



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

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Prop. 8 Ruling Moves To Federal Court; LGBT Rights Group Fear Case

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - Hours after California's top court upheld Proposition 8, the voter approved ban on same-sex marriage, a federal lawsuit was filed arguing that Prop 8 violates the U.S. constitutional guarantee of equal protection and due process, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. The lawsuit seeks a preliminary injunction against California's Proposition 8 until the case is resolved.

The suit was filed by Theodore B. Olson and David Boies on behalf of two Gay men and two Gay women. Olson and Boies are two of the top litigators in the country, but in 2000 they were on opposite sides in the Bush v. Gore election challenge. Olson told the Associated Press that he hopes the case will wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gay anger over the ruling led to marches from San Francisco to San Diego to New York and to Chicago Tuesday evening. More than 150 protesters who blocked a street across from the California Supreme Court in San Francisco were arrested, with citations for failure to obey a police officer and jaywalking. In the heavily Gay Castro district, the large rainbow Gay pride flag that flies in Harvey Milk Plaza was lowered to half-staff and a black stripe put on the top.



Theodore B. Olson

In Los Angeles, protesters rallied outside the Los Angeles County clerk's office, where marriage licenses are issued. They waved rainbow flags and carried signs that read "Repeal Prop 8 in 2010." About 100 people sat down in an intersection near the University of California, Los Angeles, during rush hour and several hundred protesters gathered at a rally in West Hollywood where actress Drew Barrymore addressed the crowd. "Children need families, people need to love and we need to move forward, not backward," Barrymore said. "What defines a family? We do!"

President Barack Obama was scheduled to be in Los Angeles for a fundraiser later the same day and rights activists used the visit to press the president to fulfill his campaign promise to work for the repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, said Lorri Jean, director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

At rallies throughout the state, speakers told protesters that the fight is not over. A consortium of LGBT groups has formed Yes on Equality to press for a Prop 8 repeal effort to be placed on the 2010 ballot. The California Secretary of State has given the group Yes on Equality until Aug. 17 to collect the nearly



David Boies

700,000 signatures needed to qualify. Another proposed voter effort, by two college students, would strike the word "marriage" from all state laws.

In New York, t protesters marched from Sheridan Square to Union Square for a rally in support of same-sex marriage rights in both California and the Empire State. The New York State Assembly has passed marriage equality legislation supported by the governor. The bill has stalled in the Senate.

In St. Louis, activists gathered in front of City Hall, its rotunda pillars draped in an expansive rainbow flag.

While California Gay rights advocates accused the court of failing to protect a minority group from the will of the majority, the justices said that the state's governing framework gives voters almost unfettered ability to change the California Constitution. Justice Carlos Moreno, who had been under consideration as President Barack Obama's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, was the lone dissenter. He said denying same-sex couples the right to wed "strikes at the core of the promise of equality that underlies our California Constitution." He said it represents a "drastic and far-reaching change." "Promising equal treatment to some is fundamentally different from promising equal treatment for all," Moreno said. "Promising treatment that is almost equal is fundamentally different from ensuring truly equal treatment."

All of the justices agreed, though, that the 18,000 same-sex marriages performed before Prop 8 was passed should be allowed to stand. Gay rights activists called it a "hollow victory."

Pentagon To Continue DADT Discharges

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama's top military adviser says the Pentagon has enough challenges - including two wars - without rushing to overturn a decade-old policy that bans gays and Lesbians from serving openly in the military and incites political and social factions on both sides, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Continued on Page Five

Nevada Partnership Bill Now Law

CARSON CITY, NV - The Nevada Legislature voted into law a domestic partnership registry for same-sex and unmarried straight couples on Sunday evening (May 31), with the Assembly mustering the two-thirds vote required to override a veto by Gov. Jim Gibbons, a Republican, reported the New York Times. The move makes Nevada the 17th state to recognize the relationships of Gay men and Lesbians, creating the registry with the secretary of state by which couples receive legal protections associated with marriage.

The State Senate voted to override the veto on Saturday (May 30). The Nevada law does not require businesses to provide health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees. "The significance here is it literally equates domestic partner with spouse under Nevada state law," said Michael Ginsburg of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. "You have the full force of the law behind you now," Mr. Ginsburg said. "When you're in the

hospital, forced to make decisions for your partner, all you have to say is, 'This is my spouse,' and that carries tremendous weight." Proponents were able to persuade two members of both the Senate and the Assembly to switch sides since earlier votes. Many were pressured by executives from the casino industry, who feared a boycott by Gay travelers.

Opponents, including the governor, argued that the law was unnecessary because gay couples could create legal contracts to provide most of the rights they would receive through the registry. They also pointed out that Nevada voters approved a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage earlier this decade. Yet State Senator David R. Parks, a Las Vegas Democrat and the only openly Gay elected official in Nevada, obtained legal opinions from legislative lawyers stating that the domestic partnership registry was not the equivalent of marriage.



Episcopal Church Ousts 61 Clergy In LGBT Dispute

FRESNO, CA (Observer Update) - National leaders of the Episcopal Church have ousted 61 clergy who aligned with a former bishop in California when he broke with the national church in a dispute over the Bible and homosexuality, 365Gay.com reported. Former Bishop John-David Schofield led the Diocese of San Joaquin to become the first full diocese to secede from the U.S. denomination in 2007. Four years earlier, Episcopallians consecrated their first openly Gay bishop, setting off a wide-ranging debate within the church and upsetting conservative congregations. Schofield ultimately was removed as head of the diocese and barred from performing any religious rites. He maintains he is an Anglican bishop under the worldwide church.

Episcopal leaders said they were deposing all clergy who severed their ties and joined Schofield in affiliating with an Anglican archdiocese in Argentina. Jerry Lamb, the new Episcopal Bishop of San Joaquin, called the decision to oust the clergy "heartbreaking." "But, the fact is, they chose to abandon their relationship with

the Episcopal Church," he said. Schofield said in a statement that Anglican leaders across the globe recognized the deposed clergy as priests and deacons in good standing. "Clearly, the traditional understanding of what it means to be a member of this historic Communion has been tragically altered by this action," he said. "The Episcopal Church needlessly isolates itself from their brothers and sisters around the world."

In December, the breakaway diocese joined with three others and dozens of individual parishes in the U.S. and Canada to announce that they were forming a North American Anglican province to rival the Episcopal Church. Schofield said that 23 dioceses now plan to affiliate with the new province. Its future status in the worldwide Anglican Communion is unclear. It's unprecedented for an Anglican national province to be created where a national church already exists.

UPDATE

Richard Heakin Memorial Set For Saturday, June 6



Richard Heakin 6/6/76

TUCSON - It has been 33 years since Richard Heakin was murdered outside the Stonewall Bar in a crime that drastically changed the way things were handled in Tucson's GLBT hate crimes as well as changing the attitude toward the GLBT Community.

A memorial is being held this weekend, Saturday, June 6 at the Richard Heakin Memorial Bench in Sunset Park in front of City Hall, 255 West Alameda, at 7:30 p.m. This is an informal gathering and everyone is invited to reminisce, remember and question this terrible crime.

Desert Voices 'Thank You' Concert And Stonewall Commemoration

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices "Thank You Concert and Stonewall Commemoration," will take place Sunday, June 28, 6:00 p.m., at Saguaro Christian Church - 8302 E. Broadway Blvd.

Top off Pride Week in Tucson with a concert of music, comedy and costumes! How about a no-admission-charged concert at the end of June?

Not only will we be thanking our fans, old and new, we'll also be commemorating the 40th anniversary of Stonewall. Free refreshments, too! Donations accepted. Please visit desertvoices.org or call (520) 791-9662 for additional information.

Tucson Comes Out For Day Of Decision

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Rainbow Foot Soldiers in conjunction with Wingspan and local activists and supporters of Marriage Equality gathered on the evening of Tuesday, May 26, in Catalina Park (4th Avenue & 1st Street) for a rally in response to the California Supreme Court decision on the validity of Proposition 8. The high energy crowd marched and chanted down 4th Ave. to Wingspan, getting support from cars with honking horns and cheers from cafe customers.

Rainbow Foot Soldiers (rainbowfootsoldiers.com) is a grassroots activist group, founded by Buck Bannister, Michael Koch, and Sandi. As their website states: "We are here to assist and support the community and community groups. When necessary we will step into the forefront to organize events." Planning an event with an unknown date is very challenging. In the end it was on Friday, May 23, that the Court announced that it would issue its decision on Tuesday, May 26 - the first business day after a three-day weekend. RFS worked throughout the weekend to get this event off the ground, and community came out in support.

Speakers at the event included: Buck Bannister, John Mijac, Ray and Kathy Green, Jason Cianciotto and Courter Simmons, and Deb and Sal Risinger.

Bisbee Pride

BISBEE (Observer Update) - On Father's Day Weekend, June 19-21, Bisbee will be hosting its annual Pride Weekend of Activities.

This annual event is sponsored, hosted and organized by Bisbee Pride, whose mission is to encourage the expression and celebrate, champion, and support the rights and freedoms of the southeastern Arizona Pride Community (meaning Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, other same sex attracted people and those that support them), as well as provide educational outreach to the community at large.

There are many events scheduled for this week, to get the schedule, other information or get questions answered, go online to bisbeepride.com.

