Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Billie Jean King & Harvey Milk To Receive Presidential Award Of Freedom

Tennis Idol Billie Jean King

GLBT Activist Harvey Milk

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama named Gay civil rights pioneer Harvey Milk and tennis great (and open Lesbian) Billie Jean King as two of 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

America's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom is awarded to individuals who make an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. From the White House press release:

"This year's awardees were chosen for their work as agents of change. Among their many accomplishments in fields ranging from sports and art to science and medicine to politics and public policy, these men and women have changed the world for the better. They have blazed trails and broken down barriers. They have discovered new theories, launched new initiatives, and opened minds to new possibilities.

President Obama said, "These outstanding men and women represent an incredible diversity of backgrounds. Their tremendous accomplishments span fields from science to sports, from fine arts to foreign affairs. Yet they share one overarching trait: Each has been an agent of change. Each saw an imperfect world and set about improving it, often overcoming great obstacles along the way.

"Their relentless devotion to breaking down barriers and lifting up their fellow citizens sets a standard to which we all should strive. It is my great honor to award them the Medal of Freedom."

President Obama will present the awards at a ceremony on Wed., Aug. 12."

Other awardees include Nancy Goodman Brinker, the founder of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world's leading breast cancer awareness organization; Stephen Hawking, the internationally-recognized theoretical physicist; Sen. Edward Kennedy; Desmund Tutu; Chita Rivera; Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland; and Sidney Poitier.

Billie Jean King was an acclaimed professional tennis player in the 1960s and 1970s, and has helped champion gender equality issues not only in sports, but in all areas of public life. King beat Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match, then the most viewed tennis match in history. King became one of the first openly Lesbian major sports figures in America when she came out in 1981. Following her professional tennis career, King became the first woman commissioner in professional sports when she co-founded and led the World Team Tennis (WTT) League. The U.S. Tennis Association named the National Tennis Center, where the US Open is played, the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in 2006.

Harvey Milk became the first openly Gay elected official from a major city in the United States when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk encouraged Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) citizens to live their lives openly and believed coming out was the only way they could change society and achieve social equality. Milk, alongside San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, was shot and killed in 1978 by Dan White, a former city supervisor. Milk is revered nationally and globally as a pioneer of the LGBT civil rights movement for his exceptional leadership and dedication to equal rights.

LGBT Activists: Marriage Secondary To Basic Rights

CLAYTON, MO (Observer Update) - Gay marriage and Gays in the military may dominate the headlines, but activists in many states say their fight is much more fundamental: basic rights and protections against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

Activists from state-based Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) advocacy organizations from throughout the U.S. are meeting in Missouri to share their efforts to make inroads in state legislatures, municipalities and school districts. "In Missouri, you can still be fired for being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender," A.J. Bockelman, executive director of PROMO, Missouri's statewide organization advocating for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender equality, said. "Sexual orientation is not a protected class in Missouri."

A spokeswoman for the Missouri Commission on Human Rights confirmed that is the case, saying past efforts to include sexual orientation as a protected class have failed.

Toni Broaddus, executive director of their national alliance, the Equality Federation, said Gay marriage has never been the movement's No. 1 priority. Rather, it's about the ability to work, get housing, adopt children, have families and have their partners recognized, she said. "We just want the rights that everyone else has," she said. "This is about being equal citizens under the law."

At a get-acquainted session, dozens of activists provided updates on progress and setbacks in the states.

In Tennessee, Transgender activist Marisa Richmond said advocates are working to pass a hate crimes law that would include Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and the Transgendered under its protection. In recent weeks, she said, they won a commitment from Memphis-based Federal Express to add gender identity to its nondiscrimination policy.

Wisconsin passed new domestic partnership protections this summer that the Wisconsin Family Action recently challenged in the state Supreme Court, saying the new registry for same-sex couples violates the state constitution's ban on Gay marriage and civil unions.

In Oklahoma, a group formed recently to fight what Oklahoma State University professor Laura Belmonte called "an intensely hostile environment" where only one small municipality has an anti-discrimination law. "People ask me why I stay, but I say, 'It doesn't have to be this way,'" she said. "You can put your head in the oven and blow out the pilot light, or you can fight back."

Last year, Gay and Lesbian groups demanded Oklahoma state legislator Sally Kern apologize after she told a political group that "the homosexual agenda" poses a bigger threat to the United States than terrorism. Kern said by phone that Gays and Lesbians want "approval for their behavior." "What are we going to approve next, adultery?" she asked.

The Equality Federation's Broaddus said the top priorities for Gay-rights activists at the state level are passage of new anti-discrimination laws or strengthening of existing ones; passage of anti-bullying laws that address sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, and recognition of their relationships, whether in marriage, civil unions, or a domestic partnership registry.

Census To Release Raw Marriage Data

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Department of Commerce officials said that they would release the raw data collected on married same-sex couples in the 2010 Census as a way to more accurately reflect the marriage status of LGBT people, reported advocate.com.

Up until now, the Census Bureau software has recoded any individual in a same-sex couple who reports that he or she is a husband or wife as an 'unmarried partner.' Although the Obama administration announced in June that officials would look for ways to accurately count same-sex marriages, the coding process and the software that reads the forms when they come back still reflect the former policy.

A Commerce Department aide said Census preparation takes almost 10 years and the software would not be able to be altered in time for the once-a-decade count.

"It's a very long process to plan everything, test the questions, and test the software – all of which happened under the last administration," the aide said.

As a fix, officials decided to release the raw data on married same-sex couples before that data is processed and tabulated by the software.

The Census Bureau's first priority will be to report population data in late 2010 and early 2011 for the purposes of apportionment and congressional redistricting.

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UPDATE

Provost Murder Suspect Commits Suicide

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - The sailor charged in the murder of Seaman August Provost committed suicide while in custody at Camp Pendleton in Southern California, reports ABC affiliate KTRK TV.

The U.S. Navy said the suspect, Petty Officer Jonathan Campos, 32, killed himself by ingesting a large amount of toilet paper. He was on suicide watch in the brig, where he appeared fine at 11:45 a.m., but was found unresponsive 35 minutes later, and died by 1:15 p.m. Campos, a gas system technician, was accused of shooting Provost, 29, multiple times on June 30 at Camp Pendleton and setting the victim's body on fire to hide the evidence. Investigators believe that Campos wanted to set fire to a landing craft as retaliation for his likely impending discharge for a DUI charge. He encountered Provost, who was on guard duty.

Campos was arrested July 23 and charged with multiple crimes related to the death of Provost and his response to the DUI charge. Provost, a Houston native who was out to his friends and family, had recently told them that he was being harassed. Navy officials said they had no knowledge of his sexual orientation or any connection to Campos, who was from Lancaster, Calif. The murder was not being investigated as a hate crime, despite suggestions from Provost's family that his sexual orientation may have motivated the murder.

Turnabout For TIHAN Sept. 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Turnabout for TIHAN" is an annual show put on by Tucson's GLBT clubs and their bar staff. The staff request donations from their friends and customers in order to do a "turn-about" from male to female (or vice versa) and put on a fabulous show to benefit the work of TIHAN, the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (tihan.org)

Get ready for the glitz and glamour, the pumps and passion for this year's "Turnabout for TIHAN" benefit show! It's one of the biggest drag shows of the year, and takes place on Sunday, September 6 at the Doubletree Hotel at Reid Park (445 South Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona). The doors open at 5:00 p.m., and the show starts at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are only $10.00 in advance or $15.00 at the door. The evening also features a raffle with some great prizes.

Join us for Turnabout, featuring emcees Bunny Fufu and Janee Starr, along with your favorite bar staff in drag from your favorite participating bars: Woody's, IBT's, Coyote Moon and Colors. Tickets are on sale now through the TIHAN office (credit card orders can be taken - (520) 299-6647), or at participating bars. For more information about the event, or to volunteer, contact Scott Blades at (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

TGLBTCC Monthly Meeting Featuring Cong. Raul Grijalva

Congressman Raul Grijalva

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Chamber of Commerce will be holding their August breakfast meeting, Aug. 20, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Hotel Tucson City Center Conference Suite Resort (formerly the Inn Suites), 475 N. Granada Ave.

U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva (CD-7) will be our featured speaker for the August 20th Chamber Breakfast. Congressman Grijalva will answer questions relating to Southern Arizona, including the stimulus and strengthening of small business as well as the matter of full civil rights for GLBT Americans

RSVP by Monday Aug. 17, noon by calling or E-mailing the following: (520) 615-6436 or info@tucsonglbtchamber.org.

Reveille Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Reveille Chorus (reveillechorus.org) has got a whole weekend of fun, August 15-16 at Woody's!

Saturday, August 15, 7:00pm-10:00pm: Reveille Recruiting Party! Join us at Woody's to meet the guys and learn more about Reveille Men's Chorus. We'll have CD's for sale, a 50/50 raffle, and video of our last concert "Make 'Em Laugh, Comedy in Music." Have a friend who sings in the shower? Or, do you have a penchant for humming show tunes? With our new rehearsal night of Mondays 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., beginning August 24, we are anticipating an increase in membership and we want you!

