



Supreme Court Rejects Challenge To 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Supreme Court agreed with the Obama administration and refused to review Pentagon policy barring Gays and Lesbians from serving openly in the military, 365Gay.com reported. The court said it will not hear an appeal from former Army Capt. James Pietrangelo II, who was dismissed under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The federal appeals court in Boston earlier threw out a lawsuit filed by Pietrangelo and 11 other veterans. He was the only member of that group who asked the high court to rule that the Clinton-era policy is unconstitutional. "I think this decision is an absolute travesty of justice and I think every judge on this court should be ashamed of themselves," said Pietrangelo, who served six years in the Army, seven years in the Vermont National Guard and fought in Iraq in 1991. "It's nothing short of rubber stamping legalized discrimination, the same way Nazi Germany legalized discrimination against Jews. "The Supreme Court is not infallible, they get things wrong, and they got it wrong this time," he said.

During last year's campaign, President Barack Obama indicated he supported the eventual repeal of the policy, but he has made no specific move to do so since taking office in January. Meanwhile, the White House has said it won't stop Gays and Lesbians from being dismissed from the military. In court papers, the administration said the appeals court ruled correctly in this case when it found that "don't ask, don't tell" is "rationally related to the government's legitimate interest in military discipline and cohesion." Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman referred requests for comment to the Justice Department, but said the military policy "implements the law." "The law requires the (Defense) Department to separate from the armed services members who engage in or attempt to



engage in homosexual acts; state they are homosexual or bisexual; or marry or attempt to marry a person of the same biological sex," Whitman said in a statement.

A legal advocacy group vowed to press ahead with efforts to reverse the policy despite the legal setback. "We don't see that at all as bad news for repeal," said Kevin Nix, spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. "What happened today puts the ball back into the court of Congress and the White House to repeal the law, and that's where we think it should be right now." Nix said there are no objective studies showing unit cohesion, morale and order are harmed by openly Gay people. "There are people out there and still serving, and the unit is not crumbling beneath their feet," he said, adding that attitudes among troops and society are far different than they were in the 1990s when the policy was instituted. "Times have changed ... fast forward 16 years," Nix said. "The service members in Iraq and Afghanistan - their attitudes toward Gay people are very different than some retired generals in their 50s and 60s who served in the 20th Century. It's a different world."

New England May See Long-Term Boost From G/L Marriage

CONCORD, NH (Observer Update) - New England might attract a new, young, "creative class" - thanks to marriage equality in every state but Rhode Island, reported Reuters on 365Gay.com.

"It will be a selling point when it comes to trying to lure people with same-sex partners who are being wooed for a job," M.V. Lee Badgett, a University of Massachusetts economist who studies gay and lesbian issues, told Reuters.

Gay and lesbian couples who are part of the "creative class" - highly educated professionals, entrepreneurs and artists - were 2.5 times more likely to move to Massachusetts in the three years following the approval of same-sex marriage, according to a study released in May by the Williams Institute of the University of California.

The relocating couples were more likely to be younger and female than before same-sex marriage was

approved.

Even straight members of the "creative class" regard states with marriage equality as more appealing places to live.

"It broadly suggests you have an environment in which people who are seen as different are accepted," said Gary Gates, the UCLA demographer and the lead author of the study.

Informing The Community Since 1976



Want To Get Married? Here's How

CONCORD, NH (Observer Update) - Equal marriage has been on a roller coaster this year. Yes in Iowa, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire, which join granddaddy Massachusetts. A big NO in California, reported 365Gay.com.

Requirements for marriage licenses vary from state to state, and couples determining where to get married can find it baffling. Here's a state-by-state equal marriage guide:

Connecticut: The "Constitution State" followed Massachusetts on Nov. 12, 2008, in allowing same-sex marriage. On Oct. 1, 2010, all existing civil unions will be automatically transformed into marriages. Where: Connecticut allows couples from out-of-state to get married, though they must apply for a license in either the town in which one of the individuals lives or in the town in which the couple plans to marry. Couples can get the license from a local vital records office. How: Both partners must be present and must apply for the license in person. * Out of state couples: Connecticut allows non-residents to get married. Waiting period: None. Cost: \$35, cash only. ID: In addition to a photo ID (divers license, visa, passport, or military ID), those wishing to get a license will need to know their social security number, their mother's maiden name, their parent's birthplace, the date and location of the wedding, and the contact information of the wedding officiant. Other: The license expires after 65 days.

Iowa: As of April 27, 2009, Iowa allows Gay residents and non-residents of the state to get married. Where: Couples should contact the county clerk's office in the city they live in or wish to get married in to find out where to apply for a license. How: Both partners wishing to get married must be present when applying for the license. Out of state couples: Couples from out of state are allowed to marry in Iowa, though couples should contact the county clerk's office to make sure no additional information is needed for non-residents. Waiting period: Iowa requires a three-day waiting period. Cost: \$30, cash only. This does vary from county to county. ID: Along with a photo ID and social security information, Iowa requires one witness over the age of 18 be present when applying for the license. Other: Licenses are valid for six months.

Maine: Though the state passed an equal marriage bill on May 6, 2009, the law will not go into effect until Sept. 14. A people's veto could prevent the law from taking affect - conservative activists are working to overturn the law now. Where: Couples should contact the local county clerk office to find the location of the town office where they need to get their license. How: Both partners must be present at the town office in order to get a license Out-of-state couples: Out-of-state residents can apply in any city or town office in the state; it does not have to be in the same town as the wedding. Waiting period: None. Cost: \$10 per person, cash only. Couples must also pay the cost of the certified documents, which varies. ID: A photo ID may be required, along with social security information. Other: The license is valid or 90 days, and no blood tets are required.

Massachusetts: Massachusetts officially allowed couples who were not residents of the state to marry on July 31, 2008, though in-state residents were

allowed to wed as of May 17, 2004. Prior to then, the state's 1913 marriage residency law prohibited most same-sex couples from other states from getting married. Where: Couples can get a license from any city or town hall within the state. How: Both partners must be present when applying for the license. Waiting period: There is a three-day waiting period to receive the license, but this can be waived with a court order. Cost: Marriage fees vary from \$4 to \$50 within the state, depending upon the community. ID: Proper identification is required, so those getting married should have a birth certificate at hand and a government issued ID. Other: Licenses are valid for 60 days.

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New Hampshire: Gov. John Lynch has signed the New Hampshire equal marriage bill, making New Hampshire the sixth state to have Gay marriage. The law will take effect Jan. 1, 2010. Where: If one of the partners resides in the state, the license must be applied for in the town or city where they reside. If both parties live in the state, a license can be obtained in either residence. How: Both partners must be present at the county clerks office to apply for the license. Out of state couples: Non-residents are able to get married in New Hampshire, but they must apply for a license in the same town or city as the wedding. Waiting period: There is a three-day waiting period. Cost: \$45, cash only. ID: Valid picture ID is required, which in New Hampshire includes a driver's license, ID card from the DMV, passport, military ID, resident alien card, or birth certificate. Other: Contact your local county clerk's office to find out how long the license is valid.

Vermont: The first state to introduce civil unions, Vermont will begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on Sept. 1, 2009. Though Gov. Jim Douglas vetoed the bill, the state House and Senate overrode the veto, making Vermont the first state to legalize same-sex marriage through a vote of the legislature. Where: Couples can obtain a license in any town clerk's office. The license must be bought in one of the towns in Vermont that a couple lives in if both are residents, or in the town of just one of the partners if only one is a resident. How: Vermont law requires that at least one party be present to sign the license, but most clerk's offices prefer that both parties be present. Out of state couples: Like all the other states that allow same-sex marriage, it is not a requirement to be a resident of the state

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UPDATE

Observer

Fundraiser June 28

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Despite the economic downturn and troubles, the Observer, Tucson's LGBT newsweekly is still producing a print edition, as well as their internet edition which not only carries this week's paper but every paper it has published since 1976!

