



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Show Pride in Tucson's LGBT Community By Helping The Observer

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Despite the economic downturn and troubles, the Observer, Tucson's LGBT newsweekly is still producing a print edition.

Friday, June 26, Coyote Moon, 915 W. Prince, are hosting a "Family Tradition" fund raiser for the Observer, a night of country music, dancing, performances, and raffles. On Sunday, June 28, IBT's (616 N. Fourth Avenue), starting at 2:00 p.m., 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.

Natalie Perry, a long time

advocate and resident of Tucson, penned the following which ran in last week's print edition:

"... As an active member of the Tucson Gay community for over 28 years. If you've been around as long as some of us, I would like to solicit your help for about 15 minutes. It will take your physical presence on June 28.

"The Weekly Observer's owners/publishers, Bob Ellis and Gary Clark are "hanging on by their fingernails" to continue to publish the oldest, weekly Gay publication in Arizona. I am challenging and beseeching each of you to

make a physical appearance in the "Parade of History", to donate \$1.00 (or more), with many other representatives of Tucson's Gay community who have benefitted in their businesses/ adventures/ fundraisers from the exposure through the Observer over the past 30+ years.

"I'd like former Miss Gay Tucsons and ALL other performers, Sisters of Sonora, TKO, TALL, T-Squares, Wingspan, MCC church, TIHAN, SAAF, PFLAG, Pride, Inc., TLGA members, current and former bar owners and bartenders, Desert Voices, Reveille, Bears of the Old Pueblo,

TGSA, Saguaro Regional Rodeo Assn, Gay Chamber, Bowling league, Cinco de Mayo kings and queens and many, many more to show up at IBT's on Sunday, June 28th. The festivities begin at 2pm, with a show at 3pm. I would like the parade of clubs, organizations, etc. to march at the end of the show (approx. 4:30pm.) Bring your banners and we'll announce your participation as you walk through and hand Bob a \$1.00."

The bar at IBT's will open at Noon on Sunday (28th) with a T-Dance from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. plus a benefit BBQ at 2:00 p.m. Drag show at 3:00 p.m. and benefit Karaoke at 6:00 p.m. with dancing inside at 6:00 p.m. Then Karaoke inside at 9:00 p.m. and dancing outside on the patio at the same time.

PLUS, during all of this entertainment there will be silent and live auctions taking place featuring some fine arts and craft work at all different price levels as well as meals, massages, and many, many other unusual things, and, of course, raffles throughout the day and evening with other interesting and valuable items. A Really fun-packed day and evening. Really so much that there is not enough space to list everything. You've just got to get there and see for yourself. We are hoping to see and visit with the many folks who have dropped out of the community activities because of age or health. Come on down! You'll like it!

As our 'pioneer' friend Natalie Perry says, "Please come to show your appreciation, respect and support by joining the "Parade of History". You are a part of the history of Gay Tucson and the Observer needs our help."

These events are happening during Pride week to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the modern rights movement as well as the 33rd year of the existence of one of the country's oldest LGBT weekly newspaper, still proud, still free and still going!

By coincidence this is the 1300th issue of the Observer. And we thought it might be fun to re-print the first issue of it's predecessor The Tucson Gay News (TGN) published in September 1976. It was followed by the Arizona Gay News (AGN) and a couple of other names before the Observer, and always published by the same crazy people. Check out the prices of the bars - it's surreal (or so-real). To view page two of the TGN paper, go to page sixteen of this issue of Observer. Enjoy.

TUCSON GAY NEWSLETTER

SEPT.
29
1976



VOLUME 1
ISSUE 1

GOOD NEWS

Mother Johnny coming back to THE GRADUATE October 1st joining Steve, Vince and Dale behind the bar.....New piano bar at LUCKY PIERRE'S Tuesday thru Friday. Franc playing your sing-a-long requests from 5 to 8.....Be sure you try the "All You Can Eat" Spaghatti feed at the BACK POCKET for 25¢ every Thursday starting at 9:00 p.m..... The P.X. at the P.S. is open. Most items 50% discount to P.S. members. Great selection of books, films and toys for boys.....Did you know about Tucson's newest Gay bar HAIR TIZ ? Located at 343 E. Toole where the old Black Door has been completely remodeled. Dave and Polly are the owners and Norman, behind the bar, welcome you 7 a.m. till closing Monday thru Saturday and they open at noon Sunday. Grand opening soon.....STONEWALL is in the midst of remodeling - brand new "Earthquake" speaker and lots of other outstanding new decor..... The latest from THE BACK DOOR, Tucson's only bath is that they do not require memberships to get in any longer. They are open from noon to 2 a.m. Sunday thru Thursday, Friday and Saturday all night long. For a limited time you can get three 8 mm films for an unheard of \$16. New projectors are now in operation. Y'all cum, see and touch.....If you need help for housing, medical or legal aid, or just someone to rap with about Gay life, you will find it by phoning the GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES at 622-2324. This is a non-profit, non-political organization with an all volunteer staff ready to help and advise you about anything involving gay lifestyle. Present hours Tuesday and Thursday, noon till 8:00 p.m. Starting Oct. 4th, the phone will be manned seven days a week from 9:00 in the morning until midnight. If you want to volunteer your services, give them a call.....Monday Oct. 4th from 7:30 to 9:00 LUCKY PIERRE'S is featuring a "Mexican Dinner by Pancho" consisting of Mexican Bar-B-Q beef, Sour cream chicken enchiladas, refried beans and salad for \$1.69. A great bargain.....

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Observe The Cause

UPDATE

Observer Fund-raiser To Feature Decades of Photos and Music

TUCSON (Observer Update) - in addition to the long story on page one of this issue the fundraiser extravaganza will last all afternoon and evening and will feature 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. See you there.

Health Coverage Ice Cream Social

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Pima Community Access Program (PCAP) will be at Wingspan on June 29, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., serving ice cream and sharing information about the program.

PCAP is a discounted health care program offering a pay as you go solution for the uninsured. For example, our contracted rate is \$30 for a specialist visit. Our network includes over 700 local physicians and all the full-service hospitals.

It is necessary to fit within PCAP guidelines for income and you must reside in Pima County. Please call PCAP at 694-0418 if you have questions. Online at mypcap.org.

National HIV Testing Day, June 27

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Free and confidential HIV Testing will be available at the 3 following Tucson locations: Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, 375 S. Euclid Ave., COPE Community Services, 101 S. Stone Ave and Native Images, 3045 N. 1st Ave, #A

A free community event brought to you by: Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Pima County Health Department, COPE Community Services, Native Images, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network and BPositiveTucson

For more info contact David Martinez, (520)628-7223.

Pride Week: Stonewall Day on 91.3 KXCI

TUCSON (Observer Update) - 91.3 KXCI will honor the 40th Anniversary of Stonewall on Sunday, June 28 from noon to 6pm with special Stonewall Day programming. Both the schedule of on-air hosts as well as the music and content for the day will feature LGBT community members and allies, LGBT artists, their music, and history, highlights, information, and spoken pieces from and about the gay community locally, nationally, and gay pride and Stonewall Day.

Long time KXCI volunteer Mark Rosenbaum will host a special edition of "Jazz Sundae" from noon to 2pm. "Simple Folk" will feature the best of LGBTQ artists from 2pm-3pm. Our regular Sunday public affairs programs "30 Minutes with Amanda Shauger," "A View From Slightly Off Center with David Yerkey," the nationally syndicated "This Way Out" block, and "Broad Perspectives Radio with Susie B." will devote their shows to current and historic LGBTQ issues and guests.

KXCI is located at 91.3 on your FM dial, or go to kxci.org and click 'listen now' for live webstreaming.

Wingspan Seeking Nominations For The Godat Award

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Wingspan Annual Dinner is just a few months away, which means it's time to gather nominations for the Godat Award so help Wingspan recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to Southern Arizona's LGBT community.