Keeping everyone in line (and in stitches!) is Mistress of ceremonies, Tucson's own Black Cat, Miss Ajia Simone. Remember, it is Saturday August 15, from 7pm-10pm. Happy Hour goes until 8 p.m. so get there early and down a few with us!

Sunday, August 16, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.: Reveille Burger Bust and Ajia's Kitchen! Come to Woody's again the next day for Burger/Beer Bust hosted by Reveille from 2-7pm. A freshly-cooked burger plus 6 draft beers for only $8! Tip your Reveille cook well, and our "friendlier" members may return with a favor... The coolers will be on the patio, so brave the heat with some cold beers and the Reveille men.

Then from 7 - 9 p.m. have a home-cooked meal better than yo' mama's at Ajia's Kitchen. Ajia will be slinging it out high and low, so watch where that yummy soul food ends up! Appropriately enough, Karaoke begins at 9pm, so stick around because I'm sure a few of us will be sloshed enough to sing. Many thanks to Frank, Dave, and all of the crew at Woody's for allowing Reveille to host our weekend of fun!

Will California Cuts Lead To More HIV Infections?

PALM SPRINGS, CA (Observer Update) - Palm Springs, Calif.-based Desert AIDS Project (DAP) officials are wondering how a $52 million cut to state AIDS prevention and treatment efforts, ordered by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, will impact testing efforts in the region, reported HIV Plus Magazine. HIV is a particularly critical issue in Palm Springs, which boasts one of the largest Gay populations per capita in the United States. Riverside County, Calif., ranks sixth in the state in people living with HIV, with around 3,170 cases.

In June, 5% of the HIV tests DAP administered throughout the Coachella Valley region were positive, compared to the national average of 1%. "What happens in the [valley] mirrors sub-Saharan Africa," David Brinkman, DAP's executive director, told the Desert Sun. "This is the worst-case scenario cut," he said of the state move, which is designed to shore up a $26 billion budget gap.

"We have many who can't pay for it and a lot of those who can't pay for it are high risk," Linda Sue Rosefsky, a volunteer coordinator, said of the HIV tests DAP offers. The state cut could mean "we might have to start charging [for testing]," she said.

Brinkman said DAP will have to make up the difference by increasing its funding goal for the annual Desert AIDS Project Walk, held in the fall, from $250,000 to $325,000. "Clearly the concern is if you stop testing, you won't be reinforcing the message about the disease," said Victoria Jauregui Burns, HIV program chief for the county health department.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Grand Marshals Announced For Tucson Pride Parade

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson Pride (tucsonpride.org) has announced the Grand Marshal's for the 2009 Pride Parade to take place, Friday, October 9.

Organizers announced that Margaret Cho (margaretcho.com) will be this year's Celebrity Grand Marshal. Revered for her crass in-your-face style, Margaret Cho burst onto the scene in 1994 with her sitcom All American Girl and has since become one of the most prolific and critically acclaimed comedians of our time.

In 1999, she chronicled her legendary struggles with network executives over her weight and ethnicity into a groundbreaking one-woman show, I'm the One that I Want, praised by Entertainment Weekly as one of the "Great Performances of the Year!" Margaret is currently starring in the all-new comedic drama series, Drop Dead Diva, on Lifetime, Sundays at 9pm ET/PT. Her latest stand up concert film, Beautiful, is airing on Showtime and will be available on DVD on November 17th. Tucson Pride is very excited to welcome Ms. Cho to the event. Margaret Cho will perform later that same evening at the Rialto Theatre.

Celebrity Pride Grand Marshal Margaret Cho

This year's Community Grand Marshal, Organizers said, is Desert Voices (desertvoices.org). Just ending their Platinum Season in Tucson, Desert Voices is an inclusive chorus organized to provide the opportunity for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT) and supportive others to sing together in order to build community within & outside the chorus through our love of music; produce shows that are entertaining and musically excellent; perform music that reflects the lives of the LGBT community; promote an ongoing, positive presence and advance social change in the larger society.

This year's Parade is moving back to 4th Avenue. The Parade begins at 6:00pm and will wrap up with a block party featuring some of this year's Pride in the Desert entertainers as well as a surprise performance to be announced in September. Ms. Cho will join Desert Voices, this year's Community Grand Marshal, for what is certain to be an evening full of pride and fun.

The All-Inclusive Choral Group - Desert Voices is this year's Tucson Pride Parade Community Grand Marshals

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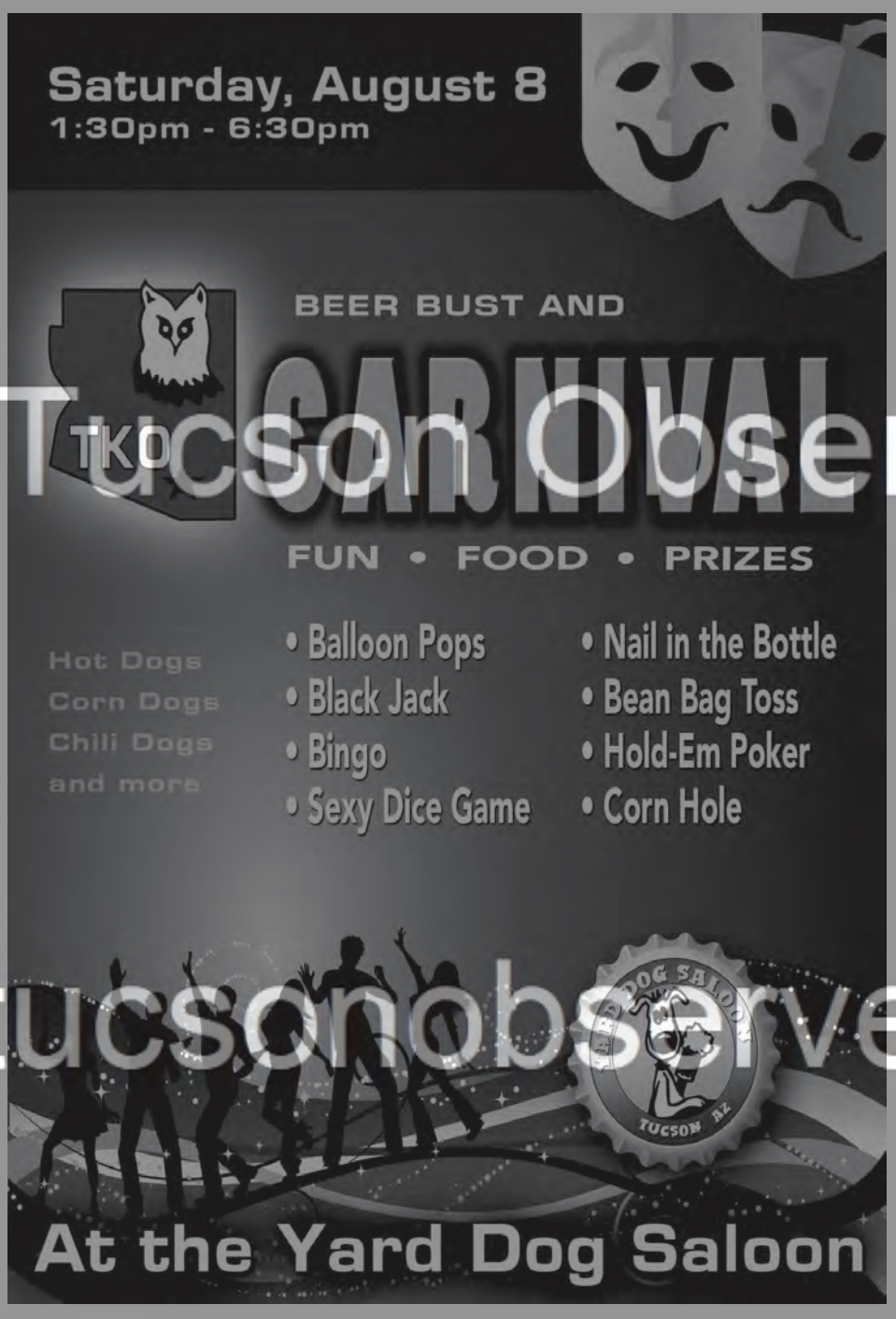


UPDATE

Sigma Phi Elects New Officers

TEMPE (Observer Update) - Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, an Arizona-based Gay and allied fraternity, elected new national officers Saturday, August 1st, choosing its third national board of directors since founding in 2005. As part of their semiannual Convention held Saturday on the Arizona State University campus, the Fraternity's national office also recognized community allies and Fraternity leaders who have contributed to the success of this emerging organization.