Antigone Books Hosting Readings

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us for an event at Antigone Books, 411 N. Fourth Ave., Friday, June 19, 7:00 p.m., Lavinia Spalding will discuss her new book, *Writing Away: A Creative Guide to Awakening the Journal-Writing Traveler* (Travelers' Tales, \$14.95).

In this engaging and witty book, the author puts forth her belief that journaling while traveling is the world's most valuable writing exercise. She believes that the journal can be a cornerstone of growth and a catalyst for great work. She'll show you how to slow down and commit to the present moment, and how to motivate your inner artist to discover creative material every step of the way. Using a variety of writing exercises, she shows us how to embrace mishaps, overcome procrastination, and tackle the discipline, structure, and momentum that are crucial to the creative process. Her definition of travel is loose, so even if your travel is simply around town, she has ideas for you! The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

Please join us for an event at Antigone Books on Friday, June 26, 7:00 p.m., when Max Cannon, author of *Red Meat Gold* (St. Martin's Griffin, \$11.95) and Ted Rall, author of *America Gone Wild!* (Andrews McMeel, \$12.95) will discuss their books.

Come hear two nationally known cartoonists discuss their lives in the world of cartooning. Both regulars in the Tucson Weekly, Cannon and Rall will be in town to share their work via powerpoint and give us behind-the-scenes details of their art. The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

Rodeo Announcement Party, June 26

TEMPE (Observer Update) - The Arizona Gay Rodeo Association (A.G.R.A.) is pleased to announce its next rodeo fundraiser and party. A.G.R.A. has partnered with the Door in Tempe to host its Announcement Party.

On Friday, June 26, 7:00 p.m., the rodeo association is having a special event to announce the location for its 2010 RoadRunner Regional Rodeo (RRRR). This will be the 25th year of rodeo for the RRRR, and the association invites you now to start celebrating its Silver Anniversary rodeo.

The Door is offering a generous drink special for the party. In addition to all the cowboy fun and horsin' around, RRRR will be raising funds during this event. It's time to kick it up, then cool it off at the Door, located at 1126 N Scottsdale Rd in Tempe. See you June 26!

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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SAAF UPDATE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Each time I begin to write this update, I wonder how I can possibly convey SAAF's gratitude to each of you for your continued support in the fight against HIV/AIDS and your compassion to help others who are in this fight.

In particular, this opportunity to thank the community would not be possible without the support of The Tucson Observer. Bob and Mark have been helping cover the challenges and issues, hurdles and obstacles, and the real faces, people, and families who have been infected or affected by HIV for years. In many other communities the opportunity to have space in the paper to convey our thanks, needs, and updates is rare, so I thank you the Observer from the bottom of my heart, and I hope that each of you reading this today will continue to support The Tucson Observer so they may continue to be a valuable media partner for years to come.

This Memorial Day weekend is a bitter reminder of the many friends and family members lost that will forever have a special place in our hearts. If you were at the Candlelight Memorial on Sunday, May 18th you may have witnessed just how important these memorials are. They remind us of how far we have come and provide strength for the journey ahead as we all work towards a community with no new HIV infections. This is a bold statement and one that we are all committed to making a reality- but the reality is that SAAF cannot do this alone.

This journey needs YOU, your financial support, your dedication to learning how to reduce the risks of HIV by teaching this information to your

children and friends, and by getting tested regularly. Everyone has an HIV status- but not everyone knows what their status is. I ask you to please think about getting tested and educated so that this vision becomes a reality. This work takes all of us.

During the next couple of months you will begin to see a community-wide marketing and awareness campaign to help stop the stigma, educate the community, and increase HIV testing. This opportunity is both exciting and greatly needed. If you are interested in helping to develop the campaign and make a big impact on educating the public, please give me a call so that we can get you involved.

Best regards, Wendell Hicks -
Executive Director

P.S. Last year, through 7 different prevention programs, SAAF was able to educate more than XXX people on how to reduce their risk of HIV. To support these important educational programs, please contact Michele at (520)628-7223.



Gay Pride Week Marked In Tucson

TUCSON (Observer Update) - June 26 will mark the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the beginning of the modern LGBT rights movement. Cities and towns across the globe will be holding events and festivals to mark this important occasion. In the Old Pueblo, a series of events are being held to mark LGBT Pride in Southern Arizona, being overseen by Tucson Pride, and they are scheduled from June 17-27.

Wed, June 17, Doors open at 6:30 p.m. An Evening with Wicked author Gregory Maguire, The Loft Cinema-3233 East Speedway Blvd. The Pima County Public Library presents author Gregory Maguire as part of its Annual GLBT Author event. Maguire will present a talk on the creation of the Wicked series and will read from his books. Mr. Maguire will sign books following the presentation.

Friday-Sunday, June 19-21, Bisbee Pride (bisbeepride.com). Kick off Pride Week and join Tucson Pride as we celebrate LGBT Pride in Bisbee. Though located in a small town, Bisbee Pride is big on fun, entertainment, and great people who are excited to welcome you to their amazing town.

Friday, June 19, Gaystock, The Biz - 2900 East Broadway Blvd. Join us at the Biz for an evening of peace, love, and understanding that spans generations.

Saturday, June 20, 9:00 p.m. Boys R Us presents "All Eyes on Me," at the Hotel Congress - 311 East Congress Street. Bold and bold and daring, Boys R Us dives in to the spirit of Pride and reveals what's underneath. Sex, Politics and Pride - we're pulling no stops, holding no bars - celebrate your pride with the boys at Club Congress.

Sunday, June 21, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Colors - 5305 East Speedway Blvd. Join Colors for dinner at Colors. Colors will donate 10% of your pre-tax food and beverage order to TIHAN.

Tuesday, June 23, Eon Dinner

and a Movie, Eon Youth Lounge - Call (520) 620-6245 for directions. Join Eon for dinner and a movie at the Eon Youth Lounge. Event open to youth 23 years of age and younger.

Tuesday, June 23, 8:00 p.m., Girlyman, Hotel Congress- 311 East Congress Street. Club Congress celebrates Pride Week with one of the nation's best acts, Girlyman. Great harmonies and great music are hallmarks of Atalanta Ga's Girlyman, bouyed by a nation of rabid "Girlyfans". A fantastic night of music and fun. Must be 21 or older to attend. To purchase tickets visit hotelcongress.com

Wednesday, June 24, Wingspan Night Out at The Claim Jumper- 3761 East Broadway Blvd. Join Wingspan for a night of food, drinks, and fabulous gaiety at the Claim Jumper restaurant at El Con Mall. Claim Jumper will donate 10% of your pre-tax food and beverage order to Wingspan when you present the event flyer to your server. Wingspan is not allowed to hand the flyer out on the night, so please visit wingspan.org to download and print your very own and hand to your server on the night. Call (520) 795-2900 to make a reservation.

Thursday, June 25, Steak Night at the Venture-N- 1239 North Sixth Avenue. Join us at Venture-N and get your steak on!

Friday, June 26, Family Tradition Fundraiser at the Coyote Moon - 915 West Prince Road. A fundraiser to assist the Observer, our local community newspaper, in continued service. It's a night of country music, dancing, performances, and raffles. Join us for some Friday Fun!

Saturday, June 27, Wet Party at Woody's - 3710 North Oracle Road. Join Woody's on June 27th from 8 p.m. until close for their monthly Wet Party. Check website and Myspace for updates. (myspace.com/4mywoodys) For more information, Tucsonpride.org.

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Report From EON Youth Lounge

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Eon Youth Lounge, a long-standing and nationally respected program in Wingspan's Youth and Family Programs, helps youth 13 to 23 in many ways. This spring, it provided an opportunity for a former volunteer, a senior from the St. Gregory College Preparatory School, to learn more about LGBT youth, and the challenges they face. Emma Willerton chose to perform a two and half week internship at Eon for her senior project, a graduation requirement.

Youth and Families Manager Khara Ellasante said of Emma, "She was a great addition to the team even for the short time that she worked with us here at Eon. I was moved by Emma's open heart, her willingness to expand her horizons, and her dedication to making her internship a worthwhile and fulfilling experience." As part of her project, Emma was required to write a report on her experience. We publish it here in its entirety. There are always volunteer and intership opportunities at Wingspan.

Senior Internship Evaluation - When first presented with the task to complete a two and a half week internship, I did not think that there would be many possibilities for me. After realizing that the trip to Kenya that many seniors at my school participate in would be too costly, I realized that there had to be something that I could do to help out my own community. I had volunteered at the Eon Youth Lounge about a year ago but had never been able to come back and work again. I realized when presented with the internship project that this would be a perfect opportunity to go back and help. I don't think that I can express how pleased I am that I decided to return. The experience at Eon gave me a new outlook and a new perspective on life. I realized how amazing this experience was when I left the last day of my internship. I wasn't upset or sad about leaving because I knew that I would be back next week to help out more, even after the internship.

