Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER AUGUST 12, 2009 ISSUE 1307

Tucson Observer Archives

Tens Of Thousands Attend Tel Aviv Rally For Gay Shooting Victims

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TEL AVIV, Israel (Observer Update) - At least 25,000 and perhaps as many as 70,000 people gathered in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square for a rally in solidarity with Israel's LGBT community in honor of the victims of last weekend's shooting at a Gay youth center in the city. Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai, President Shimon Peres, Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, family members of victims, and prominent Israeli LGBT leaders spoke at the event, which also featured performances by Yehuda Poliker, Dana International, Ivri Lider, Ninet Tayeb, Corin Alal, Keren Peles and Margalit Tzanani, according to Haaretz.

Said Peres: "The shots which struck this proud community affected us all as human beings, as Jews and as Israelis. The man who targeted the two victims targeted all of us...Everyone has the right to be different and proud. Noone has the right to interfere in other people's lives so long as everyone respects law and order. I came to share your tears after the death of two young innocents. Be strong and courageous." Nir Katz, 26, and Liz Trubeshi, 16, were killed in the shooting by a lone gunman, who injured 15 others. The gunman is still at large.

Two of those injured in the shooting spoke at the rally: "Uri Gil, who was injured during the attack on the center, took the stage at the rally together with his friend Chen Langer and said, 'That place was a warm and loving home for them and they met wonderful people there....This past week I have been haunted by nightly fear, especially when I think that the murderer is walking around out there,' he added. 'No murderer will keep us in the closet.' Chen Langer, a youth counselor at the center who was also injured in the attack, arrived in a wheelchair and spoke after Gil. 'This is the day in which we cease to be silent, to hide, and to alter the appearance of reality.' Langer tearfully added, 'The home that was a place of security for youths became a slaughterhouse of youths.' Haaretz reports that threats were made before tonight's rally: "Earlier Saturday, a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces' Nahal Haredi unit was arrested on suspicion that he had threatened rally organizers on an online forum. While in custody, the soldier confessed to making the threats. Meanwhile, operators of transportation to the Tel Aviv rally received telephone threats from an anonymous caller who warned that grenades will be hurled at attendants of the rally. "

APA: Stop Ex-Gay Therapy

WASHINGTON. D.C. (Observer Update) - The country's leading authority on psychology is urging therapists not to tell clients that they can change their sexual orientation through therapy or treatment, reported advocate.com.

Judith M. Glassgold, PsyD, chair of the American Psychological Association's task force on the matter, said there is insufficient evidence to support the use of psychological interventions to change sexual orientation.

"At most, certain studies suggested that some individuals learned how to ignore or not act on their homosexual attractions," Glassgold said in a statement. "Yet, these studies did not indicate for whom this was possible, how long it lasted, or its long-term mental health effects. Also, this result was much less likely to be true for people who started out only attracted to people of the same sex."

A task force on so-called reparative therapy was started in 2007, to update the APA's 1997 study on changing one's sexual orientation. The task force examined 83 peer-reviewed journal articles ranging from 1960 to 2007. However, it was found that many studies had serious flaws, and few could even be considered "methodically sound, and none systematically evaluated potential harms."

The APA suggested that since many undergo such therapy for religious reasons, some should consider switching churches, or celibacy.

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U.S. Attorney Says He Won't Investigate Rainbow Lounge Inspection

FORT WORTH, TX – The U.S. attorney's office will not conduct an independent investigation into the Rainbow Lounge incident in June, nor will it review the Fort Worth Police Department's internal investigation as had been requested by the city, U.S. Attorney James Jacks said, reported the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. In a statement e-mailed to the Star-Telegram, Jacks wrote that although his office monitors reports of excessive force by local or state police, it is the role of the FBI to investigate complaints of civil-rights violations.

"At the conclusion of the local investigation, the FBI will, if appropriate, review the available evidence to see if there is predication to initiate a federal investigation for violations of federal criminal laws," Jacks stated. Jacks also wrote that his office is not authorized to "review the investigations of other law enforcement agencies for the purpose of issuing some type of grade or report on the quality or results of that investigation."

