Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER | July 1, 2009 | ISSUE 1301

Tucson Observer Archives

Obama Commemorates Stonewall

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama Monday (June 29), with First Lady Michelle Obama standing at his side, delivered a sweeping, nearly 20-minute speech that paid tribute to the LGBT movement and promised concrete steps toward equality would be taken during his administration.

"I want you to know that I expect and hope to be judged not by words, not by promises I've made, but by the promises that my administration keeps," Obama said to the applause of about 250 attendees midway through his speech. The president acknowledged the frustration felt by many LGBT activists who have felt that his administration has not moved quickly enough on key pieces of legislation, such as repealing "don't ask, don't tell" and overturning the Defense of Marriage Act. "We've been in office six months now," he said in an assured, matter-of-fact tone, "and I suspect that by the time this administration's over, you guys will have pretty good feelings about the Obama administration."

On policy, the president called on Congress to repeal what he called the "so-called" Defense of Marriage Act, but he also stopped short of repudiating the Justice Department's brief supporting DOMA, which drew intense reaction from activists when it was filed earlier this month. "I want to add, we have a duty to uphold existing law, but I believe we must do so in a way that does not exacerbate old divides," he said, "and fulfilling this duty and upholding the law in no way lessens my commitment to reversing this law."

Obama also urged passage of Domestic Partner Benefits and Obligations Act, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and a fully inclusive Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes bill. The president reiterated his campaign contention that the discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy undermines the effectiveness of the nation's military. "In fact, I believe preventing patriotic Americans from serving their country weakens our national security," he said to cheers from the crowd. "Now, my administration is already working with the Pentagon and members of the House and the Senate on how we'll go about ending this policy, which will require an act of Congress."

Obama admitted that each passing day that finds no resolution to the ban brings "deep disappointment" to those who continue to be discharged. But he also seemed to dismiss the idea of issuing an executive order to suspend the policy in the short term. "As commander in chief, in a time of war, I do have a responsibility to see that this change is administered in a practical way and a way that takes over the long term" he said, adding that he has asked the secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs chairman to develop a plan for implementing repeal.

Obama detailed the birth of the modern LGBT movement outside the Stonewall Inn in 1969 before reaching his conclusion. "The truth is when these folks protested at Stonewall 40 years ago no one could have imagined that you – or, for that matter, I – would be standing here today," he said. "So we are all witnesses to monumental changes in this country. That should give us hope, but we cannot rest. We must continue to do our part to make progress – step by step, law by law, mind by changing mind. And I want you to know that in this task I will not only be your friend, I will continue to be an ally and a champion and a president who fights with you and for you."

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Observer Fund Raiser A Smashing Success

It was a busy weekend for the Observer staff this weekend. It began on Friday evening with a fund raiser hosted by the folks at Coyote Moon. The crowd gathered early in the evening there and were entertained by a great show and of course, the raffle tickets, etc were carried out during the performances. Observer thanks Libby and Pat and the entire gang there who put this event on. From the loud applause from the audience, they were enjoying the entertainment as well.

On Sunday, an extravaganza was held at IBT's with all proceeds going to Observer. Several weeks in the planning stage made this event go on without a hitch. From the opening at 2:00 p.m. people began arriving and continued to fill the building and patio with a feeling of warmth and camaraderie. Many were 'Old Timers' who remembered the paper from its beginning and offered their best wishes as well as their donations.

Entitled "Observe The Cause", this affair had something for everyone. From a benefit Drag Show to live and silent auctions as well as raffles galore. Art from members of the community as well as Observer's own Gary Clark were auctioned off throughout the afternoon. One of the most unusual and entertaining features was a pictorial on the big screen TV of photos from the Observer archives from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and 00s. It drew a lot of people to view it all day and evening.

The benefit Drag Show was hosted by two of Tucson's Best - Bunny FuFu and Ajia Simone.. Also appearing were Tori Steele, Diva, China Collins and a special duet with Courtney Roxoff and Haw A/C. These girls gave the throng a good taste of four decades of music and fun. During the show there was a DJ on the patio who played music of the 70s-80s-90s and 00s.
And kept the crowd in a dancing mood.

Following the Drag Show there was Karaoke on the Patio with host Robin. But this was not your normal karaoke! Pay $1 donation to sing a song. However if someone in the audience deemed your performance unworthy they had the option to pay $5 to "Gong" you. Even better, someone could counter this offer and pay $10 to 'keep you singing". All in all it was lots of fun and some playful bickering ensued.

Throughout the afternoon customers had the opportunity to bid on a variety of items during the silent auction. There was a large selection of art pieces, products, services and more from contributors inside and out of the LGBT community. Also during Karaoke on the Patio, Bunny FuFu and Ajia Simone hosted a live auction featuring some beautiful art. The entire staff of IBT's as well as the female impersonators donated their time and tips to the "Cause".

The Observer is forever indebted to The Moon as well as IBT's for hosting this fund raising weekend. Special thanks go to Natalie Perry, Heather Moroso, Steve Barretto, Hal Bardach, SAAF, Wingspan, TIHAN, Colors food & Spirits, Mike Lopez, Rick Young and Tom Galloway of Tile Canvasas, Scott Trosper, Gayle Whitley, KRQ, Starbucks, Antigone Books, Elements Salon, Silverbell Nursery, Mitch Edwards, Head of Style, Bella Eibenstiener, Backfire Chiropractic, Arizona Theatre Company, Ray Scott's Automotive, Old Town Artisans, Invisible Theatre, Alec Laughlin, Eddie Gallegos, 'N Touch and Wayne Rodegeiz and Bill Travis. Desert Fades, Dwayne Hough, Steven Alexander, What's In A Name Heraldry of Tucson, Jeremy Isajiw, Alvaro DeAsis, Terry Delaney, Troy Terpening, DJ Hurricane, DJ Luis, Bunny FuFu and Ajia Simone, China Collins, Tori Steele, Diva, Ben Cook, Stan Phelps, Mike Vaughn, and to all who donated during this special event. Ands, of course, Mike Kramkowski of IBT's.

The cash-strapped Observer is indebted to everyone who donated to "The Cause". It was in peril of closing down but is in fair shape and able to pay off some accrued bills. The Coyote Moon raised over $400 for us and the IBT's event raised over $5,000. Thank You!

NBC Affiliate Airs Anti-Gay Special

TAMPA, FL (Observer Update) - An incendiary one-hour special that claims Gay people are attempting to subvert and convert America aired Saturday afternoon (June 28) on an NBC affiliate in Tampa, Fla.

To add insult to injury, the special, titled Silencing Christians, aired the same day that nearby St. Petersburg celebrated Gay Pride. The special concerned the "homosexual agenda" and the civil rights advances that Gays and Lesbians have made in recent years. Quoting people like Wendy Wright – the president of the antiGay group Concerned Women for America – the special claims Gay teachers, Washington insiders, and Hollywood executives are covertly working to change opinions on Gays by promoting tolerance, advancing LGBT legislation, and introducing Gay characters in television and movie scripts.

The special also advanced the idea that Gays can be "converted" to heterosexuals. WFLA News Channel 8 was flooded with angry phone calls and e-mails on Saturday, according to Tampa Bay Online. Mike Pumo, WFLA general manager and president, told TBO.com that the special has aired on other stations around the country and that the content did not "raise a red flag" during the vetting procedure.

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UPDATE

TIHAN Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Wednesday, July 15, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., Tucsonans are invited to treat themselves to beauty, style, and relaxation at the Robert Markley Salon Spa and the programs of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will benefit, too! Pampering may include a massage, facial, waxing, or hair cut/ style/ treatment/ color, and the salon will donate ALL proceeds (including tips) to support TIHAN's programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. The salon spa is located at the Plaza at Williams Centre, 5350 East Broadway Boulevard (just west of Craycroft) Suite 160. To make an appointment for this special July 15 event, call Robert Markley Salon Spa at 520-747-1388.

"We hope to have the salon filled with that night with men and women who are transforming themselves with great spa/salon services, while at the same time helping transform the lives of our clients through our programs," said Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN. "Come get more beautiful, and help build a more beautiful and compassionate community." TIHAN is the largest privately-funded provider of support services for people living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Arizona. In 2008, TIHAN's education and awareness programs reached more than 5,000 people through presentations, sermons, spoken announcements, and information tables at community events and another 36,000 through faith community bulletins and newsletters. TIHAN's volunteer-based support programs served 267 people living with HIV/AIDS in 2008. Its Poz Café lunch program is the largest regular gathering place for people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona, having served over 10,000 meals to more than 500 people living with HIV/AIDS. ...