Much of my time at the lounge was spent hanging out and relaxing with the youth that stopped by. While not particularly difficult, this helped me hear many stories from many kids around my age. Some of them had dealt with issues that I could never imagine, but by the end, I felt more connected to them because they were so able to open up. The rest of the time was generally spent doing group activities at events. For example, every Tuesday everyone who is present in the lounge participates in the Peer Working Group in which we discuss various events going on and how we can better the Lounge and its projects. Every Wednesday, those in the lounge participate in Support Ourselves (SOS), which is aimed towards homeless or near homeless youth. During this group activity, we discuss our highs and lows of the week as well as what we are working on to better ourselves. Finally, every Thursday, a Sex Chat is held in which we are open to ask questions regarding sex, STD prevention, and birth control. Nothing is off-limits during this discussion, allowing people to be comfortable and talk freely and openly. The only huge rule is to keep drama at the door, as this is a comfortable and relaxed environment for teenagers to hang out in. This of course means no drugs, no alcohol, and no weapons in the lounge.

Before every activity, everyone must introduce themselves, announce their preferred pronoun (i.e. he or she), and mention one rule or agreement for the group. These agreements generally included "one diva, one mic" (don't talk over other people), "step up, step back," (allow others to talk as well), respect, and confidentiality of whatever was said in the group. The groups were especially enjoyable to me because they acted as a free therapy session, allowing you to discuss whatever was on your mind. Besides the general activities scheduled throughout the week, I also participated in several special projects taking place at the time. The most moving of these had to have been the movie presented by Wingspan (the

LGBT community center which runs the Eon Youth Lounge) that played at the Loft on Thursday, May 7. This movie, entitled Amancio: Two Faces on a Tombstone, was about a young, Gay male named Amancio Corrales who was brutally murdered 4 years ago in Yuma, Arizona. The crime appeared to have been an act of hate. Amancio, at the time, was dressed as a female, which he did often and had become well-known in the Southwest for his spectacular drag productions. While the killer was found and placed in jail, his sentence was considerably short, giving little to justice to the crime committed. The documentary both opened my eyes and presented a great deal of sadness. Even while the United States elected its first African American president, there are still a countless number of hate crimes that occur every day which are similar to Amancio's.

Another project that I participated in was the Project Q event that took place the last Saturday of my internship. Project Q is essentially a workshop that takes place at the lounge in which teens discuss relationships, violence, and sex. This particular workshop lasted about 4 hours, with such topics as violence, relationships, and how these are both similar and different in the LGBT community. Again, I learned so much through this special project and hope to participate in the next Project Q event. The final major project or program that I worked on was the Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA). On most Mondays, while the lounge was closed, I went into Wingspan (the LGBT community center across the street) and worked with Allison who runs SAGA. I did various small projects for her such as making lists, folding pamphlets, and typing things up. What was much more fascinating to me however, was talking to Allison while working and discussing issues that the transgender community faces apart from the LGB community.

While these three projects definitely struck me the most, other various projects that I worked on included the lounge's planning for its own Prom coming up this Friday, May 15 and writing blogs for the website, GayTucsonYouth.com. I learned more than I ever thought I would at Eon. I was surprised at how much this internship has affected me because I plan on returning as soon as next week. All of the issues that come up within the lounge provoked me, so much so that I would like to get involved with social work in the future. I would recommend this experience to everyone with an open mind who is concerned with issues regarding social justice and equality.

VENTURE-N
 TUCSON'S ONLY MEN'S BAR

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Pentagon To Continue DADT Discharges

Continued from Page One

Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he is working on an assessment of what - if any - impact overturning "don't ask, don't tell" policies would mean for the military and its culture. In the meantime, the Pentagon plans to follow the existing rules, which say Gays and Lesbians can serve in the military if they do not disclose their sexuality or engage in homosexual behavior. "The president has made his strategic intent very clear, that it's his intent at some point in time to ask Congress to change this law," Mullen said. "I think it's important to also know that this is the law, this isn't a policy. And for the rules to change, a law has to be changed."

During his presidential campaign, Obama pledged to overturn the Clinton-era policy and promised that Gays and Lesbians could serve openly in uniform. But he has made no specific move to do so since taking office in January. He has not set a deadline for repeal, has given the Pentagon no direct orders and has kept Capitol Hill guessing about when he might ask for a change in the law. Mullen said the military would not start on a timeline until Congress acts. Obama's go-it-slow approach has drawn criticism from Gay rights groups, including activists and fundraisers who met in Dallas to organize a grass-roots lobbying effort to force Obama's hand.

Gibbs stood at the White House podium and reiterated the president's eventual goal, although he said the administration was fine with Congress taking the lead on the potentially divisive subject. "Try as one may, a president can't simply whisk away standing law of the United States of America," Gibbs said. "But if you're going to change the policy, if it is the law of the land, you have to do it through an act of Congress." Gibbs' counterpart at the Pentagon issued a similar statement.

Obama's top advisers - in uniform and in politics - have urged restraint despite the issue's resonance among the president's left-flank base. They want Obama to move with a deliberate plan that accounts for all potential consequences during war-time. Retired Marine Gen. James Jones, the White House's national security adviser, said this month he wasn't sure the policy would be overturned. "We have a lot on our plate right now," he said. There is concern that reopening the socially and politically divisive question of Gays and Lesbians in the ranks could place an additional burden on a military stretching to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Buying time serves both the Pentagon's desire for caution and Obama's desire not to pick an unnecessary fight. Former President Bill Clinton never fully recovered from his miscues over the Gays in the military issue.

Obama spokesman Robert

Clinton Approves Partner Benefits For State Department Workers



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will soon announce that Gay American diplomats will be given benefits similar to those that their heterosexual counterparts enjoy, according to U.S. officials, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. In a notice to be sent soon to State Department employees, Clinton says regulations that denied same-sex couples and their families the same rights and privileges that straight diplomats enjoyed are "unfair and must end," as they harm U.S. diplomacy.

"Providing training, medical care and other benefits to domestic partners promote the cohesiveness, safety and effectiveness of our posts abroad," she says in the message, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. "It will also help the department attract and retain personnel in a competitive environment where domestic partner benefits and allowances are increasingly the norm for world-class employers," she says. "At bottom, the department will provide these benefits for both opposite-sex and same-sex domestic partners because it is the right thing to do," Clinton says.

Among the benefits that will now be granted Gay diplomats: the right of

domestic partners to hold diplomatic passports, government-paid travel for their partners and families to and from foreign posts, and the use of U.S. medical facilities abroad. In addition, Gay diplomats' families will now be eligible for U.S. government emergency evacuations and training courses at the Foreign Service Institute, the message says.

The announcement was provided to the AP by a State Department official who is a member of the Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies organization. Two department officials not affiliated with the organization confirmed its accuracy. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the changes.

Previously, the State Department had withheld some benefits from the families of Gay diplomats, citing the Defense of Marriage Law, which had restricted federal recognition of same-sex marriages. One former ambassador, Michael Guest, resigned from the foreign service in 2007 to protest the restrictions. Guest was a part of the Obama administration's State Department transition team and played a major role in lobbying for the changes.

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

LGBT Pride Proclamation Issued By President Obama

On Monday, June 1, President Barack Obama has issued a statement proclaiming LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Pride month for June and giving indications on how his administration will act on issues of concern:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

June 1, 2009

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2009 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.

LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society. There are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields, including the arts and business communities. LGBT Americans also mobilized the Nation to respond to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and have played a vital role in broadening this country's response to the HIV pandemic.

Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today than ever before. I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration. These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in public servants, and across my Administration — in both the White House and the Federal agencies — openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism.

The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect.

My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. Here at

home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans. These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, ensuring adoption rights, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security. We must also commit ourselves to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by both reducing the number of HIV infections and providing care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States.

These issues affect not only the LGBT community, but also our entire Nation. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit. During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA



Farewell Event Planned For Linus Lerner, June 5



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Reveille Men's Chorus would like you to join them at Woody's on June 5th starting at 8:00 p.m. as they say good-bye to their conductor of 7 years, Linus Lerner. Linus will be traveling extensively this summer to Brazil and Mexico before assuming his new post as Artistic Director of The Bayou City Performing Arts in Houston, Texas in August. There will be a no-host-bar and a 50/50 raffle to benefit Reveille.

It was announced at Reveille's Spring concert "Make 'Em Laugh: Comedy in Music" that after 7 years as artistic director and 2 as executive director this would be Lerner's last concert with the group. Under his leadership Reveille recorded 4 CDs, traveled 5 times to Mexico to raise money for HIV/AIDS and GLBT groups in Hermosillo, Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta and Mexico City (first openly gay chorus to perform in that country). In 2005 he took the chorus to 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 elevated the musical sound of the chorus and increased attendance at the chorus's 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," said Reveille Board President Jeffrey Bracker. "I had no illusions that we would have Linus with us forever. In fact, we have been fortunate to have had him for as long as we have. In his 7 years with Reveille Linus radically changed the nature of this organization," Bracker went on. "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 in Montreal and Miami 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."

Mistress of Ceremonies Ajia Simone will also be on hand so don't miss it. For more information you can call Reveille at (520) 304-1758.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Returning To The Ballot - 2010 vs. 2012

By EQCA

We listened very carefully to the thousands of you who responded to our membership survey. You provided passionate arguments for both 2010 and 2012, as well as detailed comments about why you prefer one election to another. We read every one of them. In the end, you voted in favor of 2010 by a margin of 69 percent to 24 percent, with 7 percent unsure.