On Sunday, June 28 starting at 2:00 p.m., IBT's, 616 N. Fourth Avenue, will be holding a fund raiser, for the Observer in which all of the proceeds will go help the Observer continue serving Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT community. The extravaganza will last until 2:00 a.m. and will feature a silent art auction, raffles, on-stage entertainment and a special pictorial on their big screens featuring photos from the Observer archives of personalities from the 70s, 80s, 90s as well as the current decade. You don't want to miss this cause you might be in one of the photos. Along with this, the DJs will be featuring music from the same eras.

Look for more details in upcoming issues. This will be winding up Pride Week which marks the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the modern rights movement as well as the 33rd year of the existence of the country's oldest LGBT weekly newspaper, still proud, still free and still going! See you there.

EON Youth Lounge Volunteer Orientation

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Eon Youth Lounge Volunteer Orientation for this quarter will be held on Saturday, June 13, from 10am to 1pm at Eon, 432 E 7th St., Tucson (across from Wingspan).

Eon Volunteers are asked to attend both the WS orientation and Eon's Volunteer Orientation. Fingerprint Clearance Cards are required, though it's not necessary to have them at the beginning of the process. You must have a Fingerprint Clearance Card in order to be eligible for your first volunteer shift at Eon. We ask that if you are able to donate the cost of the Card application to Wingspan to please do so; however, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. A final step, as a part of our youth empowerment commitment, is to have two Eon youth interview potential volunteers. A staff person is present during the

interview and the youth ask questions from a staff-approved short list of questions. After the interview, you will be able to begin volunteering at Eon.

Anyone wishing to volunteer at Eon, must first complete Wingspan Volunteer Orientation and Eon Youth Lounge Orientation. Contact Kevin Jackson, kjackson@wingspan.org.

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.

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!

Tucsonans Marked 33rd Anniversary Of Richard Heakin's Murder



Richard Heakin 6/6/76

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Saturday, June 6, while the world marked the 65th Anniversary of D-Day and the Invasion of Normandy during World War II, Tucsonans gathered in Sunset Park to remember a young man, Richard Heakin, brutally murdered at a nightclub for who he was.

Heakin was wrapping up a vacation and went with friends to the former Stonewall Tavern on North First Avenue just south of East Fort Lowell Road. As the group was leaving, Heakin was attacked in the parking lot by four young men, looking for some "fags to hassle."

These four received only probation for what was termed a hate crime, Tucson pressed for change and introduced anti-discrimination laws, coming about in 1977, resulting in new organizations (this publication) and pride events celebrating the LGBT community ever since.

In 2002, a campaign by community activists was launched to have a memorial plaque created and placed to honor and remember Heakin, which was subsequently placed in Sunset Park in front of Tucson's City Hall.

The plaque reads, "This memorial is placed in gratitude to Richard and all those who have sacrificed in the struggle to make Tucson a place where all persons can enjoy the freedom to be themselves, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. We hereby commemorate a tragedy that has transformed us and our history into a triumph of community spirit."

Want To Get Married

Continued from Page One

to achieve a marriage license, and can be obtained in any city or town in Vermont. Cost: \$45, method of purchase can be found out by contacting the county clerk's office. ID: A birth certificate can provide most of the background information needed, along with a government issued photo ID. Other: Licenses are valid for 60 days.

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"OBSERVE THE CAUSE"

Arizona Couple In Dispute With Homeowners Association Over Gay Pride Flag

QUEEN CREEK (Observer Update) - Steven and Zeniff Vanderran say homophobia and ongoing disputes with their homeowners association are behind an order to remove a Gay pride flag from their Queen Creek home, the East Valley Tribune reported. "I've marched for Gay rights since I was in my 20s - I'm 54 now, so for 30 years," Steven Vanderran said. "I know homophobia when I see it."

He is referring to a prohibition by the Cambria Ocotillo Home Owners Association against displaying the flag the couple began flying in 2003. Cambria Ocotillo's design guidelines only allow certain flags, including decorations for certain holidays, according to Jonathan Olcott, the association's attorney. The association also allows military and U.S. flags. "The story here is about a fellow pushing the envelope," Olcott wrote in an e-mail. "It is a story about a poor soul who is not content unless he is in a scrape with his HOA."

The Vanderrans, who are Gay, argue that their request to fly the Gay pride flag was approved in 2003 by a previous management company. They took the flag down in August 2008 after receiving a complaint from the association. They still display several holiday-themed Gay pride flags. A letter to the couple from Olcott said the association's design guidelines permit holiday flags. "The board interprets the term 'holiday' as the recognized national holidays. Those are New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4, Veteran's Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day," the letter said. "A day celebrating Gay Pride is not yet a nationally recognized holiday."

Steven Vanderran said that argument doesn't jibe, pointing out that Easter isn't a nationally recognized holiday either, even though the board permits Easter decor. Olcott's letter went on to say they could only display the rainbow (Gay pride flag) "as a background for a holiday flag, as long as the holiday insignia is larger than the exposed portion of the rainbow flag." The couple says it has been the subject of slurs and mockery since the dispute began. In a May 11 posting on a local blog, a writer said the decorations were offensive and "If they want to flaunt their preferences in sex partners like that, they need to move into a Gay community." Olcott said the association's intention is only to prevent clutter and it's not singling the couple out.

The Vanderrans counter the dispute is rooted in previous neighborhood scraps, including a legal scum in which the couple was challenging the board's legitimacy. "They haven't come out and said anything anti-Gay," said Zeniff Vanderran, who owns the home. "I know that they would deny that they are." Zeniff Vanderran said the board's hassled them in other ways as well. "We never have weeds in our yard," he said. "They'll still send us unwarranted letters saying that we have weeds when we don't."

Mark Lunt, a neighbor, said he doesn't consider the couple's Gay pride flag clutter. "Steve works really hard in the yard," Lunt said. "In fact, everybody on this end of the street comes to Steve to ask for his opinion on what to plant and when. So, they keep a very nice yard. They're nice neighbors."

GIBBS: Army Secretary Nominee Favors DADT Change

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said that President Barack Obama's nominee for secretary of the Army, Republican representative John McHugh, agrees with the president that "don't ask, don't tell" should be changed, advocate.com reported.

"I think it's obvious from those statements and other statements that Congressman McHugh has made that he and the president are in agreement on changing the policy they both don't think is working for this country right now," Gibbs said in response to a question from The Advocate about the congressman's past remarks. "It's a priority of the president's and I think, for any number of reasons, we have a nominee that we hope will be confirmed quickly and will have - ah, based on his background and experience - will help to improve the lives of the Army."

McHugh is the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee. During last summer's hearings on the military's Gay ban, McHugh expressed a desire to see a review of the policy and frustration that the Department of Defense and military leadership had not been more open to addressing the issue.

"I share the chairlady's disappointment that thus far the services, as a whole, have not agreed to step forward," McHugh said, referring to Rep. Susan Davis, who chairs the military personnel subcommittee. "I don't see as an individual member how I fully and fairly consider this question and more importantly the issue of changing this question without the input of those in the active



John McHugh

military who have the heavy responsibility of commanding our forces in time of war. I would hope and encourage both the Department of Defense and the various services to reconsider the reluctance that they have displayed to this point."



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Joint Statement From Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, (TIHAN), Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), And Wingspan

TUCSON (Observer Update) - TIHAN, SAAF, and Wingspan are happy to announce that we are receiving funding from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona's Economic Relief and Stability Fund to explore the possibility of additional collaboration and partnership between our three agencies.

This funding will facilitate a process in which we can explore opportunities to more effectively and efficiently serve our community through various forms that enhanced collaboration might take, including the possibility of merger.

In December 2008, Executive Directors from TIHAN, SAAF, and Wingspan began discussions in earnest to explore increasing formal collaborations between the agencies. Consultant Laura Alexander of Alexander Associates guided the first steps in the process.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted and presented to the Board of Directors for each agency. Board members of all three agencies reviewed and approved the MOU to explore additional collaboration, up to and including the possibility of a merger, should that option be the best solution for all involved.