Nathan Arrowsmith, an elementary school teacher from Phoenix, was chosen as the Fraternity's new national President and Chairman. Also elected were: Emitt Bryant, a secondary school teacher from Tempe, as Director of Chapter Affairs; Steven Tran, a recent ASU graduate and Transgender advocate who shared the stage with Hugh Downs as a convocation speaker in May, as Director of Expansion; Ruben Grace, a social worker from Phoenix, as Director of Alumni Affairs; and Sam Holdren, the Fraternity's former national president, as Director of Communications and Secretary/Treasurer. The terms of office for the newly-elected board will begin August 31.

Following the daylong Convention, Fraternity members and community allies gathered for Sigma Phi Beta's awards dinner, where individuals who have significantly contributed to the success of the Fraternity were honored. Past recipients of the Community Ally Award include Arizona State Representative Kyrsten Sinema (D-Phoenix) who served as the Fraternity's chapter advisor at ASU and swore-in the first national officers, and Donna Rose, a nationally-recognized Transgender activist, who provided significant guidance in the forming of the Fraternity's Transgender-inclusive membership policy. "We recognize that many people are responsible for the forming and continued success of our Fraternity, including allies in the community," said Holdren. "Our awards ceremony is where we get to show our gratitude to those who've made personal sacrifices to support our mission of positively impacting the lives of Gay and allied men in college."

At this year's ceremony, Kim Novak, a nationally-recognized Fraternity and Sorority Life leader from Phoenix, and Matt Hunt, ASU's Coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life, both received the Community Ally Award. Novak and Hunt have provided direct, one-on-one support to individual members of the Fraternity's ASU chapter and national board of directors, guiding the Fraternity's leaders through the organization's formative years. Bryant received the Leadership and Service Award given to alumni members of the Fraternity, for his service as the ASU chapter's advisor. Tran received the Leadership and Service Award given to chapter members, for his outstanding accomplishments as president of the ASU chapter during the 2008-2009 school year.

Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of building character in Gay, straight, Bisexual and Transgender men in college through social and meaningful activities. The Fraternity was formed in 2003 as a chapter at ASU. The national organization was established in 2005. Since forming as a national organization, Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity has been recognized by national media and organizations for raising the level of consciousness among leaders in the traditionally-conservative fraternity system about issues like Transgender membership and immigration. The founding chapter at ASU has also become a recognized leader on campus, beating out all other fraternity chapters to receive the university's Chapter of the Year award in February for the second year in a row. For more information about Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, visit sigmaphibeta.org.

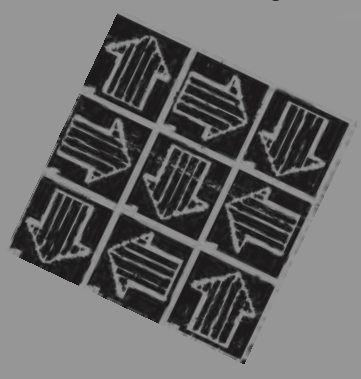
Have A Ball Night For TIHAN Aug, 11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join TIHAN for a night at the Tucson Toros baseball game on Tuesday, August 11. This benefit supports the work of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) and its services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Since 1994, TIHAN has provided support services free of charge for people living with HIV and the purpose of this event is to enjoy a Toros game and support the work of TIHAN. The benefit takes place at the Tucson Toros game against the St. George Roadrunners on Tuesday, August 11.

With the generous sponsorship of The Law Offices of Laura Schoenfeld, tickets for this special benefit game can be purchased in advance from TIHAN for only $4 each. This game takes place on the Toros' special "Two for Tuesdays," which means if you buy one hotdog, soda, or bag of chips at the game, you get one of the same items for free. We ask you to gather a group of friends and family members to spend an August evening enjoying the great American summer pastime which also benefits one of your favorite charities-TIHAN.

The game is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, at Hi Corbett Stadium at Reid Park. This is a child and family-friendly event for people of all ages. Tickets are available now by calling (520) 299-6647 (credit card orders can be taken by phone). As the number of people living with HIV increases and public funding for them decreases, there is a growing need for TIHAN's services, including our free monthly lunch program, emergency assistance for bills or memorial expenses, CareTeam support, and care packages of toiletry and household items not covered by food stamps for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) is a coalition of individuals and faith communities committed to an informed, compassionate response to HIV/AIDS: preventing the spread of HIV infection, providing compassionate care for those infected and affected, and catalyzing the religious community to provide an informed and compassionate response to the AIDS crisis. For more information about TIHAN, visit tihan.org.



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Kalamazoo LGBT Law Heads To Ballot

KALAMAZOO, MI (Observer Update) - Kalamazoo city commissioners voted unanimously to place a nondiscrimination ordinance on the November ballot for voters to decide rather than rescind the law outright, reports WWMT-TV.

Opponents challenged the law, which passed last month and prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Foes submitted 1,624 signatures deemed valid by the city clerk, thereby forcing commissioners to reconsider the ordinance, reported advocate.com.

Kalamazoo commissioners approved a similar ordinance in December, but when opponents submitted signatures opposing it, they opted to rescind the law. Commissioners will approve the ballot language and set an exact date for voting at their next meeting. The ordinance, which took effect on July 9, was suspended as a result of signature verification. It will remain suspended until the outcome of the November vote.

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Coming Saturday
Aug 15th
and
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A Whole Weekend of Fund raising
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COMMENTARY. . .

To Our Community And Allies by Jason Cianciotto

Thank You And Thoughts For The Future

I want to thank you so much for the incredible outpouring of support and for the generous ways you have given to your community center during the time I was executive director. During the past two weeks, I have been focused on working with members of the board, staff, and volunteers to facilitate the move of our center and all the details that required. I have been inspired by the leadership and message of Wingspan's board during that time. Put simply, they have stepped up and been there for you and this center, meeting these challenges head-on with a a plan and vision for the future. Please join me in thanking the board, staff, and the many Wingspan volunteers who give tirelessly to our community center!

I also want to thank everyone who organized and came to the Farewell Gathering at Pastiche on Thursday, July 30th. I am so thankful for the support, love, encouragement, gifts, and cards given to me there, and I am even more grateful for everyone's dedication and commitment to Wingspan. The following is a transcript of reflections, thoughts and dreams I shared that night. Thank you again for your love and support. This community and this center will always be a home for me, no matter where life's journey take me.

This is really a most unusual time, isn't it? I certainly didn't think that in April of 2008, when my husband Courter and I moved our family out here and bought a house, that it would be only 15 months before we would all get together like this to say farewell. But, that is how quickly the world has changed because of the recession. It was Wingspan that originally sent me on this journey, which started for me as a youth group member, inspiring me to work for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) rights movement at the national level for four years and then bringing me back home. They say the average employment span of an executive director is three years. Well, I was here for 15 months but, given everything that has happened, I can't help but feel I was just trying to do twice the amount of work in half the time.

If you'll indulge me for a minute, I've been thinking a lot about what all this change happening at Wingspan and around the country means. What does it mean from the community perspective, for centers like Wingspan that have been here for decades and have affected so many lives in so many ways? What does it mean for the national movement? Our movement nationally and our center here in Tucson recently experienced two milestone dates. This past June was the 40th anniversary of Stonewall. When we consider 40 years, we think about significant accomplishment in one's career, or having children who are growing up, or maybe even approaching that dreaded mid-life crisis. Forty is a milestone year for a lot of people. Wingspan concurrently is celebrating its 21st birthday—that is another milestone. In comparison to where most people are when they are 18, I think that 21 is when you become an adult. I didn't even come out until I was 19. Twenty-one is when you start to "come into your own."

Forty years for the national movement and 21 years for Wingspan. How might they be linked together? When I first started working at Wingspan as an office manager in 1998, one of the things I enjoyed the most was helping to organize the annual benefit dinner. One year the keynote speaker was one of my heroes of the movement, Urvashi Vaid, who at the time was Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, which was where I would also eventually work. Urvashi wrote a book titled Virtual Equality, and in it she shares this metaphor of what it was like for the national LGBT rights movement when the Clintons first took office. She describes this image of the "Keystone Cops" piled up against a door desperately wanting to get in, and suddenly the door flies open and the "cops" come running through, falling on top of each other, no one really knowing what to do. She uses this metaphor to describe how the movement, despite having unprecedented access to the executive branch, was unable to organize around a policy agenda, particularly as the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and "Don't Ask Don't Tell" became law. We all thought we were finally getting access to what we needed to achieve our goals, only to find out that things were a little more complicated.

I can't help but look at that and see that as we celebrate 40 years of our movement, we still have more work to do to accomplish what we want. We're still not able to pass legislation at the federal level that we need, and if not now, if not with the even greater support we have at the federal level, then when? Sadly, I think our movement is still sometimes more interested in fighting with itself, in forming some kind of progressive, circular firing squad, than in focusing time and energy on a really good strategy that achieves our goals together as a community. Locally, the changes happening at Wingspan during its 21st birthday are forcing us to take a hard look at what it means to be a community center—at the difference between viewing progress and achieving goals by the size of a building or the size of a budget, and instead measuring success by what the community gives to accomplish what it needs—by asking ourselves what is it that the community wants, what is it that the community needs?