We agree with you. Under the right conditions (which we explain below), we support returning to the ballot in November 2010 for the following reasons (which many of you expressed):

1. Momentum. Never before have either of us experienced a situation where there are so many volunteers who are willing to knock on doors, speak to voters, and take ownership over moving voters to marriage equality. With field organizers on the ground guiding their efforts, we can ensure there will be literally hundreds of thousands of conversations at people's doors. In our view, this work could be significantly reduced if we wait until 2012. If the election were not to take place for three-plus years, we believe we would have a difficult time maintaining the momentum and engaging those who are ready to sprint to a finish line. The momentum and determination factor may sound soft, but in our experience, it is this work that, more than anything else, will move voters our way. Its importance should not be underestimated.

2. Top of the ticket. All of the leading Democratic contenders for governor and other statewide offices in 2010 strongly support overturning Prop 8. In 2012, we likely will not have a strong supporter of marriage equality heading the ticket of either party.

3. Vying for attention - LGBT national funding priorities. In November 2010, ours would likely be the only major LGBT initiative on the ballot. In 2012, that likely will not be the case. Being on the ballot in different years from other states should greatly increase the funds we can raise. Additionally, in 2012, the LGBT community will once again be counted on to financially support the Obama campaign. This of course is not an issue in 2010.

4. Vying for attention in California. In 2012, the entire legislature will be redistricted by an independent commission resulting in what will likely be the most expensive and contested election for legislative seats in over a decade. As a result, money and volunteers will be more difficult to come by. In addition, in 2010, we could draw from the many Obama volunteers in California who traveled to Nevada and elsewhere last year and who we think we could enlist to work to restore marriage equality.

5. National movement. In addition to the wins to date in New England and Iowa, there's a strong possibility of prevailing in New York and New Jersey in 2009. These victories will - we believe - translate into increased acceptance and support for marriage equality in California by November 2010.

6. Waiting has costs. In the time between 2010 and 2012, a number of Californians will forever lose the chance to marry the person they love or witness their son or daughter get married, while others will have to wait in a state of limbo to see if they will be able to marry. We should not wait any longer than we have to.

Arguments for 2012:

There are strong arguments for 2012, including:

The economy is projected to be in a better place in 2011-2012 than now. As a result, fundraising will likely be considerably easier.

We can assume that some percentage of additional people will come our way during that extra time period as a result of both national trends and a change in the voting population (as those now 15 will be able to vote in 2012, but not 2010, and some people 65 or older will no longer be in the voting pool).

There will be two additional years to do the hard work of engaging and persuading voters. In an electorate that, according to public polls, is pretty evenly divided, the additional time would be helpful.

In the end, a 2010 election will likely be very close. From our vantage point, the deciding factors to return to the ballot in 2010 rather than 2012 include the energy and momentum and the political landscape in California. The potential for unprecedented grassroots mobilization from the LGBT and allied communities, backed by leading state-wide candidates for office, will translate into an arsenal of tens of thousands of volunteers, who if properly stewarded, will talk to hundreds of thousands of voters in target counties, and in communities and neighborhoods where analysis shows there's the most likelihood of movement.

From Potential to Reality

While we believe conditions are such that there's real potential for victory in 2010, without a powerful and comprehensive campaign plan and well-designed campaign structure that is supported and owned by us all (donors, grassroots, LGBT groups - both new and established, organized labor, etc.), we believe we will fall short and lose. We want to be clear: Equality California will actively participate in creating this plan and structure; however, the campaign to win back marriage belongs to all of us and will not be designed or run by any one organization. Moreover, while introducing ballot language is simple, winning an affirmative referendum on marriage equality in California is difficult and very expensive. The California Secretary of State recommends introducing ballot language by September 25 for a November 2010 referendum. As a result, our community and its allies have the opportunity to use the next few months to do the following:

Get agreement around a date. We will actively participate in discussions with our many coalition partners and community members to get agreement around when and how to go back to the ballot.

Gain concurrence around one campaign structure that accomplishes the following:

Engenders the confidence of the community, broadly-defined, and its many components.

Balances the need for broad and inclusive representation with the need to act decisively and quickly.

Develop a comprehensive campaign plan that charts a path to victory, with detailed benchmarks along the way. The plan must, in our view, include:

A field plan that fully engages the grassroots, with a relentless focus on quantifiable voter contact and persuasion.

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Whether our community goes back to the ballot in 2010 or later, Equality California is committed - in partnership with our local, state-wide and national partners - to doing the persuasion work to move Californians towards marriage equality. Under the leadership of EQCA Field Director Amy Mello, we have launched a robust field effort designed to put to work the tens of thousands of people motivated by the Prop 8 loss. Working in partnership with many other organizations, they are relentlessly focused on having multiple discussions with moveable Californians in the parts of the state where most of the Yes on 8 votes came from: LA County, Orange County, San Diego County; the Inland Empire; the Central Valley; Sacramento. We are carefully tracking progress, and will be able, during the next few months, to assess people's willingness to do the on-the-ground work; as well as voters' openness to moving our way.

We Need You.

We need your active and sustained leadership and engagement to implement a winning program for California. Quite simply, we cannot do it without you. The passage of Prop 8 cast a pall over the LGBT and allied community not just in California, but throughout the country. And it will take a

coordinated, powerful effort of us all to send Prop 8 to the dustbin of history where it belongs.

The lay of the land in California is complex, with dozens of new organizations joining the many established organizations in the battle for equality. And it is also exciting, filled with energy and thousands of new activists who are playing critical leadership roles and who will be our movement's leaders for years to come. We need you to jump into the fray and work with us - by participating in grassroots canvasses, by telling your story, by contributing what you can and by engaging your family, friends and neighbors. In short, we need you to make this campaign your campaign.

Thank you for all you do for equality.

(Equality California (EQCA) is the largest statewide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender-rights advocacy organization in California. In the past decade, EQCA has strategically moved California from a state with extremely limited legal protections for LGBT individuals to a state with some of the most comprehensive civil-rights protections in the nation. EQCA has passed over 50 pieces of legislation and continues to advance equality through legislative advocacy, public education and community empowerment, eqca.org.)



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Wingspan Statement On The California Supreme Court's Prop. 8 Decision

The California State Supreme Court upheld Proposition 8, the ban on same-sex marriage in their state. The ruling, however, does not invalidate the over 18,000 same-sex marriages in California that happened prior to the passage of Prop 8 last November. The following is a statement from Jason Cianciotto, Executive Director of Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center:

not just possible, it is inevitable."

For more information and to see and share stories about LGBT families in Arizona, go familiesyouknow.com.

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"We stand in solidarity with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and straight ally citizens of California and across the nation bitterly disappointed by today's ruling upholding Proposition 8. The founders of this country never intended for minority rights, including the right to legally marry, to be determined by a popular vote. This is the epitome of majority tyranny.

"While we take some comfort in the fact that this ruling does not invalidate the over 18,000 same-sex marriages solemnized in California prior to November 2008, millions more will be denied the basic right to legally protect their loved ones.

"Despite this setback, we need only look at the historic steps toward equality that recently occurred in Iowa, which began providing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in April, and Maine, which will issue them in September, to know that equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples is



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ExxonMobil Continues Fight Against LGBT Worker Rights

DALLAS, TX (Observer Update) - Shareholders at the world's largest oil company continue to reject a proposal to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the company's official equal employment opportunity policy, reported 365Gay.com. The latest attempt was made at the company's annual shareholder meeting in Dallas by two large shareholders - the New York City Comptroller and New York City Pension Funds, and by the LGBT rights group Human Rights Campaign.

Raymond in December 1999 to protest the policy reversals. In January 2000, stockholders and activists protested at a company facility in Houston, causing the facility to close for the day. Current Chairman and Chief Executive Rex Tillerson has maintained the same position on ExxonMobil's policies.

A total of 423 - 85 percent - of Fortune 500 companies include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies and 176 - more than 35 percent - include gender identity, including ExxonMobil competitors BP Corp., Chevron Corp., Dow Chemical, DuPont and Shell Oil. "While the rest of corporate America recognizes and respects the diversity of their workforce, ExxonMobil continues to resist the most basic protections that should be afforded to all Americans," said Solmonese.

"ExxonMobil continues to have the dubious distinction of being the only Fortune 50 company that refuses to add sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination policy, and is stuck in the ever-shrinking minority of businesses that don't offer domestic partner benefits," said Human Rights Campaign Foundation President Joe Solmonese. "It is irresponsible for ExxonMobil to ignore overwhelming shareholder support and not to join the majority of companies that provide equal protections and benefits to all families."

Over the past decade, proposals to add gender identity and sexual orientation protections have been voted down. This year, 39.3 percent of shares were voted in favor of the policy, compared to 8.2 percent in 2000. Shareholder support for the proposal has slowly increased each year it has been filed. In 2007, it was supported by 37.7 percent of shares voted; in 2006, it was supported by 34.6 percent of shares voted; and in 2005, it was supported by 29.4 percent.

ExxonMobil is the only company in America to have had a written non discrimination clause that included Gays and to have rescinded it. LGBT workers had been included in employment policies at Mobil. In December 1999 when Mobil merged with Exxon and under Exxon's direction, the policy was abandoned. At the same time, it closed Mobil's domestic partner benefits program to any more employees. Twenty-four members of Congress, and thousands of stockholders and consumers, wrote to ExxonMobil Chairman Lee R.

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Analysis: Should G/L Marriage Remain States Issue?

