that President Obama intends to fulfill his commitment. The question is, "When? How?"

(Sarvis is the Executive Director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network).

N.H. Governor Speaks On Marriage Bill

CONCORD, NH (Observer Update) - Gov. John Lynch, on whom the fate of New Hampshire's marriage-equality legislation now depends, spoke on Wednesday evening (May 5) about how he plans to deliberate, reported advocate.com. "I'm going to talk to legislators and I'm going to talk to the people of New Hampshire and ultimately make the best decision I can for the people of New Hampshire," said Lynch, according to the Associated Press.

Governor Lynch, a Democrat, has previously stated that he believes marriage is a union between a man and a woman, and that civil unions are sufficient to achieve equal rights for same-sex couples.

Once the marriage-equality bill reaches his desk, Lynch will have five days to decide whether to sign or veto it. He could also allow the bill to become law without his signature. Observers do not anticipate that the senate and house, which narrowly passed the bill in amended form in the past week, could muster the votes needed to override a veto.

Governor John Lynch

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D.C. Mayor OKs Marriage Recognition Bill

District of Columbia Mayor Adrian Fenty

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Mayor Adrian Fenty signed a bill Thursday (May 7) that approves recognition of legally performed out-of-state same-sex marriages. As Advocate.com reported Wednesday, the battle over this measure now moves to the U.S. Congress, which has oversight over all of the District's legislation. After signing the bill, Mayor Fenty said he did not expect Congress to block it. "I'm going with Pelosi's statement that the Congress won't interfere," he told the local NBC affiliate.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a strong statement against congressional meddling in District matters.

"I have long believed that Congress should not interfere with internal decisions made by the District of Columbia's elected representatives – just as the Congress did not intervene in the state of New York's recognition of valid marriage contracts in other jurisdictions," Pelosi said.

McDonald's Settles Discrimination Case

LOUISVILLE, KY (Observer Update) - McDonald's has agreed to diversity training and a cash settlement, ending a human rights complaint by two men who were subjected to homophobic remarks by employees of a local restaurant, reported 365Gay.com. Ryan Marlatt, Teddy Eggers, and three other friends had stopped for lunch at a McDonald's restaurant on East Market Street on July 26, 2008 while visiting Louisville for the weekend.

The men say that while they waited for their food to be prepared, an employee behind the counter referred to them as "faggots" to another employee. Marlatt and Eggers then approached the cashier, said they didn't come to the restaurant to be insulted, and asked to speak with a manager. As they waited for the supervisor on duty to appear, the employee who had called them "faggots" started arguing with them, repeatedly calling them "faggots" in front of other customers and calling one of them a "cocksucker" and "bitch" according to the American Civil Liberties Union which is representing the two men.

Last September, Eggers and Marlatt filed an official complaint with the city of Louisville's Human Relations Commission. Under the agreement reached between McDonald's and the ACLU of Kentucky, the company will provide diversity training for management at 30 of its Louisville-area restaurants and pay Eggers and Marlatt $2000 each.

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Maine Marriage Equality Challenged

AUGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - Marriage-equality opponents in Maine have filed a formal challenge to the state's new law allowing same-sex couples to marry, the Associated Press reports. The action could lead to a referendum vote on marriage equality in November 2009 or June 2010, advocate.com reported. In Maine, a state constitutional provision known as a "people's veto" allows for a possible referendum on legislation, provided enough signatures are collected. Opponents of the marriage-equality law need to collect at least 55,087 signatures, or 10% of the number of votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election, to mount a ballot referendum for statewide vote.

The deadline to collect the signatures is likely to be in mid September, when the marriage-equality law is set to take effect. Same-sex marriages would be interrupted by the signature review process, with a referendum scheduled for fall or spring depending on the success of the petitioning and when the material is submitted.

Anti-marriage equality groups expect to start collecting signatures on May 21, after the state approves the petition wording. One group that reportedly has offered to help is the National Association of Marriage Enhancement, which assisted with anti-gay marriage referendums in Arizona, California, and Florida.

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Milk Day Moves Forward In California

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - A bill that would designate May 22 as Harvey Milk Day has been approved by a key committee in the California Senate. The measure now moves to the full Senate for a vote, 365Gay.com reported.