That's what the Wingspan Board of Directors, staff and I have been doing, not just since July 16 when these significant changes were announced, but since November when the stock market crashed. We started seeing all these changes happening. Some part of a natural cycle of a nonprofit—grants come and go, programs come and go—that's absolutely normal. And, some that were clearly the sign of change that I don't think we ever could have thought would happen. But, there are some things that, much like I look to the national movement for inspiration, we should look for here as inspiration. What I think needs to change nationally that is also applicable to us is: it is time for us to shed what at one point in time was our greatest strength but has now become our greatest weakness. When I think back to Stonewall, our greatest strength was coming out and claiming our identity as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people.

The entire 40 years up to now of our movement could easily be characterized as us just being who we are. Claiming those words. Coming out. Creating identity and community around those categories and then adding letters as we go along. One of the things I began to experience at the Task Force and that I experienced even more here was, that very thing that motivated us, that organized us, now I think is holding us back. Now, what do I mean by that? I don't mean that we should stop publicly claiming our identity, whatever it may be. But, the very nature of a community defining itself by the letters in an acronym means that in order to be the inclusive movement we are, we have to keep adding letters.

And, that means that those who aren't a part of that acronym are defined out. Instead or creating a movement, whether at the national level or at a community center, that by its very nature is defined by the letters in an acronym, I think we need to start focusing on the values behind that movement—those common values that cross identities, that cross gender and bind us together as a community. There are three values I've been thinking about in my experience here that this community inspired in me. I want to share them with you as a way to reinforce what I think needs to happen to ensure that Wingspan remains strong and grows and maintains itself as the kind of center this community wants.

The first value is inclusiveness. Now, I'm not talking about inclusiveness as defined by simply creating a program for a particular identity—that "if you build it they will come" mentality. I think we've seen that doesn't work. I think inclusiveness is something that we live every day—something that we are versus only something that we do. I've seen that at Wingspan because the board and staff are far more diverse than what I had seen during my experience working for the movement at the national level. We have an incredibly diverse board and staff, not just because of the actions they take, but because of who they are as individuals and the communities they represent. Inclusiveness as a state of being—it's a value that binds us together no matter how many letters there are in the acronym we use.

The second value that this community taught me is—I just call it "paying it forward." We've seen the outcome—it's affected Wingspan, it's affected all of our lives—of selfishness and self-centeredness, both individually and in the business world. This notion that what we need to do to get ahead is to focus on our entire self interest as much as possible, and who cares who we have to run over to do it. But, It was at Wingspan when I was 19 that I met people who lived the exact opposite value, people who say I'm going to give of myself even when it makes me exhausted and it takes time away from my family. I am going to give something of my myself to create something better than myself. That's "paying it forward," and it's a value that binds us together.

The third value is unconditional love, and it moves me so much because it's my core value. It is what drives me forward—the notion that we can stand together and support each other and our community center, regardless of disappointments or the ways I may have let you down or Wingspan has let you down, or that we let ourselves down—that we love each other and our community unconditionally. So, we're inclusive, we "pay it forward," and we love each other unconditionally.

To me that, beyond any acronym, beyond the size of a building, beyond the number of programs, beyond the size of a budget, that is what creates a community. So please, take that for what you will. I'm not preaching at you. I'm just sharing the experiences that you gave me, and I hope you will use them to continue building a center here. This became my home when I moved here 15 years ago. Wingspan inspired me, launched me off nationally and brought me back home. This time may have been shorter than I thought, but there will always be a place for me here and there will always be a Wingspan because of you. Thank you very much.

Census To Release Raw Marriage Data

Continued from Page One

"Later in 2011, the Census Bureau will release detailed tabulations from the 2010 Census, including counts from the relationship question," said a statement from the Commerce Department. "A footnote will indicate that there are no same-sex couples included in the husband/wife relationship category. At the same time, the Census Bureau will release counts from the relationship question, by state, that show the unedited data [that is, which do not recode same-sex couples who report themselves as husband/wife]."

The Bureau will start producing reports on the data in 2012, and according to the statement, "the Director has determined that one of these special reports will focus on the question of how same-sex couples report their relationships and what the unedited data reveal about this issue."

Census Bureau data is used and analyzed by governmental agencies, university researchers, and individual statisticians. The aide said that those entities, not the Bureau, would be responsible for determining which data they utilize in their research.

DP Bill Passes U.S. House Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A bill that would grant spousal health benefits to domestic partners of federal employees cleared a House subcommittee by a five to three vote. In June, President Obama granted some benefits to same-sex partners of federal workers but said he could not grant full benefits without legislation, reported advocate.com.

The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act would, in addition to health benefits, extend retirement and disability plans and life insurance to same-sex partners.

Bill sponsor U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) said she is "delighted" by the subcommittee's action. The five to three vote was along party lines, with all Democrats in favor of the bill. Republicans argued that the bill's reference to "same-sex" partners discriminates against unmarried heterosexual couples.

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't File, Don't Amend But Click OnLine?'

After press time for the past edition of The Observer, on July 28, Florida Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement on the withdrawal of his amendment to H.R. 3326, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010. The Hastings amendment would have prohibited the use of funds to carry out the provisions in Don't Ask, Don't Tell regarding investigating and separating soldiers who admit they are homosexual or bisexual.

"I introduced an amendment to H.R. 3326, now withdrawn, prohibiting the use of funds in this bill to investigate or discharge our dedicated service men and women on the grounds of 'telling' their sexual orientation. The Policy Concerning Homosexuality in the Armed Forces – commonly called 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' – provides that a service member can be separated from the Armed Forces for stating that he or she is a homosexual or bisexual. Due to pressure from some of my Congressional colleagues and from the White House, I have withdrawn my amendment. I would, however, like to note that it is most unfortunate that we are not addressing Don't Ask, Don't Tell at this time. We should not be appropriating funds to enable qualified service members to be booted out just because they are honest about whom they are. I realize that this issue is considered controversial. But, it shouldn't be. The vast majority of Americans not only support the inclusion of Gay service members in the military, but also the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. As many as 75 percent of Americans support openly Gay service members in the military. This support commands undeniable majorities for men and women, liberals and conservatives, veterans and non-veterans, all age groups, and across the religious spectrum. It is far past time to eliminate Don't Ask, Don't Tell. While my amendment would not have repealed the law, withholding this funding would have made it that much easier.

"Americans recognize that forcing men and women out of the military on the basis of sexual orientation is not only blatantly discriminatory, but harms our national security and, indeed, runs counter to the values of our Armed Forces. We cannot afford to lose any more of our soldiers to the vagaries of outdated bigotry. Every day, we lose approximately two service members to Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Our country is engaged in two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our military has spent over $95.1 million on retraining soldiers because of this law. What is the holdup, then? Last month, 76 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Obama urging him to take leadership on this issue and to work together with Congress to repeal this law. More than a month later, I have yet to receive an official response. I continue to hear the phrase, 'next year, next year' with regard to repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. That is absurd. This law is plain wrong. It is wrong now and it will be wrong then. How many more soldiers are we going to force to suffer through the humiliation of a so-called 'investigation?' How many more Arabic- and Farsi-speaking soldiers are we going to remove from duty, depriving our country of valuable, even life-saving intelligence? How many more combat veterans are we going to tell that we don't need their experience because their sexual orientation somehow precludes them from serving their country? If we know we are going to repeal this law eventually, then why not take action right now?"

As previously reported, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced that hearings on the issue of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will be held in the fall, despite no bill being filed in the U.S. Senate so far, dealing with repealing the 16-year-old Congressional law, despite the fact one would be needed to be approved, as stated by President Obama.

An E-mail was sent out by Senator Gillibrand and VoteVets.org urging people to sign their petition because they need to show Congress, both the U.S. Senate and House that there is support to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This petition is located online at kirstengillibrand.com/repeal_dadt.

As of press time, H.R. 1283 is the only proposed legislation introduced in the 111th Congress to repeal the 16-year-old policy. Former U.S. House Member Ellen Tauscher, D-CA, was the initial sponsor and lead for the measure and since Tauscher has been appointed a position with the Obama Administration, Democratic Pennsylvania Congressman and former Iraq War veteran, Patrick Murphy, took up the lead on H.R. 1283. U.S. Representative Murphy has launched a national, multi-city campaign to push for a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Murphy and the other repeal advocates will tour the country, holding press conferences and town hall-style meetings, through September.

Again, one would think that with the public, purportedly behind repealing a policy that has cost the nation in more ways than it can afford, especially during these times, that action to repeal this 16-year-old law would be swift, direct and forthright, so hard can this be then?

