Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

'Meet The Chief' A Singing Success

Seen in the crowd at the 'Meet The Chief' party at Woody's last Monday were (l-r), Karin Uhlich, Dave Huff, Frank Schepis and TPD Chief Roberto Villaseñor

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TUCSON (Observer Update) - More than 75 people on Monday, May 18, from Tucson's LGBT Community, came out to meet Tucson's New Chief of Police Roberto Villaseñor, at Woody's, 3710 N. Oracle.

This event was held on a night usually for karaoke and hosted by a wonderful singer, Rodney Glassman, Tucson Ward 2 Councilmember. In addition, Tucson Ward 3 Councilmember Karin Uhlich, South Tucson Mayor Jennifer Eckstrom, former state Representative Tom Prezelski, state Representative candidates Sami Hamed (District 27) and Ted Prezelski, as well as Tucson Ward 5 Councilmember candidate, Democrat Richard Fimbres were present to meet the new police chief as well.

According to news accounts, at a visit to Woody's a while back, Tucson City Councilman Rodney Glassman and Representative Matt Heinz took in the splendor and glory of karaoke, and Glassman got an idea: We have this new police chief, Roberto Villasenor, so why not have him start off on the right foot by making nice with the LGBT community? Especially at Woody's, where relations with TPD have been strained ever since the bar was red-tagged last year when the police seemed especially interested in the noise level at a bar off a busy street. At the red-tag hearing, however, the bar won, since the police officer didn't show.

Councilmember Glassman added that"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."

With no program, except one song "Copacabana," sung by Glassman, everyone came together, had 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."

Chief Villaseñor is a native of Tucson, He joined the Tucson Police Department in 1980, was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2000 and to Chief of Police in 2009.

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Calif. Senate Advances Harvey Milk Honor

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - The California Senate has approved legislation designating a day each year to honor slain Gay rights leader Harvey Milk, 365Gay.com reported. The Democratic backed measure calls for Milk's May 22 birthday to be used as a time to recognize the late San Francisco supervisor's contributions. It would not be a formal holiday.

Milk was the first openly Gay man elected to public office in California. He was assassinated in 1978 and the subject of a biopic earlier this year.

The measure now heads to the Assembly. Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a nearly identical bill last year.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Study: Obama Doesn't Need Congress To Halt G/L Discharges

SANTA BARBARA, CA (Observer Update) - A new study by a team of military law experts asserts that President Obama has the legal authority to end Gay discharges through an executive order, 365Gay.com reported. The report, "How to End Don't Ask, Don't Tell: A Roadmap of Political, Legal, Regulatory, and Organizational Steps to Equal Treatment," was sponsored by the Palm Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara .

The release of the study follows a TV interview where retired Marine Gen. James Jones, the President's national security adviser, said there has been "preliminary" discussion on allowing Gays and Lesbians to serve openly in the military. But Jones went on to say that it uncertain whether "don't ask, don't tell" will be overturned, even though Obama has said he wants it eliminated.

Many have argued that only Congress can lift the ban. But according to the Palm study, Congressional approval is not needed, suggesting Obama is playing politics. "The administration does not want to move forward on this issue because of conservative opposition from both parties in Congress, and Congress does not want to move forward without a signal from the White House," said Aaron Belkin , Director of the Palm Center and a study co-author. "This study provides a recipe for breaking through the political deadlock, as well as a road map for military leaders once the civilians give the green light."

There are three legal bases to the president's authority, the report said. First, Congress has already granted to the Commander in Chief the statutory authority to halt military separations under a law titled, "Authority of President to suspend certain laws relating to promotion, retirement, and separation." Under the law, the President may suspend any provision of law relating to promotion, retirement, or separation applicable to any member of the armed forces who the President determines is essential to the national security of the United States during a "period of national emergency."

The statute specifically defines a "national emergency" as a time when "members of a reserve component are serving involuntarily on active duty." The second and third bases of presidential authority are contained within the "don't ask, don't tell" legislation itself the study said. The law grants to the Defense Department authority to determine the process by which discharges will be carried out, saying they will proceed "under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with procedures set forth in such regulation."

Finally, the law calls for the discharge of service members if a finding of homosexuality is made, but it does not require that such a finding ever be made. According to the study, these provisions mean that the Pentagon, not Congress, has the "authority to devise and implement the procedures under which those findings may be made."

The White House said it won't stop Gays and Lesbians from being dismissed from the military while the Obama administration works to repeal a decade-old policy banning openly Gay people from serving in uniform. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said that President Barack Obama does not plan to intervene in current cases against men and women who announce their homosexuality. Gibbs says the president wants to do away with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy through legislation. Gibbs says the policy does not serve the national interest and that Obama is working with lawmakers for what Gibbs calls a "durable legislative solution." He says a repeal of the policy requires "more than the snapping of one's fingers."

Since DADT was enacted more than 12,000 servicemembers have been dismissed when it was learned they are Gay. According to statistics from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network which advocates for Gays in the military an average of two service members are dismissed under the law every day. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.) has reintroduced legislation to repeal DADT. Tauscher's bill attracted 148 co-sponsors last year. This year the bill has not been taken up at the committee level. A poll released April 30 found that by 56-37 percent voters think the ban should be repealed.

Marriage Equality Boosts Mass. Economy

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - As Massachusetts marked the fifth anniversary of recognizing same-sex couples' right to marry, two new studies show that marriage equality has helped bring more than $100 million to the Bay State's economy, advocate.com reported. The studies, released by UCLA's Williams Institute, show that Massachusetts has gained clear economic advantages from the young, highly educated "creative class" of professionals drawn by marriage equality, and from the boost that same-sex weddings give to the economy.

Following a November 2003 ruling by the state's high court, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation where same-sex couples could legally marry on May 17, 2004.

Data show that same-sex couples in the "creative class" were 2.5 times more likely to move to Massachusetts after 2004 than before, while local businesses have benefited from the marriages of more than 12,000 same-sex couples, who on average spent $7,400 on their weddings in the state.

UPDATE

Candlelight Memorial Remember Those Who Lost To AIDS

TUCSON - For friends and family of those who have died from AIDS, a Sunday evening (May 17) vigil in Midtown was a time for memories, prayers and, yes, tears, reported the Arizona Daily Star.

And that's not a bad thing, said Janet Smith, who attended the AIDS Candlelight Memorial at Himmel Park. "Even though you see tears, it's a positive thing," she said.

Smith lost her son, Eric, to AIDS in 1992. He was 28 and the oldest of her three children. "This is always a recollection of my son's death, and of others I've met during my life," she said.

About 200 other Tucsonans gathered at the park for the memorial, said Dave Chandler, who served on the planning committee for the event. "To me, it's a beautiful expression of a caring community," Chandler said. "There are young and old, gay and straight. People of all different colors here."

The vigil is part of a worldwide event held the third Sunday of May. More than 1,000 communities in about 100 countries held similar memorials and events, he said. This was the 26th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Chandler said.

At Himmel Park, a red ribbon stretching more than 30 feet honored those with HIV/AIDS. People at the vigil wrote prayers and reflections on the ribbon.

At about 7:00 p.m., the audience lighted candles and joined in prayer. During the vigil, audience members said aloud the names of friends and relatives who had died from AIDS.

Scott Blades, executive director of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, said the event was a good opportunity to reflect. "When you're doing this work, you need take time to remember," he said.

An Evening With Wicked Author Gregory Maguire, June 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Novelist Gregory Maguire, author of the best-selling Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, will present a talk on the creation of the Wicked, alternate-Oz series and will read from his books at the annual author presentation of the Pima County Public Library's GLBT Committee.

Maguire's free talk will be Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway.

Maguire's other two books in the Wicked series include Son of a Witch, and the latest, A Lion Among Men. Wicked is the basis for the Tony Award-winning Broadway and international hit musical Wicked: The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz, which returns to ASU's Gammage Auditorium in Tempe in July. He is also the author of the best-sellers Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister, Lost and Mirror Mirror. Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister, a retelling of Cinderella set during the Dutch Golden Age, was made into an ABC movie starring Stockard Channing. He has also written several children's novels including The Hamlet Chronicles, a seven-book series that includes Seven Spiders Spinning, Six Haunted Hairdos, Five Alien Elves, Four Stupid Cupids, Three Rotten Eggs, A Couple of April Fools, and One Final Firecracker. Maguire will sign books following the presentation, and his books will be available for sale.