May 22 is Milk's birth date. He would have been 80 this year. It would then need House approval before going to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R). The governor vetoed a similar bill last year saying that while he respected the measure's intent, he thought Milk's "contributions should continue to be recognized at the local level."

Both bills were filed by openly Gay state Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who said when he submitted the current bill that he hoped positive publicity over the movie "Milk" would encourage Schwarzenegger to support the legislation this time. It would create a statewide "day of special significance" recognizing Milk's life and his contributions but would not be a holiday, meaning there would be no cost to the state Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977 and shot to death a year later by former supervisor Dan White. White was convicted of manslaughter, and served a little more than three years in prison before committing suicide. In the years since his death, Milk has become one of the most recognizable martyrs of the Gay rights movement.

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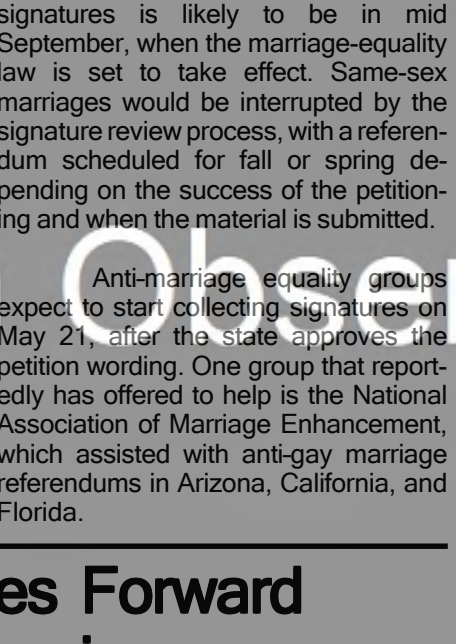

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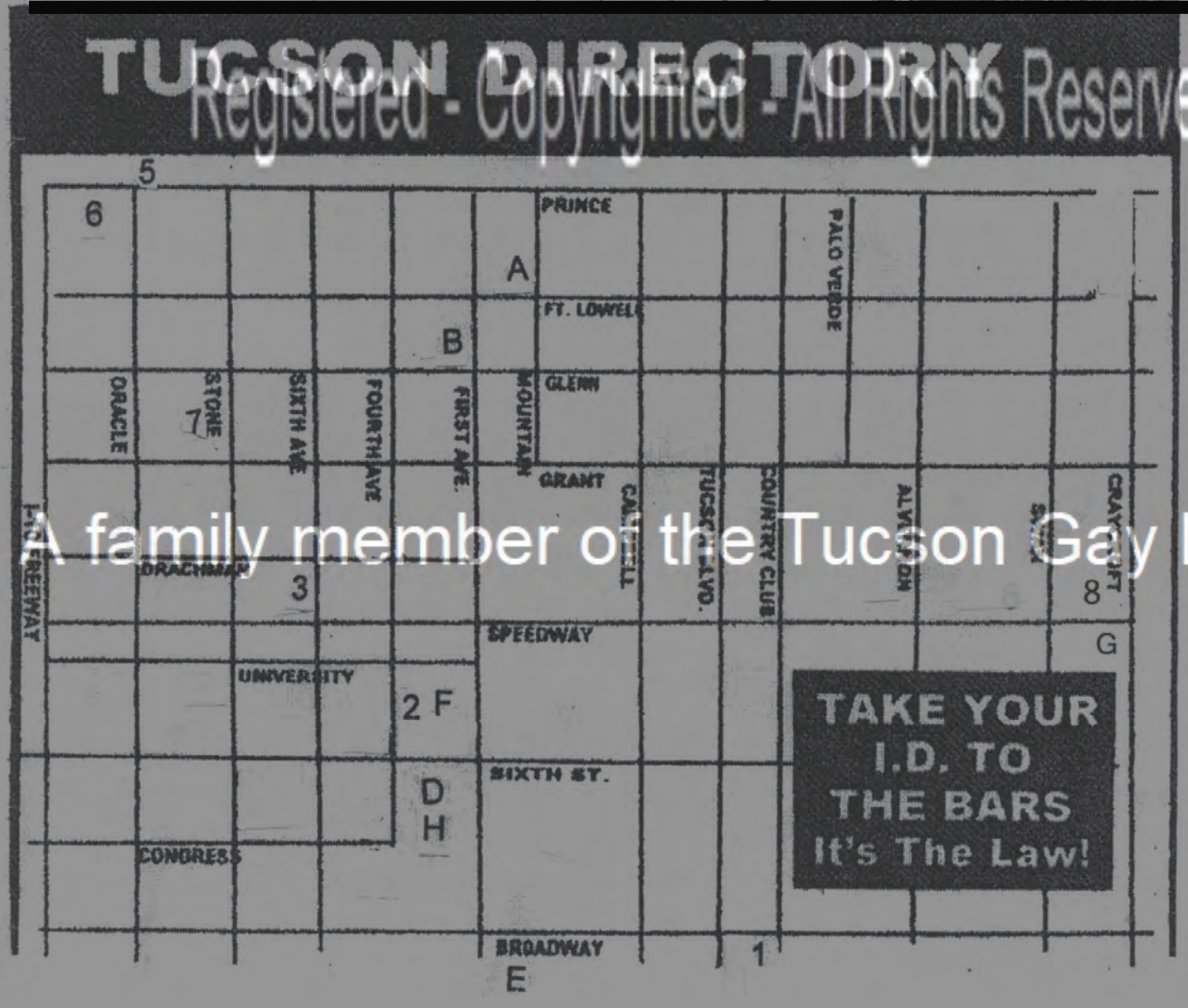