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - California's status as a guardian of Gay rights slipped this week when its highest court upheld a voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, even as other states extended the institution to Gay and Lesbian couples, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Are the people of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire more sexually literate than Californians? asked the National Sexuality Resource Center, a San Francisco-based think tank, naming the states where Gays can or soon will be able to wed. The California Supreme Court on Tuesday (May 26) upheld the ban on Gay marriage, known as Proposition 8, in a state that's home to 14 percent of the nation's same-sex couples and was the first to offer Gays the spousal rights of marriage without being ordered to by a court.

Voters in 2008 passed the constitutional amendment, which trumped an earlier state Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage. In spite of the setback in the state, Gay rights advocates say they still believe what happens there is important no matter the outcome. Supporters and opponents spent \$83 million on the Proposition 8 campaign last year, making it the most expensive election on a social issue in the nation's history. "Certainly California remains very important in this epic struggle just because it's so big," said Richard Socarides, who served as President Bill Clinton's adviser on Gay civil rights.

And because of its size, Gay rights advocates say they'll continue their campaign to win over more voters. Leaders of Equality California and Courage Campaign said they have started canvassing in more conservative parts of the state, working with religious and ethnic groups and otherwise learning from mistakes made during last year's failed campaign. "The biggest thing California can do is win back marriage at the ballot box," said Mary Bonauto, the civil rights director of Boston-based Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, which brought the lawsuit that led to Massachusetts becoming the first state to sanction same-sex marriage. "We have won marriage in courts, we have even now marriage winning in legislatures," she said. "To win it with the people would crumble the right wing's whole house of cards."

Bonauto said that if California advocates succeeded in getting Proposition 8 reversed, it would mark an unprecedented milestone: 28 other states have constitutional bans on same-sex marriage but none have been challenged with a popular vote.

As California Gay rights groups prepared to launch a campaign to repeal Proposition 8 at the ballot box next year, two lawyers announced they had filed a federal lawsuit challenging the initiative in the hopes of getting the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, the lawyers who represented opposing sides in the 2000 Bush v. Gore election challenge, said they think the high court is ripe to take on the issue. They filed on behalf of two Gay men and two Gay women. "I felt it was very important we present the American people and the courts a unified front and tell the courts and the American people through our presence and our participation this is not about right or left or partisan politics," Olson said. "This is about what we all share as Americans."

But it wasn't a move welcomed by all advocates. Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the suit "sends a powerful message that the time for change has come," but also warned the lawyers of the "only one shot at the U.S. Supreme Court." They and "any attorneys bringing a case that will affect the freedom and legal status of an entire community bear a very heavy responsibility to be certain they have fully considered the consequences," Minter said.

Gay rights activists also were pressuring President Barack Obama to fulfill his campaign pledge to work toward repealing the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act. The law prevents couples in states that recognize same-sex unions from securing Social Security spousal benefits, filing joint taxes and other federal rights of marriage. The focus, however, remained on working through state legislatures and voters to win marriage rights, said Evan Wolfson, executive director of New York-based Freedom to Marry. "Winning marriage in more states is crucial not only for the families living in those states, but for creating a comfort level that sets the stage for a national resolution," he said.

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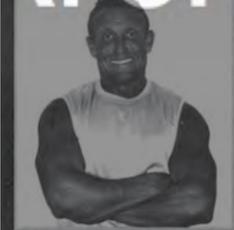
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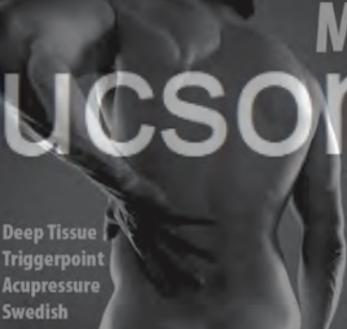


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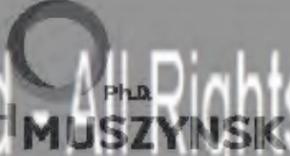
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COMMENTARY . . .

A Big Gay Chip On My Shoulder

By Rob Thomas

I am a straight man, with a big Gay chip on my shoulder. A while back on my Twitter page (yes, I know how ridiculous it sounds), I mentioned that, if I believed in the devil, Pat Robertson might be him. Being a fairly liberal-leaning guy with either liberal friends or Republican and Christian friends who don't believe that being one has anything to do with the other, I was surprised at how many people took offense to what I had to say.

These people weren't friends of Mr. Robertson but friends, apparently, of God. They had "spoken" with him and he had assured them that he was no friend of the Gays. He also told them that he loved America more than any other country and was a huge fan of Dancing With the Stars. The small controversy or "Twitter-versy" (patent on phrase pending) all started when I had made the mistake of asking why two people of the same sex shouldn't be able to make the same life-long commitment and (more importantly) under the same god, as straight people. Why can't my Gay friends be as happily married as my wife and I? It seemed simple to me, but let me start off by telling you a series of things that I believe to be true:

I am a person who believes that people are born Gay. I don't think you have any control over what moves you or to whom you're attracted. That's why it's called an attraction and not a choice. I believe that America is a great nation of even greater people. I also believe that anyone who says that this is a "Christian nation" has RHS, or revisionist history syndrome, and doesn't realize that most of our founding fathers were either atheist or at least could see, even in the 1700s, that all through Europe at the time, religion was the cause of so much persecution that they needed to put into their brand new constitution a SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE so that the ideals of a group of people could never be forced onto the whole. (I also find it funny when people point out to me that it says "one nation under god" in our pledge of allegiance, not realizing that this was an addition made in 1954 during the communism scare of the McCarthy era. It's not surprising, however, knowing that these same people would punch me in the mouth if I called Jesus a Jew.)

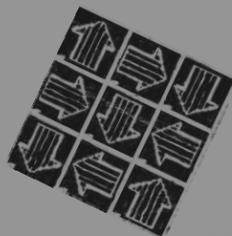
I believe the fact that an atheist, who doesn't believe in God at all, is allowed to enter into the holy land of marriage while a Gay Christian is not, shows that this law is arbitrary. Are we to believe that anyone who doesn't live their life according to the King James Bible isn't protected by the same laws that protect those who do? Using the same argument that I've seen on the 700 Club, that would mean that Jewish, Hindu, or Muslim weddings are also null and void. I believe that to deny this right to the Gay population is to say to them, "this god

is not your god and he doesn't love you." There isn't one person who is against Gay marriage that can give me a reason why it shouldn't be legal without bringing God or their religion into it. Still, I'm amazed at the audacity of a small, misdirected group of the ultra-conservative Christian right wing, to spend millions of dollars, in a recession, on advertisements to stop two men or women who love each other from being able to be married, but when you present any opposition to them, they accuse you of attacking their religion. Isn't it funny that the people who are the quickest to take someone's basic rights to happiness are always the loudest to scream when someone attacks their right to do so?

But this isn't a paper about religion. How could it be? Since we clearly have a separation of church and state, how could a conversation about laws have anything to do with religion at all? I'm writing about basic civil rights. We've been here before, fighting for the rights of African Americans or women to vote, or the rights of Jewish Americans to worship as they see fit. And, just as whites fought for African Americans or Christians for Jewish Americans, straight people must stand up and be a voice for Gay people. I've heard it said before, many times, that if two men or two women are allowed to join into a civil union together, why can't they be happy with that and why is it so important that they call it marriage? In essence, what's in a name?

A civil union has to do with death. It's essentially a document that gives you lower taxes and the right to let your faux spouse collect your insurance when you pass away. A marriage is about life. It's about a commitment. And this argument is about allowing people to have the right to make that commitment, even if it doesn't make sense to you. Anything else falls under the category of "separate but equal" and we know how that works out. The support of legalizing Gay marriage is in no way meant to change the ideals of the section of Christians who believe that homosexuality is a sin. But we should refuse to let other people's ideals shape the way we live our lives. Each of us has a short ride on this earth and as long as we stay in our lane, and don't affect someone else's ride, we should be allowed to drive as we see fit.

(Rob Thomas is a singer/songwriter and this was reprinted from HuffingtonPost.com.)



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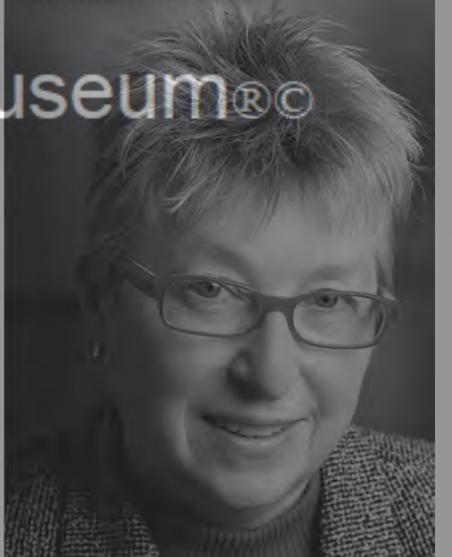
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IN OTHER NEWS.....

A recent survey conducted shows that more than half of Rhode Island voters favor a law allowing Gay marriage, leading advocates to point out to state leadership that it's what residents want. A Brown University poll showed 60 percent of registered voters in the state said they would support a law allowing Gay couples to marry, and 75 percent said they would support a law allowing civil unions. Thirty-one percent said they would oppose a Gay marriage law.