The utmost concern—whether through an increased formal collaboration or a merger—is that clients and constituents served by each organization, as well as the community as a whole, benefit from this process. Additionally, the collaboration must be

advantageous for all organizations involved.

Agreements in place include strict confidentiality regarding the discussions and negotiations, transparency between boards and executive directors, mutual respect, full disclosure, and participation of a chief executive and one board representative from each agency to serve on a Collaboration Negotiation Task Force.

As a result of the unique funding opportunity provided by the Community Foundation's Economic Relief and Stability Fund, all three organizations put forward their interest in exploring collaboration in a request for technical assistance and funding to cover costs, including a feasibility study, assessments, and planning services.

We are extremely grateful and excited that the Community Foundation decided to provide funding for this process.

TIHAN, SAAF, and Wingspan welcome the input and feedback of the community we serve regarding our plans for exploration and dialogue. Please email your comments and suggestions to:

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), Executive Director Wendell Hicks: whicks@saaf.org, Wingspan, Executive Director Jason Cianciotto: jcianciotto@wingspan.org, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, Executive Director Scott Blades: scott@tihan.org.

Across The Q Globe

Stride Gum, known as the "Ridiculously Long Lasting Gum," must really want Gay chewers – a new promotion for Stride will feature drag queens performing a dance-off during the Toronto Pride festival. After dancing in front of a panel of judges at Woody's bar, one drag queen will be crowned Miss Stride June 21. That queen will win \$1,000 and the opportunity to dance the entire Pride Parade route on top of the Stride Gum Uber Bubble Float. The contest is Stride Gum's way of introducing its new flavor, Uber Bubble, to Toronto's revelers. Stride is owned by the British candy company Cadbury.

Gay rights activists in Moscow plan to take Mayor Yuri Luzhkov to court for insulting their dignity with his recent remark that "queers" undermine the moral health of society, reports Reuters. In radio and television interviews and according to the Moscow Times, the virulently antiGay Luzhkov said, "Gay parades cannot be held in Moscow because of public morals and the safety of sexual minorities. First, our society has healthy morals and does not accept these queers, and, second, if they get permission to parade, there is another radical part of society that would kill them." The case against Luzhkov will be presented in a Moscow court and later to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Activists say they do not expect to win against the Russian authorities, but they intend to raise awareness of discrimination.

A cabin crew boss's claims that she was told not to hire male flight attendants who might be perceived as Gay were dismissed this week by a U.K. tribunal, reports the BBC. Alexan-

dria Proud had claimed unfair constructive dismissal by Gama Aviation, a firm that supplies pilots and flight attendants for privately-owned aircraft. Proud claimed that she was forced to discriminate when hiring cabin staff, told to choose young, attractive women and to avoid hiring men. "I was also specifically informed that if there was a male flight attendant it would be thought that he was Gay and the owner would not tolerate such an individual on the aircraft," Proud said. Gama Aviation denied the claims, and the tribunal found no evidence of what Proud charged.

More than 50,000 participants are expected to attend the annual Europride celebration in Zurich but the current Mr. Switzerland will not be among them, Agence France-Press reports. Organizers of Switzerland's premier male pageant allegedly forbade André Reithebuch, the current title holder, to attend. Accounts in the Swiss tabloid Blick allege that Reithebuch, a 22-year-old carpenter who has a girlfriend, initially accepted an invitation to attend Europride. However, the tabloid charges, the Mr. Switzerland organization ordered him to avoid the event, expressing fears that his attendance could lead to speculation about his sexual orientation. Urs Brülisauer, a spokesman for Mr. Switzerland, downplayed the appearance of homophobia. "This is not a decision that is to be directed against Gays," he said. Europride organizers, for their part, insist they would be willing to accommodate Reithebuch on his own terms. "And the girlfriend he should take – in such matters, we are very tolerant," said a spokesman.

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Advocate Not Equivocate, Speak Out and 'March,' Now And Later

On Monday, June 8, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear, a case challenging the constitutionality of the 1993 law, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the federal law which prohibits Gays and Lesbians, who want to help protect this nation, by serving in the country's armed services, openly and honestly. In court papers, the Obama administration said the appeals court ruled correctly in this case when it found that "don't ask, don't tell" is "rationally related to the government's legitimate interest in military discipline and cohesion." This coming with a new poll, reported in various news outlets, from Gallup shows that 69% of Americans want to see the policy overturned, an increase of six percent over the last five years. While liberals and Democrats remain the most supportive, the biggest increase in support has been among conservatives and weekly churchgoers – up 12 and 11 percentage points, respectively to 58%.

Saturday, June 6, marked the 33rd anniversary of the brutal murder of Richard Heakin, who as a 22 year old college student was brutally murdered outside a northside bar in Tucson for being who he was, a young, Gay man. Four high school boys, looking for some fags to hassle were arrested for the crime, three were prosecuted for the offense and given probation for the murder because, as the judge put it "boys will be boys." Yet, the Washington Independent reports that "one month after successfully tucking an amendment into the credit card reform bill that expanded gun rights, a small number of Senate Republicans are looking at the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act as another chance to score a victory for the Second Amendment. The possible plan – to add an amendment that would allow gun owners to carry their weapons from one state to another in accordance with concealed carry laws. The possible rationale – to defend LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) rights."

J.W. Lown, resigned unexpectedly as the Mayor of San Angelo, Texas, as reported in news outlets on May 20. Lown, being recently reelected to a fourth term by an overwhelming margin by the residents of the small, Texas town, because he could not serve, swearing an oath to the constitution to uphold the laws of the city, state and country because he could not live openly with the love of his life, a young man who wasn't from the United States and was living here illegally.

In California, 18,000 same-sex couples in loving and committed relationships and who were "married" while the window of opportunity was open to them, are considered legal but other similar couples in the golden state aren't afforded the same opportunity, thus creating a class of citizens in a country that was built on the premise that all people were considered equal.

LGBT rights, AIDS Activist and founder of the NAMES Project - the AIDS Memorial Quilt, Cleve Jones is right on one point, there should be a national march on Washington D.C. around October 10, but it needs to go further, since he said this during a parade and march in Salt Lake City, Utah for its LGBT Pride event.

Show your support and let Congress now (both chambers) that the Uniting American Families Act, H.R. 1024 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 424 in the U.S. Senate, must be heard, considered and passed and sent to the President's desk.

Demand the U.S. Senate, (especially Senator's Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Joseph Lieberman (CFL-CT), the two potential capitulators) hold hearings and vote on the Matthew Shepard Hate

Crimes Prevention Act, S. 909, now and without any amendments, especially since a gun was used in Matthew's brutal assault and murder in Wyoming.

With the nation, solidly favoring the repeal of the 16 year old "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," policy that prevents Americans from serving in its armed forces to defend our rights and protect the interests of the country, simply for being who they are, openly and honestly, march to your phones and computers and state your backing of this nation and what is what founded upon with the support of H.R. 1283, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009.

Section three of the so-called, thirteen year old, Defense of Marriage Act, approved by Congress and signed into law, is what prevents the federal government from recognizing the loving, committed relationships of same-sex couples and their families by whatever terminology and tell them its time for this to stop and repeal it.

All people, LGBT and straight supportive, living with or affected by HIV/AIDS or otherwise must march, speak out now, then and for the foreseeable future until action is taken. As was the case, with the lack of oversight regarding the federal bailout of the financial institutions to the turnout at a recent meeting of the Tucson Mayor and Council pertaining to the proposal to raise the tax rate on rental property - which in turn raises the rent to those who can't afford housing during these turbulent, economic times, we cannot wait any longer. Advocate, not equivocate because if we don't speak up for ourselves, no one else, especially those in government will do so until they hear it because thanks to their actions, these problems, some of the many this nation faces, were caused by them.