Please nominate someone for Wingspan's Godat award by completing a Nomination Form. Nominees do not need to be connected to Wingspan. The Godat Award, named after the first recipient, Ken Godat, was inaugurated in 1998 as a way to recognize annually one person who has made outstanding long-term contributions to Southern Arizona's LGBT community. It is the most prestigious award and highest honor granted each year at the Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner. Past Godat Award winners include: Ken Godat (1998), Jean

Baker (1999), Colette Barajas (2000), Ana "Bertie" Lozano (2001), Bob Ellis (2002), Alexander John Goodrum (2003), Alan Storm (2004), Mae Krueger (2005), Craig Snow (2006), Noel Matkin (2008). No award in 2007.

Now, Wingspan is accepting nominations for the award for 2009, with winners to be honored at Wingspan's 12th Annual Benefit Dinner, on Saturday, September 26, the Tucson Convention Center. (Watch www.WingspanDinner.com for more information.)

Members of the Wingspan Board of Directors or Selection Committee are not eligible to be nominated. Wingspan Board of Directors - Paula Aboud, Kathy Altman, Carol Bradsen, David H. Braun, Leslie Carlson, Rebecca Corran, Roger Funk, Carol Galper, Cynthia Garcia, Yvette Jackson, Sean Kurysh, Brenda Limon, Kevin Maxey, Nicholas Mclain, Scott Morris, Laura Penny, Karyn Prechtel, and Alan P. Taylor. Award Selection Committee - Elizabeth Burden, Carol Galper, Andrew Held, Laura Penny, Karyn Prechtel, and Alan Taylor.

Casa Grande Officer Cleared In LGBT-Rights Protest

CASA GRANDE (Observer Update) - The Associated Press reporting on azstarnet.com that a Casa Grande police officer who ended a Gay-rights demonstration has been cleared of any wrongdoing. The department's police chief says officers will be better trained in the future in handling demonstrations and First Amendment rights.

Police Chief Robert Huddleston said he didn't think the officer engaged in misconduct, but the call could have been handled differently. "I think that as a department if we fell short, we didn't go in with a primary objective of protecting their right to demonstrate," Huddleston said. In addition to First Amendment training, the department is requiring supervisors be notified when officers respond to protests. Christopher Hall, 19, a student at Central Arizona College and president and founder of Central Arizona Rainbow Equality, said he was disappointed with the internal investigation's findings. "It means we have a lot more work ahead of us," he said.

Casa Grande Police Officer Brian Walsh was accused of threatening Gay-rights demonstrators with arrest for flying a pride flag inside city limits on April 15. Walsh's notes on the incident showed the group was "made to leave (and) warned to not obstruct the view of traffic by flying their flag." Less than a week later, Hall filed a complaint with the department, alleging his group's right to assemble was violated and that Walsh discriminated against some of them. "Straight supporters were not questioned nor harassed, but members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community were," Hall wrote.

Informing The Community



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Monday thru Friday

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

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SUNDAY JUNE 28TH, 2009

- *BAR OPEN AT NOON
- *TEA DANCE 1pm-3pm
- *BENEFIT BBQ at 2pm
- *BENEFIT DRAG SHOW 3pm
- *BENEFIT KARAOKE at 5pm
- *DANCING INSIDE at 5pm
- *KARAOKE INSIDE at 9pm
- *DANCING ON THE PATIO 9pm
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UPDATE

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Follow Up: Screw The Poor With HIV/AIDS: State DHS

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The Arizona Republic reported that the state Department of Health Services (DHS) is slashing the number of free medications it provides to poor and uninsured HIV patients because it didn't receive the level of federal funding it requested for its AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The program, which has been in place since the mid-1990s, will still cover essential anti-virals that keep patients alive and fight infections. But beginning July 1, it no longer will pay for more than 130 drugs that help patients manage the side effects of their disease. Drugs that have been cut from the coverage plan include pain-relievers, antibiotics, medications that control chronic conditions such as diabetes and high cholesterol, and psychotropic drugs that treat anxiety and depression. Most are common ailments in HIV patients.

HIV advocates and health officials worry the cuts could lead to sicker patients, an increase in hospital stays and more deaths. "The implications of this are very serious," said Jennifer Lewis, director of wellness and life management at the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS in Phoenix. "The concern is that more people will become suicidal, harm themselves and harm others because their quality of life has diminished so significantly." The program, which serves 1,100 patients throughout Arizona, including 800 in Maricopa County, costs about \$14 million annually. Roughly \$1 million of the program's budget comes from the state. The rest is paid for via a federal grant known as the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act (Part B).

DHS officials said they had hoped to receive about \$13 million in federal funding for their program. But this year, twice as many states applied for the pot of cash, which ultimately reduced Arizona's share. Arizona received \$2.3 million less than what it needed to fully fund the program, said Judy Norton, chief of the DHS' Office of HIV, STD and Hepatitis C Services. As a result, health officials decided to cut back on the number of non-essential medications they offered patients in order to provide the critical, lifesaving medications to everyone enrolled in the program.

The shortfall has left non-profits and local-government agencies scrambling to help needy clients and patients find other ways to pay for their medication. "Right now, we're just doing what we can," said Cheri Tomlinson, director of grants for the Maricopa Integrated Health System, which treats hundreds of patients enrolled in the drug-assistance program at its McDowell Healthcare Clinic. The program cuts, medical experts say, are particularly worrisome because Arizona is known as a "moderate- to high-incidence" state for HIV/AIDS infection, officials said. Roughly 13,000 Arizonans live with the virus; an additional 4,000 may have the disease but not know it, officials estimate. State vital-statistics reports show that 800 people in Arizona are diagnosed with the illness each year. As the cost of medications and health services has increased, more people have enrolled in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. In fact, the number of participants have jumped 34 percent in just two years. Patients enrolled in the drug-assistance program received letters notifying them of the changes this week.

Case managers at Care Directions, a central Phoenix non-profit that provides assistance to HIV and AIDS patients, were busy fielding calls from concerned clients. "I think (the impact) is going to be varied from person to

person," said Debby Elliott, the agency's director. "What we are most concerned about is the anti-psychotic medications. When that is left untreated, it just affects so many realms of people's lives." Caseworkers are sharing the program changes with clients and offering options for reduced-cost medications, including \$4 generics sold by many retail stores. For some patients, however, there are no generics for their expensive medications. They will need to enroll in patient-assistance programs offered by individual pharmaceutical companies, Elliott said. Maricopa Integrated Health System officials, meanwhile, have decided to enroll patients in their Copa Care program, which offers health services and medications at a reduced rate. Some patients are on as many as 18 medications a month that are no longer covered by the AIDS drug program, Tomlinson said. "People think, oh, they are still going to get their lifesaving medications, so it's OK," Tomlinson said. "But these others are critical, too. It's tough."

Planet Out, Here Networks Merge

NEW YORK, NY - Here Networks has completed a merger with the struggling PlanetOut to create a new company called Here Media, the Hollywood Reporter reported. Here targets the LGBT population through the Advocate and other magazine titles as well as through movies via Here Studios and Here Films. Other assets include a television company and online properties Gay.com and Planetout.com. Paul Colichman and Stephen Jarchow, who produced "Gods and Monsters" and other films, are CEO and chairman of the board, respectively, at Here. Also on the board is PlanetOut chairman Phil Kleweno.

Here employs 200 people in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles. It's a public company though not actively traded. PlanetOut shareholders received 20% ownership in Here. The merger preserves the remaining assets of PlanetOut, a once high-flying Internet company that had struggled with losses and debt as it ventured into offline businesses. Its shares once traded for more than \$100 apiece, but even an investment from a hedge fund controlled by Bill Gates didn't save PlanetOut from slipping into penny-stock status before Here swooped in to rescue it. When the NASDAQ delisted the stock last week, it traded at 38 cents. In the past two years, PlanetOut was raising money by selling assets, including its RSVP Vacations unit, which runs sea cruises catering to gays and lesbians, and its magazine unit, which includes the nation's oldest LGBT periodical, the Advocate.