"Even if they're not hearing constantly from constituents or people they work with about what they feel about marriage equality, it clearly gives the decision-makers something to look at when supporting marriage equality," said Kathy Kushnir, executive director of Marriage Equality Rhode Island. While 77 percent of Democrats polled said they would support Gay marriage, only 28 percent of Republicans shared that view. Results also showed younger voters more heavily favored Gay marriage. Eighty-seven percent of voters ages 18-29 supported it, as opposed to 32 percent of voters 70 and older.

A new poll has found New York State voters evenly divided over whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry. The Siena College poll found 46 percent of those surveyed support Gay marriage, while 46 percent were opposed. The numbers suggest that opposition to Gay marriage is growing. A similar Siena poll taken last month found support at 53 percent, with only 39 percent opposing Gay marriage in New York state. That is a drop in support of nearly 10 percent over a month. The new figures suggest that opposition is growing among independent voters, younger voters, women and African-Americans.

Inspired by the California supreme court's decision to uphold Prop. 8, groups that want to block the nation's capital from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions filed paperwork with the Washington, D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics to request a citywide referendum, The Washington Post reports. Stand 4 Marriage D.C., a coalition composed of ministers led by Bishop Harry Jackson and other same-sex marriage opponents, will need to collect around 21,000 signatures to force a referendum that could repeal legislation the city council overwhelmingly approved in early May to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. That law is likely to take effect in July. Bishop Jackson called the referendum plans a "declaration of war," intended to stop a potential effort to legalize same-sex marriages performed in D.C. later this year. Prior to the start of signature collection, however, the board of elections must first decide whether the question of repealing out-of-state marriage recognition qualifies for the ballot. Marriage equality activists maintain that the issue falls under part of local election law that prohibits referendums from being used to violate the city's human rights act. If the referendum were approved, supporters would have 180 days to collect the required signatures from at least 5% of registered voters across the city's eight wards. Should they accomplish that feat, which has eluded recent referendum attempts on different subjects, the question could be presented to voters this year or next.

A man has filed a \$220 million lawsuit claiming that New York Police Department officers robbed him of his civil rights by sodomizing him with a baton in a subway station. Michael Mineo, a body piercer who works in a tattoo parlor, spelled out his allegations in graphic terms after exiting federal court in Brooklyn with his lawyers. "I'm embarrassed," the 24-year-old told reporters. "I didn't ask for this to happen to me. ... I'm a man. I was raped by four men who held me down and put a baton in my rectum. How am I supposed to feel?" The suit against the city, NYPD and four officers alleges the patrolmen conspired to violate Mineo's rights on Oct. 15 with a "willfully malicious and vicious assault." It says the attack caused "extreme physical, mental and emotional harm and distress" and "exposed the plaintiff to public scandal and disgrace." The city Law Department said it would "thoroughly review" the court papers but declined to comment further.

An openly Gay teen was voted prom queen at Los Angeles' Fairfax High School in a campaign that began as a stunt but ended up spurring discussion on the campus about gender roles and teen popularity. Sergio Garcia, 18, was crowned queen at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. "I feel invincible," Garcia said in his tiara and charcoal-gray tuxedo. A few days earlier, he gave a speech that won over some cynics and led to an ovation and his unlikely victory. "At one time, prom may have been a big popularity contest where the best-looking guy or girl were crowned king and queen. Things have changed and it's no longer just about who has the most friends or who wears the coolest clothes," Garcia told a gymnasium full of seniors. "I'm not your typical prom queen candidate. There's more to me than meets the eye." Garcia assured the crowd he wouldn't wear a dress on prom night. "I will be wearing a suit," he said. "But don't be fooled, deep down I am a queen."

Across The Q Globe

Cuba will reinstate sex-change operations previously banned on the island, President Raul Castro's daughter Mariela said. The Health Ministry authorized the operations last year, but none has been performed since. It was unclear when the surgeries would begin. Mariela Castro, a sexologist and Gay-rights advocate, announced the return of sex-change procedures in comments aired on state television. She runs the Center for Sex Education, which prepares transsexuals for sex-change operations and has identified 19 transsexuals it deems ready to undergo the procedure. Castro also said she backs efforts to allow lesbians to be artificially inseminated, a procedure currently barred. The government would bear the cost of the operations because Cuba has a universal health care system.

The Church of Scotland has voted in favor of appointing an openly Gay minister. The church's ruling body voted 326 to 267 to support the appointment of the Rev. Scott Rennie, 37, who was previously married to a woman and is now in a relationship with a man. Rennie was first appointed as a minister 10 years ago, but has faced opposition from some critics since he moved to a church in Aberdeen, Scotland, last year. Protesters had lobbied the Kirk - the Church of Scotland's ruling executive - over Rennie's case, saying his appointment was not consistent with the teachings of the Bible. Following the vote to back Rennie, Scotland's Equality and Human Rights Commission said the Church of Scotland had proven itself to be "a modern church for a modern Scotland."

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by Ron Rose - Tucson

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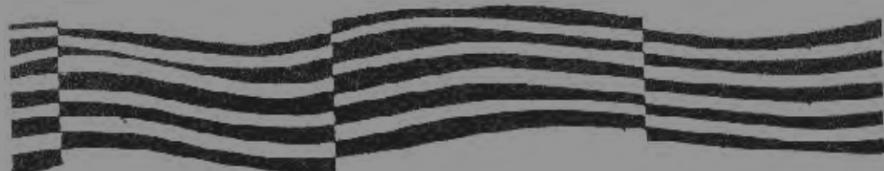
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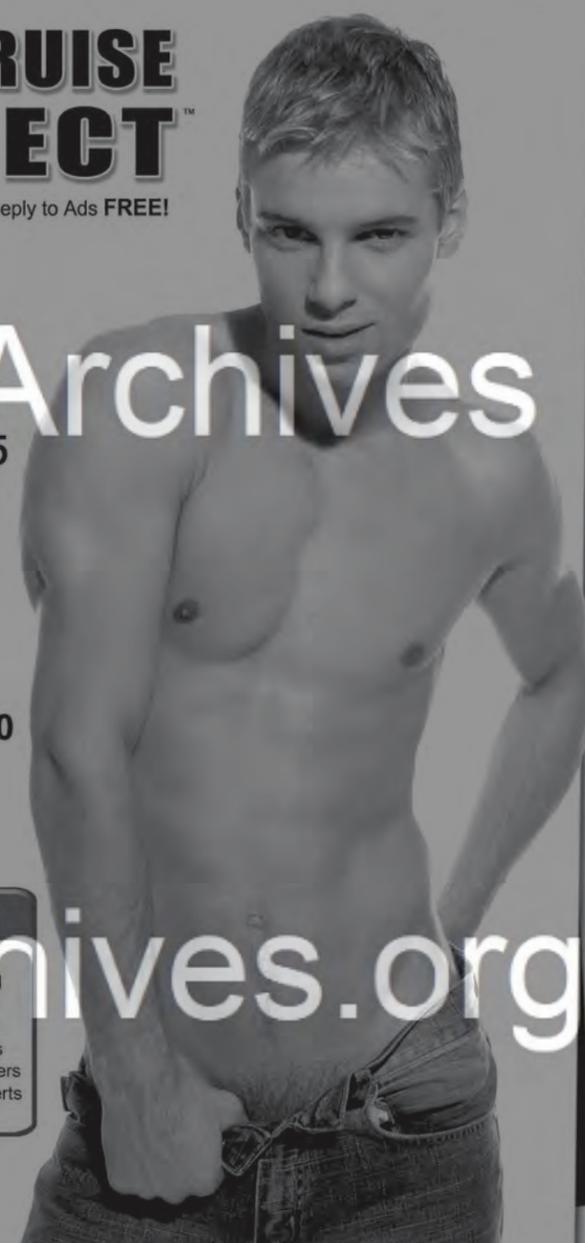
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Dueling Marriage Bills In Penn.

HARRISBURG, PA (Observer Update) - Pennsylvania has become the latest same-sex marriage battleground, with the legislature being pushed to pass both a marriage equality bill and one that would bar Gays from marrying, 365Gay.com reported.

Sen. Daylin Leach (D) announced the marriage equality bill. "There has never been a more propitious time for Pennsylvania to embrace equality and enshrine the civil right of all Pennsylvanians to marry," Leach told reporters. The bill would provide "full and equal marriage rights to same-sex couples in Pennsylvania," said Leach. But it would not force churches to conduct ceremonies or recognize same-sex marriages against church doctrine. The legislation also would recognize same-sex marriages conducted in other areas where they are legal.

Earlier this month, Republican state Sen. John Eichelberger filed a bill to amend the state constitution to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. The state already has a so-called Defense of Marriage law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples, but Eichelberger said the law could be overturned by a judge. Only through a constitutional amendment could the intent of the law be carried out without "judicial interference." A similar proposed amendment was pulled last year, just hours before the state Senate was expected to approve it. The measure would have banned same-sex marriage and civil unions. While it was likely to pass the Senate, the amendment was equally likely to have died in the House. An attempt to move the amendment in 2006 also failed. Republicans control the Senate 30-20, but Democrats have a 104-99 majority in the House. Amending the constitution requires approval from both the House and Senate in two consecutive two-year sessions before the measure goes to voters for final approval in a statewide referendum.

Campus Gays Too Gay For Liberty Univ.

LYNCHBURG, VA (Observer Update) - Liberty University - the Virginia college founded by the late televangelist Jerry Falwell - has stripped its fledgling College Democrats club of official recognition, saying the party stands against the conservative Christian school's moral principles, advocate.com reported.