Gay-rights activists had called for an independent investigation after the June 28 "bar check" by Fort Worth police and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents, in which six people were arrested and one bar patron seriously injured. On July 21, the Fort Worth City Council passed a resolution asking Jacks to investigate the incident, a step up from Mayor Mike Moncrief's earlier request that Jacks conduct an independent review of the findings of the Police Department's internal investigation.

Jacks had not commented publicly on whether he would conduct a review or investigation, and a city spokesman had declined to say what communication had been received from Jacks. Moncrief did not return a phone message seeking comment Thursday evening. Jason Lamers, a city spokesman, declined to comment, saying officials want to speak to Jacks' office and the city's attorneys before responding. Councilman Joel Burns, who with Councilwoman Kathleen Hicks had called for an independent investigation, said Thursday night that he was "disappointed." "We as a city . . . made evident our desire to have an investigation done that both honors our citizens and the police that are involved – an investigation that yields irrefutable results about what happened that night," Burns said.

Mark White, an FBI spokesman, said the agency had received no complaints of any violations of federal statutes, including civil-rights violations. "There hasn't been any specific allegation that has been brought to our attention that warrants us stepping in and conducting an investigation outside what is occurring at this point," White said. "That doesn't mean there aren't internal policy issues. That doesn't mean there might not be violations of state law. But it has to meet federal statutes. Right now, we don't have that. Maybe this will prompt someone to step forward. We haven't had that."

Internal Report Shows Multiple Violations In Fort Worth Raid

AUSTIN, TX (Observer Update) - An internal Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) report shows that the agents who participated in the raid of the Rainbow Lounge on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots did not have official approval to make the raid in the first place, reported 365Gay.com. The internal investigation is still going on. The Fort Worth city council had asked the Dallas U.S. attorney's office to investigate as well, but they refused, See story above..

The TABC agents involved were not scheduled to be taking part in any raids, and in fact were supposed to be supervising a motorcross event.

The TABC is still investigating the incident that left Chad Gibson in the hospital with a brain injury. The TABC agents and police officers involved say that they used force after Gibson slapped or groped one of the officers in the groin, but multiple witnesses at the bar say that no such thing happened, and the officers had no physical provocation.

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Mixner: 'Good Wishes Helping Quite A Bit'

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Civil rights activist David Mixner has been moved out of the intensive care unit at New York Presbyterian Hospital at Cornell, where he was admitted, friend and Gay rights activist Corey Johnson told The Advocate. Johnson said it was "very close over the weekend" and that doctors still aren't completely sure what's wrong with him, though they are continuing to monitor him closely.

"He told me to be completely honest with you," Johnson said. "He wants people to know he really appreciates the good wishes – they're actually helping him quite a bit." Johnson said he isn't sure when Mixner will be released from the hospital but that he is doing better. He said that while Mixner still isn't able to read much, friends visited him in the hospital to read e-mails to him and show him some of the blogs he visits regularly. "He's overjoyed to see all the support he's been receiving," Johnson said. "Blogs like Towleroad, Pam Spaulding, Joe over at Joe My God – it really means so much to him."

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UPDATE

Turnabout, Sunday, September 6

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.

T-Squares Anniversary Dance August 29

TUCSON - T-Squares, Tucson's GLBT square dance club, is celebrating their 25th anniversary with a dance on Saturday, August 29 at the Therapeutic Recreation Center at Reid Park, 1000 S. Randolph Way.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m with refreshments at a "meet and greet", then a pot-luck dinner at 5:30 after which square dancers will dance to live callers until 9:30 p.m. The club invites current and former dancers along with their significant others to attend this enjoyable annual event. Contact T-Squares about the dance by emailing Tsquares25@comcast.net.

The T-Squares club is a member of the International Association of Gay Squares Dance Clubs (IAGSDC) and the local Square & Round Dance Association of Southern Arizona (SARDASA). T-Squares' diverse membership is open to all regardless of age, race, gender, religion, ethnic background, or sexual orientation. The T-Squares club dances every Tuesday evening at the Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall at 2902 N. Geronimo Ave from 6:30 to 9:00 pm with a crash course slated for September 15th for anyone interested in taking square dance lessons with a uniquely Gay flair. For more information about T-Squares, email them at T-Squares@azgaydance.org, or visit azgaydance.org and click on "Tucson, AZ".