Army Secretary Nominee Asked About DADT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Democratic senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri asked GOP representative John McHugh about his views on "don't ask, don't tell" during his confirmation hearing for secretary of the Army. "I think it's important we get that on the record at this juncture," said McCaskill, reported advocate.com.

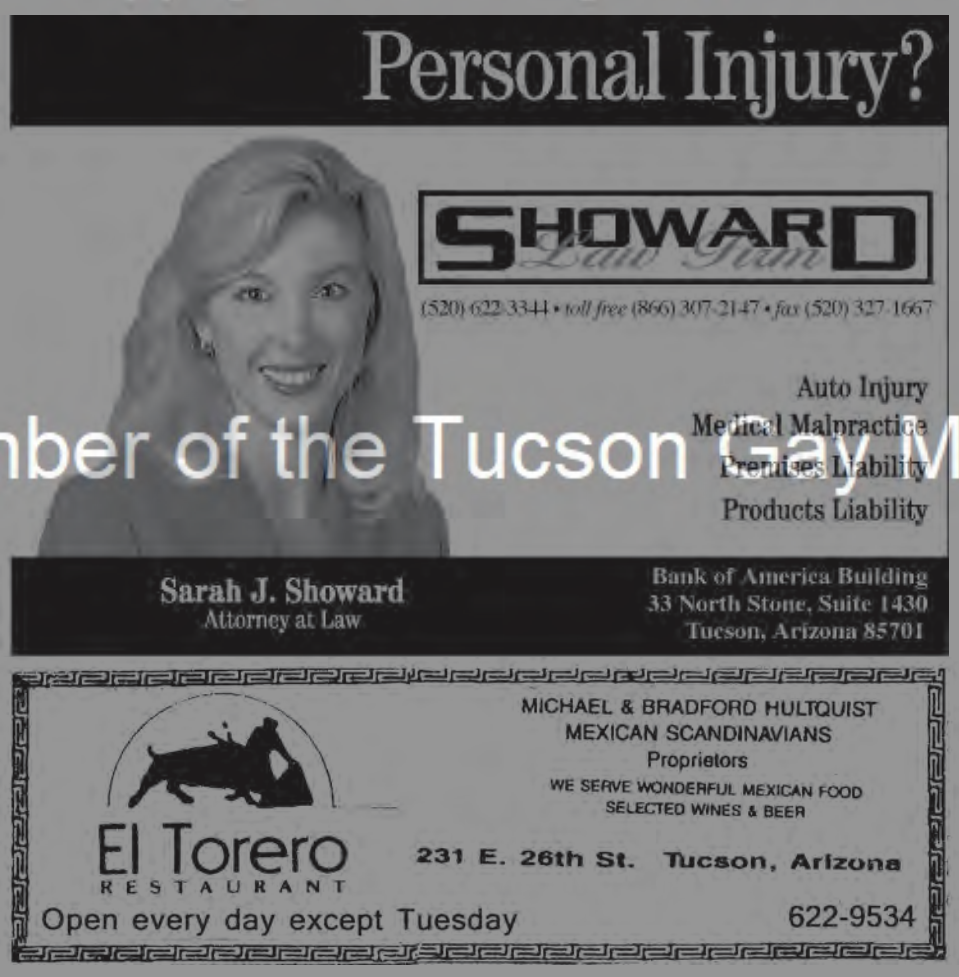
GOPRep. John McHugh

McHugh said the military's Gay ban was "a serious issue" that he has not addressed since it was implemented in 1993. "The reality is the president has made very clear, and I have not talked to the president directly, but I have talked to high officials in the administration, and I have no doubt the president is going to press forward with his intent to change that policy – to whatever degree remains to be seen. I think he would like a full reversal," he said.

"It's also without question that Secretary Gates has begun a process of what he describes as 'softening' that policy; whatever that may mean remains to be seen," McHugh said of the Defense Department's review of how the policy is currently being implemented. McHugh added that, if confirmed, his job would involve gathering information from military leaders and relaying it to President Barack Obama as well as explaining the rationale of any policy change to Congress and the military.

"My view as secretary of the Army, if confirmed, would be to do the most effective job I could garnering the military input and information that I think any secretary and any president would like as they go forward in finalizing the determination," he said. "But having said that, there are two other factors: Whatever the decision of the president and the secretary of Defense, it would be my responsibility if confirmed, or any service secretary's responsibility thereafter, to do the best job he/she could to come before this committee, the [House Armed Services Committee], or whichever other relevant committees may be afoot, to best describe or most effectively describe the reasons, the rationale, and the justification for whatever policy evolves. That's the responsibility of a service secretary as I see it under Title X and at the end of the day I think it's worth noting, of course, this is a policy embedded in law and there will be no overturning of it without the agreement of this Congress, the House, the Senate, and of course the president."

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs has previously indicated that McHugh shares the president's view that "don't ask, don't tell" is a detriment to the military. "I think it's obvious from ... statements that Congressman McHugh has made that he and the president are in agreement on changing the policy they both don't think is working for this country right now," said Gibbs. McHugh has served as the ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee since January. During last year's hearings on the Gay ban, he expressed discontent that military leadership had not moved forward with reviewing the policy.



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Israeli Gay Youth Center Reopens

TEL AVIV, Israel (Observer Update) - A community center for gay youths in Tel Aviv reopened Monday (Aug. 3), two days after it was the site of a shooting that killed two and wounded 15, reports the Haaretz newspaper.

Police continued to hunt for the masked gunman who entered the center late Saturday (Aug. 1) and fired on a support group meeting in the basement, killing counselor Nir Katz, 26, and group member Liz Trobishi, 16. The black-clad, hooded gunman fled the Gay center on Nahmani Street on foot, reported advocate.com. Most of the wounded were reported to be minors, with four of them critically injured.

Gay Tel Aviv residents rallied the next day to condemn the attack, which they called the worst ever against Israel's Gays. Officials said it remained unclear whether homophobia or other factors motivated the attack. Nitzan Horowitz, the only openly Gay member of the Israeli parliament, denounced the attack as a hate crime, echoing many other leaders in the country.

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Hawaii Coach Suspended For Anti-Gay Slur

HONOLULU, HI (Observer Update) - The Hawaii football coach who used the word "faggot" three times to describe rival team Notre Dame during a press conference, then asked the press not report on his use of the antigay slur, has been suspended for 30 days without pay in addition to other penalties, reported advocate.com.

Greg McMackin, who attempted to apologize multiple times during the same press conference – he said he hoped the press wouldn't report on what he said because he didn't "want to… have every homosexual ticked off at [him]" – will also receive a 7-percent pay cut. McMackin volunteered to work without pay during his suspension. The 30 days without pay and the 7-percent pay cut will save the University of Hawaii nearly $150,000 dollars for the year. Some of that money will pay for a student intern for the university's gay student union office.

McMackin offered up yet another apology for the incident at a press conference, saying, "I just want to say that I made a big mistake. I want to apologize to anyone and everyone that I offended." The coach has also agreed to appear in a public service announcement in support of gay rights and to beef up awareness training for the athletics program.

McMackin told the press that Notre Dame did "this little faggot dance" at a banquet the night before last year's Hawaii Bowl. He then went on to use the word two more times while explaining why Notre Dame was so fired up to play Hawaii in the game, which the Fighting Irish won 49-21.

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Transgender Mayor Reprimanded Over Outfit

SILVERTON, Ore. - After hours of debate, the Silverton City Council decided to censure its popular, Transgender mayor.

Mayor Stu Rasmussen admits he wore an open-back bathing suit, mini skirt and high heels when he went to speak before a group of kids for a Silverton-based non-profit group. A member of that organization was not happy with the attire and filed a complaint with the city.

The City Council found the public complaint to be founded and publicly reprimanded the mayor by censuring him, which basically means they officially disapproved of his outfit.

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Catholics Likely To Support Gay Causes, New Study Finds

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - A study to be published by Columbia University will examine how a state's percentage of Catholic residents affects its opinion of Gay marriage, reported advocate.com.

A similar survey by Mark Silk of the blog Spiritual Politics suggests that in issues related to marriage, adoption and civil unions, a conservative majority would win. However, when presented with issues concerning hate crimes, health benefits and job protection, research shows Catholics typically sympathize with civil rights causes despite guidelines passed down from Vatican City.

Silk heads the Leonard E. Greenberg Center for Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and said in his 2008 American Religious Identification Survey, "Six of the eight states where 50 percent or more of the public supports Gay marriage are the states with the highest proportion of Catholics, ranging from Rhode Island at 46 percent to New York and California at 37 percent."

Catholics constitute more than one quarter of the population in five of the six states with legalized same-sex marriage. About 47 percent of the population of Massachusetts, the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, is Catholic.