Vice president of student affairs Mark Hine said in an e-mail to club President Brian Diaz that the national Democratic party violates the school's principles by supporting LGBT rights and abortion and is pro socialist. Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. told the Associated Press that the club's recognition by the school was "an oversight by an administrator" who didn't thoroughly consult school policy. Liberty University has a longstanding anti-Gay policy. Openly Gay students are denied admission, and students who are found to be Gay are expelled.

In 2006, 20 members of the Soulforce Equality Ride were arrested when they entered the campus to discuss LGBT civil rights with students. Following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington in 2001, Falwell declared that Gays and pro-choice advocates were to blame. Speaking on the 700 Club religious program, Falwell said, "The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the Gays and the Lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen.'" He later apologized.

In 2003, Falwell announced that he was putting aside everything to devote his time to passage of a federal constitutional ban on Gay marriage. "I am dedicating my talents, time and energies

over the next few years to the passage of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which will protect the traditional family from its enemies who wish to legalize same-sex marriage and other diverse "family forms," Falwell said. In the 2004 election campaign, he worked with Republicans to use same-sex marriage as a wedge issue. A week after the election he announced he was organizing battle plans for what he called an "evangelical revolution." Falwell said that the election showed that Americans want to return to "traditional values." He promised to roll back Gay rights laws in communities across the country. The university is associated with the conservative Liberty Counsel founded by Mathew D. Staver, Dean of Liberty University School of Law. Liberty Counsel fights LGBT initiatives in courts across the country.

School District To Teach LGBT Respect

OAKLAND, CA (Observer Update) - Alameda, Calif.'s school board narrowly adopted a new antibullying curriculum for elementary school students aimed at teaching respect for Gay and Lesbian families and peers, reported advocate.com.

Sixteen-year-old Gay student Brian Harris told the board he had almost decided to "just give up on life" after being called "faggot" and "dyke" by students at his school. The curriculum passed by a 3-2 vote Tuesday night and will add lessons to the curriculum, including "Becoming an Ally" and "Who's in a Family" for elementary school students. The new lessons will introduce discussions about Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual families and sexual orientation stereotypes specifically starting in the fourth grade. Teacher materials also include a list of famous LGBT people, including Walt Whitman and Ellen DeGeneres.

Opponents in an overflow room were reportedly angered by the decision, which does not allow parents to opt out of the curriculum. Trish Spencer, one of two board members who voted against the curriculum, said she believes it will

"increase harassment" against some religious groups. The lessons also do not address racial or religious bullying, which angered some parents. School officials acknowledged the program will not solve all the school's problems but hoped it would be a start. "We need to do a better job as a school district, but you don't take away from one group to support another," superintendent Kirsten Vital told the San Francisco Chronicle. "We need to give tools to our teachers; we need to follow through and support them."

NH G/L Marriage Ballot Question Thwarted

CONCORD, NH (Observer Update) - The New Hampshire Senate has turned down a GOP bid to put the issue of marriage equality in front of voters in 2010, reported 365Gay.com. As the legislature haggles with Gov. John Lynch over the wording of a bill to provide marriage equality for Gay and Lesbian couples, Republicans attempted to seize an opportunity to propose the issue be put to voters in a non-binding referendum.

All 10 Senate Republicans voted for the proposal. It was defeated when all 14 Senate Democrats opposed it. The House and Senate will soon name a conference committee to draft a compromise bill on same-sex marriage that would be acceptable to Lynch. A same-sex marriage bill passed the legislature earlier this month, but Lynch said he would veto it unless it offered better protections to churches that oppose same-sex marriage. The revisions approved in the Senate by a 14-10 vote would have made it clear that churches, church organizations and staff are protected from lawsuits if they refuse to permit same-sex marriages. But when it went to the House it was defeated by two votes - 188-186.

If a compromise is reached and Lynch signs the bill, it would make New Hampshire the sixth state to permit same-sex marriage and the fifth in New England, excluding only Rhode Island. Outside of New England, Gay marriage is legal in Iowa.

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

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

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 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - \$1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; \$2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. 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 1/2 price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o' Beer - \$10 Domestic, \$12 Imports 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 Martinis \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. 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, Capriokas 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 Domestic and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Karaoke with Ynot Entertainment at 9pm.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

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

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 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 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. 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 Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month. **YARD DOG** - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 3

WOODY'S - Celebrate National Tattoo Day. 9pm to close. Show your tatt they will provide you with a Woody's tatt and get \$1 off your drink or bottle beer.

Friday, June 5

WOODY'S - 6-9 p.m. Bon Voyage Party for Susan Artemis as she take the summer off in Europe for vacation and will return Labor Day Weekend. Then at 8:00 p.m., another going away party! This time a special going away party for Linus Lerner as he leaves Tucson to pursue his career in Texas. Stop by to help thank Linus for his important contributions to our community via the Reveille Chorus. It is also a fundraiser for Reveille Chorus.

Saturday, June 6

COYOTE MOON - Benefit Show with Vivika D'Angelo and guests. Tori Steele, China Collins, Deora LaBlanc, Koyote Kingz and Desiraye DiMarco. 9pm

WOODY'S - "Pete and Rob's famous steak dinner from 7-9 p.m. Complete dinner for only \$8.00.

YARD DOG SALOON - Back by popular demand Prime Rib Dinner 6:00 p.m. \$8,00 per person includes Prime Rib, garlic mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, tossed salad, hard roll, dessert and domestic beer, well drink or a glass of wine.

Sunday, June 7

COYOTE MOON - T-Dance today from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 12

THE BIZ - Lipstick!! Girls-4-Girls Party.

Saturday & Sunday, June 13 & 14

VENTURE-n - Rocky Point in Tucson - Beach Party Weekend

Friday, June 19

THE BIZ - Tucson Gaystock . No cover. \$1.00 8 oz Bud Lights all nite. Pride Kick-Off party at the Biz. Resident DJ Hill spinning the best of the 60s thru today from 6p.m. until 2a.m.

Saturday, June 20

THE BIZ - Hot Flash 5:30 to 9:30.

COYOTE MOON- Benefit Show with Amanda Nicole and guests. 9pm

Bears of the Old Pueblo
www.botop.com
520-829-0117
botop@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), Bearinis at The Shelter, 4165 E Grant, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Fri, 5/8, Social Pot Luck Dinner & Meeting, 6:30 PM, Ward 8 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.**

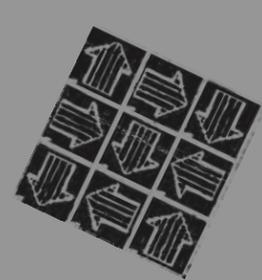
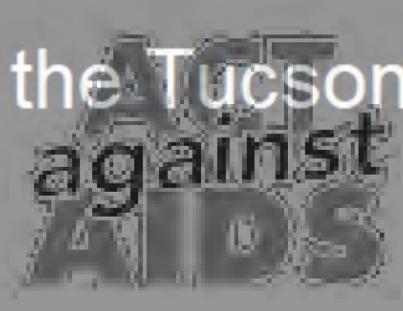
Sun, 5/24, Memorial Day Swim Party, 4450 E Elmwood, 2-10 PM. Bring dish to share, meat to grill, drink, towel. See website for more info.

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

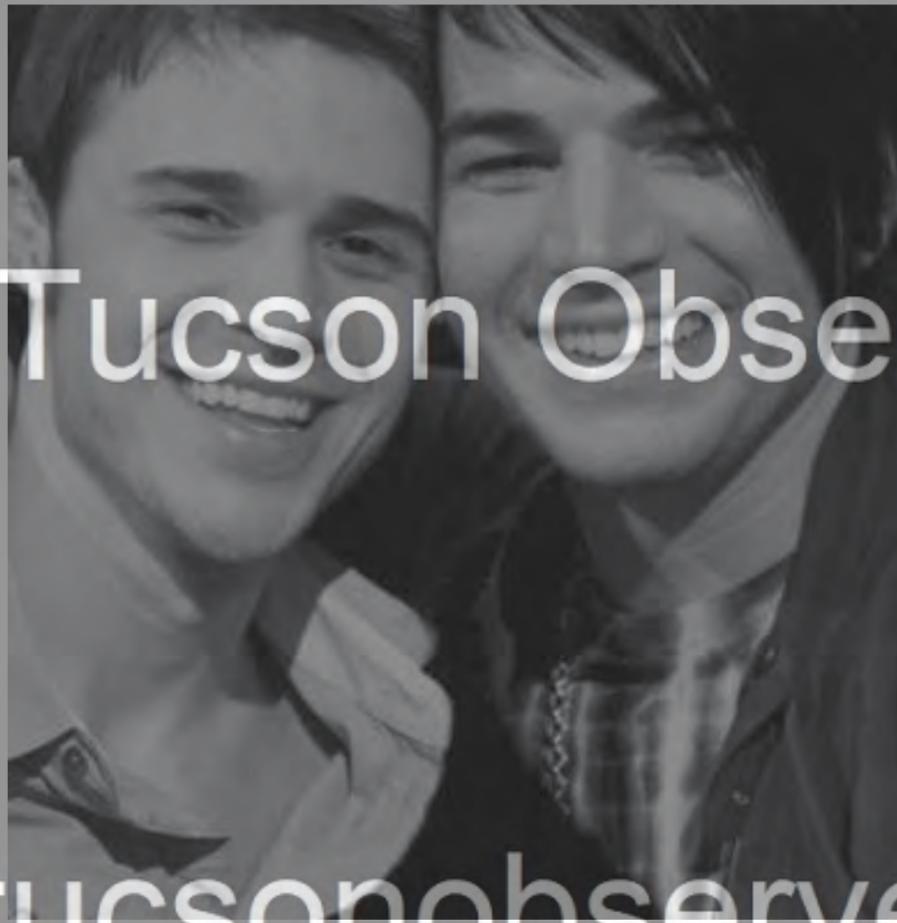
Sat, 5/30, Noon BBQ Cookout, Toumey Park, 19th St 2 blocks west of Swan. Food provided. Fiesta planning meeting after BBQ

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.