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) seeks your assistance with our active search for qualified applicants for two current openings: Administrative Assistant (30 hours/week) - must have experience coordinating volunteers, managing office operations, and proficiency with Microsoft Office programs, especially Microsoft Access Kitchen/Menu Supervisor for Poz Cafe (15 hours/month) - must have experience coordinating volunteers as well as planning and preparing nutritious meals for 125-150 people once a month, ensuring compliance with health department guidelines (must be available on the third Thursday of each month for our Poz Cafe monthly luncheon for people living with HIV/AIDS)

For complete job descriptions, minimum qualifications, and instructions for applying, visit tihan.org and click on "Job Openings." (Due to funding constraints, these positions have reduced hours.) For more information, visit www.tihan.org or contact Scott Blades, Executive Director, (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

Wingspan Seeking Nominations For The Godat Award

TUCSON (Observer Udate) - 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.

TLGBTCC Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The July breakfast meeting for the Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,Transgender Chamber of Commerce will take place on Thursday, July 16, 7:30 a.m., at the Hotel Tucson City Center Conference Suite Resort (formerly the Inn Suites), 475 N. Granada Ave.

Networking for Success: How to expand your networking reach in the Chamber and beyond. This presentation will help us all to better connect to one another and to use all available tools to expand our businesses and organizations. Bring your 30 second "elevator speech" and a description of your perfect customer!

RSVP by Monday July 13 by 12:00 noon, (520) 615-6436 or info@tucsonglbtchamber.org.

Mark The Date For Wingspan's Annual Dinner

TUCSON (Observer Update) - This year's community celebration will feature Wingspan's annual awards as well as Southern Arizona's first look into the future of Wingspan.

This year's dinner will take place Saturday, September 26, 5:30 p.m., at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church.

Get ready to be motivated by our future and laugh as you enjoy the performance of the Kinsey Sicks, America's favorite dragapella beautyshop quartet. Mix and mingle with friends old and new for this very special night on the town!

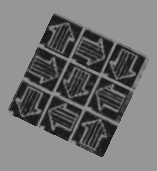
For more information, contact Mike Herdegen (520) 624-1779, mherdegen@wingspan.org, wingspandinner.com.

Layoffs At Logo

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - MTV Networks laid off 50 employees, and some of those let go worked for Logo, the network's LGBT channel, reported advocate.com. The cuts – which totaled 1% of MTV Networks' workforce – follow the axing of 850 jobs in December at MTV Networks, which also operates VH1, BET, and CMT.

Logo representative Brett Henne released the following statement: "As evidenced by many companies, the current economic climate dictates that we continue to look for more efficiencies in how we run our businesses. These are difficult decisions that need to be made in order to better position us for future growth."

Henne pointed out that the network has a lot of new programs in the pipeline, including the second season of the popular reality show RuPaul's Drag Race, which will debut in early 2010.



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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Stonewall: The Courage To Fight Back

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - "That's exactly the piece of the Stonewall story that's been an inspiration to me," said Transgender activist and actress Calpernia Addams. "In a time when it was not safe to openly express who they were, these marginalized people - Gay men, trans people in various stages of transitioning - all had the courage to fight back. They reached the point that night where they said, no more."

Stonewall might have been the LGBT movement's most famous riot, but it wasn't the first. Nor was it the last. Ten years later, rioting broke out in San Francisco after former Supervisor Dan White received a near-slap on the wrist for killing the city's first out Gay supervisor, Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone, 365Gay.com reported in this conclusion of a three part series. "It's a bizarre set of coincidences that on the thirtieth anniversary of the murders of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, we'd have a film opening about Harvey's life," said Jones. "Then on the thirtieth anniversary of the White Night Riots, law enforcement was apparently concerned the news about the Prop 8 decision would spark a repeat of those riots. And now with progress in multiple states and setbacks in California, it's all coming to a head on the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion that launched the modern Gay rights movement."

Today, the legacy of Stonewall is everywhere. A march held in Greenwich Village to commemorate the riots became the annual Pride events celebrated in cities all over the world today, and "Stonewall" is part of the name of dozens of LGBT political groups. What's more, the thousands of Gay and Lesbian political organizations that emerged in the wake of Stonewall became the driving force behind Harvey Milk's fight for public office and against anti-Gay legislation in California in the 1970s. It inspired ACT-UP and all the angry, politically savvy organizing around HIV/AIDS in the 80s and 90s, and it continues to drive protests and demonstrations for marriage equality, where signs reminding us that "Stonewall was a riot" wave in the air next to those reading "Everyone deserves the right to marry."

The legacy is even there in the fear being whipped up in the wake of the passage of Prop 8 by the religious right, the drumbeat that Gay people would - or did - riot, destroy property, vandalize churches, and even commit violence against people who supported the measure. "When I was coming out it was illegal for us to dance together. It was a felony to have sex," Jones told me. "The idea of full equality wasn't on anyone's agenda. There was a long list of inequalities we could read from to underscore how screwed up it was, but the early organizing I was involved in was mostly around creating safe places where Gay people could meet and socialize and dance without being in Mafia bars and hauled off to the police. We've come a long way since then."

Top Stonewall Cop: Raid Was 'Right'

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Nearly 40 years to the day have passed since the Stonewall riots that sparked the modern LGBT rights movement, but the New York City police officer who led the pivotal bar raid in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, maintains that the operation had little to do with Gay people, and everything to do with following orders.

NYPD deputy inspector Seymour Pine, now 89, joined a special broadcast of The Brian Lehrer Show on WNYC-FM that looked back at the Stonewall riots. Guests also included Stonewall veterans Danny Garvin and Tommy Lanigan-Schmidt and historian David Carter. When pressed about the motivation for the raid, Pine, speaking by telephone, said, "I don't think not liking Gay people had anything to do with it." Instead, the former member of NYPD's vice and gambling unit listed complaints from the community about the Stonewall Inn that included Mafia connections, dirty drink glasses, and the violation of contemporary dress codes. (Earlier, panelist Garvin mentioned the preponderance of "flame queens" at the establishment.)

While Pine acknowledged that the Stonewall Inn in the West Village was known as a "Gay headquarters," he sounded genuinely confused when asked whether any anti Gay bias existed among police officers on the streets at the time. "I'm sorry, I didn't get that," said Pine. Audience members, who were present in the studio for the live broadcast, chuckled. Finally, host Lehrer asked Pine directly, "Do you think that the police were on the side of right?"

"Yes, of course," Pine answered. "When we took the action that we took that night, we were on the side of right. We never would have done something without supervision from the federal authorities and the state authorities. They were involved with this just as well as we were."

Mass. Ex-Senator To Head GLAAD

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - A Gay former state lawmaker who fought a personal and political battle to help Massachusetts become the first state to legalize Gay marriage has been appointed head of a national Gay rights group, 365Gay.com reported.

Former Sen. Jarrett Barrios tearfully shared stories of his family during debate on a proposal that would have effectively undone a court ruling making Massachusetts the first in the nation to allow Gay couples to wed. He'll become president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people.

Barrios is married to Democratic political strategist Doug Hattaway. They have two children.

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UPDATE

Wingspan Update

By Jason Cianciotto

TUCSON (Observer Update) - What would Southern Arizona be like for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people without Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs? This is a question that has been weighing heavily on my mind.

Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs (AVP) help nearly 400 LGBT people every year with crisis intervention in person at the Center or on our 24-hour crisis line. In addition, Wingspan AVP Staff train over 1800 law enforcement agents, service providers and community members in Southern Arizona. This crisis intervention and training makes Southern Arizona better for all of us because violence hurts everyone.

The following survivor's testimonial serves to illustrate the important and life changing work of the AVP staff and volunteers: "I came in to see you last week about a violent relationship situation I was in. Thank you for your help and the information I received. Wingspan was a safe place for me to regroup. I will continue to promote Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs to members of our community as a valuable resource. Thank you for all your work."

Now, more than ever, Wingspan's AVP needs your assistance. Please make an online donation today in support of Wingspan's critical, life-saving services. There are still too many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Southern Arizonans who need Wingspan, and I am fighting day and night to prevent the changes wrought by this terrible economic recession from affecting our Anti-Violence Programs. Currently our crisis lines, 520-624-0348 or toll-free at 800-553-9387, are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

However, without your financial support, we will have to further reduce our Anti-Violence programming. Please make checks payable to Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., Tucson, AZ 85705 Everyone at Wingspan is committed to ensuring your donation provides the best available support as efficiently as possible. We have made painful decisions since November to make cuts and reduce administrative overhead. while preserving our core programs and services. Yet, this recession is still threatening cuts to all of our programs.