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Where Did You Get Them?

By Max Mutchnick

I'm different. I'm a Gay. And I'm a husband. And I am a dad of future twin girl presidents, Rose and Evan. Yes, Evan is the name of my daughter and Evan is also typically a boys name. But that's very now. All the kids with kids are doing it. Go to the park. Call out the name Charlie or Billy. See who looks up. It will surprise you. But that has nothing to do with anything. You should just know. In preparation for Air Force One travel, we took the girls on their first trip to New York City for the long weekend. Grandma and Grandpa wanted to show off their five month old granddaughters to everyone at their country club on Long Island. Organization and preparation are your friends when you're moving the future leaders of the free world across the United States. But when you get right down to it, you're just a roadie. You're a roadie for a baby. You carry everything this person could possibly want or need on your body at all times. There's really nothing you can't deliver at a moments notice.

"You're cold?" No, problem, I've got a cashmere sweater right here the size of a bagel. Fits great. You look great. "Bored?" How about a stuffed three-eyed guy with a feather for hair? He's in my back pocket. I'll even add a voice when I show him to you. "No?" Okay, You wanna bounce? "Food?" Not a problem. "Oh, you'd prefer my knuckle to suck on?" It's yours. And thank you for spitting up on me. I hate this jacket anyway. Truth is, they weren't bad. They were great. I've been told it's a lot harder getting Beyonce to Manhattan.

But I digress, that's not really what I want to talk about. I want to talk about the underlying responsibility of being a Gay dad. We're trying so hard to fit in. We're trying to get married and share insurance policies and we're trying to go on typical family vacations to see Grandma and Grandpa. I even did my best to describe the normal madness of traveling with small ones. But there's nothing normal about turning the car around when you're half way to the airport because you forgot your daughters birth certificate. That's right. Having Rose and Evan's original, authenticated birth certificate was the other thing this baby roadie had to have on his person. It mattered as much as infant Zantac and warm hats and clean diapers. Keep in mind, we were two men traveling with two little girls. If you look at it with a crooked eye you can make yourself see things. Can you imagine if you had to deal with indignity of having to explain your family? Even worse, proving that your biological daughter was yours?

So this is what really happened. I stood shoeless in front of the metal detector. Rose was in my arms. Her mouth open just a tiny bit and her eyes as wide as they've ever been in her hundred and thirty five days of life. Behind me was my husband. He held Evan. (Evan is also girl. See first paragraph). "Step through." The TSA guard said it like he was talking to a prisoner. I did as I was told. My husband followed. He held a baby in one arm and four business class tickets in the other. The guard looked at the tickets, then looked at us, then looked at the tickets.

"Who's Rose?" She is. I'm Max, this is Erik and that's Evan. Rose's sister. "Evan's a girl?"