COMMENTARY

G/L Bashing For Chump Change

A thorn to Arizona GOP lawmakers who slipped a provision into the proposed state budget that would strip state workers of domestic partnership benefits.

A provision in the budget would legally define "dependents" of state employees who are entitled to coverage as a spouse or a child younger than 19 – or younger than 23, if a full-time student. Changing the law would override regulations adopted last year that added domestic partners and their children to the list.

Setting aside the question of marriage – which is not at issue here – the provision ignores reality and reflects tunnel-vision thinking. Only about about 750 workers have signed up for the benefits, according to Arizona Capitol Media, so it wouldn't save a lot of money to cut them out (\$3,000,000 and with a deficit of \$1.3 billion)

The benefit does, however, help our universities recruit talent. Perhaps lawmakers think universities can put together pay packages that will compensate.

But wait! They're also proposing to cut \$40 million more from universities beginning July 1. Domestic partner benefits don't cost so much, and they might make the difference in attracting talented teachers and researchers to Arizona.

(Arizona Daily Star - June 5)

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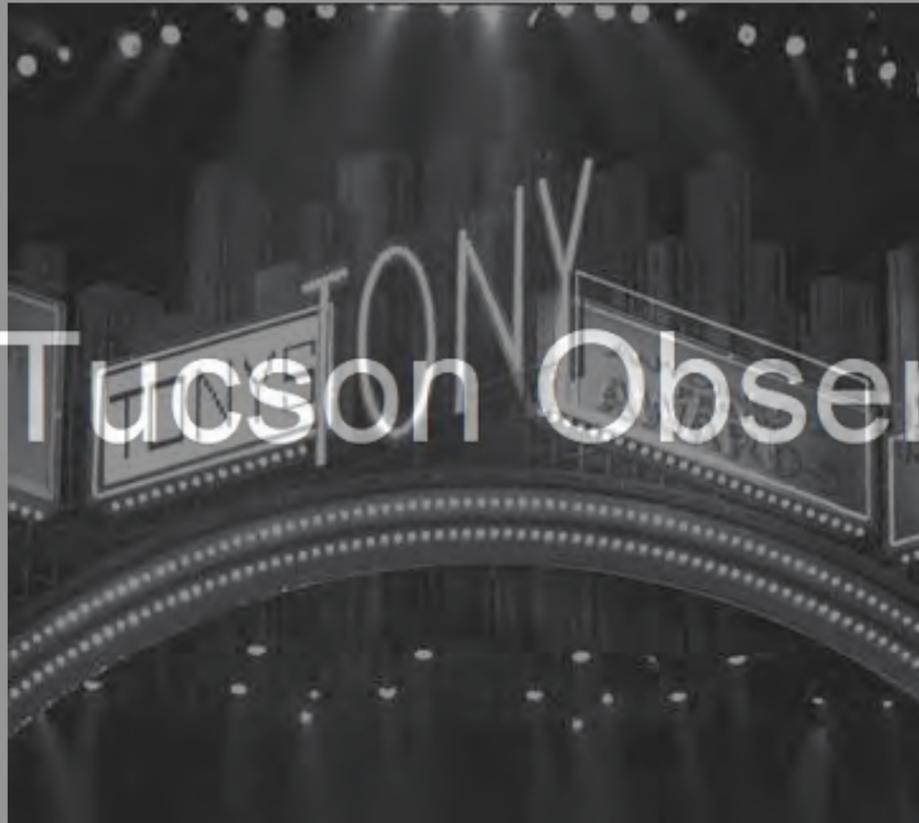
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Billy Wins Big At The Tony's



NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Host Neil Patrick Harris said the Tony Awards could only get gayer if Liza Minelli were elected its mayor and Sir Elton John could fly, advocate.com reported. Neither happened, but each walked away a winner. Minelli's Liza's at the Palace won for special theatrical event, while Elton John's Billy Elliot racked up 10 awards, including Best Musical, from 15 nominations.

The show included more performance minutes than ever before and the most expensive opening number in the show's history. But the evening's most historic highlight featured David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik, and Kiril Kulish, who each played Billy Elliot, sharing the award for Best Lead Actor in a Musical. After a prolonged "Oh my God" moment, they stood hesitant before the microphone, each waiting for another "Billy" to start thanking his family and dance teacher. While members of the Billy Elliot production enjoyed the most acceptance speeches, other awards were spread evenly among a competitive crowd that featured 43 new productions - the most since the 1982-1983 season. Some 14 shows received at

least one Tony. Liza Minnelli walked away with a Tony Award.

Among the plays, Yazmina Reza's God of Carnage won Best Play, Best Director, and Best Actress. Despite significant star power from Jeff Daniels and The Sopranos' James Gandolfini, Carnage did not win for Best Leading Actor in a Play. Instead, the award went to Geoffrey Rush for Exit the King, and Carnage's Marcia Gay Harden won for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Play. Critics speculated that President Barack Obama's recent viewing of Joe Turner's Come and Gone would sway voters, but of the play's six nominations, it only won two: Roger Robinson for Best Featured Actor in a Play and Brian MacDevitt for Best Lighting Design of a Play. Perhaps surprisingly, the LGBT campaign for marriage equality was downplayed in acceptance speeches. The major exception came from Oskar Eustis, who accepted the award for Best Musical Revival for Hair. Extolling the virtues of the 1960s - the play's climate - he said, "Peace now, freedom now, equality now," pausing to shake a ringed finger, "and justice for all."

Jury To Decide Lesbian Coach's Fate

AUGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - The Maine supreme court has returned a discrimination case to a lower court, so that a jury can weigh in on whether a high school softball coach was wrongfully fired, advocate.com reported. Kelly Jo Cookson had filed an appeal after the state superior court ruled that she was not fired because of her sexual orientation. Cookson contended that she was not asked to return as head softball coach because she is a Lesbian, while Brewer School District superintendent Daniel Lee says that she was fired because of her involvement in hazing activities.

players to verbal abuse and hazing, including an incident where the coach allegedly took players to a farm, making them touch and walk in sheep feces. Webb reacted by sending Cookson a letter of reprimand.

When Daniel Lee took over the superintendent spot months later, the same family filed a court claim about Cookson's alleged actions. When confronted with the family's claim, Cookson told Lee that she would not resign, and he replied that she was not being asked to leave her position. She also told Lee about other teams at Brewer High School that violate the hazing policy. Lee decided not to keep Cookson as head coach. He said his decision was based primarily on the possibility that Cookson violated the school's anti-hazing policy, and added that she did not provide "a balanced sports program for the team." He ended up naming Skip Estes, a heterosexual man, to the position. Cookson also claimed that she was being slandered in statements to parents, but the supreme court rejected that statement.

Cookson is the first person to sue under the Maine Human Rights Act, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation. Cookson was the head coach of the Brewer High School varsity softball team from 1993 to 2005, according to court documents. During the 2005 season one student quit and made a complaint to then-superintendent Betsy Webb. The student and her mother said that Cookson subjected the



(Editor's Note, the following letter was published in the June 9 edition of the Arizona Daily Star.)

State should keep partner benefits

Re: the June 4 article "Arizona lawmakers move to end domestic partner benefits."

Citing financial concerns, Senate President Bob Burns supports eliminating health-insurance coverage for the domestic partners of state and university employees and their children, even though these employees pay the same state taxes as all other employees.

Since domestic partner coverage costs the state only \$3 million a year, compared to the \$625 million

Arizona spends on health insurance for other employees, the obvious cost-cutting solution is to eliminate the \$625 million massive infusion of taxpayer dollars and only cover employees with domestic partners.

If this approach seems inequitable, perhaps benefits could be awarded only to couples who exemplify commitment and stability.

Or, perhaps our legislators will act fairly and justly to improve and protect the health of the state's employees and their families by providing vital health insurance for all state and university employees, their spouses, domestic partners and their children.

Lisa Bibbens
Attorney, Tucson

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COMMENTARY...

Do We Need Religion To Win G/L Marriage?