Wingspan needs your support right now. Thank you so much for your financial support. Together we will ensure that Wingspan continues to provide critical, lifesaving services to our community. That is something we can truly take pride in. I know you want to make sure your donation is being used as efficiently as possible. I invite you to check out our new Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report online (http://www.wingspan.org/pdf/FY_08_Wingspan_annual_rpt.pdf) to see all the critical, lifesaving work your donation supports.

Pride Events Mixed With Several Acts Of Violence

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - In addition to the festive events that have occurred throughout pride month across the country were several acts of anti-Gay violence and possible vandalism.

The New York Daily News reported that a man was attacked around 4 a.m. Saturday (June 27) by at least three men who called him anti-Gay epithets. Boston resident Joseph Holladay, 36, was visiting a friend on the Upper East Side when he was pistol whipped and robbed by three men. He is currently healing at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. According to the Village Voice, Holladay had stepped outside his friend's apartment to smoke a cigarette when he was surrounded by five or six men. Residents of the apartment heard and saw the incident occur, reporting to authorities that they saw five or six white men "with crewcuts, wearing wife-beaters" smoking pot outside the building before the attack occurred.

San Francisco's large Pink Triangle on the city's Twin Peaks was burned after what investigators say may be an act of vandalism. CBS 5 reports that a fire on the symbol was extinguished early Sunday morning (June 28), hours before the city's annual Pride Parade was set to begin. Mercury News also reports that police have determined the symbol was torched by road flares. The giant triangle is put on Twin Peaks every June in conjunction with Gay Pride Month.

Soap Actress Fired For Opposing Gay Plot

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - According to numerous sources, One Life to Live actress Patricia Mauceri has been fired from her recurring role on the show because she opposed a forthcoming story line in which her character is supportive of Gay rights.

Mauceri plays Carlotta Vega on the show. According to reports, producers wanted to go against stereotype and show Vega as a supportive Latina. Carlotta would have played a small part on the upcoming Gay story line between Kyle (Brett Claywell) and Fish (Scott Evans). Mauceri said she objected to Carlotta's positive attitude because it conflicts with her personal beliefs.

The role has been recast with actress Saundra Santiago, who has previously appeared on the soap in another role.

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Pride Posters Defaced At Dept. Of Labor

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Posters celebrating Gay Pride Month hanging in 35 Department of Labor elevators were defaced or removed, prompting Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to issue a warning letter, reported 365Gay.com.

The New York Times reports that Solis, who helped found the House of Representative's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Caucus when she was in Congress, was outraged and wrote an email to the department. "It appears, however, that some members of the Labor Department team have a different view, as it has come to my attention that most of the posters have been continually defaced or removed," Solis wrote. "On several occasions, even the poster frames have been torn completely off the elevator walls."

"I do not believe these actions represent the majority of our employees, so I refuse to let this situation define us."

She said that the posters will stay up through the end of June and will continue to replaced immediately if damaged or removed.

Federal Prop. 8 Suit: LGBT Groups Weigh In

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The American Civil Liberties Union and two prominent Gay and Lesbian legal organizations have filed a brief in support of a lawsuit against California's Proposition 8, though one attorney said the move is not an endorsement of federal suits that challenge existing state marriage bans, reported 365Gay.com.

The suit, Perry vs. Schwarzenegger et. al, was filed in federal court late last month on behalf of two couples who were denied marriage licenses shortly before the California supreme court upheld Prop. 8, which amended the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, who argued opposing sides in Bush v. Gore following the 2000 presidential election, represent the four plaintiffs. Citing landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings like Loving vs. Virginia, which struck down laws banning interracial marriage, Olson and Boies argue that their clients were discriminated against under federal equal protection guarantees.

In a 23-page brief, the ACLU, Lambda Legal, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights agreed with Olson and Boies that Prop. 8 is unconstitutional, but urged a narrower analysis of the issue as it pertains to marriage inequality in California, rather than the nation as a whole. In doing so, the suit "is significantly more likely to succeed because it focuses on the singular legal and historical context in which California voters passed Prop. 8," said Jennifer C. Pizer, senior counsel and marriage project director for Lambda Legal. "When examined in context, the equal protection violation is unique, and stark."

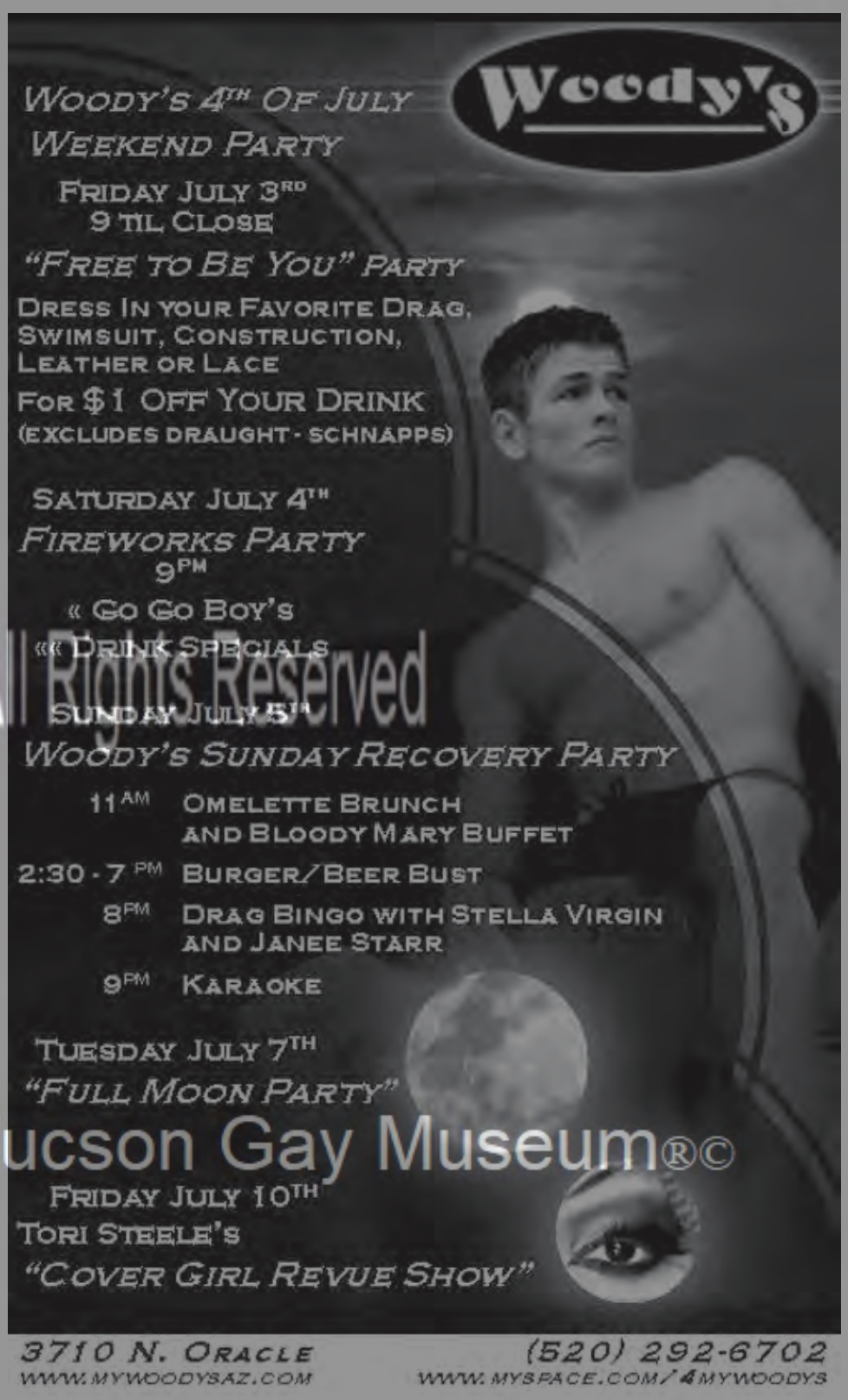
The three legal groups, along with several national LGBT organizations, have previously spoken out against the filing of such suits in federal court, calling them premature and risky should they end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown have declined to defend Prop. 8 in federal court, leaving its likely defense in the hands of conservative legal groups like the Alliance Defense Fund, which has filed papers asking a federal judge to allow it to intervene.

Shepard Foundation Won't Take Perez's Money

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - In response to a statement this morning from blogger Perez Hilton promising any money he received from the lawsuit he filed against the Black Eyed Peas' manager who allegedly punched him, the Matthew Shepard Foundation thanked Hilton for the offer but said it couldn't accept the donation, reported advocate.com.