PlanetOut acquired the Advocate, Out and other titles for \$32 million in 2004, then sold the publishing business to Here last year for just \$6.5 million, prompting howls of mismanagement from Wall Street analysts once bullish on PlanetOut. While PlanetOut's market capitalization was less than \$5 million, Here's deal valued the company at closer to \$16 million, Colichman said, by issuing special stock with downside protection of no less than \$4 a share in the case of liquidation, dissolution or a sale of Here. "Our goal is simple - to run the company real well and make the stock more valuable than \$4," he said. "We're taking incredibly valuable assets and putting them in well-managed hands to create a giant win for everybody."

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LGBT Activists Impatient With Obama And Congress

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Frustrated LGBT-rights leaders want President Barack Obama to be far more forceful in supporting their political goals, but they also fault the Democratic-led Congress and vow to step up lobbying efforts in hopes of seeing campaign promises fulfilled, reported 365Gay.com.

The two most contentious proposals on the activists' agenda - both backed by Obama during his election campaign - would extend federal recognition to same-sex partnerships and repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that bars Gays from serving openly in the military. The president says he wants to work with Congress to achieve both goals, but many Gay-rights activists contend he is moving too slowly and hesitantly. The frustration was eased only slightly, if at all, when Obama signed a memorandum Wednesday extending limited benefits to the same-sex partners of Gay federal employees.

"The atmospherics were fine, but the substance was zero," Ethan Geto, a New York-based activist and political consultant, said of the signing ceremony. Obama's problem with the Gay community, Geto said, stems largely from the high expectations raised by his campaign rhetoric. "He said the Gay-rights agenda would be a priority for his administration - and he received an enormous amount of support from the community," Geto said. "Now people are beginning to really question his commitment. ... Gay donors are running away in droves."

Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry, which campaigns nationally for Gay marriage rights, said he remains optimistic over the long term because the American public "is ready for change."

"What we need now is leadership from the president, Congress and state officials to deliver that change," he said. "I'm frustrated and disappointed that the administration has not yet delivered on the vision we share for a more equal America."

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the longest serving of the three openly Gay members of Congress, said many activists placed unrealistic expectations on Obama and underestimated the need to lobby Congress relentlessly in the style of the National Rifle Association. "It's not that Obama doesn't want to do it, but you need the votes," Frank said. "You can't complain about the president until you've called your senator."

Leaders of some national Gay-rights organizations acknowledged Frank's point. "We're working hard to secure the needed votes," said Rea Carey of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "All these issues will take work on the part of Congress as well as the president." The Gay-rights bill closest to a vote in Congress would expand the federal hate-crimes law to cover anti-Gay violence. It has passed the House and is awaiting a Senate vote, but Solmonese said its backers are proceeding cautiously, wary of possible Republican maneuvers to derail it. Later this year, action is possible on a bill that would outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

There's no timetable, however, for the pending bill to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Obama says he wants to build support for the change among military commanders before urging Congress to move ahead. Gay-rights leaders concede that Obama has his hands full with wars, recession, health care reform and other challenges, but they nonetheless feel slighted - compared to other liberal constituencies - by a president who, during the campaign, said he would be a "fierce advocate" for Gay rights. "Show us you are indeed that fierce advocate," said Jody Huckaby, executive director of Parents, Families and Friends of

Lesbians and Gays. Huckaby said he was particularly dismayed last week when Obama's Justice Department defended the Defense of Marriage Act, which allows states to reject other states' legal Gay marriages and prohibits federal recognition of any same-sex partnerships. As candidate, Obama promised to repeal the act.

On the other hand, some conservative activists continue to decry Obama's commitment to a "radical homosexual agenda" and have launched protests against some of the Gays appointed to administration jobs. The prime target at the moment is Kevin Jennings, founder of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, who has been named to oversee the Education Department's Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools. Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the responsibility for inaction on Gay-rights priorities lies with both Obama and Congress. "It's shocking to realize we still live a country where Gay and lesbian people can't serve openly in the military, have no federal protections in the private workplace, and same-sex couples are entitled to no benefits under federal law," Minter said. "There's so much anger in our community. We expect the president and Congress to move forward."

Stonewall: 40 Years Later, Gay Power (2nd in a Series)

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - The police barricaded themselves inside the bar, the crowd almost overturned their vehicles, fires were set, the streets were blocked, and violence and vandalism continued off and on for several days afterward, reported 365Gay.com. And through it all, a phrase that almost no one had ever heard or even uttered was shouted, chanted, and spray-painted all over Greenwich Village: Gay power!

In the weeks and months that followed, thousands of new Gay rights organizations sprung up all over the country, many of them in New York City. Angry and energized Gay activists, trained in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the mid-60s, began to organize, agitate, and demonstrate. And all that noise meant the newly-radicalized Gay movement received unprecedented media attention across the country.

"I read about the Stonewall rebellion in Life magazine, which had a story on the Gay rights movement," said Cleve Jones, a Harvey Milk protégé who went on to found the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. "I stole it from my high school library and hid it under the mattress like it was porn. And when I'd get home from school after getting beat up, I'd take it out from under the mattress and think, one day I'm going to San Francisco."

That story, the mere idea that queers could fight back, drive the police into hiding, and stake a claim to the same liberation that other oppressed groups had been demanding throughout the 60s, was a sea-change the pre-Stonewall homophile movement had never envisioned.

Comprised of groups like the Mattachine Society, Society for Individual Rights, and the Daughters of Bilitis, the movement been working for legal rights for Lesbians and Gay men since the 1950s.

But if you think the 2008 battle against Prop 8 in California was overly tame and devoid of images and voices of "real" Lesbians and Gay

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men, consider what passed for a demonstration in pre-Stonewall Gay America: Men in suits and ties, women in dresses and nylons, marching around quietly with neatly-lettered signs politely asking America to please not fire us from our jobs anymore.

With some exceptions, those early movement leaders were appalled at the radical style of the post-Stonewall Gay activists. Hippies, hustlers, drag queens? How did that fit in with the suits, ties, and panty hose?

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

'Why Don't You Guys Do Something?'

A woman in handcuffs was escorted from the door of the bar to the waiting police wagon several times, repeatedly escaping, fighting with the police, swearing and shouting, for about ten minutes until being hit on the head by an officer with a billy club for, as one witness claimed, complaining that her handcuffs were too tight.

Eyewitnesses stated the woman, whose identity remains unknown, sparked the crowd to fight when she looked at bystanders and shouted, "Why don't you guys do something" after an officer picked her up and heaved her into the back of the wagon, the crowd became a mob going "berserk" and the scene became "explosive," - the beginning of the Stonewall Riots on June 28, 1969, marking the birth of the modern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights movement.

Flash forward forty years and the scene is still "explosive," especially since the current administration, from which many of those politically active in the LGBT community had hopes for change, chanting "yes we can," have had nothing but disappointment five months into this new presidency.

As the woman being arrested at the Stonewall Riots, as well as others have stated in the past couple of weeks when LGBT issues, such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," full benefits and protections for LGBT federal employees, passage of a federal hate crimes law, repealing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) (not comparing LGBT families to incest but to other families - legal briefs aside) and not being counted openly and honestly in the upcoming Census has pushed the LGBT community to the forefront of the frenetic news cycle, it is time that we "do something," maintaining, protest and sustained attention.

Over time and through past examples, public pressure will get even the federal government moving forward, on issues of concern in a positive and productive manner and that has even been the case recently with LGBT issues as well.

After filing an offensive legal response to a federal lawsuit challenging the 1996 DOMA law the Department of Justice invited LGBT legal groups to a meeting to start discussions on an upcoming case that challenges the constitutionality of it - in part due to the outrage and news reports over this matter but the activism, public pressure, outrage and protest hasn't just been confined to one issue of concern.