Episcopalians Nominate Gay Clergy For Bishop In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Two Episcopal priests in same-gender relationships are among the nominees for assistant bishop of Los Angeles, officials said, reported advocate.com. The Rev. John L. Kirkley of San Francisco and the Rev. Mary Douglas Glasspool of Maryland will be among six candidates on the ballot when lay people and clergy vote in December, despite a long-standing request from world Anglican leaders for a moratorium on consecrating openly Gay bishops.

Los Angeles Bishop Jon Bruno said in a statement Sunday that he was "pleased by the wide diversity" of the nominees. Separately, the Diocese of Minnesota on Saturday announced that a Lesbian was among its three candidates for bishop. That election is set for October 31. The Episcopal Church is the Anglican body in the United States. The nominations were announced just over two weeks after the Episcopal General Convention voted to effectively drop a pledge that it would act with "restraint" when considering any more openly Gay candidates for bishop. "What happened really is we gave the green light for dioceses to do the right thing," said the Rev. Susan Russell, president of Integrity USA, an Episcopal Gay advocacy group.

Episcopalians caused an uproar in 2003 by consecrating the first openly Gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Anglican leaders responded by asking the U.S. denomination for a temporary ban on consecrating any more Gay bishops while they tried to reach a compromise that could keep the 77 million-member Anglican Communion unified. No other bishop living openly with a same-sex partner has been consecrated since then. Each Episcopal diocese elects local bishops. Church leaders must then signal their approval before the winner can be consecrated.

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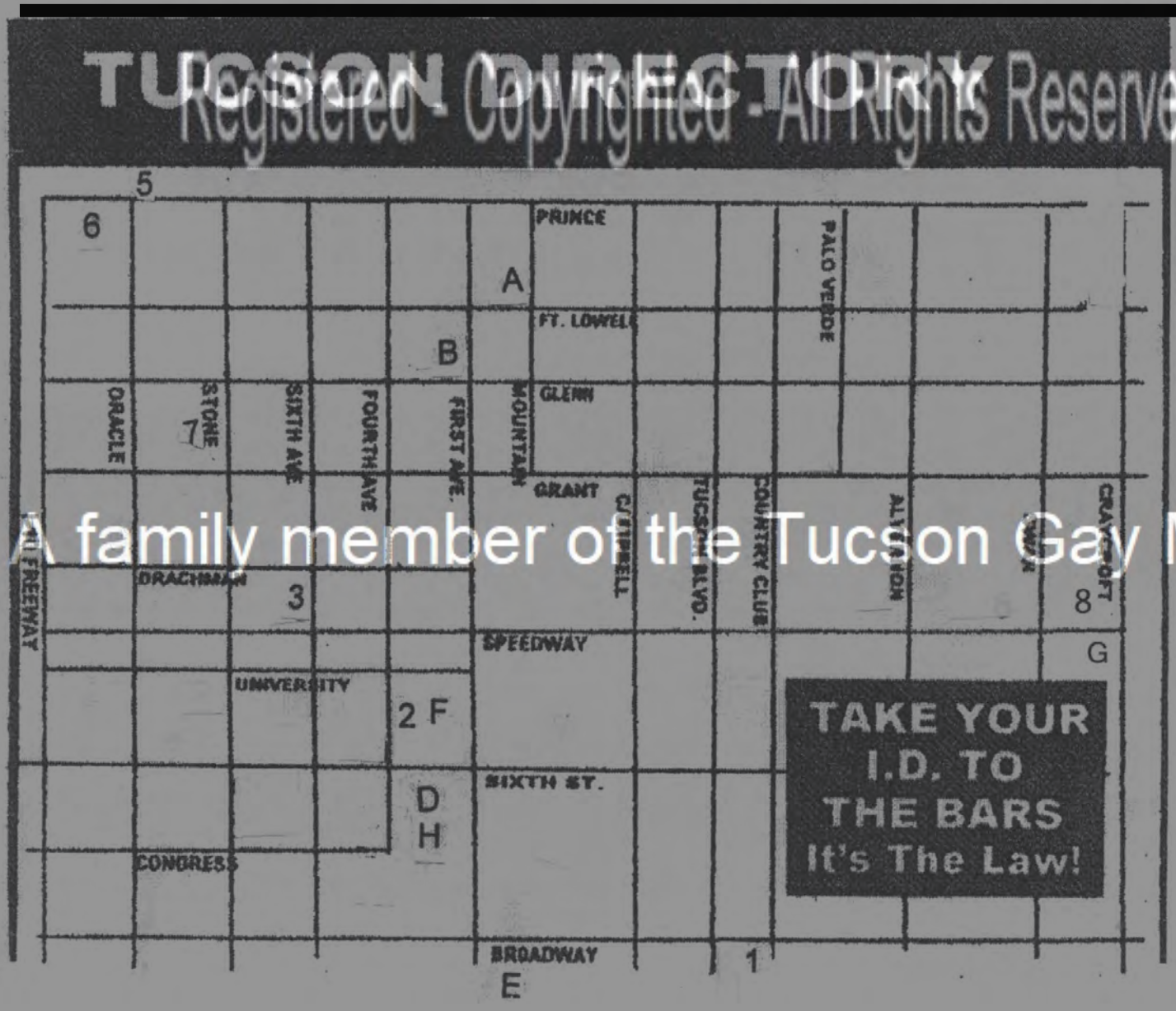

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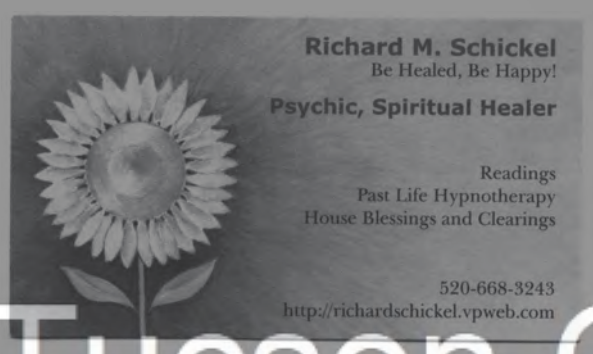

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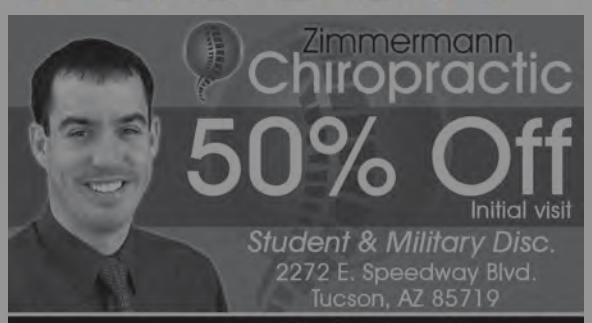

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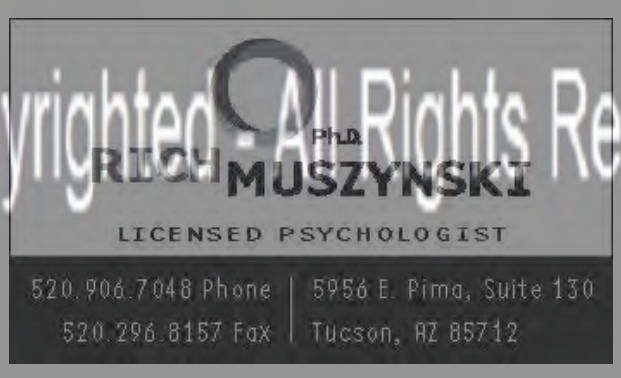

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New HIV Strain Identified In Woman From Cameroon; Virus Origin Unclear

WASHINGTON - A new strain of the virus that causes AIDS has been discovered in a woman from the African nation of Cameroon, the Associated Press reported

It differs from the three known strains of human immunodeficiency virus and appears to be closely related to a form of simian virus recently discovered in wild gorillas, researchers report in the latest edition of the journal Nature Medicine.

The finding "highlights the continuing need to watch closely for the emergence for new HIV variants, particularly in western-central Africa," said the researchers led by Jean-Christophe Plantier of the University of Rouen, France.

Three previously known HIV strains are related to the simian virus that occurs in chimpanzees.

The most likely explanation for the ne find is gorilla-to-human transmission, Plantier's team said. But they added they cannot rule out the possibility that the new strain started in chimpanzees and moved into gorillas and then humans, or moved directly from chimpanzees to both gorillas and humans.

The 62-year-old patient tested positive for HIV in 2004, shortly after moving to Paris from Cameroon, according to the researchers. She had lived near Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon, but said she had no contact with apes or bush meat, a name often given to meat from wild animals in tropical countries.

The woman currently shows no signs of AIDS and remains untreated, though she still carried the virus, the researchers said.

How widespread this strain is remains to be determined. Researchers said it could be circulating unnoticed in Cameroon or elsewhere. The virus' rapid replication indicated that it is adapted to human cells, the researchers reported.

Their research was supported by the French Health Watch Institute, the French National Agency for Research of AIDS and Viral Hepatitis and Rouen University Hospital.