"We do not know the details of the lawsuit, whether it has been filed, the nature of his claims or the likely outcome," a statement from Judy Shepard reads.

"But because the lawsuit presumably involves the physical attack prompted by Mr. Hilton's admitted use of an anti-Gay slur, the Foundation will be unable to accept any funds obtained in such a manner."



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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Pride Through Federal Action

More than 7,500 signatures from LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) and straight supportive individuals, from all 50 states and 36 countries have been presented to Congressman and LGBT ally, Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Civil Rights, calling for the expansion of the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act. Online organizing network The Power held a press conference outside the Stonewall Inn in New York City to make the presentation to expand the Act to include LGBT Americans

"We the undersigned call up you and your colleagues to ... declare it the public policy of the United States that discrimination based on LGBT status is prohibited," the petition, which can be found at ThePowerOnline.org, reads. According to organizers, they are in the process of gathering more online signatures to present this document to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Open Lesbian U.S. Member of Congress, Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), introduced the Ending Health Disparities for LGBT Americans Act (ELHDA), the first comprehensive approach to improving all areas of the health care system where LGBT Americans face inequality and discrimination.

"Our current health care system fails LGBT Americans on many levels," said Congresswoman Baldwin. "Although we have ample anecdotal evidence of these disparities, the federal government lacks even the most basic data on sexual orientation and gender identity and health. This bill invests in research and takes critical steps towards improving the health of LGBT Americans and their families," Baldwin said.

Baldwin's bill, H.R. 3001, in addition to investing in data collection and research, the bill establishes non-discrimination policies for all federal health programs, provides funding for cultural competence training for health care providers, extends Medicare benefits to same-sex domestic partners, creates a new office of LGBT Health within in the Department of Health and Human Services, and provides funding for community health centers who serve the LGBT community.

H.R. 3001 has the support of the Human Rights Campaign; National Coalition for LGBT Health; The AIDS Institute; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National; National Center for Transgender Equality; AIDS Action; American Psychological Association; Mautner Project: The National Lesbian Health Organization; and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Openly Gay U.S. House of Representative, Barney Frank, D-MA, has introduced legislation to ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or otherwise, the 2009 Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Frank's bill, which has 118 original cosponsors, up from 62 from the previous version in the 110th Congress, would extend federal employment laws, which currently prevent job discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, and disability, to also cover sexual orientation and gender identity and covers both the public and private sectors.

Congressman Robert E. Andrews (D-NJ), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions of the Education and Labor Committee, plans to hold hearings on the 2009 version of ENDA in July.

"I am encouraged that we are going to be able to do this year what we were not able to do a couple years ago and that is to pass a fully inclusive bill," said Congressman Frank. "I urge people to keep up lobbying. You can now take for granted that there will be a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives almost certainly this calendar year on a fully inclusive ENDA. At this point it is essential that everybody who cares about this lobbies his or her Representative and Senators. When you're through with that, go to other people and get them to lobby their Representative and Senators because we have a President ready to sign it, and I think things are well inclined for this to happen."

"This is an historic moment because I share Congressman Frank's optimism that we will be able to advance this legislation," said open Lesbian Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). "It will be the first piece of major LGBT civil rights legislation ever enacted by this Congress. The power of the Congress of the United States recognizing that discrimination in employment exists against people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and saying that it is wrong, that it is illegal, is an incredibly important thing."

"Our businesses need to be able to tap into the very best and brightest to compete in a global environment," said open Gay Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO). "Discriminating against people on the basis of race, or gender, or physical disability, or sexual orientation and gender identity, is simply inefficient and puts American businesses at a disadvantage in a global economy. By passing ENDA, we can ensure that American businesses have access to and hire the very best and brightest to be able to compete and build those leaders through those organizations."

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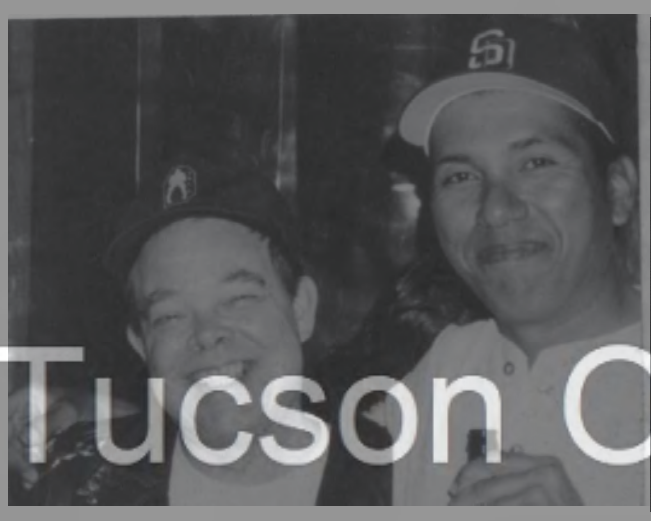

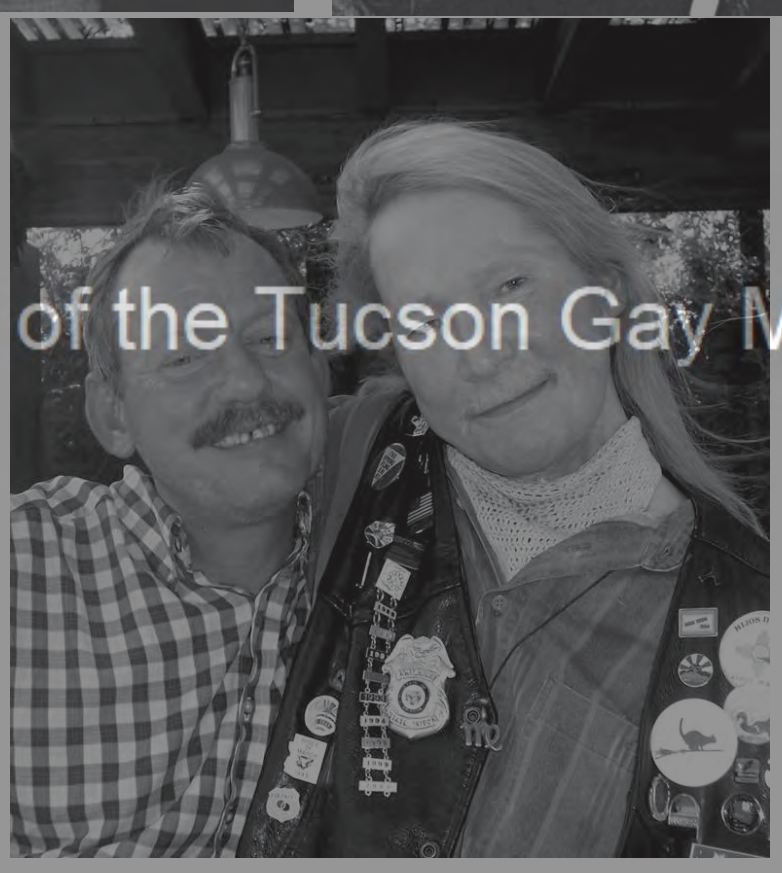

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Around The Gay Globe

LGBT Chinese Step Quietly Toward Progress

EIJING, China (Observer Update) - The first time director and movie buff Cui Zi'en tried to hold a Gay and Lesbian film festival in 2001, it was shut down by police before it even opened. When he tried to organize a Gay cultural festival in 2005, five dozen police officers swarmed the venue, closing it, 365Gay.com reported. Cui and other organizers managed to pull off the opening to the five-day Beijing Queer Film Festival with no police and no disruptions - drawing only an appreciative and low-key crowd to the Songzhuang Art District on the city's outskirts. For China's Gay community, the film festival and an art exhibition on sexual diversity in Beijing, along with last week's first Gay pride festival in Shanghai, are quiet steps forward after years of slow but unmistakable progress.

Cui, a professor at the Beijing Film Academy, said the events mark a significant moment for China's fledgling Gay movement. "The biggest change is that I'm not the only one doing this," he said. "There's more support from the Gay community. Society has become more relaxed and open-minded in its thinking." But he sounded a note of caution that progress is often accompanied by setbacks, saying organizers would not consider the events a success unless they make it to their closing ceremony Sunday unscathed. "In China, we were the first to put on queer events. In those events, we've had interference and that had lasting influences," Cui said. "(Now) we've had a successful opening and if we can also achieve a successful closing to the event, it will have another kind of impact," he said.