As previously reported, the Early Treatment for HIV (ETHA), that allow states to extend Medicaid coverage to low-income individuals with the HIV virus before it advances to full-blown AIDS, is now a part of the House Health Reform Draft bill, thanks to activism and public support.

Seventy-seven Congressional members sent a letter to President Obama urging him to take immediate action to stop the investigations of "don't ask, don't tell" violations. The letter does not call for an executive order halting discharges but rather a change in how the policy is implemented within the Department of Defense, as noted in several news accounts.

Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force noted in a piece for the Huffington

Post that the Obama administration, taking the steps on its own, right now, to start fulfilling its vision of change and equality stated in the campaign and on the White House website in regard to LGBT issues, such as:

By issuing an executive order, a "stop loss" to the discharge of Gay and Lesbian servicemembers pending Congressional review, hearings and passage of the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy enacted by Congress in 1993;

Funding LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying, suicide prevention and runaway and homeless youth programs and,

Reversing the regulations that continue to throw roadblocks in the way of HIV-positive individuals who want to travel to this country, just three of the policies that the president can change with his directive, resulting in a positive impact for LGBT citizens and the country as a whole.

Perhaps the administration is getting the message, when they invited LGBT citizens and their families to the White House, Monday, June 29, to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots but according to reports, "the White House has not publicized the reception, and officials did not respond to e-mail requests for comment. But gay leaders from here and around the country said they had received either telephone calls from the White House or written invitations to the event, and were told Mr. Obama is expected to speak. ...Whether Mr. Obama will address the complaints at Monday's reception is unclear. One person who received the invitation said the White House was billing the event as a celebration, akin to the festive affairs the administration holds on St. Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo."

Forty years may have passed but LGBT citizens still have a long way to go and this isn't the time for "celebration," since what that Lesbian said while being arrested in front of the Stonewall Inn, still applies, not only to LGBT citizens but our elected officials as well.



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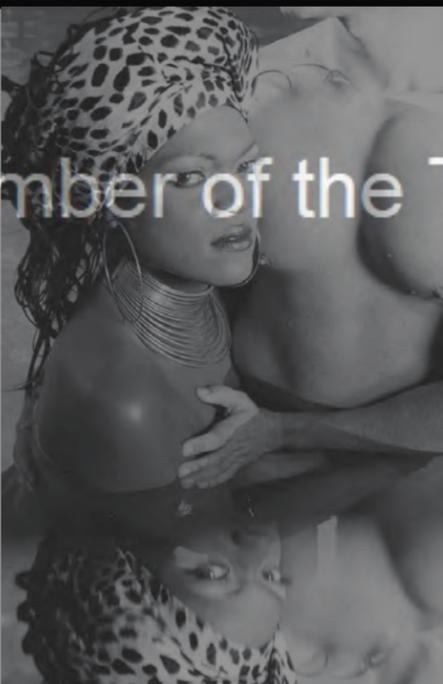
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Why The LGBT Rights Movement Has No National Leader

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Every so often, the American social order is reshuffled. And that upheaval is typically accompanied by a prominent face, reported the New York Times. Frederick Douglass became the face of the black abolitionist movement. A century later, Martin Luther King Jr. played that role in the civil rights movement. Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem became the spokeswomen for the modern women's movement. Yet the Gay rights movement, which is about to enter its fifth decade, has never had a such a leader despite making remarkable strides in a relatively short period of time.

when he was assassinated in 1978. City councils and state legislatures are where domestic partnership laws and legislation extending anti-discrimination protections to Gays and Lesbians originated. In 1982, Wisconsin became the first state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. And of the six states that now allow same-sex marriage, three - Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont - legalized the practice through a vote by the state legislature, without prodding by a court. "The issues of Gay rights are mainly state issues, so the focus for activism is going to be on the local level," said David Eisenbach, a lecturer in history at Columbia University and the author of "Gay Power: An American Revolution."

Gay people have no national standard-bearer, no go-to sound-byte machine for the media. So when President Obama last week extended benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees, there was no alpha Gay leader to respond with the movement's official voice, though some activists criticized the president for not going far enough. Until 1973, homosexuality was classified as a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association. Today, same-sex couples can marry in six states. How did a group that has been so successful over the last generation in countering cultural prejudice and winning civil rights make it so far without an obvious leader?

The shifting legal and political environment that has confronted the movement over the years has also made it difficult for a singular leader to emerge. After the Stonewall uprising 40 years ago, the goal was to persuade society to stop treating Gays and Lesbians like social deviants. That movement for equality was later overshadowed by efforts to combat AIDS in the 1980s and early 1990s. And AIDS itself is a reason leaders were hard to come by. "AIDS wiped out a whole generation," Mr. Eisenbach said. "What you have is a vacuum. And that still has not been filled." As the AIDS crisis was contained, Gay activists shifted their focus in the late 1990s and early 2000s to laws about discrimination, hate crimes and domestic partnerships. Successes on those issues were due in large part to Gay rights groups that rose up at the local level and learned to work with local lawmakers.

One explanation is that Gay and Lesbian activists learned early on that they could get along just fine without one. Even in the movement's earliest days following the violent uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village 40 years ago this week, no singular leader emerged. Some historians believe this is in part because it was - and still is - difficult for the average American to empathize with the struggles of Gay people. "The Gay movement has always had a problem of achieving a dignity or a moral imperative that the black civil rights movement had, or the women's rights movement claimed," said Dudley Clendinen, who co-wrote the book "Out for Good: The Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America" and now teaches writing at Johns Hopkins University. "Because this movement is fundamentally about the right to be sexual, it's hard for the larger public to see that as a moral issue," he said.

Until 2003, few even contemplated that Gay couples would be able to marry. Then Massachusetts' highest court ruled that Gay couples had that right under the state's Constitution, ushering in a whole new phase of the movement. Activists on the state and local levels were already well in place and found themselves positioned to wage the campaigns for same-sex marriage - as the recent successes in the Northeast have shown. "They see dispersal as a great thing, that it's better not to have a concentration or too much attention overinvested in one individual," said David J. Garrow, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian who has written about the civil rights and women's rights movements. "The speed and breadth of change has been just breathtaking," he added. "But it's happened without a Martin Luther King."

By contrast, the moral authority that leaders like Dr. King, Ms. Friedan and Ms. Steinem could claim - and the fact that Americans did not look at them and imagine their sex lives - made it easier to build respectability with the public. Another reason for the absence of a nationally prominent Gay leader is the highly local nature of the movement. Unlike the civil rights and the feminist movements, the Gay movement lacked a galvanizing national issue. In the 1950s and 1960s, black activists pushed for the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act and asserted their rights in the courts in cases like Brown v. Board of Education. Feminists campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. "Betty and her group wanted to do it from a more top-down approach," said Daniel Horowitz, a professor of American studies at Smith College who wrote a biography of Ms. Friedan. "You go to Washington and you lobby members of Congress. In fact, she talked explicitly about the N.A.A.C.P. as her model, and the N.A.A.C.P. had achieved its goals primarily through Supreme Court cases."