AIDSWALK October 11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Mark your calendars for October 11th as Tucson celebrates its 21st Annual AIDSWALK presented by Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel benefiting the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). AIDSWALK features a 5K walk, 10K fun run, great food, entertainment, community education, kid and pet friendly play areas, a beautiful quilt opening ceremony with quilt panels on display from the Names Project Foundation, and much more.

Your participation in AIDSWALK means joining thousands of friends, families, and community members to walk in support of those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, HIV education and prevention, and in memory of loved ones lost to HIV/AIDS. This year's message, I walk because, allows people to share their story. I walk because...every 9½ minutes someone is infected with HIV. I walk because...approximately 2 young Americans under the age of 24 become infected with HIV every hour of every day. I walk because...everyone has an HIV status. I walk because...

SAAF provides care and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in southern Arizona, including housing, a food pantry, medical and dental assistance and support groups. Equally important, SAAF provides outreach to groups at high risk of HIV/AIDS through seven different culturally targeted prevention programs as well as general community education to help reduce the risk of HIV. You may visit us online for more info at aidswalktucson.com or call 791-WALK (9255). Proceeds benefit the programs and services of SAAF.

Desert Voices Holds Open House

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices, Tucson's LGBTS chorus, begins its 21st season on August 17 with an Open House, MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Desert Voices encouragesall who love to sing to join them on the 17th to meet chorus members, sing a few songs and experience the comraderie that is specific to musical groups. If you like what you hear and what you feel, consider becoming a member for this upcoming season.

For more information, call (520) 291-9663 and visit their website at desertvoices.org.

Fun With Reveille, August 15-16

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

Saturday, August 15, 7 - 10 p.m., 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 - 10 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 7 - 10 p.m. Happy Hour goes until 8 p.m. so get there early and down a few with us!

Sunday, August 16, 2 - 9 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 offun!

Wingspan Now At 426 E. 7th Street

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's new location at 426 E 7th St. This is directly across the street from the old location at 425 E 7th St.

The Center is open Monday through Friday. Hours for the Eon Youth Lounge (ages 13-23) are 3-8pm. All ages are welcome 11am to 2pm.

For more information, please call Wingspan at (520) 624-1779.

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

Office Closed Thursdays

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Obama Criticized For Signing Statements, Defense Of DADT Discharges

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - In the Huffington Post, Unfriendly Fire author Nathaniel Frank questions Obama's use of signing statements with regard to his refusal to halt discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"According to the New York Times, the President has used signing statements–which instruct officials to ignore portions of Congressional law–five times to challenge nineteen provisions of federal statute, including a law restricting the use of U.S. troops in United Nations commands and a war spending bill that funds troops and U.S. operations worldwide. These signing statements, when used by President Bush around 1200 times, were reviled by the Progressive community for usurping Congressional authority, and President Obama vowed during his campaign to use them with 'restraint.' Whether he has done so is debatable. But what's not debatable is this: A signing statement that tells executive officials to ignore Congressional law is a far more aggressive exercise of the President's power than using his stop-loss authority to allow willing Gay service members to continue serving their country. This is because the stop-loss powers, unlike signing statements, have been explicitly granted to the President by Congress in a 1983 statute, 10 U.S.C. § 12305," Frank writes, according to towleroad.com.

In related news, in an interview with U.S. News, Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese is asked about Obama and Gay rights. One of the topics covered is DADT. Solmonese is asked whether he's confident that Obama will overturn it.

Says Solmonese: "I'm certain. The president has made the commitment, and people working for the president that we work with have made the commitment. I have no doubt it will be overturned. The administration views this in the context of the broader issues agenda they are working with Congress on, everything from the economy and healthcare to hate crimes. They see the overturning of don't ask, don't tell along that spectrum as something that will likely happen next spring. I see a road map of six-month windows: the hate crimes bill, then the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, then don't ask, don't tell. And the administration is building a case in the military leadership and Congress and the rank-and-file members of the military...I don't see them dragging their feet. But where the LGBT community is feeling frustration is that the road map and timetable have not been made as clear to them."