China has indeed eased its control over some aspects of Gay life. In 1997, sodomy was removed from the country's list of crimes, although homosexuality was not taken off the list of mental disorders until 2001. In recent years, the Gay community in China has gone from being virtually invisible to establishing a small foothold in society. In large cities, Gay bars have opened and Gay and Lesbian activist and support groups have sprouted. Internet access to Gay groups online has helped ease the isolation for those who live in rural areas. Even so, the vast majority of the country's Gay and Lesbian population continues to face discrimination and stigmatization. Most remain deeply closeted in a still highly conservative society. Gay Web sites are often blocked by the government's Internet firewalls.

Still, community organizers see progress in the fact that Gay-themed events that would have been banned outright even a few years ago are now being permitted. "Ten years ago, this would have been completely impossible," said curator Yang Ziguang, who helped put together the Beijing art show, the first in the country to explore sexual diversity and gender issues. The works by 16 artists include explicit explorations of Gay and gender issues. The auditorium for the film festival's opening movie - a story of a Chinese man who searches for the soul of his dead Swiss lover - was packed with a lively crowd of about 100 people, mostly young and proudly Gay. Others who came were simply curious to know more about Gay issues, a segment sought out by organizers who wanted to encourage dialogue between the Gay community and the wider public. "I don't know that much about the lifestyle so I was curious," said Du Jie, 30, an artist who lives in the area. "I really liked the movie. You see on-screen the raw emotions in the relationship between them. It's a very good opportunity for the public to better understand the Gay community."

That's not to say that everything has gone smoothly. The art show curators ran into problems with local authorities just before opening day. "I used to think China was becoming more and more open. On TV, movies and magazines, you hear more and more about these issues," said Gogo, a second curator who goes by one name. "But before the exhibit started, they came and told us 'You can't do this.' That changed my mind a little about how ready China really is." Furious negotiations followed, and in the end only four works were removed - including one photo showing a man holding a fish over his crotch and a painting depicting two naked men in a sexual act. Organizers decided to leave the empty white frames hanging on the wall as a statement on censorship. Despite the initial problems, the exhibit's opening drew an estimated 500 people - an enthusiastic public response that left its organizers pleasantly shocked. The organizers said they made a concerted effort to keep the events low profile to ward off unwanted attention. There were no fliers or public advertisements for the events - only announcements circulated on Web sites. And they chose to hold it in the remote Songzhuang Art District, almost an hour's drive from downtown Beijing. "If we were to advertise this all over the place, then we would only cause problems for ourselves," said Zhu Rikun, another film festival organizer.

The same low-key approach was taken by organizers of the country's first Gay pride festival in Shanghai, China's commercial hub. They carefully planned a week's worth of movie screenings, art shows and sports events - all held in private venues instead of public spaces, said festival spokesman Kenneth Tan. Despite the attempt to avoid problems, several events still ended up getting delayed or canceled by authorities who claimed organizers didn't have the correct permits, said Tan. Still the festival got high praise from the China Daily, the country's official English-language newspaper, which ran a front-page article lauding organizers for sending a strong signal about "greater acceptance and tolerance." Overall, China has been slowly moving in a direction of more openness toward the Gay community, Tan said. "I think the government has given a lot of space for the local Gay community to grow and flourish," he said. "I've been in China for seven years and the changes I've seen in the Shanghai Gay scene is tremendous. It's a metamorphosis."

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EDITORIAL

What Does LGBT Stand For?

Tucsonans came out to Coyote Moon on Friday, June 26 and IBT's on Sunday, June 28 to commemorate Pride, the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the birth of the modern LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) rights movement, as well as to help this free weekly publication to be able to continue to operate during these very trying, economic times, as it has for more than 32 years.

Needed funds were raised for The Observer and the owners and publishers, Mr. Bob Ellis and Mr. Gary Clark to be able to continue providing the local information and news, something for a period of time was questionable because of the current fiscal circumstances and the loss of advertising.

Thanks to many individuals, lead by the indomitable Natalie Perry, the outpouring of financial, community and most important, heartfelt support was overwhelming and appreciated by Mr. Ellis and Mr. Clark, but Mark Kerr, the Managing Editor and those in attendance at both events, so to the Observer Benefit Committee and the sponsors, a big thank you to all for this effort to save a venerable institution, a free, weekly publication for the LGBT community, one of this nation's oldest, has received the support needed for the interim.

This effort, especially during IBT's event on Sunday, June 28, raised another question.

During a conversation, Miss Ajia Simone, Tucson's "Black Cat," asked why "didn't Tucson's community hold more events and benefits like this these days, especially with all that's going on?"

Ajia's question was a pertinent one, since she added that it had been several years since performing at IBT's and added that Tucson's LGBT bar owners had met on a regular, periodic basis to plan such events.

This point could also be posed towards Tucson's LGBT groups, organizations and Tucson's LGBT community itself?

Does Tucson's LGBT community still stand for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender or does it stand for linking, gaming, blogging, twitterizing-texters.

Has the community become either so assimilated thanks to the accomplishments made year's ago in the area of rights on the local level that it has become apathetic as time has passed and that LGBT doesn't mean anything, anymore?

Perhaps it's just the ecomony and despite the news accounts, studies and reports, the LGBT community here in Tucson just doesn't have the money to spend?

So what does then LGBT stand for?

Informing The Community

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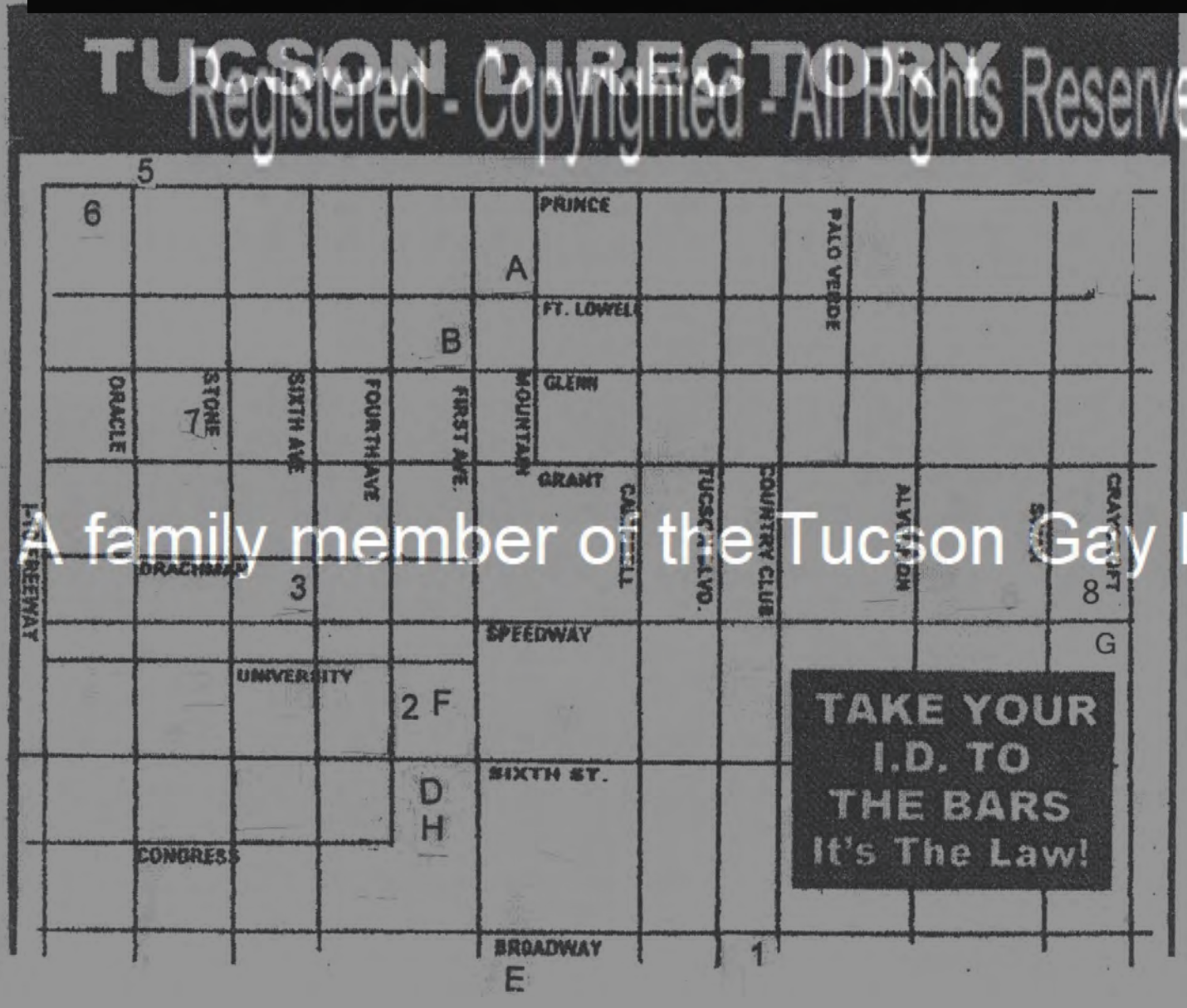