The annual GLBT author event is made possible through generous funding from the Friends of the Pima County Public Library. Past authors include: Susie Bright, Chastity Bono, Michelangelo Signorile, Patrick Califia, Holocaust scholar David Schneer, writer and advice columnist Dan Savage, Alison Bechdel, Alex Sanchez, and Armistead Maupin.

Tucson GLBT Chamber Of Commerce 'Out And About' May 28

TUCSON (Observer Update) - You're invited to a Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce, 'Out and About' hosted by Century 21 Centra Realty, May 28, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., 811 N. Longfellow, one block east of Alvernon, Between Speedway and 5th.

Come find out what's happening in the real estate market, network with peers, and just have a great evening!

RSVP to: Colette 909-4190 or Mike 272-6959 or info@c21centra.com.

Lawmakers: Census Should Include G/L Couples

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Gay and Lesbian U.S. representatives Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Barney Frank of Massachusetts, and Jared Polis of Colorado along with 48 other congressional members sent a letter to Office of Management and Budget director Peter Orszag asking that the 2010 Census count same-sex married couples rather than altering their status.

Last year, the Bush administration – citing the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex unions – announced that lawfully married same-sex couples who marked "married" on their census forms would have their status changed to "unmarried partners" in the final count. Now, congressional members are calling on Orszag to reverse course. "We are deeply concerned about the implications of this policy for same-sex couples and for the integrity of the Census as a whole and firmly believe the [Census] Bureau's primary objective should be to collect data and report it, not collect data and alter it," the members said in their letter.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a massive survey every 10 years, and during the last decennial census, no state had legalized same-sex marriages. Currently, same-sex couples can legally marry in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Iowa. Meanwhile, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire have approved marriage-equality laws that will be in effect by the time of the count. And an estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that are currently in question

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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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Linus Lerner Appointed Artistic Director For Bayou City Performing Arts

Linus Lerner

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Jeffrey Bracker, President, Reveille Men's Chorus sent out the following:

It is with great joy and a heavy heart that I announce our conductor, Linus Lerner, has accepted the position of Artistic Director for Bayou City Performing Arts in Houston, Texas. He will be the musical director for several groups that fall under the umbrella of the Bayou City Performing Arts organization: Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, Bayou City Women's Chorus, Bayou City Chorale and Bayou Rhythms. The organization also has a partnership with The Doctor's Orchestra of Houston with whom he will also be working. I announced at Reveille's Spring concert "Make 'Em Laugh: Comedy in Music" that after seven years as artistic director and two as executive director this would be Linus's last concert with us. Linus had announced to our Board of Directors the week prior to the concert of his decision to leave Reveille in order to devote more time to his conducting duties with Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra and to focus on his international travels as guest conductor and voice coach. Linus leaves Reveille with an impressive record of achievement, outstanding choral performances, a new mission, and a new chorus name. Under his leadership Reveille recorded 4 CDs, and traveled 5 times to Mexico to raise money for HIV/AIDS and LGBT groups in Hermosillo, Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta and Mexico City (first openly Gay chorus to perform in that country). In 2005 he took us on a tour of his native Brazil to be the first openly Gay chorus to perform in that country. In Sao Paulo Reveille opened the 2005 Gay Pride celebration and marched in the nation's pride parade there that numbered 2.5 million people. In addition, he has elevated our musical sound and increased attendance at concerts so much so that an extra performance day had to be added to each concert.

It has been an amazing ride with Linus, that's for sure. I had no illusions that we would have Linus with us forever. The truth is we have been fortunate to have had him for as long as we have. In his seven years with Reveille Linus radically changed the nature of this organization. He taught us how to sing, raising the bar of musicality for this group. Twice under his guidance we traveled to the GALA choral conferences (Montreal in 2004 and Miami in 2008) and twice we held our own against the larger big city choruses, wowing them with that Reveille sound we've become famous for. All thanks to Linus. With Linus's departure Reveille faces the challenge of maintaining all the gains we have made under his leadership. Taking his place as interim conductor will be chorus member Shawn Cullen. Shawn has sung with Reveille since 2004 and has functioned as assistant conductor under Linus for two years. He is Instrumental/Choral Conductor and an OMA Educator for the TUSD Schools, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona School of Music, and Assistant Conductor of Athletic Bands. Shawn told me recently he has big shoes to fill replacing Linus but he feels fortunate to have had the past four years to learn from Linus and what an amazing teacher he is. Our board of directors is currently putting together a committee to begin the search for a permanent replacement for Linus.

Linus told me his time with Reveille has been a fantastic learning experience for him. And that he is so proud of the achievements the chorus has made under his leadership. He hopes to stay in touch and follow our progress with pride. Linus will continue his duties as conductor of the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra traveling between Houston and Tucson on a weekly basis. In addition, he intends to continue his international travels where he is often sought after as a voice instructor and guest conductor. I think I'm still in denial about Linus leaving. We have one last performance with him at a special recital he's putting together as a Reveille fundraiser at the end of May. Perhaps then it will finally sink in. The impact he has had on Reveille will be felt for many years to come. We know he will do for Houston what's he's done for Reveille and we wish him the best of luck. Reveille will soon be on our summer break but I hope you'll join us this fall for our many outreach performances and come see our holiday show the first weekend in December at Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Until then have a great summer!

Lawmakers: Census Should Include G/L Couples

Continued from Page Two

in California are reportedly unlikely to be annulled by the state supreme court even if Prop. 8 is upheld. The congressional members told Orszag they believe that publicly reporting data collected on the status of same-sex couples in the United States does not equate to federal recognition of same-sex marriage. Rather, public reporting simply provides basic information about how Americans respond to the Census Bureau's questions.

"The Census is a vital tool of our democracy. Truthful answers must be recorded and publicly reported in order to ensure the most accurate count and the most democratic process. Americans who are legally married must not be marginalized," Baldwin said. Frank added, "We are simply asking the Census Bureau to report the facts as they exist. This should not be controversial."

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Around The Nation

The Louisiana house voted overwhelmingly to pass a bill that would prohibit the issuance of birth certificates that list the names of two unmarried parents who adopt a Louisiana-born child in another state. The legislation, which passed by a vote of 77-18, stems from a December ruling in which U.S. district judge Jay Zainey sided with two California men seeking a joint birth certificate for the Shreveport-born child they adopted in New York in 2006. The state is appealing the ruling, according to the Times-Picayune .

Proponents of the legislation say it aims to clarify the kinds of adoptive parents that would be recognized by the Office of Vital Records when it fulfills routine requests for birth certificate revisions. Under the law, single adults and married couples would qualify as adoptive parents, but unmarried couples would not, regardless of their sexual orientation. Presumably, single Gay people could still adopt.

Critics say the legislation reflects stealth antiGay measures such as Act 1, the adoption ban that Arkansas voters passed in November. While not specifically mentioning Gay couples, Act 1 outlaws adoptions by unmarried couples, effectively precluding Gays and Lesbians, who cannot marry in the state. The Louisiana bill, which has the support of Republican governor Bobby Jindal, now moves to the senate.

Legislators in Anchorage will hear public comment on June 9 regarding a Gay rights ordinance that has been introduced in the assembly. The ordinance would ban discrimination against Gay and Lesbian people in housing, education, and employment. It would also prohibit discrimination against military veterans, in a move that critics charge is designed to increase its appeal.

"We don't believe homosexuals and Lesbians are being homeless and without jobs because of their sexual orientation," Jim Minnery of the Alaska Family Council told KTUU-TV in Anchorage. "There's plenty of businesses and landlords across the community that are more than willing to be tolerant." The Anchorage assembly approved a Gay rights ordinance in the 1970s, but it was vetoed by then-mayor George Sullivan. His son, Dan, is the current mayor-elect, and he has not yet stated his view on the measure. Acting mayor Matt Claman supports the ordinance, but it is unclear which of the men will be in office by the time the assembly votes.

A Transgender federal air marshal has filed a lawsuit charging the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Air Marshal Service, and individuals within the agency with discrimination and violation of civil rights, the Transgender Community of Police and Sheriffs International announced. The complaint, filed in U.S. district court in Washington, D.C., alleges discrimination, civil rights violations, harassment, retaliation, and the fostering of a hostile work environment by immediate supervisors and senior staff against the plaintiff, known as Veronica Doe.