Yeah. All the kids with kids are doing it. What? Nothing. A moment of silence. Rage started to well up inside of me in anticipation of the next question this giant with a badge was going to ask me. How was this man going to insult my family? In what way would he make me explain my difference?

This is what he said: "Where did you get them?" What? "Where did you get your kids?" Don't get me wrong. It's a hideously offensive question, but implicit in what he was saying was the fact that we were the dads and they were our daughters. Progress! Progress from a moron. But progress nonetheless. I was feeling some love for the TSA Giant. I made them.

This threw him, but I had his attention. And there in the middle of LAX with a line snaking to the front door of the airport I began to explain Gestational Surrogacy. There's a donor. She gives us the eggs. We never meet her. She is not the "mom". There is no mom. There's a surrogate. She's the oven. (Giants prefer short sentences with small words). My husband and I (the Giant winced) fertilized four eggs. They went inside the surrogate. Two of the eggs took. Fraternal twins were born 8 months and two weeks later. One of them was biologically his. One of them was biologically mine. But they're both ours, you know?

"You can do that?" You can, Giant. "Very cool." He wanted to ask more and I wanted to tell him more. But alas a plane trip was waiting with loving grandparents at the other end. So back to the responsibility of being a Gay father. It turns out the key is the same as it would be if I were a straight father. It's about patience. Showing patience in every way to everyone. I'm different, but not really.

(Reprinted from The Huffington Post)

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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.

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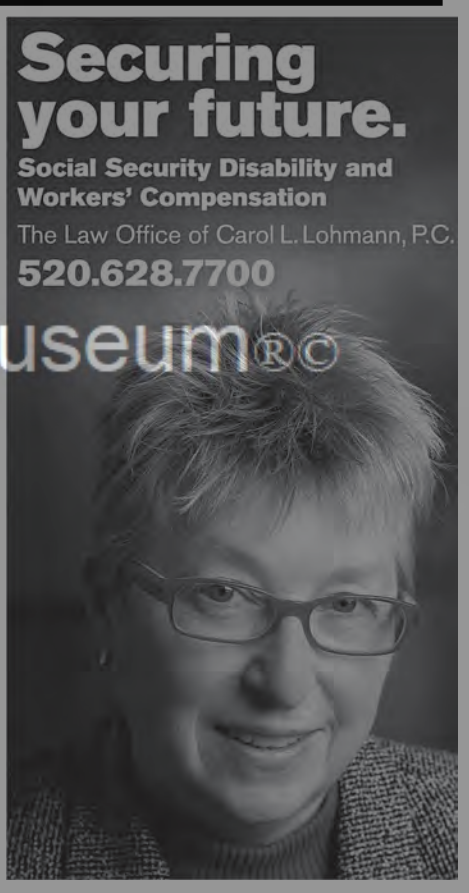

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Long-Standing LGBT Social Service Organization Files For Bankruptcy

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - Eight days after celebrating its 25th anniversary, Los Angeles's Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, effectively ceasing operations immediately.

GLASS was the nation's first long-term residential treatment program specifically for LGBT youths. The group currently operates residential group homes in Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland that house 71 young people. The agency also provides transitional living space for about 25 teens aged 17-19 and secures foster homes for 50 youths. "The staff is very upset," says Terry DeCrescenzo, GLASS's founder and executive director. "They may physically go to court and petition the court to reject the Chapter 7 and give us a Chapter 11."

An anonymous source reported that upon hearing the news of GLASS's dissolution, one of the children under their care overdosed and was rushed to the hospital. "I am not at liberty to discuss the condition of any of the minors in the program," DeCrescenzo said. "But it should certainly come as no surprise under these circumstances, as [the children] face losing the only families they've ever known." DeCrescenzo says a Chapter 11 bankruptcy would allow GLASS to continue operating while seeking additional funds through donations or loans. GLASS's board of directors didn't believe the organization would be able to secure a loan or obtain enough donations at this time and therefore pushed for the Chapter 7, DeCrescenzo says. The group receives 90% of its funds from the cash-strapped California government and the rest from donations. "We need two [million] to thrive," DeCrescenzo says. "One [million] to survive."