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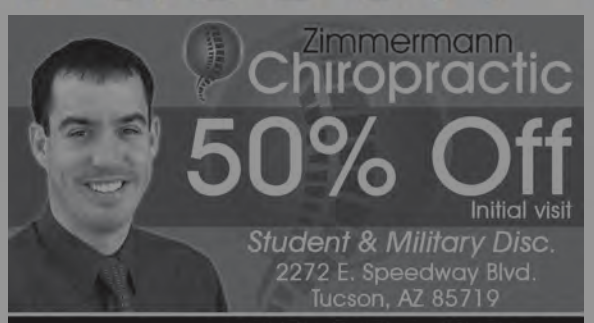

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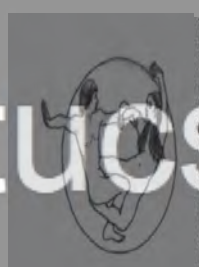

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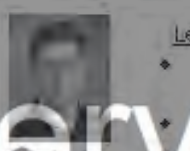

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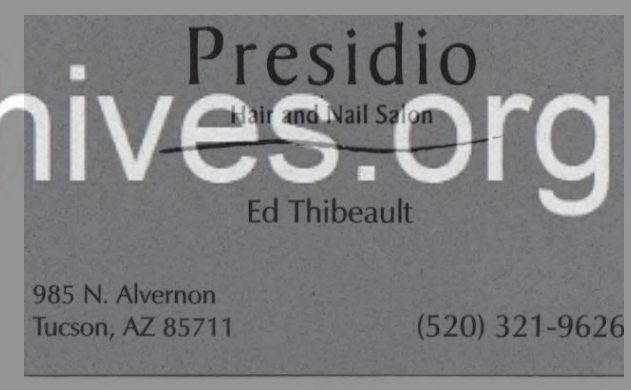

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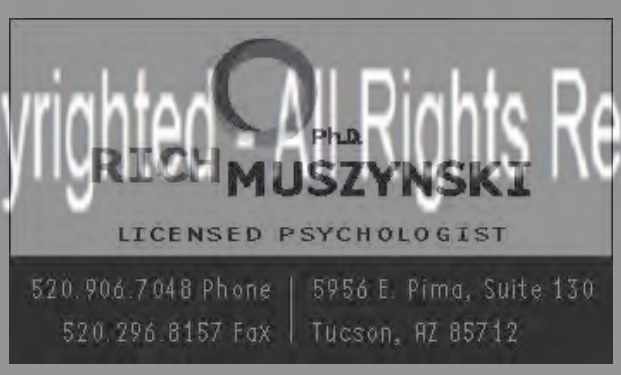

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Gay Bar Says 'I Don't' To Bachelorettes

CHICAGO, IL (Observer Update) - Bar owner Geno Zaharakis sat one busy evening at the window of his Gay nightclub, watching as groups of straight women celebrating bachelorette parties made their way along a strip of bars in Chicago's Gay-friendly "Boystown" neighborhood, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com. That's when he made a decision now posted for all to see: "No Bachelorette Parties."

Though the small sign has been there for years, it's suddenly making a big statement amid the national debate over Gay marriage. While most Gay bars continue to welcome the raucous brides to be, Zaharakis's bar Cocktail is fighting for what he sees as a fundamental right, and his patrons – along with some peeved bachelorettes – are taking notice. "I'm totally losing money because of it, but I don't want the money," Zaharakis said. "I would rather not have the money than host an event I didn't believe in."

Gay bars are popular with bachelorettes, both for the over-the-top drag shows that some offer and for the ability to let loose in a place where women are unlikely to be groped or ogled. Some bars welcome the women and their free spending, even advertising weekend shows. Zaharakis, though, instructs his bouncers to turn away groups of women sporting beads, boas, tiaras and phallic plastic necklaces. His customers say they like knowing they're not going to encounter such displays. "It is throwing it in our face that they can get married and we can't," said Dion Contreras, a 29-year-old Chicago litigation manager, while having a drink at Cocktail with friends. "I just think they're ignorant to our situation. I want women to think twice about this issue."

When Zaharakis posted the sign in 2004, it got a little local attention, but it was mostly the surprised bachelorettes turned away at the door who took note. The November passage of California's Gay marriage ban Proposition 8, though, helped sparked chatter about the ban on Internet blogs, which in turn attracted more media attention and debate. The California Supreme Court upheld the state ban last month. Six states have legalized Gay marriage. Some of the biggest proponents of Gay marriage aren't on board with Zaharakis' approach.

Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, said while he agrees with Zaharakis' stand on marriage equality, he would express it differently. "I'd rather invite people in," Wolfson said. "Celebrate their happiness and ask them to take a stand for us by helping change the law." And Ed Yohnka of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois – well-known for fighting for the legalization of Gay marriage – says the ban may violate state anti-discrimination laws. "The way is not to bar or discriminate against or harass other people," Yohnka said. In Washington D.C., when bachelorette partygoers enter the Gay bar Town Danceboutique they're asked to sign a petition in support of Gay marriage. Owner Ed Bailey sends the petitions to the customer's representative in Congress. Bailey says in the year he's had his petition policy, no one has refused to sign.

"That's the way to handle it instead of alienating all these people," Bailey said. "You have to get the consensus built out there. Why not try to convince people, 'Hey, why wouldn't you support this?'" Down the street from Chicago's Cocktail, another Gay nightclub, Circuit, welcomes bachelorettes. Owner Jeff Binninger doesn't think the women's antics are meant to hurt anyone. "The girls want to come and see the dancers," Binninger said. "I don't think it's on their mind at all, 'We can get married and, oh, you can't.' I don't think the girls are malicious in their intent."

Where Zaharakis took offense, Binninger saw a market niche and started producing the male revue "Sinzation" on Saturday nights, advertised specifically to bachelorette parties. One recent Saturday night, 25-year-old Tiffany Casto of Canton, Mich., and eight girlfriends waited for the male dancers to start the show. Casto wore a hot pink feather boa, while her friends had matching white sunglasses, reflecting the dozen disco balls spinning from the ceiling as Beyonce's "Single Ladies" played. "I wouldn't think I'm flaunting it at all," Casto said.

But Zaharakis is standing firm. At Cocktail, where about once a month staff turn away bachelorettes, the sign will stay. And for those who ask about it, he's ready with a written statement: "Until same-sex marriage is legal everywhere and same-sex couples are allowed the rights as every heterosexual couple worldwide, we simply do not think it's fair or just for a female bride-to-be to celebrate her upcoming nuptials here at Cocktail."

"I'm not going to tell anybody about how to run their business," Zaharakis said. "This is just how I run mine. The political climate has made it more charged. We're standing up in our factions and groups and making statements about how this should stop."

Christian Group: 'Burn 'Gay' Book

MILWAUKEE, WI (Observer Update) - A group calling itself the Christian Civil Liberties Union (CCLU) filed a claim with the city of Milwaukee seeking the right to burn a public library's copy of a young-adult book with Gay content, according to the American Library Association, reported advocate.com.

The CCLU presented trustees of the West Bend Community Memorial Library with the complaint on June 2, asking for the right to burn or otherwise destroy in public a copy of Baby Be-Bop. The group also demanded $120,000 in damages for being exposed to the book on display, and requested the resignation of West Bend mayor Kristine Deiss for allowing the title to be viewed by the public. Baby Be-Bop, written by Francesca Lia Block, tells the story of a teenager struggling with his homosexuality and an attack by a homophobic gang. It has been the subject of local complaints for months, and has thus far survived attempts to eliminate it.

The CCLU claim describes Baby Be-Bop as "explicitly vulgar, racial, and anti-Christian," and charges that the four plaintiffs, "all of whom are elderly, claim their mental and emotional well-being was damaged by this book at the library" because the book contains the word "nigger" and derogatory sexual and political epithets that can incite violence and "put one's life in possible jeopardy, adults and children alike." The plaintiffs want a grand jury to determine whether the book should be declared obscene and whether making it available is a hate crime.