A Separate paper, also in Nature Magazine, reports that people with genital herpes remain at increased risk of HIV infection even after the herpes sores have healed and the skin appears normal.

LGBT Rights Activist Mixner Hospitalized

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Civil rights activist and noted political fund-raiser David Mixner has been hospitalized, according to a post on his blog, reported advocate.com.

Mixner, who had a famous falling out with old friend Bill Clinton over his passage of "don't ask, don't tell," has taken ill and is expected to be in the hospital for the rest of the week. A blog post on his website says Mixner looks forward to picking up his daily blogging duties next week.

Mixner made headlines when he came out swinging against LGBT rights activists suggesting Gays and Lesbians should be patient and wait for the right time to demand equal rights. One of the first people to support the National Equality March on Washington, Mixner wrote an open letter on his blog in response to a coalition of LGBT groups who hold that 2010 is too soon to put another measure on the ballot for marriage equality in California.

Can A Pill A Day Prevent HIV?

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - HIVPlusMag.com reported that those most at risk for HIV could take a pill that would reduce the risk of infection? The American Foundation for AIDS Research's public policy office brought together a panel of experts to discuss the implications of just such a scenario at a recent Congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., on December 4.

"We are fighting an uphill battle, and we must vigorously pursue new strategies," said Richard Wolitski, acting director of the HIV/AIDS Prevention Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For every person on antiretroviral therapy, 2.5 people are newly infected with HIV, according to Wolitski. Every day there are 7,400 new infections worldwide; in the United States there is a new HIV infection every 9.5 minutes.

"At this point in time, we do not have the resources to bring this epidemic under control," said panelist Carl Dieffenbach, director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. "Therefore we must turn to novel prevention strategies," such as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP.

The experimental technique involves administering anti-HIV drugs before possible exposure to HIV in the hope that they will lower the chances of infection among those at high risk – a proposition currently being tested in ongoing clinical trials overseen by Dieffenbach in Botswana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, and the United States. Initial results are expected within the next 12 to 18 months. Visit amfar.org for continuing updates when the results of these trials are published.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by David Mixner

The LGBT Civil Rights Movement: Learning From History

History can be a double-edged sword. Many of us get so mired in our own personal experiences from the past that we color our ability to see the future. Others ignore them so much they fail to make their path easier by the lack of knowledge from the past. However, there is much to learn from the history of human nature and behavior, the formation of values and principles and the ability to create change. There are clearly defined common threads throughout the history of great struggles for liberation that offer us great lessons for our journey for freedom today. The most important lesson is that people with clearly defined values and principles are the best agents of change. Those who are willing to negotiate or compromise beyond those values and principles often find that they merely face more demands for them to compromise again. Individuals who know 'the line in the sand' and refuse to compromise are often instigators of great change. The tough part in looking back is knowing what is 'practical' and what is sheer stubbornness.

What the history of movements has taught us is that there is clearly no 'one way' or 'one person' that will enable the change. Even the most successful progressives have had deep failures and serious periods of doubt. In the end, sheer courage in the face of great opposition won the day. The easiest place for us to look into the past is the epic struggle by African-Americans for their freedom. For two centuries, they threw off the yoke of slavery, fought separate but equal, overturned "Jim Crow" laws, won important battles in the 1960's and ended up today with an African-American President. Let's be clear that we do not view our journey as identical to that movement. None of us have had the physical horrors of slavery nor the brutality of a Klan-driven oppression. However, the greatest compliment that can be paid to that heroic struggle for freedom is for it to inspire the oppressed around the world - to honor it by seeking wisdom, knowledge and strength from it.

There are many lessons for us in that amazing journey. Among those lessons is that the tactics and principles used to achieve that success were not all original, just adapted to fit the times, people and places. In creating strategy, Martin Luther King, Jr often consulted the history of Gandhi or the great struggles for labor and women's rights that came before. He found strength, courage and wisdom from those movements. First and foremost, there is no one way or one person that created the change. Yes, there was the richness of Dr. King's leadership but many had to participate for his extraordinary vision to come true. Also, let's not forget that at the height of his leadership, many opposed his tactics, timing and his inability - in their minds - to compromise on his principles and values for small legislative gains. Up until the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the struggle for freedom had been mostly in the courts and within the Beltway in legislation. Previously, there had been success in anti-lynching laws, a 1957 civil rights bill and of course the courts highlighted by "Brown vs. Board of Education". But the leadership was mostly Washington centric with a strong alliance of political circles within both parties.

When the Nashville 'sit-ins' and the Freedom Rides began, the opposition from the national leadership was strong and harsh. Many felt that these tactics of civil disobedience and in your face protests would seriously harm their ability to be effective both in the courts and in Congress. Initially, those more traditional leaders who had pioneered the movement to that point did everything they could to stop what they thought were out of control and harmful protests. Some of the national leaders deeply believed that King's Birmingham demonstrations, especially those resulting in young people going to jail, could even help elect Senator Barry Goldwater to the presidency in 1964. Often King was reminded by the Democratic establishment that if he went too far he would be responsible for any political failings in the future. In fact, many times, it seemed those prophets of caution were right as some demonstrations lacked a focus or resorted to violence yielding temporary set-backs. However, no one doubts today that the thousands and thousands who filled the jails, the hundreds who gave their lives, the many whose homes were bombed and those who lost their jobs because of their involvement in those demonstrations were a crucial, if not the crucial, element in the success of the civil rights movement.

Even the historic March on Washington in 1963 was filled with dissent that threatened its success. We have this image today of a mass gathering of black and white capped by Dr King's "I Have A Dream" speech. It was what we used to call back then a real "We Shall Overcome" moment. However, it almost didn't take place. National African-American leaders thought the march was a risky gamble - a waste of time and resources that distracted from legislative and legal priorities. Some were appalled that King refused to dump Bayard Rustin as the key organizer because he was a homosexual. Others threatened not to stand on the platform if 'radical' John Lewis was allowed to speak (yes, that's right, the current Congressman John Lewis!). Many predicted that no one would dare to attend and others thought it a colossal waste of time. Despite these barriers, and knowing the critics could have been right, the march was a historic milestone and inspired countless thousands, both black and white, to join those already involved. (Photograph of Marlon Bando and James Baldwin at March on Washington 1963)

Even the 'Black Power' movement which appalled Dr. King played an important role. Many wondered why in the world they would want to emulate the life journeys of their oppressors. They feared assimilation and the loss of history if they simply fought to be equal to those who sat quietly for so many years. This movement ingrained a deep sense of history, pride and joy at being black and enabled the community to embrace its history, roots and journey while integrating into a greater America. African-Americans had their history destroyed by slavery and 'Jim Crow' and those who unabashedly proclaimed their blackness stirred a yearning to come from something great. We only have to look to the LGBT community which has lost so much of it history to families burning papers so no one would know their son or sister was Gay. Or losing a generation of our history makers and story tellers to HIV/AIDS. When I reflect on all the people I know who died of AIDS and the systematic destruction of all traces of their LGBT journey by relatives I still get chills.

So, what is there to learn from this short history lesson? Some of it is so obvious as you read the similarities that if you don't get it you have a long way to go! Other lessons for us in the history of the labor movement, women's movement, the fight against Apartheid, Gandhi's teaching on non-violence and the African-American struggle for freedom are profound and we should pay attention to their lore.

First of all, there is room for all of us and our ways of creating change. Every person is urgently needed and the only crime would be to not to participate in some manner. No one has ownership of 'truth' or 'righteousness' and we must not only accept differences in approaches and strategy, but coordinate them and embrace each other in the fight for our freedom. That freedom can not come without risk taking, being bold and daring to be courageous.

Washington's legislative/legal approach is an effective strategy - but only one part of a broader plan. Without a powerful and self-starting grassroots movement the change via legislation and the courts could take years. Never will an empowered and vigorous grassroots movement delay the long term progress in Washington. Indeed, it is not only right but essential to embrace the civil rights movements of the past with all their diversity of tactics - but we must adjust them to the technology and needs of today and our own unique struggle. We must know ourselves. Who are we and what is our history? Look at the impact of the movie "Milk" on countless millions. There is an urgency to know we are a proud tribe that comes out of a noble history. That knowledge can only make us stronger, feel a part of a greater movement and overcome a history of taught low self-esteem. The arts have an especially crucial role to play with a need of art, literature, plays, films and other creative expressions to celebrate our history and culture!

The community should not waste time and resources attempting to stop those with whom we tactically disagree. Celebrate our differences! If you don't think someone is proceeding in the right fashion, stop attempting to bring them to a halt and create your own way if you feel it would be better. Embrace and acknowledge that we are indeed in the midst of the greatest civil rights battle of this generation and we are not a fringe issue, a special interest group or on some politicians list of 'things to do'. Until we fully realize this, we can't expect our allies to do the same. Tomorrow is never soon enough. Every day justice, equality and freedom are denied is a day somebody dies in oppression and never knows the joy of liberation.