The young people in GLASS's group homes will most likely go to state-run facilities, while those in the transitional living program will lose any outside assistance they were receiving, DeCrescenzo says. DeCrescenzo worries for the Transgender youths who will no longer have the specially trained GLASS staff – 150 people now without jobs – at their sides. "I don't see outside agencies having the skills, expertise, or heart to take care of these trans kids," she says.

Tucson Observer Archives

Mounting HIV/AIDS Rates Among Gay Men In Asia

HONG KONG, SAR (Observer Update) - The AIDS virus is spreading rapidly among Gay and Bisexual men in Asia as younger people shun condoms and authorities fail to increase awareness of the disease, health officials said, 365Gay.com reported. The epidemic will worsen dramatically in coming years unless there is better education and stronger political will to combat the disease, warned Massimo Ghidinelli, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional adviser on HIV/AIDS.

His comments came at a news conference after a seminar in Hong Kong at which regional AIDS experts discussed the growing trend. Asia is believed to have the world's largest number of men who have sex with other men, with a preliminary estimate of 10 million, according to WHO. While describing the figure as "extraordinary high," Ghidinelli said it still appeared to be conservative because of the stigmatization of male-to-male sex. WHO said fragmentary information from the region indicated a rapid spread of HIV among Gay and Bisexual men, but that full data weren't available. The seminar was called to strengthen efforts to study and address the problem, it said.

Ghidinelli said low condom use among younger men in male-to-male relationships was fueling the transmission of HIV. "Younger men engaging in sex with men are entering into a sexual arena without the same level of awareness and without taking the same level of protection that the older generation was taking," Ghidinelli told a news conference. Ghidinelli said the AIDS experts agreed at the conference to set up a regional task force to collect information on male-to-male transmission and to strengthen measures to fight the disease.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Conservatives Press For G/L Marriage Ban In New Jersey

TRENTON, NJ (Observer Update) - A coalition of socially conservative groups is pressing the New Jersey legislature to ask voters in 2010 to amend the state constitution to bar same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported. The call came as Maine became the fifth state to legalize same-sex marriage and a similar bill in New Hampshire passed the legislature.

New Jersey lawmakers would have to approve a constitutional amendment in each of two consecutive years in order to put the question to voters. So far, the Democratically-controlled legislature has rebuffed calls to advance the proposed amendment. But the legislature also has stalled on taking up a bill that would allow same-sex couples to marry. In 2006, the state Supreme Court ruled same-sex couples must have all the rights of marriage.

The Court gave the New Jersey State Legislature 180 days to act on the decision to grant same-sex couples the rights and benefits enjoyed by different-sex married couples, but left it up to the legislators to decide whether to call it marriage or civil unions.

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A Reconciliation On G/L Marriage

By David Blankenhorn and Jonathan Rauch

In politics, as in marriage, moments come along when sensitive compromise can avert a major conflict down the road. The two of us believe that the issue of same-sex marriage has reached such a point now.

We take very different positions on Gay marriage. We have had heated debates on the subject. Nonetheless, we agree that the time is ripe for a deal that could give each side what it most needs in the short run, while moving the debate onto a healthier, calmer track in the years ahead.

It would work like this: Congress would bestow the status of federal civil unions on same-sex marriages and civil unions granted at the state level, thereby conferring upon them most or all of the federal benefits and rights of marriage. But there would be a condition: Washington would recognize only those unions licensed in states with robust religious-conscience exceptions, which provide that religious organizations need not recognize same-sex unions against their will. The federal government would also enact religious-conscience protections of its own. All of these changes would be enacted in the same bill.

For those not immersed in the issue, our proposal may seem puzzling. For those deeply immersed, it may seem suspect. So allow us a few words by way of explanation.

Whatever our disagreements on the merits of Gay marriage, we agree on two facts. First, most Gay and Lesbian Americans feel they need and deserve the perquisites and protections that accompany legal marriage. Second, many Americans of faith and many religious organizations have strong objections to same-sex unions. Neither of those realities is likely to change any time soon.