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New HIV Strain Discovered

PARIS, France (Observer Update) - A new, fourth strain of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus has been discovered by French and British researchers in France, according to the medical journal Nature Medicine. HIV-1 group P – as it is being called – is believed to have originated from gorillas, and bears no resemblance to three other HIV-known strains (groups M, N, and O), which derived from chimpanzees.

"We have identified a new human immunodeficiency virus in a Cameroonian woman," researchers wrote on Nature Medicine. The 62-year-old woman at the center of this research was diagnosed with the virus after moving to Paris from Cameroon in 2004. Discrepancies in her viral load were revealed in a blood test. Although "findings indicate that gorillas, in addition to chimpanzees, are likely sources of HIV-1," researchers add that the woman has denied any contact with any apes. Doctors also suggest that she was infected by another person. The woman, who remains untreated, carries the virus but shows no signs of AIDS. She is the first person to be documented with the new strain.

Researchers also said that this was the first definitive transfer of HIV seen from a source other than a chimpanzee. "This demonstrates that HIV evolution is an ongoing process," the report noted. "The virus can jump from species to species, from primate to primate, and that includes us; pathogens have been with us for millions of years and routinely switch host species." "The discovery of this novel HIV-1 lineage highlights the continuing need to watch closely for the emergence of new HIV variants, particularly in western central Africa, the origin of all existing HIV-1 groups," the researchers cautioned.

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Mixner: Good Wishes

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Last month, Mixner made headlines when he came out swinging (in a series now being reprinted in the Observer. See Page Seven in this issue) against Gay 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 Gay groups who hold that 2010 is too soon to put another measure on the ballot for marriage equality in California.

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UPDATE

Event At Antigone Books, Friday, August 28

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Friday, August 28, 7 p.m., state Rep. Kyrsten Sinema will discuss her new book, Unite and Conquer: How to Build Coalitions that Win–and Last (Berrett, Koehler, $16.95), at Antigone Books (antigonebooks.com), 411 N. Fourth Ave.

Sinema, a Democratic Representative in the Arizona State Legislature, was a leader in the successful fight against banning Gay marriage in 2006 and in the effort to divest state funds in Darfur–unexpected victories in a traditionally conservative state.

In her new book, Sinema shares how we can put together broad-based coalitions that advance the progressive agenda rather than simply sit back and feel good about the purity of our ideals. She argues that we must let go of our preconceived notions about who our opponents are and what specific outcomes we're aiming for; identity politics have bred insularity and intolerance and closed us off from creating winning alliances and strategies. Using examples from a host of campaigns from around the country, she offers specific advice on how to forge connections with seemingly unlikely allies.

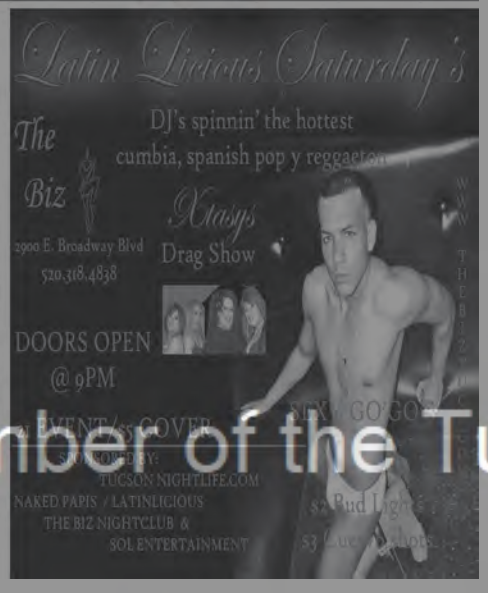
The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

El Paso D.P. Benefits Challenged

EL PASO, TX (Observer Update) - Opponents of a new law extending benefits to the domestic partners of El Paso city employees interrupted a city council meeting to demand a public vote on the measure, reports KVIA-TV. Some 25 religious leaders told city council members that the law, which grants benefits to the domestic partners of Gay and straight El Paso employees, is an "abomination" that runs contrary to the Bible and wastes taxpayers' money.