Doe, a special agent with 20 years of federal service experience, transitioned from male to female in April 2004. She alleges that after the transition, she was directed to use the bathroom facilities in a fast-food restaurant located one block from her federal office; exposed by the unauthorized release of confidential medical information; denied legal changes to her passport required for overseas travel; and subjected to a fitness-for-duty evaluation based solely on her expression of a new gender identity.

Support Grows For Federal DOMA Repeal

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Support is slowly growing in Congress for repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, but a bill has yet to be filed in either the House or the Senate, 365Gay.com reported. The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, was passed in 1998 and bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex relationships.

The latest to support repealing it is Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) one of the original supporters of the measure. Harkin said he has changed his mind on same-sex marriage. "We all grow as we get older, we learn things, we become more sensitive to people and people's lives," Harkin told Iowa public television. "The more I've looked at that, I've grown to think differently about how we should live. I guess I've got to the point of live and let live." Harkin also said he would oppose any ballot measure to overturn Gay marriage in his own state of Iowa where the Supreme Court ruled the state cannot prevent same-sex couples from marrying.

How soon a bill will be filed in Congress to overturn DOMA is anyone's guess. If it were to pass President Obama has said he would sign it, although he prefers civil unions to marriage.

Even if the bill is filed this session, it may find difficulty getting to a vote. In addition to opposition from Republicans and anumber of conservative Democrats, mainly from Bible belt states, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) seems in no rush to advance repeal. At her weekly press conference, Pelosi suggested there may not be enough votes yet for repeal.

She touted House passage this month of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, also known as the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act. The legislation, which still needs Senate approval, would provide local police and sheriff's departments with federal resources to combat hate violence. Pelosi also said the House may take up repeal of "don't ask, don't tell, the ban on Gays serving openly in the military. "Members will make a priority of issues like Gays in the military. And where we have prospects of success, we always want to expand to a place of more opportunity and more freedom for all - for all Americans," she said. "But right now, our agenda is jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. And as we move on that front, concurrently, we have to make some decisions about what is possible."

In a recent public opinion poll, voters showed narrow support maintaining DOMA - 50-44 percent. The survey of 2,041 registered voters nationwide was taken by Quinnipiac University's polling institute.

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COMMENTARY. . .

Blue Jeans And Blue Eyeshadow

By Cody Daigle

When you grow up Gay in a small town, you inevitably face this choice: get the hell out of that small town the second you're able or stay where you are and see what you can make of it. I chose to stay, for reasons both professional and personal. And in the ten years since I made that choice, I've been able to make a life I'm both happy with and proud of. I've gotten to do some very cool things, and some pretty amazing people have crossed my path. And I'm in Cajun Country, so I can guarantee you I've eaten well.

Staying also changes the way you experience "being Gay" (whatever that is, really. There are so many ways to "be Gay," aren't there?). When you're living in the small town South, you don't have the benefit of an organized, visible Gay community to guide you. The connections you make to other Gay people are personal ones, and while those connections are nurturing, they don't carry much power or weight in the larger community. In the larger community, you're basically alone - if you want to "fight the power," you're going to have to do it with an army of one.

That reality breaks some of us. It keeps us in the closet. It leads us to think the best solution is to marry and have kids. It makes us feel ashamed, inferior, purposeless. And I think for most people who don't live here (or for that matter, those who left here as soon as they could) that experience is assumed to be prevailing one. But it isn't. I've lived here all my life, and sure, 15 years ago when I first came out, that was the most common story. But today, things are changing. Today, Gay people in small towns like mine are starting to figure out that being an army of one isn't such a bad thing.

Every day, out Gay people in small towns like mine change the South. The changes are small - minuscule, even - but there are changes. Those changes aren't happening in legislatures or city councils (although we small town Gays need to get that ball rolling faster). Those changes are taking place in coffee houses, classrooms, neighborhood parks, living rooms and even churches. We're working from the other end of change. One on one. By unapologetically being who we are.

Yesterday, my partner Nathan and I grabbed a quick bite at a local fast food place (Raising Cane's, a mostly southern franchise, famous for their chicken fingers). Behind the counter was this fabulous young Gay man - early twenties, clearly in college - decked out in his work uniform, jeans, baseball cap, French manicured press-on nails, fake eyelashes and a shock of glittery blue eyeshadow. Not the best application, mind you, but he's young. He'll learn.

He wasn't waiting on us. He was waiting on a pair of standard-issue Louisiana jock boys, and they made no attempt to hide their snickering or rolled eyes. One of them even said in full voice to the other, "Dude, you know that's a dude, yo?" Did it rattle our fabulous friend behind the counter? No. In fact, I even think he straightened his spine a little. There wasn't an ounce of apology in his face or his voice. He was who he was, and a pair of bubbas wanting chicken fingers weren't going to change that for a second.

That's who I think we are here. Jeans, a baseball cap and blue eyeshadow. Fighting the good fight, one bubba at a time.

(Cody Daigle is the entertainment writer for the Times of Acadiana and a blogger on Gay issues for theadertiser.com, from which this is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)

Court Rules Fla. Must Honor G/L Second-Parent Adoptions

TALLAHASSEE, FL (Observer Update) - the Florida Court of Appeals unanimously reversed a lower court ruling and held that Florida must give full faith and credit to adoptions granted to same-sex couples by other states, lding that Lara Embry, the plaintiff in the case, "must be given the same rights as any other adoptive parent in Florida."

The court based its decision on the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the federal constitution and a Florida statute requiring Florida to honor adoption decrees from other states. Noting that "there are no public policy exceptions to the full faith and credit which is due to judgments entered in another state," the court concluded that "regardless of whether the trial court believed that the Washington adoption violated a clearly established public policy in Florida, it was improper for the trial court to refuse to give the Washington judgment full faith and credit."

A concurring opinion further noted that Embry's "same-sex relationship with [the other parent] is irrelevant for the purpose of enforcing her rights and obligations as an adoptive parent." Lara Embry had filed a petition seeking shared custody of a child she had raised with her former partner, Kimberly Ryan. The couple had two children together. Each gave birth to one child, and each adopted her non-biological child through a second-parent adoption in the state of Washington, where the family lived. The couple moved to Florida, and their relationship ended several years later. They agreed to share custody of both children and did so successfully until Ryan unilaterally decided to separate the children, who are deeply bonded as siblings, and cut off all contact between Embry and one of the children.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and Leslie Talbot represented Lara in her initial suit for shared custody. In February 2008, a Florida trial court held that Florida would not recognize the couple's second-parent adoption. NCLR, Karen Doering, and the law firm of Carlton Fields represented Lara in the appeal. Former Judge John R. Blue and Cristina Alonso, attorneys with Carlton Fields briefed and argued the case before the Second District Court of Appeal on March 18, 2009.

"We are pleased this decision resolved an important constitutional issue and protected the legal bond between adoptive parents and their children," said Blue. "The court affirmed the longstanding rule that Florida must honor valid adoptions from other states, which ensures the permanence and stability of parent-child relationships across state lines."

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Give Them Old Time Religion But Don't Give One Dime For Education Funding

Since the creation of this column more than 20 years ago, this time is always been one of trepidation for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Arizonans with the session of Arizona's Legislature at 1700 West Washington, still going for more than 120 days, as of press time.

Arizonans, LGBT , HIV+ or otherwise, should live in trepidation but instead be one of anger during the session of the Arizona Legislature since the 90 (89 with the recent decision by the state Clean Elections Commission regarding the complaint filed against state Representative Doug Quelland, R-Phoenix) individuals at the State Capitol, 1700 West Washington, in the Arizona House and Senate work for the taxpayer, to the tune, according to the current year's state budget, of $13,653,400 for the operations and salaries for the elected officials and staff in the Arizona House of Representatives and $9,036,200 for the same in the Arizona Senate, or $62,163.29 each and every day of the year.

With that in mind, one would think Arizona's Legislature would get to the work at hand and be done, but as witnessed, reported and endure, Arizona's Republican controlled state Legislature, is still at it, frittering away the tax payer dollars while holding onto their failed theories, withholding funding for the state's future, its youth, by rolling over the monies for the Arizona's public education system, K-12 and the Universities, and not passing a budget for the state government.

Equality Arizona, the statewide LGBT rights organization, has issued an action alert on a measure under consideration by Arizona's Legislature, HB 2357 which purports to protect the religious freedom of Arizona's K-12 students but as currently drafted, HB 2357 leaves open the possibility for a school's anti-harassment, anti-bullying or non-discrimination policies to be invalidated.