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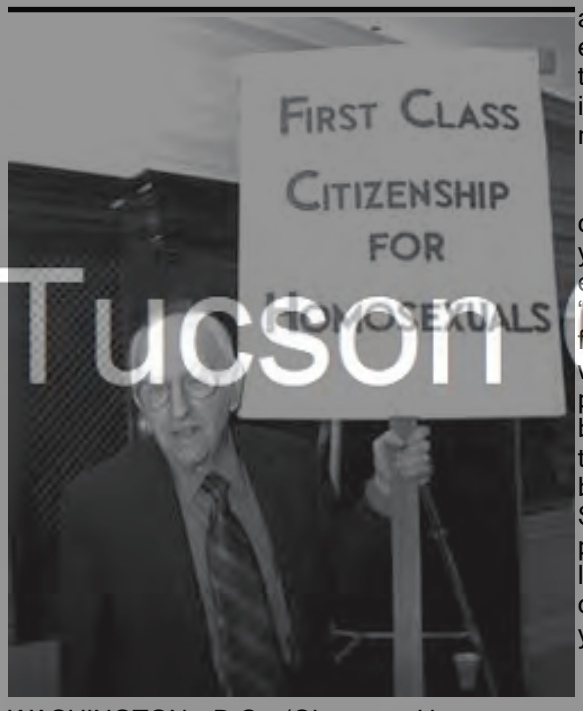
U.S. Apologizes To Kamney For '57 Firing



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. government has issued an apology to longtime Gay activist Frank Kameny, who was fired by the United States Civil Service Commission 52 years ago, reported advocate.com.

John Berry, director of the Office of Personnel Management, spoke to Kameny Wednesday at a ceremony, calling his firing "a shameful action."

The civil service commission (OPM's predecessor) terminated Kameny by letter, writing that the government "does not hire homosexuals," nor did it "permit their employment," since the information could be used against them in blackmail. He was an astronomer for the Army Map Service.

"With the fervent passion of a true patriot, you did not resign yourself to your fate or quietly endure this wrong," Berry said. "With courage and strength, you fought back. And so today, I am writing to advise you that this policy, which was at odds with the bedrock principles underlying the merit-based civil service, has been repudiated by the United States Government, due in large part to your determination and life's work, and to the thousands of Americans whose advocacy your words have inspired."

Kameny, a World War II veteran, had been involved with the federal government since he became an adult.

"I enlisted in the Army three days before my 18th birthday," he told The Advocate in 1997. "They did ask, and I didn't tell. They asked whether I had 'homosexual tendencies,' and I was well aware that I did and it had gone well beyond tendencies. But I said no, and I have resented for 64 years that I had to lie in order to serve my country. All the major issues I dealt with over the years have been resolved except for Gays in the military."

Seattle Withholds LGBT Workers' Names

SEATTLE, WA (Observer Update) - A King County judge has temporarily barred the release of the names of Seattle city employees involved with a city-sponsored group for LGBT employees, thwarting the public disclosure request of Gay rights opponent Philip Irvin, at least for now, reported 365Gay.com. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports that superior court judge John Erlick had ordered the release of some of the documents Irvin requested, but with the names of employees redacted. A hearing scheduled for September will determine whether to release the names of employees who receive a "public benefit," such as wages, through the group.

While Judge Erlick acknowledged that releasing the names could discourage others from joining the LGBT group, he maintained that a clear public interest remains in knowing who is receiving benefits, such as compensation, by attending meetings. Seattle Public Utilities sponsors eight such "affinity" group for employees united by concerns including age and ancestry. Groups receive money annually for events, and members are allowed to dedicate two work hours per month toward group activities.

Earlier this month, Irvin, a self-described "civil rights leader" and employee of Seattle City Light, filed a complaint asking the city to release the names and related information, such as meeting minutes. He claimed that he was barred from attending LGBT events because of his opinions and that his efforts to establish a group for "ex-Gay" employees were thwarted. Since the latest ruling, Irvin claims that he is being investigated for misuse of city resources, and he charges that a group of Gay city workers are persecuting him.

Teacher Resigns After Parent Pressure

LITCHFIELD, NH (Observer Update) - The head of a high school English department in Litchfield, N.H., is leaving her job after some parents complained about reading assignments another teacher issued to a class, reported advocate.com. Kathleen Reilly announced her resignation after parents and other citizens complained to the Campbell High School board about the assignments that included stories on homosexuality, abortion, drugs, and cannibalism.

According to the Nashua Telegraph, the book selections – I Like Guys by David Sedaris, The Crack Cocaine Diet by Laura Lippman, Stephen King's Survivor Type, and Ernest Hemingway's Hills Like White Elephants – were for an elective English class intended for juniors and seniors. The class was taught by Meredith Potter, who said her assignments were part of a class unit called "Love/Gender/Family."

Principal Bob Manseau called the list of readings "a mistake in judgment." Sue Ann Johnson, a parent who has been very vocal about the curriculum, said the school was furthering an agenda at a board meeting. "There is an agenda, people," she said, according to the article. "Wake up. We are desensitizing our children to violence. We're desensitizing them to sex. We're desensitizing them to drugs. We're talking about the hearts and minds of the future of America." However, a former student of Potter's, Andy Towne, pointed out to the Telegraph that required reading in schools across the country include topics such as suicide (Romeo and Juliet), assault (Of Mice and Men), and the harsh realities of war (Johnny Got His Gun).

POET'S CORNER

Border Crossing
by Ron Rose - Tucson

We're just dying to live in the USA
We pay our Coyotes to show us the way
Through tinder dry deserts we walk day and night
Our poor thirsty children, near dying from fright
Please leave us some water, have pity, please
We'll work for low wages and pay all our fees
We're poor, we're hungry, just give us a break
We're pleading to join you, let us for God's sake
We're yearning for freedom, how lucky you are
Immigrants all, we come from afar
If we survive, we'll obey all your laws
We pray that our words, will cause you to pause.

Water of Life
Metropolitan Community Church
The Rev. William H. Knight, D.D., **Interim Pastor**
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www.wolmcc.org

Most LGBT Are Spiritual, New Report Says

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Latino Male Bi-Racial Sex Study Looking for 18-48 year old Latino HIV-Tops. For more information E-mail TucsonLatinoProject@live.com 1310

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Brick layer for hire. 25 years experience. Brick, Block, Stone or Concrete. 331-5377 1304

Accepting applications for PT bartender at Coyote Moon Pub. 915 W. Prince Road. Experience a plus, but willing to train right person. Must be friendly, outgoing and willing to work! 1299

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Indians March Despite Sodomy Law

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DELHI, India (Observer Update) - Hundreds gathered for Pride marches in three Indian cities on Sunday (June 28). The events come as Delhi High Court reviews a national law that criminalizes homosexuality, reported advocate.com. “It was the first very overt, celebratory and positive images of the community,” Lesley Esteves, a New Delhi organizer, told the Associated Press.

The marches were held in New Delhi, Chennai, and Bangalore. Activists hoped to send a message to the court to repeal India’s sodomy law, Section 377 of the Indian penal code. “This piece of legislation makes no sense,” law student and organizer Ponni Arasu told the AP. “You cannot deny people their basic civil rights.”

Health experts say overturning the law would help encourage safe sex and fight HIV, a growing issue in the country. The Delhi march was generally festive, with horns blaring and supporters dancing. The AP also reported that several marchers covered their faces because they didn’t want to be seen by friends and family.

U.K.’s Pink Paper Shelves Print Edition

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - Britain’s LGBT newspaper Pink Paper announced that it will suspend its print edition due to the economic downturn. According to a statement on the newspaper’s website, the paper’s management hopes to resume publication when their financial status improves, reported advocate.com.

Kim Watson, media director of the Millivres Prowler Group, said the decision was difficult but had to be made at this moment, “rather than when the situation has worsened to a point that we would need to cease Pink Paper altogether.” The free newspaper relies heavily on advertisers for revenue. According to Reid Smith, editor of the newspaper, revenue was healthy even a year ago, but has since been a victim of decreased marketing budgets from advertisers. Existing staff will remain to keep the website and newsletter updated regularly.

The loss of the biweekly publication, even if temporary, will have negative effects on the greater LGBT community, said U.K.-based international human rights advocate Peter Tatchell in a statement on Wednesday. “Without the Pink Paper, the lesbian and gay community is likely to become more fragmented and isolated, with people in one part of the country being much less aware about what is happening in other parts of the country,” Tatchell said. Pink Paper was started in 1987, and bought by Millivres Prowler Group in 2005.