Many Gay activists pursued a different approach, focusing on issues pertinent to their local communities. Though he has achieved celebrity status of late, Harvey Milk was a mere San Francisco city supervisor, without much in the way of a national profile,

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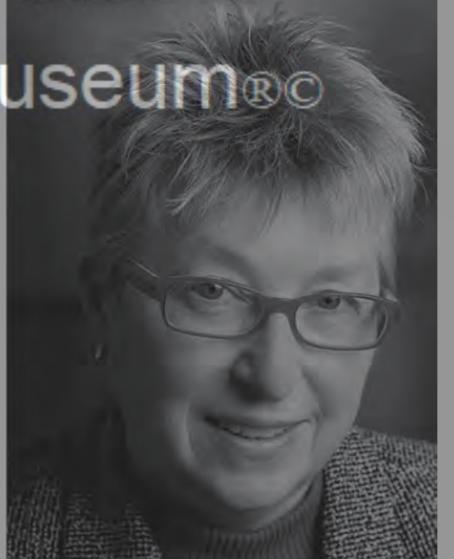
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2010 Census Will Count Same-Sex Couples

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - U.S. Census Bureau officials said that married same-sex couples will be counted as such in the 2010 national tally, reversing an earlier decision made under the Bush administration, reported the Associated Press on Huffington Post.

people living in a household and their self-reported relationships as "husband," "wife" or "unmarried partner," according to Jost. "This is about folks' identity," Jost said. "We are experienced in dealing with changing social phenomena and how to measure and report that, and we want to get it right."

Steve Jost, a spokesman for the Census Bureau, said officials already were identifying the technical changes needed to ensure the reliability of the information, but remained committed to providing an accurate tally of Gay spouses. "They will be counted, and they ought to report the way they see themselves," Jost said. "In the normal process of reports coming out after the census of 2010, I think the country will have a good data set on which to discuss this phenomenon that is evolving in this country."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called the policy change a significant step. "The census, I like to say, is on its face about numbers. But what the census is really about is telling the story of our country," said Carey, whose group has been among those lobbying the White House. "Many people, including people in the administration, are realizing just how important it is to make sure that (Lesbian and Gay) Americans are not rendered invisible."

Same-sex couples could not get married anywhere in the United States during the last decennial count. But last summer, when two states sanctioned Gay unions, the bureau said those legal marriages would go uncounted because the federal Defense of Marriage Act prevented the federal government from recognizing them.

Gary Gates, a demographer based at the University of California, Los Angeles who has been working with the bureau on the issue, said producing a reliable count of same-sex married couples is a doable, but complicated task. One issue is that some same-sex couples in civil unions or domestic partnerships already identified themselves as husbands or wives, both in the 2000 census and in the annual American Community Survey that the bureau produces each year. So the bureau needs to figure out a way either to separate those couples from legally married couples in the next census, or to create a new designation to capture both groups. "Thirty percent of same-sex couples in the year 2000 used the term 'husband' or 'wife,' and none of them were married," Gates said. "Granted, now we think maybe there are 35,000 who are legally married, but they are finding 10 times as many using that term."

Since President Barack Obama took office, his administration has been under pressure from Gay rights activists to take a fresh look at the issue. The White House on Friday announced that its interpretation of the act, known as DOMA, did not prohibit gathering the information. Gay marriage is now legal in six states, although the first weddings have not yet commenced in three of them. "The president and the administration are committed to a fair and accurate count of all Americans," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "We're in the midst of determining the best way to ensure that Gay and Lesbian couples are accurately counted."

Enumerating married Gay couples will not require any immediate changes in the census forms, which includes boxes for the genders of

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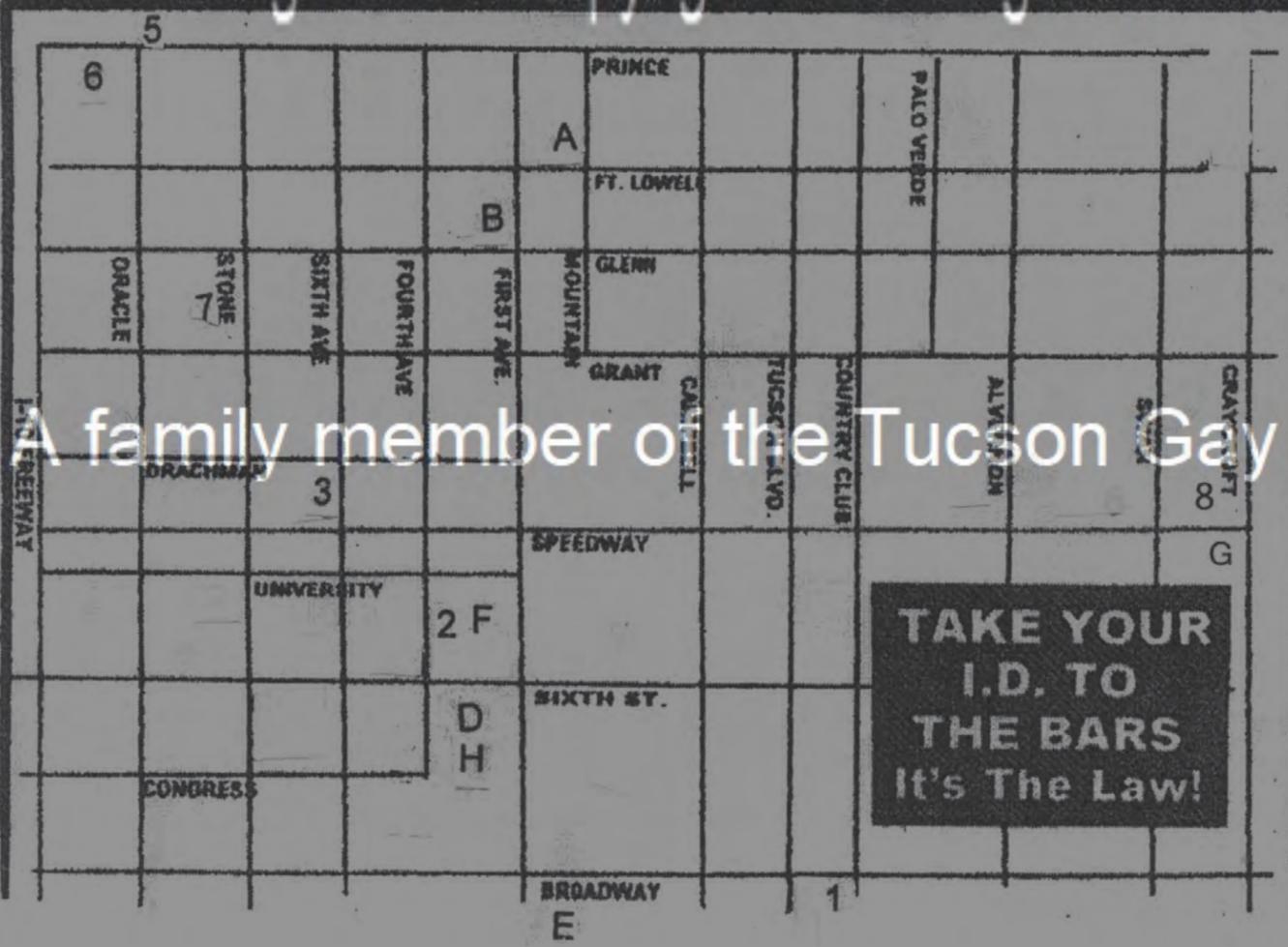
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L/G Congressional Reaction To Administration's LGBT Response

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, D-WI, appeared on The Rachel Maddow Show on Wednesday night (June 17) to discuss President Obama's signing of a presidential memorandum to give certain benefits to same-sex partners of federal



Tammy Baldwin

In the statement, Frank says: "Now that I have read the brief, I believe that the administration made a conscientious and largely successful effort to avoid inappropriate rhetoric. There are some cases where I wish they had been more explicit in disavowing their view that certain arguments were correct, and to make it clear that they were talking not about their own views of these issues, but rather what was appropriate

employees, reported advocate.com.

Baldwin, one of the LGBT leaders who attended the signing hours earlier in the Oval Office, said the memo sends a "strong message" to legislators, who must act next to grant full and equal benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees, and to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

Baldwin called the presidential memorandum, which does not grant health care and pension benefits, a "very meaningful order" that "extends certain rights in certain instances in certain agencies." She added that the presidential action gives a boost to legislation she introduced, the Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act, which would allow Gay and Lesbian federal employees to give their same-sex spouses the same benefits enjoyed by different-sex spouses of federal employees. "I think he went as far as he could go through an executive order, but now really the responsibility is on the shoulders of Congress," said Baldwin.