To the surpride of no one, HB 2357 was approved by Arizona's House of Representatives, despite the budget crisis, is hearing measures such as this bill and others dealing with subjects ranging from having a firearm in your car in a parking lot to telling municipalities how to run their affairs.

HB 2357 has been sent to the state Senate, which hasn't heard bills germane to the state budget during this session but may do so, if the budget for fiscal year 2010 is drafted, approved and signed into law by Arizona's "Accidental Governor," Jan Brewer, because what's a few days more to Arizona's Republican state Legislative Leadership? It costs the taxpayers, not the Arizona's Legislature.

Even though Arizona's Senate hasn't heard such measures during this session, the potential is still there and Equality Arizona is urging its members, as well as the entire LGBT community of Arizona to join with the state Anti-Defamation League and send a strong message of opposition to your state Senator on HB 2357.

Take action by visiting the following website, set up by Equality Arizona to send a clear, concise word to the Arizona State Senate on this waste of taxpayers time and expense, since the U.S. Constitution already covers this issue. Go online to /eqfed.org/campaign/hb2357_senate/i38ngnnahjnjti7w?, fill out the form and send it to your state Senator, urging them to vote no on HB 2357, if the bill gets heard or considered in the Arizona Senate.

Study To Examine HIV Among Bi Men

BLOOMINGTON, IN (Observer Update) - The Center for Sexual Health Promotion in Indiana University's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation has received a $425,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a study of HIV among Bisexual men, reported 365Gay.com. The study will specifically involve Bisexually active men in Indianapolis. It will include participants of diverse ages, ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses the CSHP said.

Brian Dodge, associate director of CSHP, said the study is unique because it focuses on Midwestern Bisexual men - but also because sexuality research, particularly research involving HIV infection and transmission, generally focuses on people who are exclusively "homosexual" or "heterosexual" in terms of their sexual behavior and/or orientation. Little is actually known about men who have sex with both men and women or the factors that contribute to their being a high-risk population for HIV infection and transmission he said. "In most HIV research, people are either classified as having acquired the infection through having sex with other men or with other women," said Dodge, principal investigator of the NIH study. "This is important because we think there are larger numbers of individuals than we know of, or are willing to acknowledge, who are at risk for HIV acquisition or transmission because of their Bisexual behaviors but it is not something that is talked about. And we have no evidence-based interventions designed to help this population."

The study will use a community-based participatory research approach, replying on an advisory committee composed of Bisexual men and representatives of health and community organizations that serve them. Dodge said that researchers plan to work with the committee to guide the study in a way that ensures that the data collected about Bisexual men - such as factors and behaviors that increase risk for infection and transmission of HIV and other sexual transmitted infections - will be integrated into useful information and programming to help improve their sexual health. He also noted that the focus on Indianapolis and Indiana is noteworthy because the state traditionally has fared poorly in federal funding for public health research and practice efforts. The study, "Sexual Health Among Bisexual Men," is sponsored by the NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ

From Doogie to Barney to Tony. Neil Patrick Harris will host the 2009 Tony Awards, honoring the best of the Broadway season. The show will be broadcast on CBS on June 7 (8 p.m.-11 p.m. EDT) from Radio City Music Hall. Harris has appeared in hit TV series such as "How I Met Your Mother," where he plays the womanizing Barney Stinson, and "Doogie Howser, M.D." On Broadway, he has appeared in the revivals of "Cabaret" and in "Assassins" (playing the Balladeer and Lee Harvey Oswald) as well as in the Tony-winning drama "Proof."

"The discipline of live theater - doing the same perfect thing night after night, eight times a week - never ceases to amaze me," Harris said in a statement Thursday. "I'm truly honored to have been chosen as the master of ceremonies for this year's Tony Awards, and I hope to help provide a first-class evening for all." The nominations in 27 competitive categories were announced May 5. Competing for best musical are "Billy Elliot," "Next to Normal," "Rock of Ages" and "Shrek The Musical." Best play nominees are "Dividing the Estate," "God of Carnage," "reasons to be pretty" and "33 Variations." Winners will be chosen by more than 800 members of the theater community.

A Roman Catholic archbishop who resigned in 2002 over a sex and financial scandal involving a man describes his struggles with being Gay in an upcoming memoir about his decades serving the church. Archbishop Rembert Weakland, former head of the Milwaukee archdiocese, said in an interview that he wrote about his sexual orientation because he wanted to be candid about "how this came to life in my own self, how I suppressed it, how it resurrected again." Called "A Pilgrim in a Pilgrim Church: Memoirs of a Catholic Archbishop," the book is set to be released in June.

A New York teenager charged with the brutal slaying of veteran radio reporter George Weber claims he was acting in self defense. John Katehis, 16, was ordered held without bail at an arraignment hearing in Brooklyn. Weber's body was found in his apartment in March. His ankles were bound, and he was stabbed about 50 times. Wounds on his hands indicate he tried to fight back, police said.

The American adaptation of the hit British TV series Absolutely Fabulous has been scrapped, according to entertainment industry blogger Nikki Finke. A pilot starring Emmy award winner Kristen Johnston (3rd Rock From the Sun) was shot but has reportedly been officially passed over. The new show stirred controversy among fiercely loyal gay fans of the original series starring Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, whose characters seemed too iconic to be reproduced. Saunders worked on the pilot as a producer.

Healthcare Industry Lags In LGBT Issues

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The healthcare industry is failing LGBT patients, according to a report released by the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, reported 365Gay.com. The release of the third annual Healthcare Equality Index coincides with the annual observance of National Hospital Week.

"While many facilities are leading the way in fairness for LGBT patients and their families, on the whole, the healthcare industry is failing to adequately address the needs of our community," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "But tools like the [Healthcare Equality Index] can turn this trend around. By helping to remove barriers and create truly welcoming healthcare environments, we can build a stronger, healthier community."

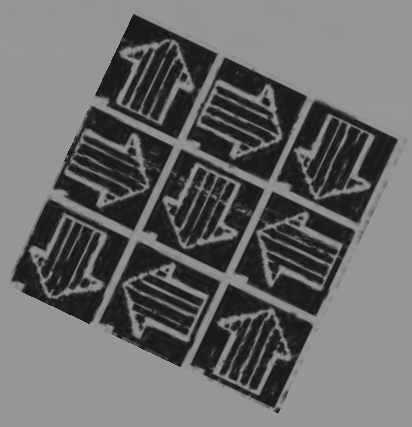
The report said that there is "a dramatic disparity between the number of patient non-discrimination policies inclusive of sexual orientation and those inclusive of gender identity." Less than seven percent of participating facilities protect patients from discrimination based on gender identity, while nearly three-quarters of participants provide these protections based on sexual orientation, the report said.

This finding is symptomatic of the healthcare discrimination faced by transgender Americans every day, from the explicit denial of healthcare services to insensitive remarks by medical staff, the report's authors said in a press statement accompanying it. "Tragically, the importance of protecting transgender patients and their families from healthcare discrimination is made clear to us time and time again when we hear stories of discrimination," said transgender health advocate and HEI Advisory Council Member Dr. Rebecca Allison, a cardiologist practicing in Arizona.

"As healthcare providers, we have the responsibility to ensure that all of our patients are given the culturally competent care they need and the respect they deserve. The policies and practices highlighted by the HEI provide a starting point for ensuring transgender competence." Ten of the 166 healthcare participants answered positively to each of the survey's main criterion which applied to them. The study authors said it will help establish a set of model policies that will serve the entire healthcare industry.

"We believe the growing level of participation we're seeing by hospitals and healthcare facilities across the country reflects a genuine interest in the healthcare industry to better understand and address the specific needs of LGBT patients." said Jason Schneider, MD, President of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. The study included questions about visitation policies, training in LGBT issues and employment non-discrimination policies.

" Unfortunately, LGBT individuals come forward with tragic stories of hospitals failing to recognize these directives, reflecting a disconnect between the existence of written policies and the actual implementation of these policies on the part of all personnel," the study said. The report is based on responses to an online survey, conducted October through December 2008. The responses represent the policies of 166 facilities from across the country, including 93 hospitals and 73 clinics.



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Across The Q Globe

Peruvian police officers who "damage the image" of law enforcement by engaging in homosexual behavior can lose their jobs under a new law designed to overhaul an unpopular national police force.