DOMA Lawsuit Wins First Victory

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Six in 10 Gays and Lesbians say that faith is an important part of their lives, according to a Christian research group. Conversely, about 72% of straight adults describe their faith as being an integral part of their lives, reported advocate.com.

“People who portray Gay adults as godless, hedonistic Christian-bashers are not working with the facts,” said George Barna of the Barna Group, which conducted the study. “A substantial majority of Gays cite their faith as a central facet of their life, consider themselves to be Christian, and claim to have some type of meaningful personal commitment to Jesus Christ active in their life today.” The study’s authors wrote that the findings were “surprising. “In the wake of those controversies and the spotlight aimed at Gays, Americans have developed numerous assumptions about the lives of the homosexual population.”

Additionally, about 60% of straight Christians said they were completely devoted to their faith, compared to 40% of Gay responders identifying as Christian. The study also revealed that straight adults were nearly twice as likely as Gays to qualify as born-again Christians (47% compared to 27%, respectively). In the study, conducted between January 2007 and November 2008 by phone interviews, researchers asked 9,232 people about their sexual orientation.

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: (520) 406-0740.

TUCSON LATINO M2M -
http://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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - $2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.
and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trans Federal Workers Protected

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Obama's lawyers are drafting guidelines that would bar discrimination against federal employees based on gender identity, The New York Times reported.

The guidelines will protect federal Transgender employees from discrimination, and are the first of their kind on a federal level, advocate.com reported.

The gender identity protections were not part of President Obama's June 17 announcement of benefits to same-sex spouses of federal employees. However, the National Center for Transgender Equality says it and other advocacy groups have been in ongoing talks with the White House regarding protections for Transgender federal employees and called the process "on track."

Specifically, the protections will add "gender identity" to a clause stating that supervisors cannot discriminate against employees based on "race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicapping condition, marital status, or political affiliation." ("Sexual orientation" was also added to this list with Obama's June 17 presidential memorandum.)

They will also provide Transgender employees a course of action to protest a job action as discriminatory. "There is a very important symbolic value to that, from our point of view," NCTE executive director Mara Keisling said.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, July 3
VENTURE-N - Traditional Complimentary Barbeque from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - July 4th Weekend Party starts here tonight with a 'Free To Be You' Party. Dress in your favorite drag, swimsuit, construction, Leather or Lace and Get $1.00 off your drink. (Excludes draught or schnapps).

Saturday, July 4
BIZ - A massive 4th of July Celebration featuring "Carnaval Latino". It's a 21 and over event with BiLatinmen.com presenting "You Think You Can Shake Dat Ass. Two first place winner of Boyz and Girlz. Free porn DVDs, adult toy give-aways and lots, lots more. Doors open at 8 p.m. $10 cover with $5 off before 9 p.m. with this ad

VENTURE-N - Patio open for daytime sun tanners.

WOODY'S - Fireworks Party at 9:00 p.m. with GoGo Boys and Drink Specials.

YARD DOG SALOON - Back by popular demand "Bill's BBQ Chicken" served at 5 p.m. BBQ chicken, homemade pasta salad, beans, and all the fixin's. Plus - Drink Specials.

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

WOODY"S - Woody's 'Sunday Recovery Party" with Omelette Brunch and Bloody Mary Buffet at 11 a.m. At 2:30 it the Burger/Beer Bust until 7 p.m. Drag Bingo with Stella Virgin and Janee Starr and Karaoke at 9 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7
WOODY'S - Full Moon Party!

Wednesday, July 8
COYOTE MOON - Y-Not entertainment presents Karaoke with Jason beginning at 8 p.m. Karaoke special $1 Bud Light or Michelob Ultra.

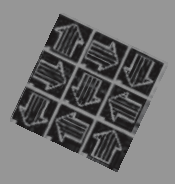
Friday, July 10
WOODY'S - Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue Show.

Fort Worth Rally Protests Police Raid On Gay Bar

FORT WORTH, TX (Observer Update) - Protesters upset with the way police conducted a raid on a Gay nightclub rallied in downtown Fort Worth, reported 365Gay.com.

Seven people were arrested for public intoxication during the raid on the Rainbow Lounge early Sunday (June 28). Protesters said one person was seriously injured and excessive force was used. Police disputed the accusation of excessive force and said the department would thoroughly investigate any allegations. The raid was one of three bar checks conducted by police and agents from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Police said two intoxicated individuals made sexually explicit moves toward officers and a third grabbed a TABC agent's groin. Several patrons told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that the officers weren't assaulted. About 100 protesters gathered Sunday night.



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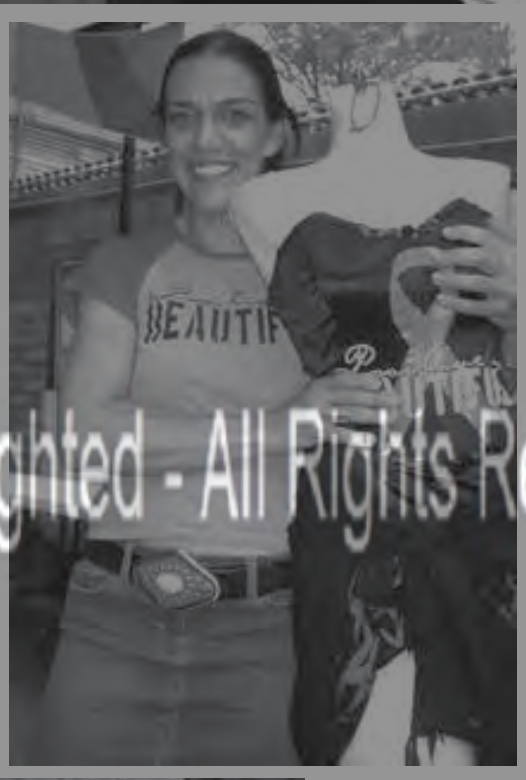
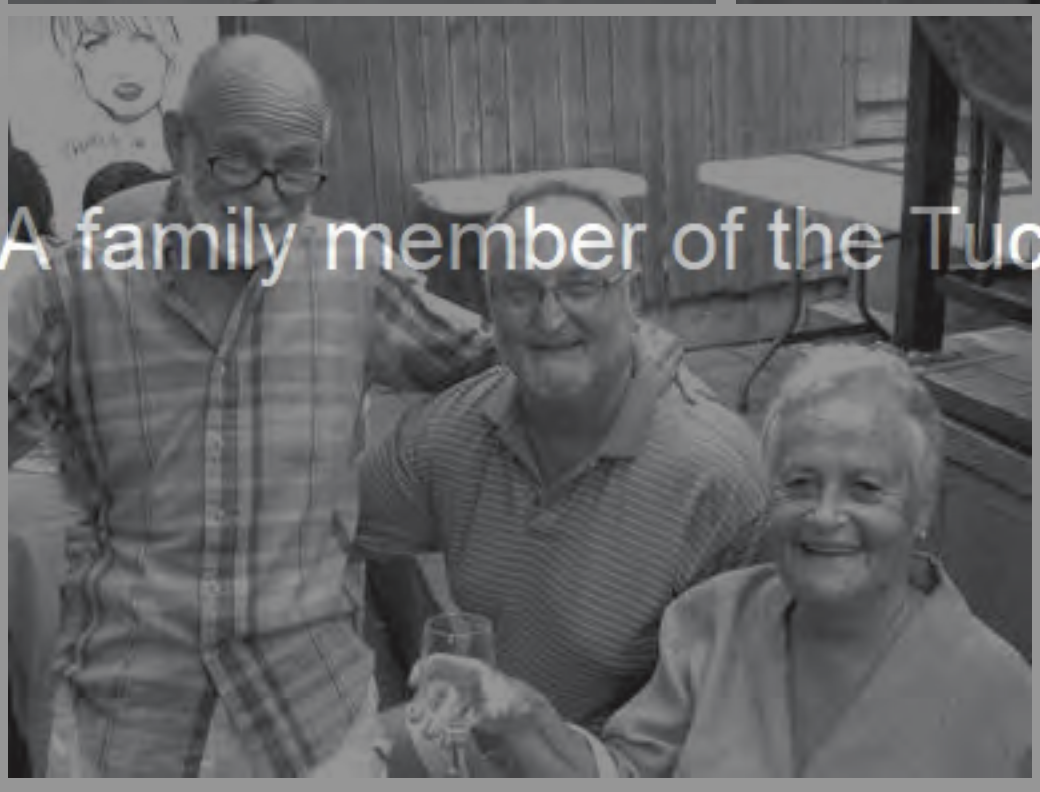
Seen And Being Seen At The Observer Benefit





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