A full member of the Tucson Gay Museum



Did AT&T Sway American Idol Outcome



American Idol final two of season 8 - Kris Allen and Adam Lambert

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Evidence continues to mount that AT&T, one of the largest corporate sponsors of the American Idol program on Fox, might have improperly influenced the outcome, according to The New York Times, reported advocate.com. The company, whose mobile network is the only one that allows American Idol voting via text message, said that it provided phones for free text-messaging services and lessons in how to cast blocks of votes for fans of Kris Allen at two parties in Arkansas after the final performance episode.

No similar efforts appear to

Lythgoe Says Sorry Via GLAAD

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Amid pressure from GLAAD, So You Think You Can Dance judge Nigel Lythgoe has issued an apology for his homophobic rant against a same-sex dancing duo who auditioned for the reality show on last week's episode.

Lythgoe wrote the following: "I sincerely regret the fact that I have upset people with the poor word choices and comments I made both during the taping of the So You Think You Can Dance audition and on my personal status update. I am not homophobic and it was extremely upsetting for me to be classed as such. I have been forthright and consistent with my opinion, as a judge, that professional male dancers should move with strength and agility - like Gene Kelly and Rudolph Nureyev. I now realize how this could be misconstrued. I have been a dancer,

and involved in the dance world, for nearly 50 years. Professionally and personally, I believe the sexual orientation of an auditioner or contestant is irrelevant. All that said, the fact that I have unintentionally upset people is distressing to me and it is obvious I have made mistakes that I must learn from. I trust that my humor will be more sensitive and mindful moving forward."

The actions of AT&T would appear to violate American Idol voting rules, which prohibit casting blocks of votes via text message, and maintain that text voting is open only to AT&T subscribers at normal rates. Fox declined to discuss the matter with the newspaper.

and involved in the dance world, for nearly 50 years. Professionally and personally, I believe the sexual orientation of an auditioner or contestant is irrelevant. All that said, the fact that I have unintentionally upset people is distressing to me and it is obvious I have made mistakes that I must learn from. I trust that my humor will be more sensitive and mindful moving forward."

GLAAD President Neil Giuliano responded with the following statement: "We certainly appreciate the dialogue, and the opportunity for Nigel to help further educate people about how words and images matter. His sincere words are appreciated, and we look forward to words, images and representations of the LGBT community on So You Think You Can Dance that will be fair, accurate and inclusive in the future."

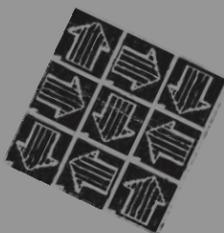
Man Charged In Ptown Hate Attack

PROVINCETOWN, MA (Observer Update) - A 23-year-old man faces hate-crime and assault charges in an alleged anti-Gay attack against a woman in Provincetown, Mass., early Saturday morning, reports the Cape Cod Times. Police say Eric Patten approached two women around 1 a.m. in front of the Post Office Café and Cabaret on Commercial Street, where he used a slur referring to Gay men and pushed one of the women through a window, which broke. The women were treated for minor injuries.

An angry mob reportedly formed around Patten as he was being arrested, with many people furious about the disturbance at the normally idyllic vacation spot at the tip of Cape Cod. Patten, a student at a New York

college who was staying at his mother's house in nearby Truro over the weekend, apparently had been drinking. Authorities say he was evicted from the Vixen nightclub before the attack, advocate.com reported.

Patten will be arraigned on felony assault and hate-crime charges in Orleans district court. He also faces charges of resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer.



Sotomayor Unlikely To Change Court Balance

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - In more than 16 years as a federal judge, Sonia Sotomayor has often sided with people claiming discrimination in education and employment. She's backed police and prosecutors over defendants. She's upheld assertions of free speech and religion, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. Not easily pigeonholed, Sotomayor has also been part of rulings that go the other way.

In general, her rulings as a trial judge for six years and then as an appeals court judge since 1998 are in line with the liberal-leaning views of Justice David Souter, the man President Barack Obama has nominated her to replace. Sotomayor's record indicates that her confirmation would not seriously alter the balance of power on a court that often splits along conservative and liberal lines on social issues. Her opinions are clearly written and thorough, although she does not write with much flair. Sotomayor has been criticized by some conservatives for saying in a talk at Duke University that appeals court judges make policy, but her writings typically do not stray from the law.

Among the most contentious social issues is abortion, but Sotomayor has not been part of any major rulings on abortion rights. In 2002, she wrote an opinion ruling against an abortion rights group that had challenged a government policy prohibiting foreign organizations receiving U.S. funds from performing or supporting abortions. In her opinion on the so-called gag rule, Sotomayor wrote that the government was free to favor the anti-abortion position when public funds were involved. President Barack Obama lifted the rule soon after he took office in January. Abortion opponents reacted strongly against Sotomayor's nomination. Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life, called Sotomayor "a radical pick that divides America."

The most controversial civil rights lawsuit of her time as a judge concerns the race discrimination claims of white firefighters in New Haven, Conn., a case the Supreme Court will decide in the next month. In a one-paragraph opinion, she and two other judges on the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York upheld a lower court ruling dismissing the firefighters' claims. The case turns on promotion exams that the city threw out on the grounds that too few minorities scored high enough to be promoted. The high court accepted the firefighters' appeals and, at argument in late April, appeared divided along ideological lines. The court is expected to rule by late June.

In many other discrimination cases, Sotomayor has sided with plaintiffs, including a black elementary school student who claimed his demotion from first grade to kindergarten was racial discrimination. Sotomayor, in a 1999 dissent, said that white children in similar situations received help, while the black child was not given an "equal chance." She has favored claims brought by disabled people, those alleging age discrimination and women who said they were in hostile work environments. Yet she also said an international treaty governing air travel ruled out discrimination claims made by two African-American passengers.

In a religious freedom case, Sotomayor backed two New York state prison inmates in 1994 who practiced the religion Santeria and challenged a prison rule that banned them from wearing multicolored religious beads. Sotomayor, ruling that the pair could wear the beads under their clothing, criticized as intolerable "distinctions which favor 'traditional' over 'nontraditional' religions." She also struck down a White Plains, N.Y., law preventing the display of religious symbols such as a 9-foot-high menorah in a city park.

A former prosecutor,

Sotomayor has frequently ruled against criminal defendants, including a sex offender who violated his parole by having in his apartment a book containing pictures and descriptions of sex between men and boys. The Supreme Court in January essentially endorsed a 10-year-old pro-police position Sotomayor took in a case involving the search of a criminal suspect. In the high court case, the four liberal justices dissented. But Sotomayor was reversed in an environmental case the Supreme Court decided in April. She supported environmentalists in ruling that the Clean Water Act does not allow cost to be used when deciding what technology would best minimize environmental impacts. Souter's view paralleled that of Sotomayor when the case reached the Supreme Court. There, the justices overturned Sotomayor's ruling, with Souter in the minority in a 6-3 decision.

The justices are considering whether to hear a case in which Sotomayor and two other judges upheld a New York state law banning the possession of "chuka sticks." At issue is whether the Second Amendment's guarantee of a personal right to have a gun restricts the power of state and local governments to regulate personal weapons. The appellate judges said they were bound by an 1886 Supreme Court ruling, but acknowledged the high court could take a different view, particularly in light of last year's ruling that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to keep guns at home for self-defense. Sotomayor would have to step aside from the case if she is confirmed and it comes before the court.

White Knots On Blue Jeans

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - White knots, an emerging symbol of support for marriage equality, made fashionable by the likes of Dustin Lance Black, Kathy Griffin, and Anne Hathaway have now made their way to the windows of Levi's-owned store windows across the nation, reported advocate.com. "We always try to connect to the energy and events of our time," Erica Archambault, Levi's director of brand marketing and public relations, told The New York Times. "What's the pioneering spirit of today? A lot of people are rallying around marriage equality and fighting for that, and so many individuals within our company feel so strongly about it."

Though no information about the White Knot for Equality campaign created by Frank Voci is overtly displayed in stores, employees have been versed and briefed on the campaign so that customers will be encouraged to ask about the knots, the issue of marriage equality, and the other ways in which the company supports marriage equality and Gay rights.

The point, Archambault said, is for sales staff "to be educated and able to have an informed conversation that's more interactive than reading off a card or something." The family-owned Levi Strauss company was the first Fortune 500 corporation to offer health benefits to domestic partners of unmarried employees, and it also donated \$25,000 to the No on Prop. 8 campaign last year.