The new law that went into effect also says officers will be fired for taking bribes and abusing detainees. In sexual matters, however, distinctions are made between heterosexual and homosexual police officers. Those who commit adultery only face suspension, but expulsion is required for those who engage in "sexual relations with people of the same sex that cause a scandal or damage the image of the institution." Jorge Chavez, president of the Lima Homosexual Movement, said the law appears to violate constitutional guarantees against discrimination based on sexual orientation. "Heterosexuality isn't scandalous but homosexuality is? It's discriminatory," Chavez said. Former Interior Minister Fernando Rospigliosi said the courts probably would overturn measures that try to regulate homosexuality and adultery if challenged.

Uruguay is moving to lift a ban on homosexuals joining the armed forces. The defense ministry confirms that Minister Jose Bayardi has signed a decree lifting the ban imposed by the 1973-85 military dictatorship. The army said it has received the decree, which has yet to be signed by President Tabare Vazquez. The law had barred people with what it called "open sexual deviations" from entering the military academies. It includes homosexuality among the "mental illnesses and disorders" that make a person unsuitable to join the armed forces. The new decree states that sexual orientation will no longer be considered a reason to prevent people entering the military.

Same-sex couples in Hungary will be able to register their relationships in a new domestic partner registry beginning July 1. The legislation was signed into law by President Laszlo Solyom after winning passage in Parliament. Under the law partners must be over 18, live together and be financially interdependent. It will allow Gay and Lesbian couples to recognize partners as next of kin, provide for joint tax filing, allow partners to make decisions in health care, and assure inheritance, social security and pension rights. It will not, however, allow same-sex couples to adopt or undergo fertility treatments, nor will it allow couples to share a common surname.

Ireland's Health Service Executive has announced plans to draw up guidelines to ensure that hospitals recognize Gay and Lesbian relationships and the same-sex partners of patients, according to the Irish Times. "There are legal issues around recognizing same-sex relationships, but hospitals and health care professionals [currently] have discretion when it comes to recognizing same-sex partners during treatment. If there are guidelines in place, awareness of the issue is increased," said Caoimhe Gleeson, chairman of the HSE's LGBT health subcommittee. Among the guidelines being drawn up, Gleeson noted that it is important that if a patient identifies another person as their partner, that the partner be treated respectfully and kept informed of treatment and progress.

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Obama Taps NYC Health Commissioner To Head CDC

Dr. Thomas Frieden

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Thomas Frieden as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, turning to New York City's health commissioner to deal with the swine flu outbreak and other major health issues, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Frieden has served as commissioner for the past seven years, where he led a campaign to ban smoking in restaurants and bars, boosted the number of New Yorkers getting HIV tests and helped to distribute millions of free condoms.

In a statement announcing Frieden's appointment, Obama said the new CDC chief had been a "leader in the fight for health care reform, and his experiences confronting public health challenges in our country and abroad will be essential in this new role." Frieden will inherit a looming decision on how best to manage a swine flu outbreak, including whether or how to produce a swine flu vaccine. The virus has infected 6,673 people in 35 countries. The White House said Frieden will begin at the CDC in early June.

Frieden said in a statement that he was "deeply honored and privileged" to be selected to the post. "I have loved serving New Yorkers as Health Commissioner and am sorry to be leaving one of the greatest jobs in the world," Frieden said. Frieden's statement highlighted several accomplishments in his seven years, including reducing the city's smoking rate, particularly for young people; an expansive electronic health record project; and a registry to monitor blood sugar levels among people with diabetes.

Health experts say the CDC needs to make immediate improvements in employee morale and organization as the Obama administration works to overhaul the national health care system. "Dr. Frieden is an expert in preparedness and response to health emergencies, and has been at the forefront of the fight against heart disease, cancer and obesity, infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and AIDS, and in the establishment of electronic health records," Obama said in the statement. Frieden, 48, is expected to take office next month. His appointment does not require Senate confirmation. He will succeed Dr. Julie Gerberding, who resigned in January. Dr. Richard Besser has served as acting head of the Atlanta-based CDC in recent months. The White House announcement said Besser, who has led the CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response for the past four years, would return to that position.

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Pat Clark at pat@ckandbalances.com or (520) 784-4864

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It is hard to believe it has been two years since Janet Clark lost her battle to breast cancer. Again this year the JC Jigglers are honoring Janet and her fight by forming a team to walk the Susan G. Komen 3-Day.

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The Breast Cancer 3-Day is a 60-mile walk over the course of three days. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust, funding important breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment. Each team member has pledged to raise $2,500 dollars. Our team goal is to raise an additional $10,000 bringing our team total to $20,000!!!

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Some Fools Are Spending Our Money

The common take on the Federal spending on infrastructure, health care et al is that it is going to be hard, hard, hard to afford. Of course, there is only so much "money" to go around, only so many things we can "buy" with our little all. So it is true that to add new things to our national budget means something else has to go, or we start to run up debt we cannot pay. It is a given, except among the intellectually challenged, that infrastructure has to be repaired, replaced and augmented to accommodate commerce and growth. Without roads, bridges, railroads, airports, levies and damns we would look a lot like the Third-World countries we revile for failing to "pull themselves up by their bootstraps". Hard to use bootstraps in lieu of a bridge. Without arguing the merits of universal health care or any other item new on the spending agenda, lets take it from here: at least the infrastructure has to be paid for and it is going to cost a bundle.

What can we stop spending "money" on so that we as a nation can afford to keep having electrical generating plants, canals, fresh water and all the other things that keep us from slipping backwards in terms of our "real" standard of living? It may come as a surprise to you, but the American appetite for leisure is an expensive appetite. And even more surprising may be the fact that much of what America spends on "leisure" goes wasted and unused. If these luxury items were infrastructure items, they would be called "bridges to nowhere". As it is, what Americans, most Americans, do with their time is watch television. The vast majority of American leisure time is spent in front of the tube, scaring itself silly over chartreuse terrorist alerts and the notion that poor Mexicans may sneak across the border and instead of being nice little gardeners working for nothing may actually need repair and upkeep in the way of medical care.

What Americans can well afford to do is stop spending money on anything except televisions. All the other money we spend on leisure we can spend on something we actually need. The things that Americans buy but don't use are expensive; there will be those who cry over lost jobs producing them. Dry your eyes and remember that there will be plenty of jobs creating and repairing infrastructure. Remembering that Americans work a little, eat a lot and watch television the rest of the time, it is time to retire: The gym membership, along with all the gym equipment. Sports equipment like skis that skied once, carbon-fiber tennis rackets gathering dust in the back of the garage and fishing gear that doesn't catch fish. Boats. American marinas are full of boats that never get used, left rotting in the sun by people who only go out on the water on Memorial Day. Jet Skis, quads, dirt-bikes and hiking shoes. Tennis courts, backyard pools. The list is endless. While Americans like to have a lot of stuff, they don't like to get out and use it. The "outside" is too hot, too wet, too cold and too real; television and obesity are the new norm; let's face it and take the money Americans waste on anything but television and spend it on sewers. After all, the toilet is the single most important part of the American infrastructure after the television station and is the only appliance in many American homes that gets as much use as the television and microwave.

It may seem harsh to advocate taking the American paycheck and stealing away the American Prerogative to waste it on whatever we want. But the reality is that Americans can't pay for the infrastructure they need; they can't pay the bill for the water, sewers, bridges and dams they need to keep themselves in a position to continue thumbing their collective noses at the Third World. It would be a crime to allow them to continue to afford to buy luxury items they never use. In the American Heyday, the nine-teen fifties, Americans had nice, small houses, one car, one television and only owned sports equipment they actually used. They also paid for infrastructure they needed. It seemed to be ok then to just be well housed, fed, clothed and working at a humane and safe job for enough pat to have a little house, one car, etc. It's ok now for Americans to have to pay their way and stop wasting money on "stuff".

Outrage: To Name Or Not To Name

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - National Public Radio came under fire for removing the names of purportedly gay politicians from an online review of Kirby Dick's new movie Outrage. The documentary blasts politicians, including Florida Governor Charlie Crist and California representative David Dreier, for voting against gay interests despite, the film asserts, pursuing gay sex, reported advocate.com.

NPR defended the name removal, citing a policy to protect the privacy of public figures barring a "compelling reason," but most media outlets readily named names. Here's the breakdown: The following publications named politicians featured the film: The Hollywood Reporter, Los Angeles Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Post, The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Variety, Village Voice.