Further sharpening the conflict is the potential interaction of same-sex marriage with antidiscrimination laws. The First Amendment may make it unlikely that a church, say, would ever be coerced by law into performing same-sex wedding rites in its sanctuary. But religious organizations are also involved in many activities outside the sanctuary. What if a church auxiliary or charity is told it must grant spousal benefits to a secretary who marries her same-sex partner or else face legal penalties for discrimination based on sexual orientation or marital status? What if a faith-based nonprofit is told it will lose its tax-exempt status if it refuses to allow a same-sex wedding on its property?

Cases of this sort are already arising in the courts, and religious organizations that oppose same-sex marriage are alarmed. Which brings us to what we think is another important fact: Our national conversation on this issue will be significantly less contentious if religious groups can be confident that they will not be forced to support or facilitate Gay marriage.

Gay couples have concerns of their own. Most, of course, want the right to marry, and nothing less. But federal recognition of same-sex marriage – leave aside what you think about the merits – is not likely in the near future. The federal Defense of Marriage Act forbids it. Barack Obama and most other Democratic presidential candidates opposed Gay marriage. And most Americans continue to oppose it.

At the same time, federal law links many important perquisites to marital status, including Social Security survivor benefits, tax-free inheritance, spousal immigration rights and protections against mutual incrimination. All of these benefits are currently denied to same-sex couples, even those living in states that permit same-sex marriage or civil unions. But these same benefits could be conferred by federally recognized civil unions.

Yes, most Gays are opposed to the idea that religious organizations could openly treat same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples differently, without fear of being penalized by the government. But we believe that Gays can live with such exemptions without much difficulty. Why? Because most state laws that protect Gays from discrimination already include some religious exemptions, and those provisions are for the most part uncontroversial, even among Gays.

And while most Americans who favor keeping marriage as it has customarily been would prefer no legal recognition of same-sex unions at either the federal or the state level, we believe that they can live with federal civil unions – provided that no religious groups are forced to accept them as marriages. Many of these people may come to see civil unions as a compassionate compromise. For example, a PBS poll last fall found that 58 percent of white evangelicals under age 30 favor some form of legal same-sex union.

Linking federal civil unions to guarantees of religious freedom seems a natural way to give the two sides something they would greatly value while heading off a long-term, take-no-prisoners conflict. That should appeal to cooler heads on both sides, and it also ought to appeal to President Obama, who opposes same-sex marriage but has endorsed federal civil unions. A successful template already exists: laws that protect religious conscience in matters pertaining to abortion. These statutes allow Catholic hospitals to refuse to provide abortions, for example. If religious exemptions can be made to work for as vexed a moral issue as abortion, same-sex marriage should be manageable, once reasonable people of good will put their heads together.

In all sharp moral disagreements, maximalism is the constant temptation. People dig in, positions harden and we tend to convince ourselves that our opponents are not only wrong-headed but also malicious and acting in bad faith. In such conflicts, it can seem not only difficult, but also wrong, to compromise on a core belief.

But clinging to extremes can also be quite dangerous. In the case of Gay marriage, a scorched-earth debate, pitting what some regard as nonnegotiable religious freedom against what others regard as a nonnegotiable human right, would do great harm to our civil society. When a reasonable accommodation on a tough issue seems possible, both sides should have the courage to explore it.

(David Blankenhorn is president of the Institute for American Values and the author of "The Future of Marriage." Jonathan Rauch is a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution and the author of "Gay Marriage: Why It Is Good for Gays, Good for Straights and Good for America." This is reprinted from New York Times, Feb. 22, 2009.)

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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.

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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

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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.: (520) 406-0740.

TUCSON LATINO M2M -
http://groups.yahoo. com/group/ TucsonLatinoM2M

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 9
- Latin Night with DJ Joey playing the latest cumbias, baladas, and corridos plus a little old school. 9pm no cover

Sunday, May 10
COYOTE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. What's your talent? Sing, dance, drag, comedy,...whatever it is, come out and compete for $600 Grand Prize Winners selected by audience applause and judges scoring. Starts at 8:30 pm. May 10th through July 26th

Sunday, May 17
COYOTE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. $600 Grand Prize! Starts at 8:30 pm.

Saturday, May 23
COYOTE MOON- Koyote Kingz are back! Drag king show - 9:30pm no cover

Sunday, May 24
COYOTE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. $600 Grand Prize! Winners selected by audience applause and judges scoring. Starts at 8:30 pm.