All of this is only relevant if it comes from a strong individual understanding of your own values, principles and vision. You will always make the wrong decisions and the wrong compromises if you don't know what you cherish within yourself. You will have no moral compass; that guidance can only can from inside of you. With strong inner peace, the lessons of history and an understanding of our tribe, no one, absolutely no one, can stop us on the road to freedom.

Poet's Corner

DRAG QUEEN

by Ron Rose - Tucson

Drag Queen with a mustache
Drag Queen with a beard
Really hard to picture it
Simply seems so weird.
Break out your trusty razor
Select a real sharp blade,
I'm sure a drag queen with a beard
Has trouble getting laid.
Find a frilly up-lift bra
And point your ta tas out,
Now lipstick up your manly lips
Assume a sassy pout
Make sure your tools not showing
Tucked tightly in your jock.
For tools on ladies not in place
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Dear Friends:

It's the beginning of a new fiscal year for SAAF (saaf.org). The 2008-2009 year was full of challenges and changes as well as generous support and record-breaking volunteer efforts. As many of you know, SAAF has recently experienced funding cuts particularly in the areas of medications assistance, case management, mental health, health insurance assistance, and dental services. Thanks to strong leadership and collaboration from many of our partners, SAAF has worked hard to ensure that these cuts impact core services as minimally as possible. In addition, SAAF has been able to weather funding cuts due to strong community fundraising efforts during this tough economic climate. I want to extend a huge thank you to each of you for continuing to support Care Services and Prevention Programming in whatever way you can. We need your support more than ever to continue this work.

In the coming months, I would encourage you to get involved, stay involved, or increase your involvement in some way. Below are just a few ways in which you can. Attend AIDSWALK! Walk, fundraise, and encourage others to do the same. This year's fundraising events play a critical role in supporting and sustaining some of the life changing work that is done at SAAF. AIDSWALK helps to raise more than ¼ of SAAF's private funds. Your support of AIDSWALK counts! If you can't walk at AIDSWALK, then consider volunteering for the event. It took more than 600 volunteers last year to support the event. AIDSWALK would not be possible without dedicated volunteers.

Give. Giving to SAAF helps to empower other people and their families. Giving is simple. You can give online, by phone, or through mail. SAAF has a simple monthly giving program; it's amazing how far $20.00 a month goes!

Take a tour and learn about the programs, services, and people served at SAAF. If you don't know what we do, I encourage you to call Michele or myself ((520)628-7223) for a tour. You will be amazed at the comprehensive services and the compassionate response to HIV/AIDS housed under one roof.

Get tested! Testing hours at SAAF have been extended and are now available 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 4 - 8 p.m. Tuesday's and Thursday's. For more information, contact SAAF at (520) 628-7223 and ask to speak with a prevention specialist.

These are just a few ways SAAF is asking for your support. I also welcome any thoughts or feedback about how the agency can improve. Thank you for your continued support and your activism in volunteering with SAAF. Without the support of this very generous community, SAAF would not be able to address HIV/AIDS in the comprehensive and compassionate way in which we have over the last 12 years.

Please stay involved!
Wendell Hicks
Executive Director, SAAF

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Amsterdam Mayor Marries U.S. Gay Couples On Canal

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - The mayor of Amsterdam married five American-Dutch Gay couples on Saturday (Aug. 1) in an implicit criticism of the lack of same-sex marriage in many U.S. states, reported Reuters on pageoneq.com.

Tens of thousands of spectators cheered as Mayor Job Cohen performed the ceremony on a cruise around the city's canals to celebrate the high point of the city's Gay pride festival. Eight years ago Cohen presided over the first legal Dutch Gay marriage. All five couples had at least one partner from New York, where a battle over the legalization of Gay marriage rages on.

"For me it's a message to New York, the most liberal state, the most hip state, to get with it," said Ira Siff, an opera professional from New York who was about to marry his partner, opera singer Hans Heijnis.

The New York-Amsterdam connection is much in the news this year, with the cities celebrating a 400-year relationship in 2009. Cohen called the couples a "figurehead" for that bond.

"Your transatlantic love is proof of the lasting connection between old and new Amsterdam," Cohen said in the service.

In 1994, Dutch parliamentarian Boris Dittrich introduced the Netherlands' first Gay marriage bill. Now an advocacy director at Human Rights Watch in New York, he was on the boat as a guest of the city. "We want to show to the American public that Gay couples cannot get immigration, cannot get equal rights like heterosexual couples can," Ditttrich said.

The couples and activists want to be able to legally marry and to have that bond recognized on a state and a federal level. "Hope is all we've got," said New Yorker Patrick Decker, whose wedding to Dutch-born partner Stephan Hengst started the celebration.

Gay marriage is not legal under New York state law, but the state does recognize Gay marriages consecrated elsewhere where it is legal. So the couples wed will be treated as married for certain purposes by the state.

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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.

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, 426 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.

THE BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

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
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*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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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Garage Sundays. $1 Well Drinks until Midnight. Bring your band and come rock with us.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.75 Skyy Cocktails, $3.00 Domestics 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 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 - Colors is closed on Mondays.

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 $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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. 5-9 Wild Wednesdays $1 Hump Day Drinks DJ Hill. 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 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 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. 5-9 $3 glasses of wine. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers 4-6pm. 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. Flirt Friday with Happy Hour extended to 9 p.m. and munchies. DJ Hill & guest DJs. COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! . "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. 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. $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. LATINLICIOUS . $3 Cuervo, $2 Bud Lights all night. DJ Kool-A

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. 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.

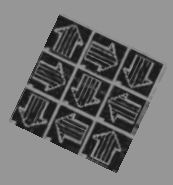
YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

Task Force Meets After Gay Bar Raid

FORT WORTH, Texas – Fort Worth's new diversity task force has held its first meeting, a month after a Gay bar raid left one man seriously injured, reported the Associated Press.

The city manager created the task force to advise him on issues affecting lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender residents. The committee members include city staff and community leaders and will meet once a month.

They will provide city employees with customer service training and promote better communication between the city and Gay residents. They'll also increase community awareness of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. Separate investigations by Fort Worth police and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, which participated jointly in the late June raid on the Rainbow Lounge, are not yet complete.



BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, August 7
THE BIZ - Hardcore Hotness
WOODY'S - Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue' with China Collins and special guests.

Saturday, August 8
COYOTE MOON PUB - TMI (Too Much Information) Starts playing at 9:00 p.m. Classic rock, blues and original music. $5.00 Cover.

YARD DOG SALOON - Big Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) Carnival and Beer Bust today from 1:30 to6:30 p.m. Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, Chili Dogs and more. Balloon Pops, Black Jack, Bingo, Sexy Dice Game, Nail in the Bottle, Bean Bag Toss, Hold-em Poker, Corn Hole - - Don't you miss it!

Friday, August 14
THE BIZ - Pole Nasty

Saturday, August 15
WOODY'S - Tonight and tomorrow tyhere will be a whole weekend of fund raising for Reveille Chorus. Tonight a benefit dinner and show.

Sunday, August 16
WOODY'S - The fundraiser for Reveille Chorus continues todau with a Beer Bust and other special events and specials. Check it out for this Tucson trreasure.

Friday, August 28
THE BIZ - Battle for DJ begins tonight. Any interested DJs contact DJ Hill @ 318-4838

Maine Equality Opponents Gather 100K Names

PORTLAND, ME (Observer Update) - Marriage Equality opponents in Maine have submitted petitions that include more than 100,000 signatures in support of a referendum against same-sex marriage, reported the Associated Press on advocate.com.

The Associated Press reports that the signatures were collected by the Stand for Marriage campaign. Members of the group delivered boxes of paperwork to the secretary of state's office. At least 55,087 of the signatures must be certified if the referendum is to be put on the ballot in November. The Maine senate approved same-sex marriage in a 21-13 vote on May 6 and Democratic governor John Baldacci signed it into law within an hour.

Baldacci has not been an outspoken supporter of marriage equality, but he said in a statement following the signing, "I have come to believe that this is a question of fairness and of equal protection under the law, and that a civil union is not equal to civil marriage...

"[The new legislation] guarantees that Maine citizens will be treated equally under Maine's civil marriage laws, and that is the responsibility of government."

Wash. Referendum Signatures Counted

OLYMPIA, WA (Observer Update) - Opponents of a Washington domestic-partnership measure granting marriage-like rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples submitted 137,689 signatures seeking a referendum to overturn it, according to a raw count reported by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, reported advocate.com.

The secretary of state completed the initial count of the signatures, which were turned in Saturday, and determined the number was 14% more than the minimum 120,577 needed to qualify Referendum 71 for the ballot. However, the signatures still need to be verified, and with an average error rate of 18%, it remains unclear whether the referendum will qualify.

The expanded domestic-partnership measure was suspended pending the outcome of the signature verification process.

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