The following publications chose not to name politicians featured in the film, offering the following explanations (if any): NPR: "[The author is] proscribed from naming names...by a longstanding NPR policy on the subject." The Washington Post: "[Outrage] comes down hardest on another prominent politician whose name we won't print here" The Star-Ledger: "That I'm not repeating those charges now is one of the problems, according to [Kirby] Dick."

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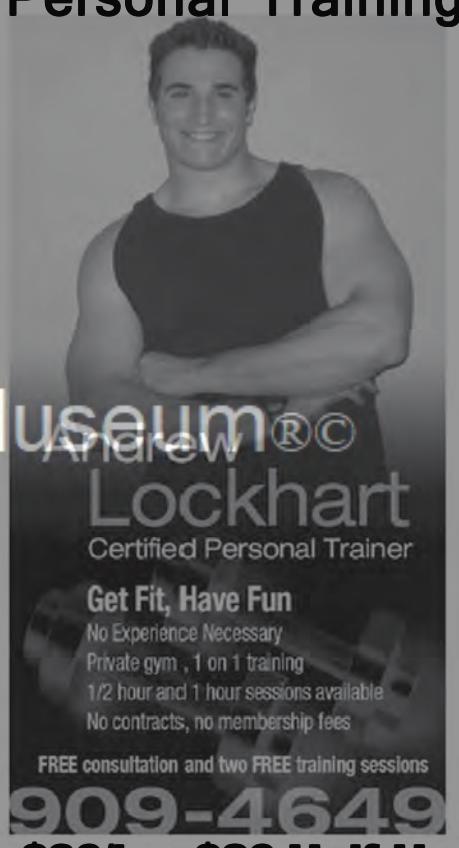

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by King Daevid MacKenzie

Go Ahead 'n Ask

Dear Peter and Company:

Hi, guys. How are you? I are fine, remarkably enough. In Tucson, we don't have to put up with The Hawk* during the winters. But I do have a complaint about some ill wind coming from Peter's mouth this weekend, unfunnily enough. Peter, I've noticed that "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me" has become NPR's bastion of the bodily function joke. I myself had a hearty laugh the weekend that Roy Blount, Jr. was on the panel and marvelled that you could say the word "turd" on Public Radio. Or was the word "fart"? It was one or the other, and considering the source of the material involved in both terms is the same - well, you know which incident I mean. Stephanie Miller is duly proud to be your trailblazer in this regard, I'm sure.

However, now y'all seem to think that social slurs are just as tolerable. I refer here to Peter's opening gag on the "Wait, Wait" broadcast of the 9th of May, as heard at 11:06 AM local time over Tucson's KUAZ-AM/1550 and FM/89.1. The gag about how Gays and Lesbians feel that President Obama hasn't done enough for them, but, by ordering a cheeseburger with Dijon mustard, the President did something "that's really Gay." Now, I'm sure either GLAAD or GLSEN have already lodged their complaints with you, as well they should. From the audience end of things, I just have one primary question. WHAT IN SEVEN PURPLE HELLS WERE YOU THINKING?!

Y'all obviously haven't seen Wanda Sykes' TV PSAs calling for y'all to "knock off" using the phrase "that's Gay" when discussing hideous lapses of taste. And, although I've myself taken President Obama to task over a few LesBiGay-related things on my own news commentary podcast - it's at kingdaevid.podbean.com every weekday afternoon, thank you very much for asking - I wish to be the first within my hearing range to proclaim that President Obama can put whatever he damned well wants to on his cheeseburger. It's part of being an American. Hell, I put wasabi on a couple of "Tofu Pups" that I ate last night. I can still taste it. And I like it. Tonight, I just might have some soy chorizo, and it'll suit me just fine. And if it doesn't suit your taste, that's fine, too. That isn't what's pissed me off.

Using the word "Gay" to describe something as hideously distasteful ain't cuttin' it, Pete. Whoever the producers were at Chicago Public Radio that gave you an okeh to crack that gag on dozens of NPR affiliates has got to go. As for you, I think the best way to rectify matters is to (a) issue an apology PDQ, and (b) have Chicago Public Radio fly or Amtrak me up to Chicago to take over from you as host one week in the very near future, with the transportation and lodging costs coming out of your paycheck. Trying to become the Don Imus of Non-Commercial Radio is a damned stupid goal to set for your life, Peter.

Oh, and as for Arizona Public Media, the local NPR member which operates KUAZ-FM and AM, this incident has permanently taken y'all off my list of consideration of giving ANY money out of my pocket. And I hope a few readers of these pages demand back the money they gave you during your last pledge drive. There's no excuse for allowing such social slurs to go out over your signals, especially PUBLICLY-OWNED signals. There's a difference between a Quentin Tarantino movie and 1550 kHz on the AM radio dial, and someone in your chain of command needs to learn that difference.

Most Sincerely, One listener in Tucson you've hurt, King Daevid MacKenzie

[*The Hawk: that terrible wintertime wind off the Northern Illinois farmlands that make Chicago temperatures feel even worse than usual come Valentine's Day.]

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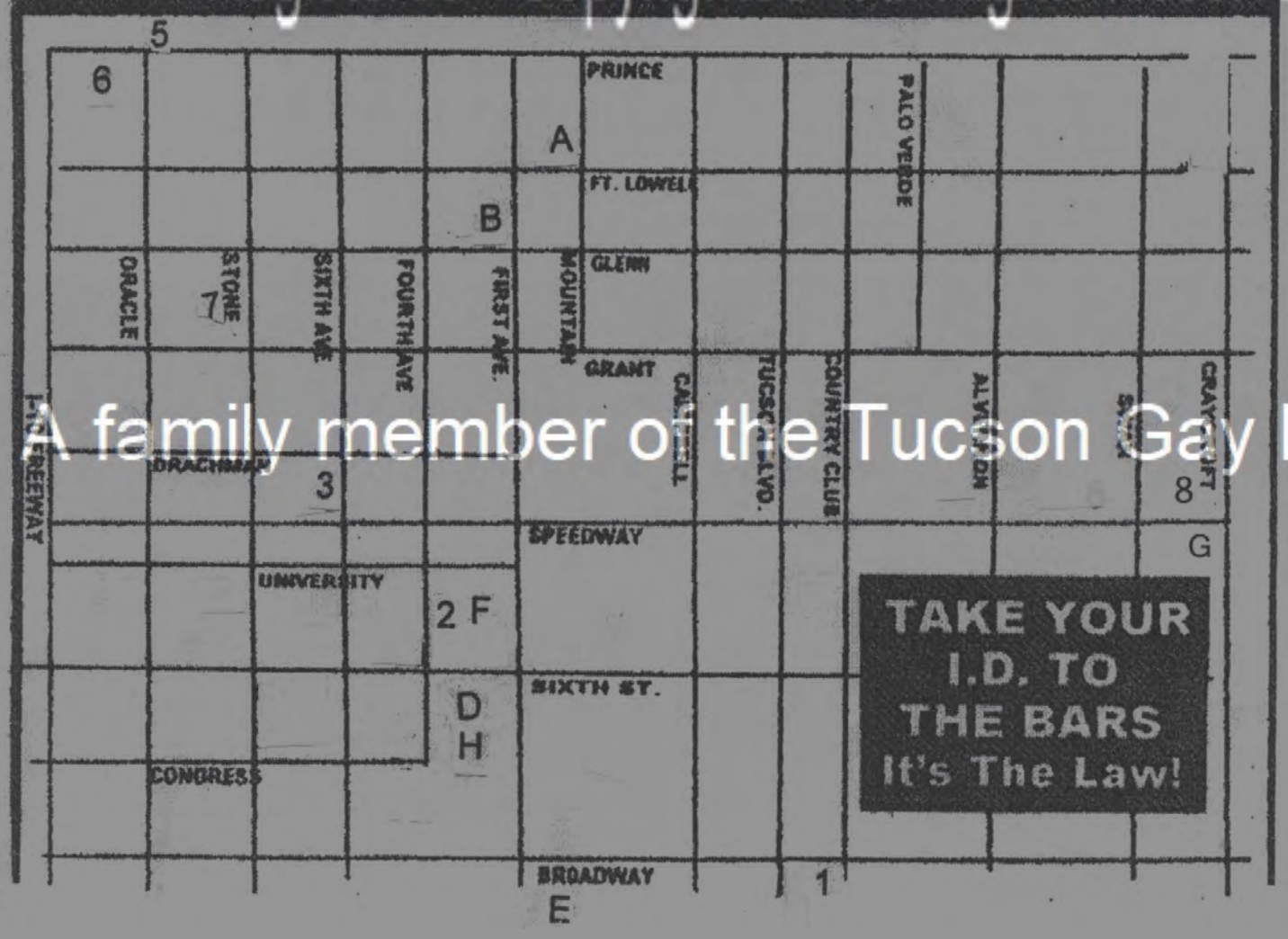

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by 1st Lt. Dan Choi

Don't Fire Me

1st Lt. Dan Choi

(1st Lt. Dan Choi, an Iraq war vet and Arab translator who received formal notice that he was being kicked out of the Army National Guard a month after he came out and formed a support group for LGBT West Point graduates, has penned an opinion piece. In an open letter written to "President Obama and Every Member of Congress," Choi pleads not to be fired, saying he served with dedication for 10 years under "don't ask, don't tell." He calls it "an immoral law and policy that forces American soldiers to deceive and lie about their sexual orientation." The entire open letter follows.)