Rep. Barney Frank has gone from criticizing the Defense of Marriage Act brief to supporting it, advocate.com reported.

Why the 180? According to Frank, he gave his negative reaction to the brief before he'd actually read it.

Bloggers had been critical of Frank for taking five days to respond to the Department of Justice's motion to dismiss a legal challenge to DOMA. Frank then told a reporter, "I think the administration made a big mistake. The wording they used was inappropriate."

Now Frank has amended his reaction with a new statement, which can be read in its entirety here.

in a constitutional case with a rational basis standard - which is the one that now prevails in the federal courts, although I think it should be upgraded."

Out U.S. representative Jared Polis, D-CO, urged the Obama administration to explain its recent decision to uphold a federal ban on same-sex marriage and the Justice Department brief filed on June 12 defending the law.

"I was shocked and disappointed to learn that President Obama chose to defend DOMA in federal court, especially given his campaign promise to call for a full repeal of DOMA," Polis said in a statement. "My sadness turned to outrage when I read the Justice Department's brief that not only defended this hurtful law but seemed to embrace it. Comparing my loving relationship with my partner, Marlon, to incest was unconscionable coming from a president who has called for change."

The Department of Justice filed the brief on behalf of the Obama administration defending the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act from a federal lawsuit filed by a couple married in California.

Despite his request, Polis said no one from the administration has replied. Polis, a Colorado Democrat, said that similar moves by the administration will risk alienating LGBT voters.

"President Obama needs to honor his promise to repeal this law and end its needlessly divisive and harmful impact on our nation," he added. "I again call on him to work with us in Congress to help pass legislation, ending this hateful and divisive law."



Barney Frank

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BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ Seattle To Release Names Of Gay And Lesbian Workers

SEATTLE, WA (Observer Update) - After a Seattle City Light employee filed for the release of the names of Gay and Lesbian city workers involved in a city-sponsored club earlier in the month, the city of Seattle reluctantly did the same. The city is claiming the state public-records act requires the names to be released, reported 365Gay.com.

Philip Irvin, a self-proclaimed civil rights leader who was thwarted in his attempts to create a city-sponsored group of ex-Gay employees, asked earlier this month for the names of

employees associated with the department's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Friends Club. Members of the club sued to prevent their names from being released claiming it would violate their privacy.

"The city sympathizes with the concerns that plaintiffs have expressed," Assistant City Attorney Gary T. Smith said in court documents. "Nonetheless, the city believes that the Public Records Act obligates it to disclose the records at issue."

GA .Court Tosses G/L Visitation Ban In Divorce Case

ATLANTA, GA (Observer Update) - The Georgia Supreme Court tossed out a trial judge's order that banned children in a divorce case from having any contact with their father's Gay and Lesbian friends and partners, and added strong language calling the restriction an abuse of the judge's discretion, 365Gay.com reported.

The court's unanimous opinion, written by Justice Robert Benham, concluded that the Fayette County judge's order "flies in the face of our public policy that encourages divorced parents to participate in the raising of their children." It was applauded by Gay

rights advocates in Georgia who viewed the ruling as a commonsense answer to a decision they say was rooted in decades-old misconceptions about Gays and Lesbians.

The top court's stern language seemed to surprise the father's attorney, who said he was encouraged the justices didn't take an easier route by simply ruling that they wouldn't interfere with a parent's rights. "That's a strong message. That was more than I expected," said the attorney, Hannibal Heredia. "It made me feel that they wanted to have that out there - they're putting their necks on the line."

Maine G/L Marriage Foes Hire Calif. Prop. 8 Firm

PORTLAND, ME (Observer Update) - Gay marriage foes in Maine have hired the public relations firm that led the successful Proposition 8 proposal to overturn same-sex marriage in California, while supporters have turned to a legislative aide who led a successful campaign to retain Maine's Gay rights law, reported 365Gay.com. Schubert Flint Public Affairs will provide guidance to the campaign to repeal Maine's Gay marriage law, just as it did during the Proposition 8 campaign in California.

Meanwhile, Maine Freedom to Marry has hired Jesse Connolly, who's taking a leave of absence as chief of staff to House Speaker Hannah Pingree. Connolly, of South Portland, led Maine Won't Discriminate's successful 2005 campaign to keep the state's Gay rights law. Connolly said his political action committee has no specific fundraising

goal but is preparing for a high-profile and costly campaign. There will be direct mail and media advertising, but there will also be plenty of one-on-one conversations with voters, he said. "This is going to be a campaign that a lot of folks are going to try to say has national implications," Connolly said.

Maine was the fifth state to approve Gay marriages when Gov. John Baldacci signed the legislation on May 6. New Hampshire later followed suit, so all New England states except Rhode Island now permit same-sex couples to marry. Iowa also allows it. In Maine, the law goes into effect in September unless, before then, opponents collect the signatures of at least 55,087 registered voters. If so, the law will be put on hold pending a statewide referendum that could be held as early as Election Day in November.

Referendum To D.C.'s Recognition Of Same-Sex Marriages Rejected

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - LGBT rights activists celebrated as the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics rejected an attempted referendum on whether Washington should recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere, the Chicago Tribune reports.

The board upheld the decision made by the city council last month which allows same-sex marriages per-

formed outside D.C. to be recognized within the nation's capital. The board said the referendum is in violation of D.C.'s Human Rights Act, as it would cause discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported 365Gay.com.

"This is the ruling that we were expecting, but I'm still thrilled about it," said Richard Rosendall of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance. "This is a big step toward marriage equality here in D.C."

POET'S CORNER

OBAMA'S PAJAMAS
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Obama's Pajamas, Smithsonian Bound
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Jubilation Muted On California G/L Marriage Anniversary

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - Jonathan Abernethy-Deppe vividly remembers the bustling city clerk's office and the happiness of fellow couples a year ago when California began granting same-sex marriage licenses, reported 365Gay.com. But he and his now-husband, David, say their first anniversary won't be nearly as jubilant. Last month the state Supreme Court upheld a Gay-marriage ban while allowing about 18,000 such marriages that occurred last year to stand.

Abernethy-Deppe said that's put him and his husband in the uncomfortable position of celebrating a right many of their friends don't have. "We have a debate between us about whether or not we should even accept the benefits that we have from our marriage as long as there are people being discriminated against," he said. While his husband would rather opt out of the benefits for now, Abernethy-Deppe wants to "take advantage of every benefit and push it to its farthest extent and prove that same-sex marriage is a benefit to society."

Tom Felkner and his husband, Bob Lehman, said they're equally ambivalent about their upcoming anniversary. "Had we not have lost Prop. 8, I think there would be a lot more celebrating on the one-year anniversary," Felkner said. "Unfortunately, all of our energies have gone into our disappointment and not celebrating people gaining their civil rights and gaining their equality." In the weeks since the Supreme Court's May 26 decision to uphold Proposition 8, Gay marriage proponents have turned their attention toward rallying support for a planned 2010 ballot initiative seeking to again legalize same-sex nuptials.

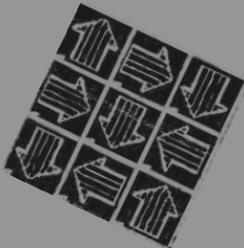
Meanwhile, two federal lawsuits filed on behalf of Gay couples seek to put the issue before the U.S. Supreme Court, including one by famed attorneys Theodore Olson and David Boies, who opposed each other in the 2000 presidential election challenge, Bush v. Gore. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, one of the named defendants, filed his response to the complaint filed by Olson and Boies, saying the lawsuit "presents important constitutional questions that require and warrant judicial determination." The "filing

by Gov. Schwarzenegger bolsters our call for a swift end to the constitutionally intolerable situation created by Proposition 8," said Chad Griffin, board president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, the organization backing the plaintiffs.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown, another defendant, filed his response, saying he agrees that Proposition 8 "imposed a special disability on Gays and Lesbians and their families on the basis of sexual orientation" in violation of the U.S. Constitution's promise of equal protection and due process. Schwarzenegger didn't elaborate on the merits of the lawsuit. As part of their statewide campaign for the 2010 ballot, Gay rights groups say they want to focus on reaching out to more conservative parts of the state that carried Proposition 8 in the last election, as well as protecting existing same-sex marriages.