Saturday, May 30
COYOTE MOON - TMI is here playing classic rock, blues, and original music. 9pm $5 cover

Sunday, May 31
COYOTE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. $600 Grand Prize! Starts at 8:30 pm.

Saturday, June 6
COYOTE MOON - Benefit Show with Vivika D'Angelo and guests. 9pm

Sunday, June 7
COYOTE MOON - "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. $600 Grand Prize! Starts at 8:30 pm.

Sunday, June14
COYOTE MOON- "Puttin' on the Hits" weekly talent search with hosts Tempest du Jour and Diva. $600 Grand Prize! Starts at 8:30 pm.

Bears of the Old Pueblo
www.botop.com
520-829-0117
bop@botop.com
1992-2009

<u>**May Events:**</u> ***All are welcome!***
See web site for updates and more info.

Every Wed, Bear Coffee at Raging Sage Coffee Roasters, 2458 N Campbell, 7-9 pm.
Every Fri (except 5/8), Beartinis at The Shelter, 4155 E Grant, 6:30-8:30 pm.
Fri, 5/8, Social Pot Luck Dinner & Meeting, 6:30 PM, Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E 1st St (rear entrance) – Bring a dish to pass. Just come!
Sat, 5/16, Beer Bust at Yard Dog, 2449 N Stone, 3-7 pm. Proceeds benefit Tucson Community Food Bank. Please bring canned or packaged food for Food Bank.
Thur, 5/21, Dinner Out, My Big Fat Greek, Broadway & Kolb, 6:30-8:30 pm. ***Please RSVP by email or call 829-0117 to attend.***
Sun, 5/24, Memorial Day Swim Party, 4450 E Elmwood, 2-10 PM. Bring dish to share, meat to grill, drink, towel. See website for more info.
Thur, 5/28, Bingo at Casino el Sol, 6:30-10 pm. If interested, please email or call 829-0117; leave a message requesting further details.
Sat, 5/30, Noon, BBQ Cookout, Tourney Park, 19th St 2 blocks west of Swan. Food provided. Fiesta planning meeting after BBQ

Our 2009 Charity is the Tucson Community Food Bank. Proceeds from special events inc. beer busts, other events & our annual Fiesta in January benefit charity.

ACT against AIDS

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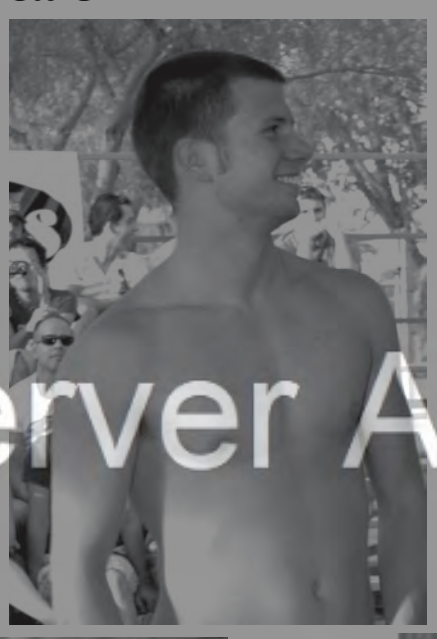
JELLO WRESTLING 2009- Part 2

PHOTOS: Amanda Irvin



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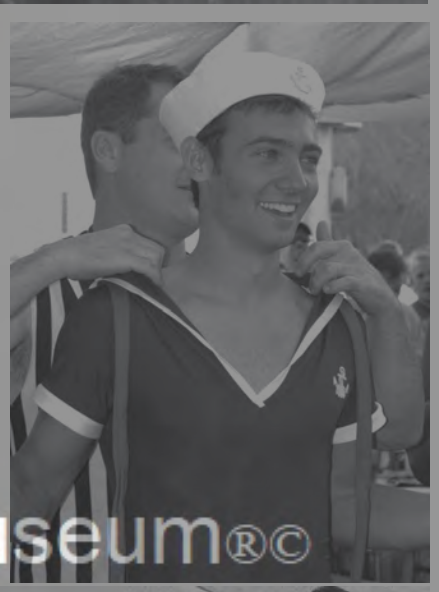

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