By Jennifer Vanasco

We need to take back the religious and moral high ground.

That was the message today from a conference call organized by the Center for American Progress with Rev. Gene Robinson, the openly Gay Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire and Rev. Rebecca Voekel, Director of the Institute for Welcoming Resources and Faith Work of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, plus the authors of two new reports on Gay marriage and religion.

What was most interesting is that the two reports - one analyzing an anti-Gay marriage proposition in Michigan that passed, and one analyzing the Prop 8 campaign in California - come to the same conclusion: It is very important for the Gay marriage movement to break the monopoly that the religious right has on religious and moral arguments around marriage.

In the past, the battle has gone like this: The anti-Gay right uses Biblical and religious language, plus the infrastructure of religious institutions, to make the case that equal marriage invalidates the sacredness of limited straight marriage.

Gay activists, on the other hand, have a secular message of civil and human rights, focusing on the benefits Gays and Lesbians get from marriage. We reach out to religious groups, sure, but only once the battle lines have been drawn, and then haphazardly.

This is why we lose, when we do.

The solution?

First, that we acknowledge that religious opposition requires a religious response. Those on the call said that it is very important that we call on GLBT's who are religious to speak up both in their faith communities and in their queer communities in order to help find common ground.

We must cultivate and support progressive religious leaders who speak out in the media and in the pulpit on our issues. We must show the media and the public that the Religious Right does not speak for all people of faith, or even all Christians.

We must emphasize to legislators and the public that religious marriage and civil marriage are two different states that share the same noun. We must say, as Robinson does, that forbidding Gay marriage is a case where religions are infringing on a state's right to marry those they deem fit.

We must build "strong and authentic alliances" with religious leaders and convince them that Gay rights is a matter of justice.

And we must not write off any religious group as unmovable - all denominations and religions have moderate voices.

Voekel said that there are 5 million members of Welcoming Congregations across the nation - congregations that have voted to affirm that they are open to GLBTs. Younger evangelicals are twice as likely as evangelicals over all to support Gay marriage, said Winne Stachelberg, vice president for external affairs for the Center for American Progress. 60 percent of Catholics under 30 support Gay marriage. 2/3 of mainline Protestant

clergy support Gay relationships.

New Hampshire showed us the way to a new strategy: confirm religious liberties in the same law that passes equal marriage. Robinson said that "this is a new dimension to the discussion and a very effective one." He said that the religious liberties confirmed in the NH marriage law are redundant ones, already part of state law. But if reaffirming them is what leads to Gay marriage passing, then so be it.

Robinson said, "We need to change the attitudes of religious people and clergy toward LGBT's, but that's a fight for another day. That's a conversation that needs to take place in the denominations. We're here to change the civil law."

(Vanasco is the Managing Editor for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

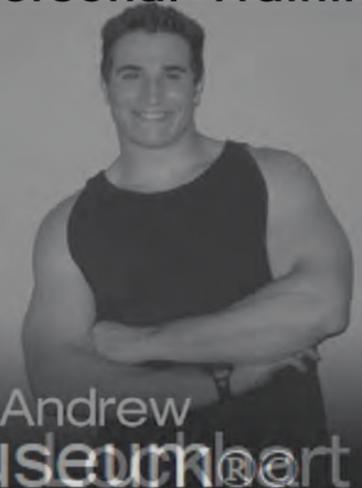
Utah LGBT Community Honors Gov. Jon Huntsman

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (Observer Update) - The state's LGBT community is honoring Gov. Jon Huntsman with the Utah Pride Center's 2009 Pete Suazo Political Action Award. Huntsman this year said he supports civil unions and came out in favor of a package of legislation called the Common Ground Initiative that would have extended some benefits to same-sex and other nontraditional couples.

Valerie Larabee, the Pride Center's executive director, says Huntsman has been fair-minded on LGBT issues over the years. The Utah Pride festival scheduled on a weekend which Huntsman's spokeswoman says a scheduling conflict will keep him from attending.

The award was established in 2002 and honors late state Sen. Pete Suazo for his work on hate crimes legislation.

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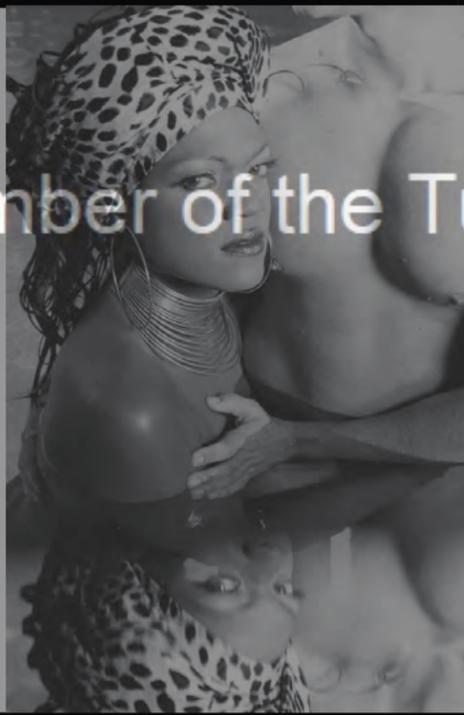
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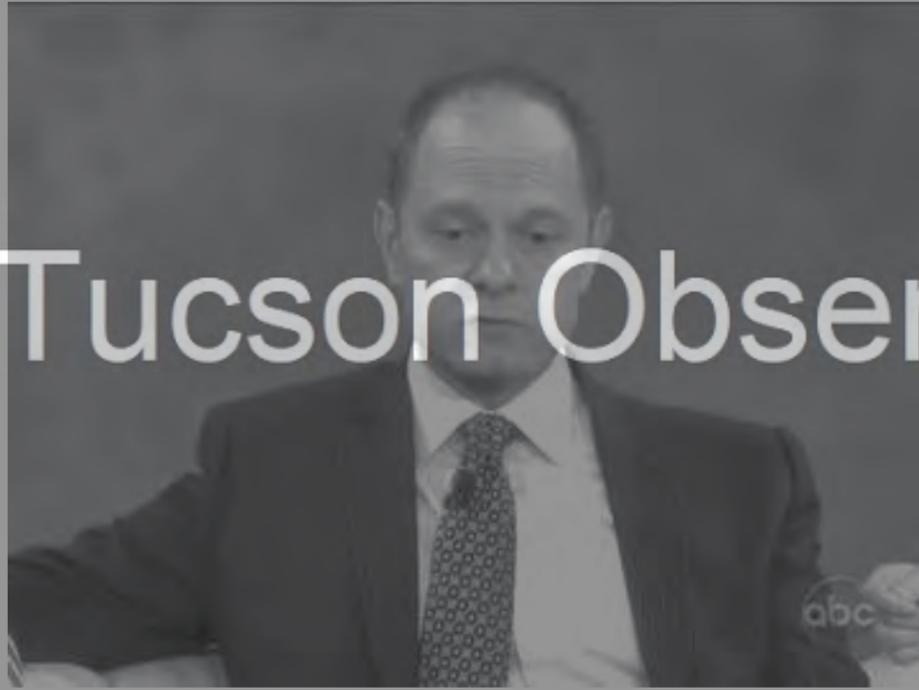
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David Hyde Pierce Says He's Married Longtime Partner



David Hyde Pierce

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - After keeping his private life out of the spotlight for years, David Hyde Pierce has announced his marriage to longtime partner Brian Hargrove, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

The former "Frasier" star spoke candidly in an appearance on ABC's "The View." Wearing a wedding band, Hyde Pierce revealed they tied the knot "very quietly" in California on Oct. 24. The

actor and Hargrove, a producer, are still legally wed despite the California Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to uphold Proposition 8. The Gay-marriage ban was approved by voters in November, stopping legal nuptials going forward.

Angered by the ruling, Hyde Pierce said: "It's like, 'Oh great, we made the cut.'" He called it a "very odd thing" that strangers have a vote on his private decision to marry.