"Their presence in California serves to show that married gay couples don't cause any problems," said Jennifer Pizer, director of the marriage project at Lambda Legal, which argued against Proposition 8 before the California Supreme Court. Equality California and California Faith for Equality commemorated the anniversary of the first same-sex weddings Tuesday with a gathering at the First Unitarian Universalist Society's church in San Francisco.

Among those who spoke to the crowd of about 50 people was Anne Marks, who married her same-sex partner last year. She said the happiness same-sex couples felt a year ago has faded. "(It) has changed to sadness because there are thousands of committed couples who are prevented by the law from taking the important and vital step (my partner and I) were able to take in our relationship," she said.



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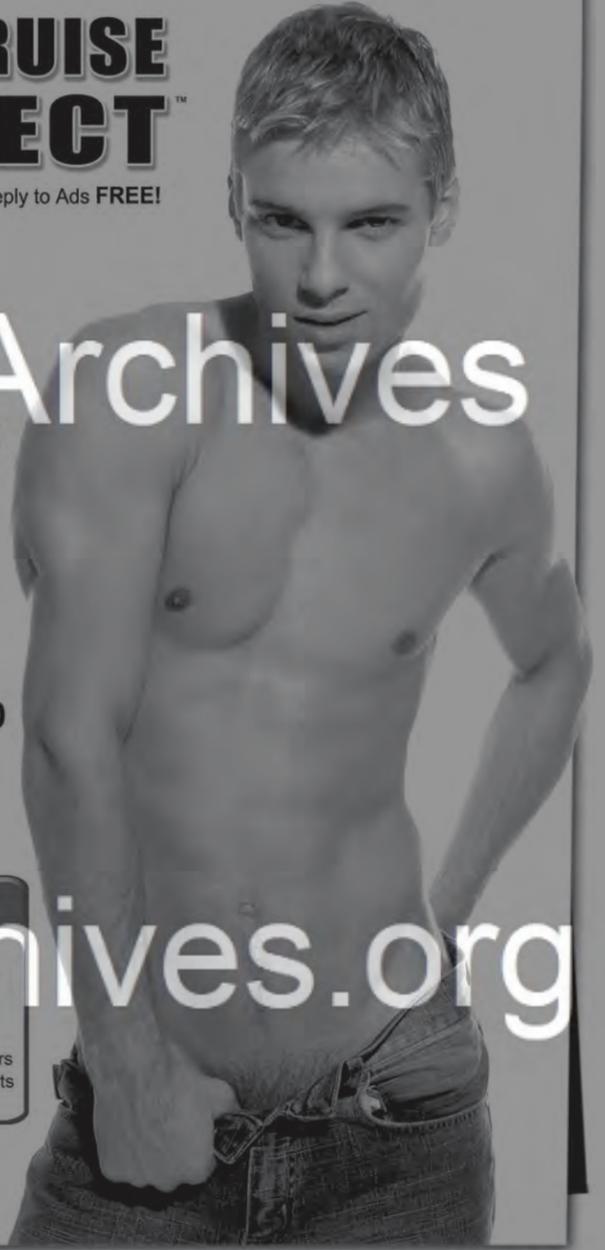
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President Obama's Statement On L/G Federal Benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Remarks by the President (delivered June 17) at the signing of a Presidential memorandum regarding federal benefits and non-discrimination.

The President: Well, today I'm proud to issue a presidential memorandum that paves the way for long-overdue progress in our nation's pursuit of equality. Many of our government's hard-working, dedicated, and patriotic public servants have long been denied basic rights that their colleagues enjoy for one simple reason - the people that they love are of the same sex.

Currently, for example, LGBT federal employees can't always use sick leave to care for their domestic partners or their partners' children. Their partners aren't covered under long-term care insurance. Partners of American Foreign Service officers abroad aren't treated the same way when it comes to the use of medical facilities or visitation rights in case of an emergency. These are just some of the wrongs that we intend to right today.

In consultation with Secretary of State Clinton, as well as OPM Director John Berry, my administration has completed a long and thorough review to identify a number of areas where we can extend federal benefits to the same-sex partners of Foreign Service and executive branch government employees. I'm requesting that Secretary Clinton and Director Berry do so where possible under existing law - and that the heads of all executive departments and agencies conduct reviews to determine where they may do the same.

Hundreds of Fortune 500 companies already offer such benefits not only because it's the right thing to do, but because they recognize that it helps them compete for and retain the best possible talent - and we need top talent serving their country right now more than ever.

Now, under current law, we cannot provide same-sex couples with the full range of benefits enjoyed by heterosexual married couples. That's why I'm proud to announce my support for the Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act, crucial legislation that will guarantee these rights for all federal employees.

I want to thank Representative Tammy Baldwin, who is behind me somewhere - there she is, right there - for her tireless leadership on this bill and in the broader struggle for equality. I want to thank Senator Joe Lieberman - Joe is here - as well as Susan Collins for championing this bill in the Senate; and Representative Barney Frank for his leadership on this and so many other issues - in fact, this is his second trip to the White House today. (Laughter.) It's a day that marks a historic step towards the changes we seek, but I think we all have to acknowledge this is only one step. Among the steps we have not yet taken is to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. I believe it's discriminatory, I think it interferes with states' rights, and we will work with Congress to overturn it.

We've got more work to do to ensure that government treats all its citizens equally; to fight injustice and intolerance in all its forms; and to bring about that more perfect union. I'm committed to these efforts, and I pledge to work tirelessly on behalf of these issues in the months and years to come. Thank you very much everybody, and with that I am going to sign this executive order. (The memorandum is signed.) (Applause.)



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.saaaf.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>

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*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, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 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 \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

A BAD CALL ON GAY RIGHTS

The Obama administration, which came to office promising to protect Gay rights but so far has not done much, actually struck a blow for the other side last week. It submitted a disturbing brief in support of the Defense of Marriage Act, which is the law that protects the right of states to not recognize same-sex marriages and denies same-sex married couples federal benefits. The administration needs a new direction on Gay rights.

A Gay couple married under California law is challenging the act in federal court. In its brief, the Justice Department argues that the couple lack legal standing to do so. It goes on to contend that even if they have standing, the case should be dismissed on the merits.

The brief insists it is reasonable for states to favor heterosexual marriages because they are the "traditional and universally recognized form of marriage." In arguing that other states do not have to recognize same-sex marriages under the

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, June 24

THE BIZ - Pitch Black Pride Party with glow sticks to everyone thru the doors. \$1 Jello Shots 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. and \$200 Bud Lights from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Friday, June 26

WOODY'S - Tori Steel's 'Cover Girl Revue' begins at 10:00p.m.

YARD DOG SALOON - Pride Week Tequila Party at 5:00 p.m. with party favors.

Saturday, June 27

WOODY'S - A Brandt and Brandt Production of "The Wett Party" at 8:30 p.m. with your hostess KiKi and starring Falcon Studio's newest star Luke Marcum with live performances at 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. with hot dancing guys. \$5 Cover at the door.

Friday, July 3

VENTURE-N - Traditional Complimentary Barbeque from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 4

VENTURE-N - Patio open for daytime sun tanners.

Sunday, July 5

VENTURE-N - Burger BBQ from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, the Justice Department cites decades-old cases ruling that states do not have to recognize marriages between cousins or an uncle and a niece.