Open Letter to President Obama and Every Member of Congress:

I have learned many lessons in the ten years since I first raised my right hand at the United States Military Academy at West Point and committed to fighting for my country. The lessons of courage, integrity, honesty and selfless service are some of the most important.

At West Point, I recited the Cadet Prayer every Sunday. It taught us to "choose the harder right over the easier wrong" and to "never be content with a half truth when the whole can be won." The Cadet Honor Code demanded truthfulness and honesty. It imposed a zero-tolerance policy against deception, or hiding behind comfort.

Following the Honor Code never bowed to comfortable timing or popularity. Honor and integrity are 24-hour values. That is why I refuse to lie about my identity.

I have personally served for a decade under Don't Ask, Don't Tell: an immoral law and policy that forces American soldiers to deceive and lie about their sexual orientation. Worse, it forces others to tolerate deception and lying. These values are completely opposed to anything I learned at West Point. Deception and lies poison a unit and cripple a fighting force.

As an infantry officer, an Iraq combat veteran and a West Point graduate with a degree in Arabic, I refuse to lie to my commanders. I refuse to lie to my peers. I refuse to lie to my subordinates. I demand honesty and courage from my soldiers. They should demand the same from me.

I am committed to applying the leadership lessons I learned at West Point. With 60 other LGBT West Point graduates, I helped form our organization, Knights Out, to fight for the repeal of this discriminatory law and educate cadets and soldiers after the repeal occurs. When I receive emails from deployed soldiers and veterans who feel isolated, alone, and even suicidal because the torment of rejection and discrimination, I remember my leadership training: soldiers cannot feel alone, especially in combat. Leaders must reach out. They can never diminish the fighting spirit of a soldier by tolerating discrimination and isolation. Leaders respect the honor of service. Respecting each soldier's service is my personal promise.

The Department of the Army sent a letter discharging me on April 23rd. I will not lie to you; the letter is a slap in the face. It is a slap in the face to me. It is a slap in the face to my soldiers, peers and leaders who have demonstrated that an infantry unit can be professional enough to accept diversity, to accept capable leaders, to accept skilled soldiers. My subordinates know I'm gay. They don't care. They are professional.

Further, they are respectable infantrymen who work as a team. Many told me that they respect me even more because I trusted them enough to let them know the truth. Trust is the foundation of unit cohesion. After I publicly announced that I am gay, I reported for training and led rifle marksmanship. I ordered hundreds of soldiers to fire live rounds and qualify on their weapons. I qualified on my own weapon. I showered after training and slept in an open bay with 40 other infantrymen. I cannot understand the claim that I "negatively affected good order and discipline in the New York Army National Guard." I refuse to accept this statement as true.

As an infantry officer, I am not accustomed to begging. But I beg you today: Do not fire me. Do not fire me because my soldiers are more than a unit or a fighting force - we are a family and we support each other. We should not learn that honesty and courage leads to punishment and insult. Their professionalism should not be rewarded with losing their leader. I understand if you must fire me, but please do not discredit and insult my soldiers for their professionalism.

When I was commissioned I was told that I serve at the pleasure of the President. I hope I have not displeased anyone by my honesty. I love my job. I want to deploy and continue to serve with the unit I respect and admire. I want to continue to serve our country because of everything it stands for. Please do not wait to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Please do not fire me.

Very Respectfully,

Daniel W. Choi
1LT, IN
New York Army National Guard

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WINGSPAN UPDATE

By Jason Cianciotto, Executive Director

On May 13, I had to face the challenge of carrying out the third round of layoffs at Wingspan in the past 12 months because of the economic recession. Wednesday was the last day at the office for two dedicated colleagues: Peter Powers-Lake, Director of Finance and Administration, and Nick Ray, Director of Development.

Peter served our community as Wingspan's Director of Finance for over three years. We shared an office, and from the very beginning of my tenure I learned from his calm and steadfast management. Peter's passion and commitment went above and beyond his job duties - just this past weekend he shared his family story as part of Wingspan's Families You Know storytelling event.

Nick Ray's commitment to Wingspan stretches back for over a decade, when he was a member of Wingspan's Board of Directors and founder of our Annual Dinner. Prior to our time together at Wingspan, I had the honor of working with Nick for several years at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute in New York. After a challenging time of interim leadership, Nick brought enthusiasm and creativity to Wingspan's development team.

The Wingspan Board and I made these difficult decisions to reduce costs and ensure that our center is here to serve future generations. There are too many in the LGBT community who need a safe space to call home, too many who are victims of harassment and violence, too many youth rejected from their homes, too many seniors who need community and companionship. The list goes on and on...

As we fight to support our center, we need to remember that these changes result from the rippling effects of failed state and national policies that have devastated our economy and increased our country's unemployment rate to the highest it's been since 1983.

While the majority in our state legislature acts based on extremist ideology and further delays passing a state budget, and our city and county governments fight over their own, we are left with uncertainty about the renewal at the end of June of grant funding that makes up more than half of our current budget.

Despite these challenges, I am inspired by the continued dedication of Wingspan's staff, volunteers and board, as well as our partner organizations exploring ways to strengthen collaborations and to use community resources more efficiently.

I am grateful to share about a new partnership with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, whose financial management team will now also be overseeing Wingspan's financial systems.

Wendell Hicks, SAAF's Executive Director, and Lorna Petersen, SAAF's Finance Director, have worked with me and Wingspan's board to build a collaboration that ensures Wingspan is held to the highest standards of fiscal management, while reducing administrative costs to help us adapt to funding challenges.

This innovative collaboration is just one part of a broader plan to reenforce Wingspan's foundation in these challenging times. Our board also recently crafted three operating plans based on different grant and fundraising projections. These plans ensure the availability of our community center space, as well as core programs and services, through a combination of staff and volunteer opportunities. Let's not forget that Wingspan began as an all-volunteer center, and our volunteers remain the life-blood of this organization.

Please join me in thanking and supporting Peter, Nick, Wingspan staff, volunteers and board members for their incredible commitment to our community and our center. I want to thank you as well for your continued support. Together we will sustain our center and emerge from this recession with a strong foundation for growth.

Wis. High Court To Review 2006 G/L Marriage Ban

MADISON, WI (Observer Update) - The Wisconsin Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the state's 2006 ban on Gay marriage was properly put to voters, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. A ruling striking down the amendment would not legalize same-sex marriage because state law still defines marriage as a union between husband and wife. However, it could pave the way for lawmakers to eventually allow it, or for advocates to file lawsuits seeking that right.

The court will review a challenge by political science instructor William McConkey, who claims the referendum on the constitutional amendment illegally put two questions to voters: whether to ban Gay marriage and whether to outlaw civil unions. The state constitution limits referendums to a single subject. A Dane County judge upheld the referendum last year, and McConkey appealed. Last month, a Madison-based appeals court asked the high court to take the case immediately because of its statewide significance.

Justices announced they decided to take the case and gave lawyers 30 days to file initial briefs. Oral arguments are not yet scheduled but are expected this fall, with a decision potentially before the end of the year. Fair Wisconsin, the state's largest Gay rights group, praised the court's decision to take the case. "The constitutional amendment is definitely something we see as a stain on the constitution. It sort of enshrines discrimination," said its legislative director, Katie Belanger. "We are really looking forward to the Supreme Court making a fair decision about whether or not the amendment was put to the people in the legal and constitutional way." A spokesman for Republican Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen pledged a vigorous legal defense of the amendment, which was approved by nearly 60 percent of voters.