The El Paso City Council passed the measure by a 6-1 vote. It is estimated to cover about 45 employees at an annual average cost of $200,000 in a $700 million municipal budget, reported advocate.com. Approval of the domestic-partnership law followed a June incident in which five Gay men said they were harassed and ejected from a Chico's Tacos restaurant on the basis of an outdated and unconstitutional Texas sodomy law after two of them kissed.

El Paso city officials said it was unclear if the domestic-partnership law, as a budgetary matter, could go to a popular vote.



G/L Marriage Lawyers Say No Help From San Francisco

Attorneys Ted Olsen and David Boies

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - The prominent lawyers leading the fight to legalize Gay marriage in California formally told San Francisco officials and three other groups supportive of same-sex weddings "thanks, but no thanks" for trying to join their federal lawsuit, reported 365Gay.com.

Attorneys David Boies and Theodore Olson petitioned U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker with legal arguments meant to block the city and the groups from standing together with the lawyers at trial. San Francisco put Gay marriage front and center on Valentine's Day 2004 when Mayor Gavin Newsom opened City Hall to same-sex weddings. Boies and Olson argued that allowing San Francisco into the legal fight would needlessly delay the case's resolution.

A spokesman for San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera didn't return a telephone call seeking comment.

Boies and Olson also asked that three other Gay-rights groups should be barred from joining the case on similar grounds. They also argued that the conservative Campaign for California Families be prevented from joining the case in opposition, saying the group also doesn't have standing in the case. "Campaign has failed to offer any argument that differs from those raised by" the parties already officially fighting the lawsuit, Boies and Olson wrote. The lawyers said all of the organization's concerns are being addressed by lawyers with the Alliance Defense Fund, which the judge has allowed to intervene to argue against the lawsuit.

Boies and Olson, who represented Al Gore and George W. Bush respectively in the legal fight over the 2000 presidential elections, filed the lawsuit on behalf of two Gay couples seeking to marry in California. They argued that they are now in the best position to legalize Gay marriage in the state with arguments that the ban violates federal anti-discrimination protections.

The court filing highlighted the continuing disagreement among Gay marriage supporters over how best to fight for same-sex weddings in the state.

Many influential Gay rights groups fear a fight in federal court will ultimately end up before a U.S. Supreme Court comprised of a socially conservative majority that could deal the same-sex marriage campaign a significant setback with an adverse ruling.

Critics of that tack complain about the failure of the same-sex marriage campaign to defeat Proposition 8, which passed in November with 52 percent of the vote and limited marriage to a man and a woman. Boies, Olson and many others now contend the fight is ripe for a federal anti-discrimination challenge and at least three other federal challenges have been filed in Los Angeles and Boston.

Boies and Olson argued that the case should proceed to trial before a judge without a jury before the end of the year. Lawyers with the Alliance Defense Fund argued in court papers Friday that the case could be decided rapidly without a trial.

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On-Line LGBTQ-Friendly High School Launching In January

MAPLEWOOD, MN (Observer Update) - A GLBTQ High School will be launched online in January 2010 reports the Pioneer Press. Started by David Glick, the online high school would be the first of its kind, reported 365Gay.com. "We may not bring people closer physically - but we will in every other way," Glick said. "We want to make them feel more confident about who they are."

Glick started working on the website, which will be called the GLBTQ Online High School, in order to reach students who live in rural areas that do not have access to many resources. While Glick argues that this online school would protect students from bullying and act as a safe-haven, many fear that they will simply be further isolated from their peers. "The danger of the online high school is that kids will stay isolated and feel uncared for," said David Johnson, a social psychology teacher at the University of Minnesota. "It would be much better to have these kids in a regular high school."