Senate To Pass Hate Crimes As Amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - U.S. Senate leadership has settled on passing hate-crimes legislation - which would expand existing federal law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability - as an amendment to another bill rather than voting on it as a stand-alone piece of legislation, reports the Washington Blade.

"We understand that Senate leadership does not believe a hearing or markup on the bill is necessary and

plans to bring it directly to the floor as an amendment to another moving vehicle," Human Rights Campaign (HRC) spokesman Trevor Thomas told the Blade.

Thomas also said HRC was pushing the Senate to pass the bill before summer's end, reported advocate.com. "We are urging the Senate to move the hate-crimes bill before the August recess," he said. "After more than a decade and nine successful votes in Congress, there is no good reason why this bill can't be sent to the president's desk for his signature."



'DADT': Gay Activists In The Way

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reported Gay rights activists standing in the way of "don't ask, don't tell" being repealed? Not according to the Human Rights Campaign, which issued the following statement to The Advocate about The Daily Beast's report that Gay rights leaders have made a deal with senators and members of the House to not push for an end to "don't ask, don't tell" until sometime next year.

"This story is not only an outright lie, it is recklessly irresponsible. HRC never made such a deal and continues to work with congress and the administration on a full range of equality issues

including a swift end to the military's shameful ban on Gay servicemembers." A statement from Senator Chuck Schumer's spokesperson Brian Fallon followed. Schumer was not quoted in Bellini's video.

"Senator Schumer has never said the White House didn't consider the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' a priority, and he never said the Human Rights Campaign struck some quote-unquote deal on this issue. Any rumors to the contrary are flat-out wrong." According to Bellini, Gay rights organizations want Washington to focus on the hate-crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.



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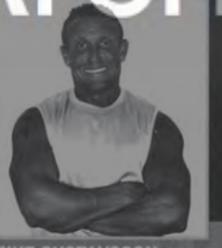
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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Lynch Signs New Hampshire Marriage Bill

CONCORD, NH (Observer Update) - Gov. John Lynch has signed the New Hampshire equal marriage bill, making New Hampshire the sixth state to have Gay marriage. The law will take effect January 1, 2010, reported 365Gay.com.

The Senate passed the equal marriage compromise bill this morning; this afternoon, the House passed the bill 198-176.

"With Gov. Lynch signing legislation passed by the state Senate and House, New Hampshire has become the latest state to recognize that loving, committed couples, and their families, should receive equal dignity and respect under the law," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "No religious institution will have to recognize any marriage under this law, as the language proposed by Gov. Lynch and agreed to by the legislature made abundantly clear."

Only Rhode Island is the outlier in New England - the very Catholic state will be a much longer fight, even though

a May poll showed that most Rhode Islanders actually favor a Gay marriage bill.

Five states—California, New Jersey, Oregon, Nevada (effective October 1, 2009), and Washington (as of July 26, 2009, pending possible repeal effort)—plus Washington, D.C. provide same-sex couples with access to the state level benefits and responsibilities of marriage, through either civil unions or domestic partnerships. Hawaii provides same-sex couples with limited rights and benefits. New York recognizes marriages by same-sex couples validly entered into outside of New York. The New York legislature is considering marriage legislation that would permit same-sex couples to marry in those states, and the D.C. Council has passed legislation that would recognize marriages by same-sex couples legally entered into in other jurisdictions (that legislation is going through a Congressional review period). Same-sex couples do not receive federal rights and benefits in any state.

Early HIV Treatment Cuts Death Rate In Half

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - A new study suggests that administering antiretroviral therapy to HIV patients even while they are being treated for acute opportunistic infections cuts their death rate, reported HIV Plus Magazine. Noting that "optimal timing for antiretroviral therapy initiation for individuals presenting with AIDS-related opportunistic infections has not been defined," researcher Andrew R. Zolopa of the Stanford University AIDS Clinical Trials Unit and colleagues studied 282 HIV patients with opportunistic infections.

according to Zolopa.

"Early antiretroviral therapy resulted in less AIDS progression/death with no increase in adverse events or loss of virologic response compared to deferred antiretroviral therapy," the researchers concluded. "These results support the early initiation of antiretroviral therapy in patients presenting with acute AIDS-related opportunistic infections, absent major contraindications."

Brad Hare, medical director of the University of California, San Francisco's Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital, told Bloomberg News, "This study makes clear that the medications are lifesaving in this patient population. In people who are very sick from their HIV, initiating treatment as quickly as possible - even during treatment for another infection - can be lifesaving."

The study, titled "Early Antiretroviral Therapy Reduces AIDS Progression/Death in Individuals with Acute Opportunistic Infections: A Multicenter Randomized Strategy Trial," was published in the journal Public Library of Science ONE.

Between 2003 and 2006 the patients sought treatment for such infections as pneumonia, meningitis, lymphoma, or bacterial infections. Half the patients started antiretroviral therapy within two weeks while simultaneously being treated for their acute infection; the remainder did not initiate therapy for an average of 45 days. After 48 weeks, 20 of the 141 patients (14%) who received early treatment had died or gotten significantly more ill. In the delayed treatment group, 34 of 141 patients (24%) had died or become much sicker. Most patients who died or worsened did so in the first six months.

Kim Jong-Il's Son Too Girly To Rule

PYONGYANG, North Korea (Observer Update) - North Korea's "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il named his third son his successor - at the expense of an older son whom he considered "too effeminate," according to the dictator's long-time sushi chef. Kim Jong-chul, the 27-year-old middle son, was apparently deemed too girly to rule the communist nation, advocate.com reported.

to the Tokyo Disney Resort, according to the Daily Telegraph, reported advocate.com.

Kim Jong-un, the proposed next ruler of North Korea, was born in Japan and attended the Kim Il-sung Military University in Pyongyang. According to reports, the favored son has been drinking heavily since his mother's 2004 death and is now overweight and may be saddled with health problems like diabetes and heart disease due to lack of exercise.

The eldest son, Kim Jong-nam, took himself out of contention after he was caught trying to enter Japan on a fake passport in 2001, reportedly to go

Black, Reiner Back

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Director Rob Reiner and Milk screenwriter Dustin Lance Black are among the board members of a newly formed legal and policy group behind the federal challenge to Proposition 8, advocate.com reported.

Reiner's wife, Michelle Singer Reiner. Chad Griffin, a former communications staffer in the Clinton administration and an executive producer of the documentary Outrage, serves as board president. "Our government should treat every American equally," Griffin said in a statement. "The American Foundation for Equal Rights will support legal, political, and policy advocacy to ensure every American's constitutional rights are protected."

The American Foundation for Equal Rights has disclosed its board members, which include American Beauty producer Bruce Cohen and

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Gay Penguins Take A Chick

BERLIN, Germany (Observer Update) - And baby makes three for two Gay penguins at Germany's Bremerhaven Zoo, reported advocate.com. "Z" and "Vielpunkt" have adopted the baby chick they were tasked with looking after before it hatched.

on April 25, and the penguin duo has been looking after it since.

"Another couple threw the egg out of their batch," the zoo's vet said in a statement. "We picked it up and put it in the nest of the Gay penguins." The penguin duo immediately took over and looked after the egg for 35 days before it hatched. The chick was born

This isn't the first time Gay penguin parents have been in the news. Central Park Zoo's Roy and Silo made headlines for trying to incubate a rock in their nest. A zookeeper eventually gave the penguins a fertile egg to hatch. Months later, a chick was born. Scientists eager to prove that homosexuality is not a choice have used Roy and Silo as an example, arguing that if it happens among animals in nature, it can't be immoral.

Federal Prop. 8 Suit

In May, attorneys Theodore B. Olson and David Boies filed suit in federal court on behalf of two California Gay and Lesbian couples who were denied marriage licenses by the state. Olson and Boies argued opposing sides in Bush v. Gore before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000. The Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative legal group that aided in the passage and subsequent defense of Prop. 8 before

the California supreme court, filed a motion asking U.S. district court judge Vaughn Walker to allow the organization to defend the ballot measure's constitutionality. Walker is scheduled to consider the motion on July 2.