POET'S CORNER

RAZOR WIRE
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Razor wire, hands on fire
The pain is so intense
Chavez and I, we had to try
To jump the prison fence
Ripped to shreds and bleeding bad
We had to make the try
Getting caught, the awful pain
Enough to make me cry
Gates of Hell, listen well
Prisons not a joke
That razor wire, like a fire
Dreams go up in smoke.

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

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Pioneering LGBT, AIDS Activist Rodger McFarlane Mourned After Taking His Own Life

Rodger McFarlane

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NM (Observer Update) - Statement by Friends & Family of Rodger McFarlane on his Death

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our friend, colleague, and hero, Rodger McFarlane. A pioneer and legend in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) civil rights and HIV/AIDS movements, Rodger took his own life in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico last Friday (May 15). In a letter found with his remains, Rodger explained that he was unwilling to allow compounding heart and back problems to become even worse and result in total debilitation. We know that Rodger was in a great deal of pain. Already disabled in his own mind, he could no longer work out or do all the outdoor activities he so loved. He was also now faced with the realization that he could literally not travel, making employment increasingly difficult. As his friends and family, we thought it was important that we communicate to the world that it has lost an amazingly wonderful individual who contributed so mightily to our humanity.

Rodger approached every aspect of his life with boundless passion and vigor. While many people go their entire lives wanting to be good at just one thing, Rodger excelled at virtually everything he did. Brilliant activist and strategist, decorated veteran, accomplished athlete, best-selling author, and humanitarian are just a few of the accolades that could be used to describe our friend. To know Rodger was to love an irreverent, wise-cracking Southerner who hardly completed a sentence that didn't include some kind of four-letter expletive. He fought the right fight every day, was intolerant of silence, and organized whole communities of people to advocate for justice. These were traits that endeared him to us and are traits that make his legacy incredibly rich and powerful. The power of Rodger's many personal and professional accomplishments cannot be denied. He was on the forefront of responding to the AIDS epidemic that ravaged our country - and specifically the Gay community - in the 1980's. Before HIV even had a name, in 1981, Rodger set up the very first hotline anywhere; he just set it up on his own phone. That was the Rodger we knew. A born strategist and leader, Rodger took three organizations in their infancy and grew each into a powerhouse in its own way, empowered to tackle this national tragedy.

One of the original volunteers and the first paid executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's first and largest provider of AIDS client services and public education programs, Rodger increased the organization's fundraising from a few thousand dollars to the $25 million agency it is today. Until his death, he was the president emeritus of Bailey House, the nation's first and largest provider of supportive housing for homeless people with HIV. From 1989 to 1994, he was executive director of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA), merging two small industry-based fundraising groups into one of America's most successful and influential AIDS fundraising and grant-making organizations. During his tenure at BC/EFA, annual revenue increased from less than $1 million to more than $5 million, while also leveraging an additional $40 million annually through strategic alliances with other funders and corporate partnerships. Rodger was also a founding member of ACT UP - NY, the now legendary protest group responsible for sweeping changes to public policy as well as drug treatment and delivery processes.

Most recently, Rodger served as the executive director of the Gill Foundation, one of the nation's largest funders of programs advocating for LGBT equality. He transformed the Foundation by sharpening its strategic purpose. He focused its philanthropy in the states, aligned its investment with political imperatives and forged relationships with straight allies that helped to further both the LGBT movement as well as the greater progressive movement. Rodger was instrumental in the creation of the Gill Foundation's sister organization, Gill Action. The brilliance of Rodger's vision is being seen today as important protections for LGBT people become a reality in more and more states. No one will ever doubt that our friend Rodger lived a rich and complete life. A proud U.S. Navy veteran, Rodger was a licensed nuclear engineer who conducted strategic missions in the North Atlantic and far Arctic regions aboard a fast attack submarine. A gifted athlete, he was a veteran of seven over-ice expeditions to the North Pole. He also competed internationally for many years as an elite tri-athlete, and in 1998 and 2002, competed in the Eco-Challenges in Morocco and Fiji, where he captained an all-Gay female-majority team.

In spite of the fact that Rodger never completed college, he was an accomplished and best-selling author and the producer of works for the stage. Rodger was the co-author of several books, including The Complete Bedside Companion: No Nonsense Advice on Caring for the Seriously Ill (Simon & Schuster, 1998), and most recently, Larry Kramer's The Tragedy of Today's Gays (Penguin, 2005). In 1993, he co-produced the Pulitzer Prize-nominated production of Larry Kramer's The Destiny of Me, the sequel to The Normal Heart. Rodger had a reputation as a hard-ass. That reputation didn't do him justice. Many of us will remember Rodger as a caregiver, a man who nursed countless friends and family members battling cancer and AIDS. He was the most compassionate and giving of friends, especially to those in physical or emotional distress. His many achievements were recognized throughout his life. Most recently, he had received the Patient Advocacy Award from the American Psychiatric Association. Other honors included the New York City Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential Voluntary Action Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, and the Emery Award from the Hetrick Martin Institute, as well as Tony and Drama Desk honors.

How do you sum up someone's life in just a few words? It's impossible and you can't. To commemorate Rodger's life, his friends will organize celebrations of his, the details of which are still in the planning stages. If Rodger was anything, he was a character through and through; there are, quite literally, thousands of "Rodger stories." That's part of what made him such a special person. During our celebrations, we'll share some of these stories and reflect on the many legacies left by our friend for life, Rodger McFarlane.

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

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 and microbrews (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. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - $2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.
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 11am- 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 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

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. Karaoke with Ynot Entertainment at 9pm.

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.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/ Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. $1.75 Long Island, $1.50 Tequila Shots, $3 Dkyy Cape Cods and $4 Skyy Cosmos.

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 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm..

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. Dance lessons at 7pm $5 per person, 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.

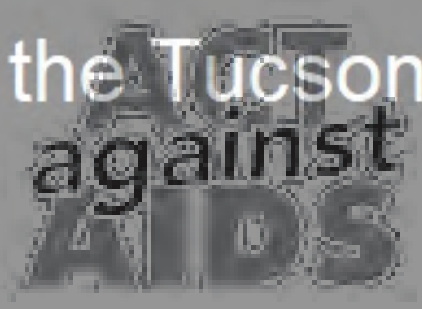
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

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

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

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



BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, May 22
THE BIZ - 'Switchblade Parade' a burlesque and cabaret variety show presents 'Forbidden Fruit 9:00 p.m. $5 at the door. $10 VIP.

YARD DOG - Karaoke with Troiy St. John at 9ish.

VENTURE-N - Memorial Day Weekend Starts today here with Nachos and $3 Cuervo Margaritas.

WOODY'S - "80's Prom Night" hosted by Stella Virgin and the Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Really rad prom photos, prizes and drink specials.

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

YARD DOG - Dart Tourney at 12:30 p.m. TOGA Party VII. Sign up by 10pm with judging at 11pm.

VENTURE-N - Memorial Day Weekend "Splash Day" with $2 Sloppy Joes and Chips from 2 to 6 pm Swimsuit/tanline/no tanline Contest 7pm.

WOODY'S - Memorial Day weekend party - The Red Party with DJ Jeff and :Men with Woody's" Dancers

Sunday, May 24
YARD DOG - Pool Tourney and Burger Bar 2 p.m.

VENTURE-N - $1.75 Long Island Ice Tea and Bloody Marys plus Sunday BBQ.

WOODY'S - Memorial Day Weekend "White Party" 8:00 p.m. White wet shorts contest $75 first place.

Monday, May 25 - MEMORIAL DAY -
IBT's - "Monday Morning Madness" to celebrate Memorial Day 2009. 10a.m. the bar opens with a free brunch buffet. 11 a.m. A Drag Show with Bunny FuFu. 1 p.m. Karaoke on the Patio and free Sub Sandwiches. Enjoy dance music all day with DJ Todd and stay for Karaoke inside and DJ Hurricane on the patio. A Full Day of great events - celebrate Memorial Day!

YARD DOG - Darryl's BBQ Chicken Dinner at 5 p.m.

VENTURE-N - Memorial Day Complimentary Grilled Chicken Dinner.

WOODY'S - Memorial Day "Blue Party" with all day drink specials - C ommunity Bar-B-Que and Karaoke.

Wednesday, May 27
WOODY'S - "Pool Party". Cool off and party in their Pool. Show off your sexiest bathing suit for Happy Hour Prices all night!

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

May Events: ***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.

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At The AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Sunday, May 17

PHOTOS: Bill Morrow

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