Others, such as Glick and Curt Johnson, disagree and believe students gain a closer relationship with their teachers online due to increased interaction. "The individual transactions of e-mailing and telephoning regularly creates a relationship between students and teachers," said Johnson, a managing partner at Education Evolving, a joint venture of the Center for Policy Studies and Hamline University that promotes technological progress in schools.

Through the use of videos, chats, graphics and other multimedia, and occasional phone calls, teachers on the online high school will teach a more "GLBT-friendly" curriculum that highlights importance figures in gay rights history. Visit the GLBTQ Online High School's website glbtqonlinehighschool.com/index.html, for more information.

Ballot Prospects For Anti/GL Rights Measure Dim

OLYMPIA, WA (Observer Update) - The latest count of 6,140 petition signatures on Referendum 71 contains an error rate of 14.2 percent, somewhat dimming chances for a statewide vote on the Legislature's "everything but marriage" law for state-registered same-sex partners, seattlepi.com reported. Overall, State Election workers have checked 23,457 names, accepting 20,335 and rejecting 3,122, for a total error rate of 13.31 percent.

A group called Protect Marriage Washington turned in 137,689 signatures to the Secretary of State on July 25. The sponsors need to get 120,577 valid voter signatures to secure a place on the ballot. The figure means that R-71 petitions can sustain an overall error rate of 12.42 percent. The count was the second consecutive day that rejections rose above 14 percent. The rejection rate on Tuesday was 14.4 percent. Overall, 68 signatures have been rejected as duplicates, 221 as no-match, 2,764 as people not registered to vote, with 69 missing a checkable signature.

"We always need to be wary of early counts, but prospects do not look well for them (R-71 sponsors)," said Andrew Villeneuve, director of the Northwest Progressive Institute, a liberal policy group. If 14 percent error rates persist, predicted Villeneuve, R-71 "is on track to be rejected" for a place on the ballot. Liberal, Democratic and gay rights advocates mounted a don't sign campaign, which conservative Christian groups mounted a last-minute push to get the measure onto the state's November ballot.

With the larger workforce, the Elections Division hopes to wrap up the full-signature check by sometime in the week of Aug. 17.

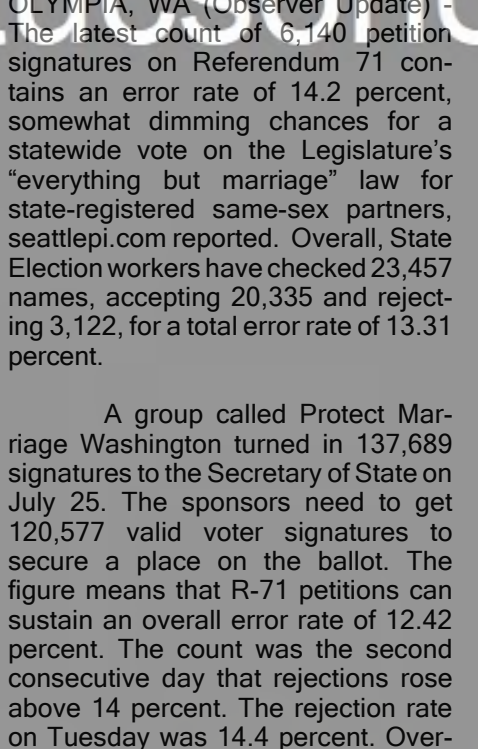
Johnson Family Foundation Pitches In Against Teen Suicide