Richard J. Heakin (1954-1976)

TUCSON - (Editor's Note: The great blogger/reporter, ran the following item on October 13, 2006, about Richard Heakin, who was murdered in Tucson in 1976 because he was Gay. This shocking death and subsequent legal action galvanized a movement for LGBT rights in the Old Pueblo. What follows is the post, a must read for those who remember and for all those who should not forget.)

Our local afternoon paper, the tiny but intrepid Tucson Citizen ran a great article yesterday about Richard J. Heakin, Jr., a Gay man who was visiting Tucson from Nebraska. In June 6, 1975, the 21-year-old was attacked and killed by four teenagers while leaving a local bar near downtown. Outraged that the 15- to 17-year-old killers received only probation for what was termed a hate crime, Tucson pressed for change and introduced anti-discrimination laws, new organizations and pride events celebrating the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community.

Then a Tucson committee decided on a memorial and tried to reach the Heakin family. But a dishonest friend supposedly said they wanted nothing to do with it, the family later learned. The family remained in the dark about the impact Richard's death had in Tucson. It led to Tucson becoming one of the first communities in the nation to pass anti-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation a few months after his death. It also led to the establishment of Wingspan, one of the largest LGBT community centers in the country for a city our size. (Tucsonans like to point out that Phoenix doesn't even have one.) And every year, on June 6, Richard's death is remembered with a gathering at the Richard Heakin Memorial in Tucson's Presidio Park.

And now, thanks to the Internet, Richard's family has learned about the great impact his death has had in our community. His niece tapped his name into a search engine, and a whole world opened up for her and her family. Heather Ryan typed into an Internet search engine the name of an uncle four teens beat to death in Tucson and discovered a world unknown to the family...

While Lori Ryan, Heakin's sister, was at bingo, her daughter spent the night at their Missouri home tracking down e-mail addresses that resulted in a phone number exchange, which led

to a talk with Rowan Frost, one among the group that tried to reach the family years ago.

"We probably still would not have known if she hadn't . . . gone on the Net," Ryan, 49, said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "Making that phone call made all the difference."

So came the tender and thrilling moment when Ryan received a mass of newspaper clippings about various events commemorating her brother. She booked a flight to Tucson so she could get to know the city that has spent decades keeping his name alive.

Tucson's main morning newspaper, The Arizona Daily Star followed up with another story in Ernesto Portillo, Jr.'s column: She wasn't emotional as she walked up to the shaded memorial bearing her dead brother's name Thursday, but Lori Ryan seemed tentative nonetheless. It was understandable. It was the first time Ryan or anyone from her Nebraska family had been to Downtown's Presidio Park to see the 4-year-old plaque bearing the name of her older brother, Richard J. Heakin Jr., a victim of hate and intolerance....

"I never realized his death made such a difference," said Ryan, 49, several hours after her plane landed at the airport. "It's incredible to know that people who didn't know him went through all this."

Most Gay communities celebrate Pride during June to commemorate the Stonewall riots. But Tucson waits until October, when the temperature will more reliably remain below 100. This year's Pride is this weekend and Richard Heakin's family will be in attendance. The original grand marshal of the parade even stepped aside so Lori Ryan could have the honor.

Kahlil Gilbran once wrote, "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars." Some of our greatest advancements are born through terrible loss. Richard Heakin's senseless death more than thirty years ago brought about a great transformation in a small city in the desert. This weekend, we will celebrate our pride in ourselves and in our community's transformation. And we will remember the suffering.

POET'S CORNER

8,000 EYES
by Ron Rose - Tucson

8,000 eyes on bodybags, no longer can they see
For they have snatched a sure defeat from promised victory.
Their leaders spun a twisted tale of weapons we should fear
And finally home in body bags, we shed a final tear.
Continue on, the story goes, we'll march to victory
While senseless lives we daily lose, please listen to our plea.
Just end this war, there's only more. Just you wait and see
Please no more suffering, just let our young folks be.



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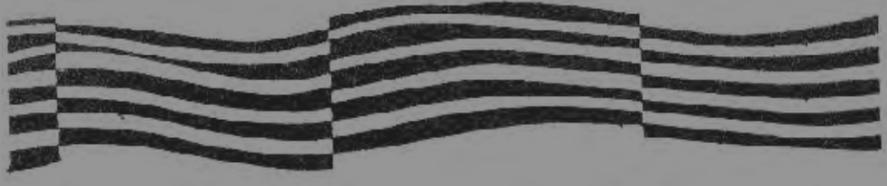
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IN OTHER NEWS.....

Knoxville Restores GLBT Web Access To Schools

KNOXVILLE, TN (Observer Update) - The superintendent of the Knox County schools says a glitch has been fixed, allowing access to educational Web sites on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues, reported 365Gay.com.

Superintendent Jim McIntyre told the county school board the school system was working on the matter before a lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against the Knox County and Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County school systems for denying access.

The Knoxville News Sentinel quoted McIntyre saying blocking the sites was not in compliance with Knox County's policy and the system worked with Internet service provider ENA to allow access to the sites from school computers.

Group To Out Signers Of Anti-Gay Petitions

OLYMPIA, Washington (Observer Update) - A group called WhoSigned.org says it will publicize the names of people signing petitions for Referendum 71, which seeks a public vote to overturn a new expansion of Washington's same-sex partnerships, reported 365Gay.com.

WhoSigned.org says it's partnering with the Gay rights group KnowThyNeighbor.org to put the names online. In a statement, WhoSigned.org says it expects people who see the names online to contact the signers for what may be uncomfortable talks about Gay rights.

Sponsors of Referendum 71 have until July 25 to collect about 121,000 signatures to make the fall ballot. The referendum seeks to overturn the latest expansion of the domestic partner law, which would give partners the same state rights as married couples.

Court Sides With Lesbian Foster Parents

CHARLESTON, WV (Observer Update) - The West Virginia supreme court has ruled in favor of a Lesbian couple seeking to retain custody of a foster child, reports the Associated Press on advocate.com.

In the unsigned opinion, the court blocked enforcement of a Fayette County circuit court order that the child be removed from Kathryn Kutil and Cheryl Hess. The lower court judge had ruled that the 18-month-old girl should be placed with a more "traditional" family - one with a married mother and father - who might adopt her.

The supreme court called that decision an error, saying that current law encourages adoption by qualified foster parents, including Kutil or Hess, either one of whom might even be favored as a prospective parent. Under West Virginia law, single individuals of any sexual orientation may adopt, while laws on joint same-sex couple adoption and same-sex second-parent adoption are unclear.

Virtual Gays Say 'I Do'

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Gays and lesbians can now get married all over the world - the virtual world at least, reported advocate.com. After playing The Sims 3 for a week, Lyle Masaki at Afterelton.com discovered that Gay couples can now marry. Earlier versions of the game only allowed same-sex couples to move in together and declare unions.

The Sims 3, which debuted at this week's E3 electronics entertainment expo, builds on hugely-popular The Sims and The Sims 2 from video game developer Electronic Arts. The game allows players to create and control virtual characters and communities. The latest edition is currently the top-selling video game on Amazon.com, above Nintendo's Wii and Sony's Ultimate Fighting Championship 2009.

Since its debut in 2000, the Sims series has been Gay-inclusive, allowing players to create same-sex romances.