These are comparisons that understandably rankle many Gay people. In a letter to President Obama on Monday, Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a Gay rights organization, said, "I cannot overstate the pain that we feel as human beings and as families when we read an argument, presented in federal court, implying that our own marriages have no more constitutional standing than incestuous ones."

The brief also maintains that the Defense of Marriage Act represents a "cautious policy of federal neutrality" – an odd assertion since the law clearly discriminates against Gay couples. Under the act, same-sex married couples who pay their taxes are ineligible for the sort of federal benefits – such as Social Security survivors' payments and joint tax returns – that heterosexual married couples receive.

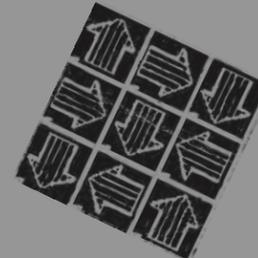
In the presidential campaign, President Obama declared that he would work to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act. Now, the administration appears to be defending it out of a sense of obligation to support a validly enacted Congressional law. There is a strong presumption that the Justice Department will defend federal laws, but it is not an inviolable rule.

If the administration does feel compelled to defend the act, it should do so in a less hurtful way. It could have crafted its legal arguments in general terms, as a simple description of where it believes the law now stands. There was no need to resort to specious arguments and inflammatory language to impugn same-sex marriage as an institution.

The best approach of all would have been to make clear, even as it defends the law in court, that it is fighting for Gay rights. It should work to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," the law that bans Gay men and Lesbians in the military from being open about their sexuality. It should push hard for a federal law banning employment discrimination. It should also work to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act in Congress.

The administration has had its hands full with the financial crisis, health care, Guantánamo Bay and other pressing matters. In times like these, issues like repealing the marriage act can seem like a distraction – or a political liability. But busy calendars and political expediency are no excuse for making one group of Americans wait any longer for equal rights.

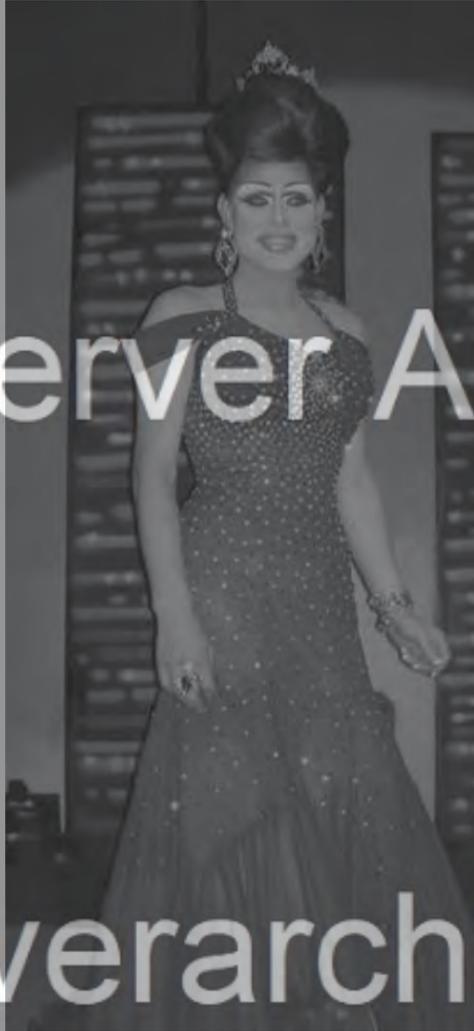
(The following was an editorial from the New York Times, June 15 edition from which this is reprinted.)



At The Miss Gay Arizona Pageant. Congratulations TC Taylor



L to R: Mya McKenzie (Miss Gay Arizona America 2007); Chane Jordan (Miss Gay Arizona America 2003); TC Taylor (Miss Gay Arizona America 2009); Bunny Fu Fu, (Miss Gay Arizona America 2004); and Barbra Seville (Miss Gay Arizona America 2000)



And The Winner Is
Miss Gay Arizona America 2009,
TC Taylor



Victoria DuPaula
Miss Gay America 2009



L to R: Candi Colee (2nd Alternate); Celebrity Starr (1st Alternate); TC Taylor (Miss Gay Arizona America 2009); Naomi St. James (3rd Alternate); and Diva (4th Alternate).

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MORE GOOD NEWS

P.X. book and novelty store, live disco, free beer Wednesdays, etc. etc. etc.....There is so much going on in Tucson on Sundays from brunches to volley ball to dinner to dance contests you have to have a pair of track shoes to make it all.....New exercise equipment coming to the BACK DOOR BATHS any day now.....GRADUATE announces all the draft beer you can drink for \$1.00 Sunday afternoons from 3 to 5. Now get those track shoes on and make it.....

EDITORIAL

At last, liaison between Tucson Police Department and the Gay Community is a reality. Under the guidance of Lt. Fuller, Officers Ken Magoch and Mark Thomas have been assigned to the Gay establishments. They will be patrolling the parking lots, checking people loitering around outside, and most important introducing themselves. In a brief interview Ken and Mark stated they were available for questions and wanted the Gay Community to know that reporting any problems to them will be handled discreetly. When you see these two uniformed men in the bars, try to get acquainted and you will find out that they are two really great guys.

While it is not the policy or intention of TGN to criticize or ridicule others, we do intend to publish any untruths printed or spoken.

Referring to the Tucson Gay Coalition Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 1 Open Letter, among other discrepancies, three items should be mentioned. (1) Tom Seward and Stonewall have never filed police harrasment charges, on the contrary Seward has constantly worked with the Tucson Police for better relations. (2) Women have never been charged double prices for any thing at any time. (3) If a cease and desist order was ever issued, it was never served on Mr. Seward or the Stonewall.

This letter to the Editor of the Wildcat was full of distorted information. Why not print the truth backed up with facts.

GAY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY - OCT. 6

BACK POCKET: Beer Bust
STONEWALL: Beer Bust and disco DJ Rick Norkan
P.S. CLUB: After hours, FREE BEER, dancing to juke box, movies, and other things.

THURSDAY - OCT. 7

GRADUATE: 50¢ well and beer bust, 7 p.m.
LUCKY PIERRE: 50¢ well and beer bust, 8 p.m.
BACK POCKET: 25¢ spaghetti all you can eat, 9 p.m. At 10 p.m. till closing two-bit whore nite, 2nd drink 25¢.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - OCT 8 - 9

LUCKY PIERRE: All the draft beer you can drink \$1.00 - 7 to 9. (FRIDAY ONLY) TGIF
STONEWALL: Disco - No Cover - No Minimum.
P.S. CLUB: After hours dancing to live disco
BACK DOOR BATHS: Open all night. etc...

SUNDAY - OCT. 10

No matter what time you get up, check the time..

1:00	Champagne to Brunch	\$1.69 at	LUCKY PIERRE'S
3:00	By Allen		
3:00	All the to draft beer	\$1.00 at	Dede's GRADUATE
5:00	you can drink		
5:00	Volleyball		
6:00	Steak Dinner	\$1.50 at	BACK POCKET
8:00	25¢ draft		
8:30	Live band Saguaro starring Carolyn "Big Mama" Duncan	at	LUCKY PIERRE'S
10:00	Bare Chest Night Half price drinks	at	BACK POCKET
10:00	Live disco and dance contest	at	STONEWALL
10:30	"The Point" movie (one time only)		

MONDAY - OCT. 11

LUCKY PIERRE: Beer bust. 15¢ draft beer 8:00pm

TUESDAY - OCT 12

GRADUATE 50¢ well and 25¢ draft 7:00 p.m.

ALL BARS HAVE COCKTAIL HOURS.
ALL DRINKS DISCOUNTED.



Kenneth Blake,
Miss Gay Arizona America 1998



Vivika De Angelo
Miss Gay Tucson America 2009