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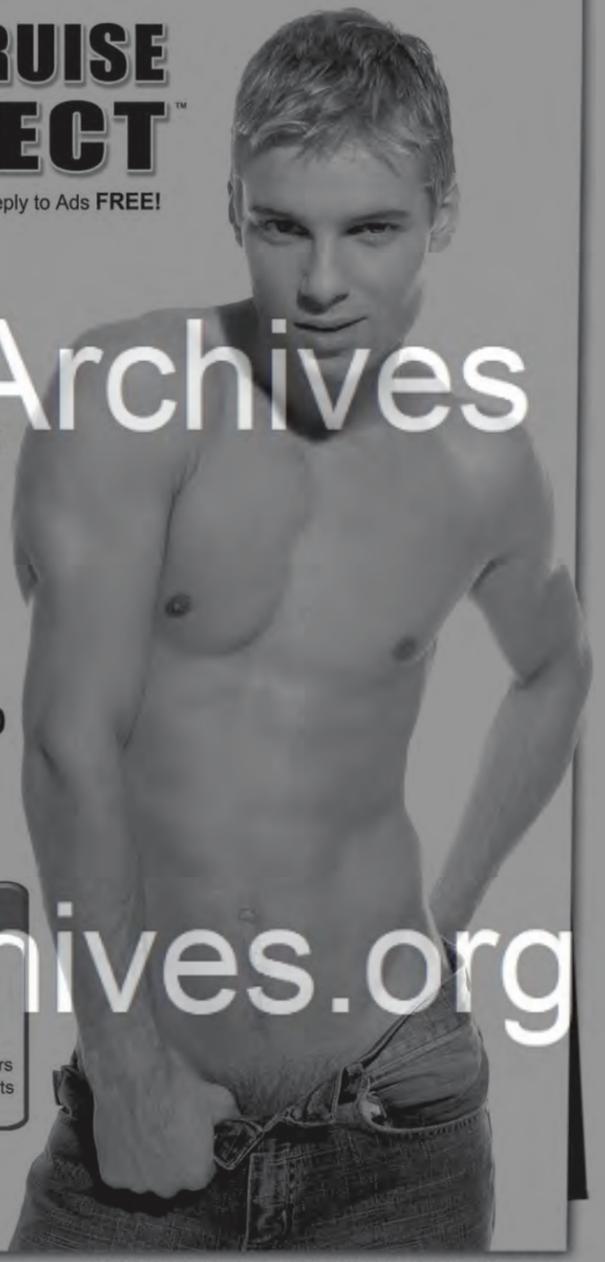
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Talk Show Killer Pleads Guilty

SEATTLE, WA (Observer Update) - Seattle-based Gay talk show host Mike Webb plunged into a long period of loneliness following the death of his partner in the '90s. That isolation led Webb to allow a young man to move into his home with him, a decision that ultimately proved fatal, advocate.com reported.

Scott White 29, pleaded guilty to killing Webb with an ax in April 2007. White now faces up to 20 years in prison for second-degree murder - the result of mental health evaluators' doubting his ability to premeditate the crime.

According to The Seattle Times, Webb lived the last 15 years of his life in recovery from drug addiction. Friends say he tirelessly helped those entering recovery and that White was his latest project after the two met at an addiction recovery meeting. However, White's defense attorney, Julie Lawry, said their relationship was not healthy and that the couple used drugs at the house regularly. White woke up early beside Webb on April 14, 2007, and said he was going out for a cigarette. He then reached for a double-sided ax and struck Webb between three and seven times. He duct-taped Webb's limbs together and stashed the body in a basement crawl space. According to police documents, White admitted to posing as Webb through text messages and the use of his electronic banking card, delaying the discovery of Webb's body for two months.

Florida Bar Support In Gay Adoption Case Upheld

TALLAHASSEE, FL (Observer Update) - The state Supreme Court has rejected a challenge to the Florida Bar's right to oppose the state's ban on Gay adoption, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Liberty Counsel, a faith-based legal group, had asked the high court to prohibit the bar's Family Law Section from filing a friend of the court brief in an appellate court that was considering Florida's ban of adoptions by homosexuals. The justices ruled 5-2 in the case.

The bar brief supported a trial judge's ruling that declared the ban unconstitutional. That decision is on appeal to the 3rd District Court of Appeal in Miami. The high court majority ruled Liberty Counsel failed to show the brief violated its constitutional rights or that the bar broke its own rules.



NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (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://www.tucsonm2m@live.com>

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 ½ 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 ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

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

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. SKYY 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 ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m.

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

and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioscas 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 ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm. COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or 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 ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Dance lessons at 7pm \$5 per person, Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or 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, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

Educators Giving LGBT Students Of Color A Failing Grade

By Deb Price

DETROIT, Michigan - Imagine being a Lesbian, Gay Bisexual or Transgender teen who loves singing in the school chorus. Now imagine that experience being spoiled by a thoughtless, homophobic adult – the music teacher who ought to be striving for harmony. "My choir teacher constantly makes Gay jokes," a 12th-grade Latino student reported in a new national study. "And he doesn't realize that he makes it so uncomfortable for us because it's choir. There's a large LGBT community in choir, and he sits there and cracks Gay jokes all the time."

In its groundbreaking report, "Shared Differences," the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network captures what school feels like for America's LGBT minority youth. The survey results paint a grim

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 12

THE BIZ - Lipstick!! Girls-4-Girls Party. Ladies event of the year. Hot, sexy, dancers. Special performance by Amariz.

WOODY'S - Tori Steele's 'Cover Girls Revue Show' 10:00 p.m. Starring Tori with Chyna Collins and Ms. Leading

Saturday & Sunday, June 13 & 14

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

Saturday, June 13

WOODY'S - Bud family Party with \$2.50 special on Long Necks and a Hula Contest with prizes. It takes place from 11:00 p.m. until 12:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 14

WOODY'S - Bienvenidos a Woody's World". Party all day Sunday with \$3.50 Cuervo Margaritas, \$3 Corona/PacificoDosXX/Sol long necks. \$2 Tecates.

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

picture of kids so hardened to anti-Gay remarks, shoving or worse that they don't even bother reporting the abusive incidents to a school official or parent. These students rarely read about LGBT people in textbooks, nor do they learn about Gay history or people in class.

What they too often learn firsthand is that school is a place where they can expect to be hurt – emotionally or physically. The predictable but sad result is that many of these kids skip classes and see their grades drop. The education network has found that the best antidote is to make sure schools have Gay-straight student clubs, LGBT-supportive officials and textbooks, and anti-harassment policies that clearly include sexual orientation and gender identity.

The report, available at glsen.org, draws on data collected during the 2006-2007 school year on 2,130 GLBT students, aged 13 to 21, who are African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander or multiracial. In addition, researchers listened to small groups of students.

Key findings: Biased barbs: More than 80 percent of LGBT youth of color often heard the phrase "that's so Gay" or similar uses of "Gay" at school to put people down. Two-thirds heard "faggot," "dyke" and other anti-Gay name-calling. In a particularly alarming finding, more than half of these students said they had heard teachers, principals or other adults at their school make homophobic remarks.

Ignored cries for help: Only about one-fifth of students reported that school officials "most of the time" or "always" stepped in when anti-Gay remarks were made in their presence. Report co-author Joseph Kosciw says some educators are sending the message that anti-Gay remarks "aren't just tolerated in school but acceptable." Only about one in 10 students of color said other students stepped in when they heard anti-Gay comments.

Frightened: More than half of these students said they felt unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation; one-third said they felt unsafe because of how they express their gender. Close to half of the students surveyed said they had been physically harassed or assaulted in the past year in school because of their sexual orientation. But this experience varied widely by race and ethnicity: 33 percent of LGBT African Americans said they'd been subject to physical violence in school. Among LGBT Native American students, the percentage was 54 percent.

Who am I? : Fourteen percent of LGBT students of color said their school books include information about Gay issues, and only 11 percent said their school work has included positive portrayals of Gay people. Our educators are failing LGBT kids of color. And that's certainly nothing to sing about.

(Deb Price is columnist for the Detroit News, from which this is reprinted.)

Tucson Observer Archives



BISBEE PRIDE WEEKEND
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COME FOR A DAY, OR ENJOY THE FULL WEEKEND!**



Exciting Pride Weekend
Events include a Leather
& Lace Street Dance
Saturday night with Live
Music by TMI!



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FULL SCHEDULE & MORE INFORMATION**

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▼ It's cooler up here in the Copper City ▼