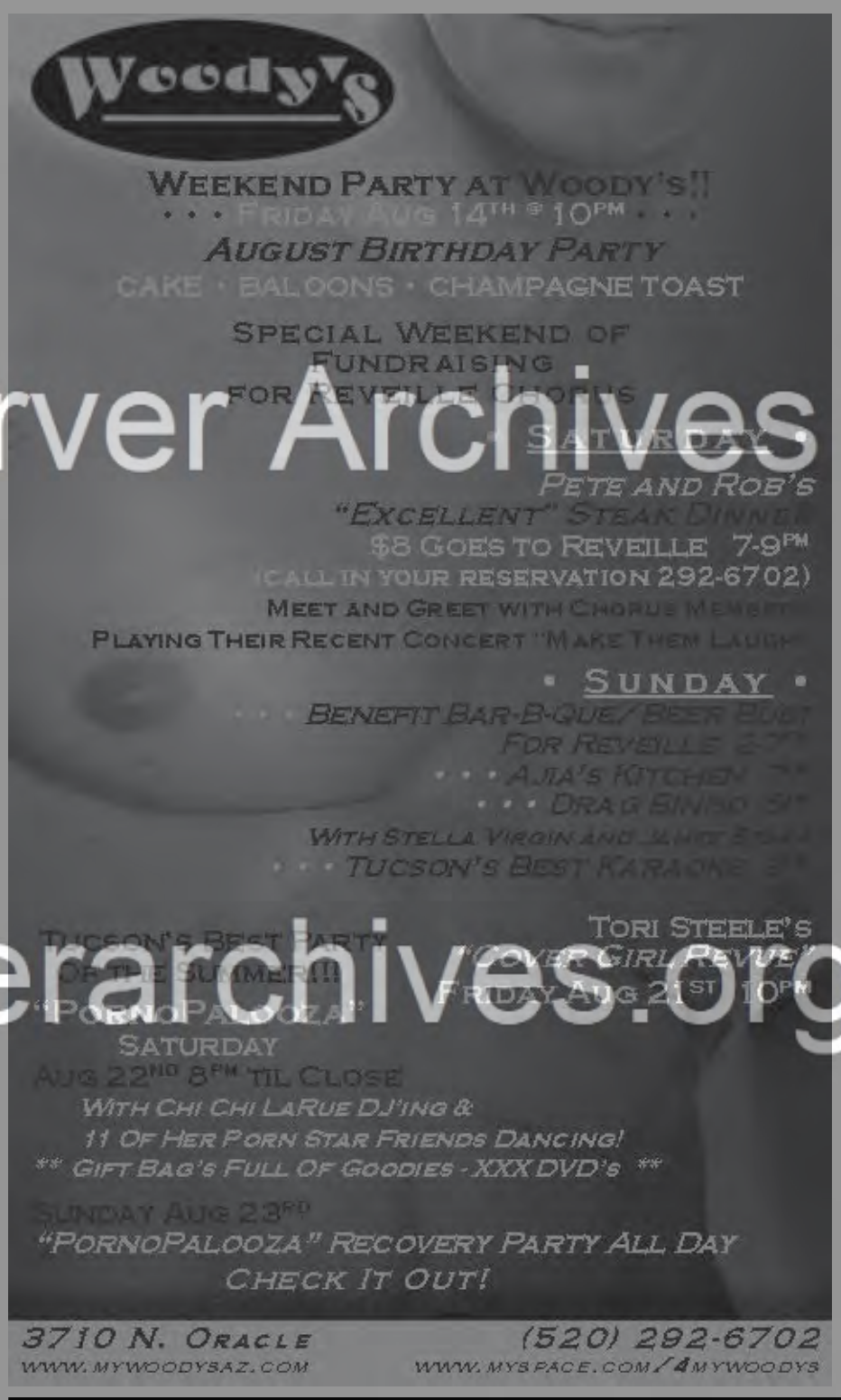
NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - The Johnson Family Foundation (JFF) gave a $45,000 grant to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) in its effort to reduce the number of LGBT teen suicides, advocate.com reported.

Andrew Lane, executive director of JFF, said, "Significant efforts must be undertaken to reduce suicide behavior and risk among LGBT people. JFF's grant to AFSP will ensure that the best available research informs the design of interventions that will hopefully save lives and promote well-being."

Studies show that LGBT youths are more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual peers. In response, the AFSP laid out a program designed to spark national LGBT suicide prevention strategies that work with other suicide prevention programs, government organizations, and researchers who will look more closely into the social and emotional stigma that often serves as the catalyst for LGBT teen suicides.

"The Knowledge to Practice Initiative will take all that is currently known about suicide behavior and risk in the LGBT community, and what we hope to learn, and then direct that knowledge towards tangible and effective prevention programs," said Ann Haas, Ph.D., director of suicide prevention projects for AFSP.





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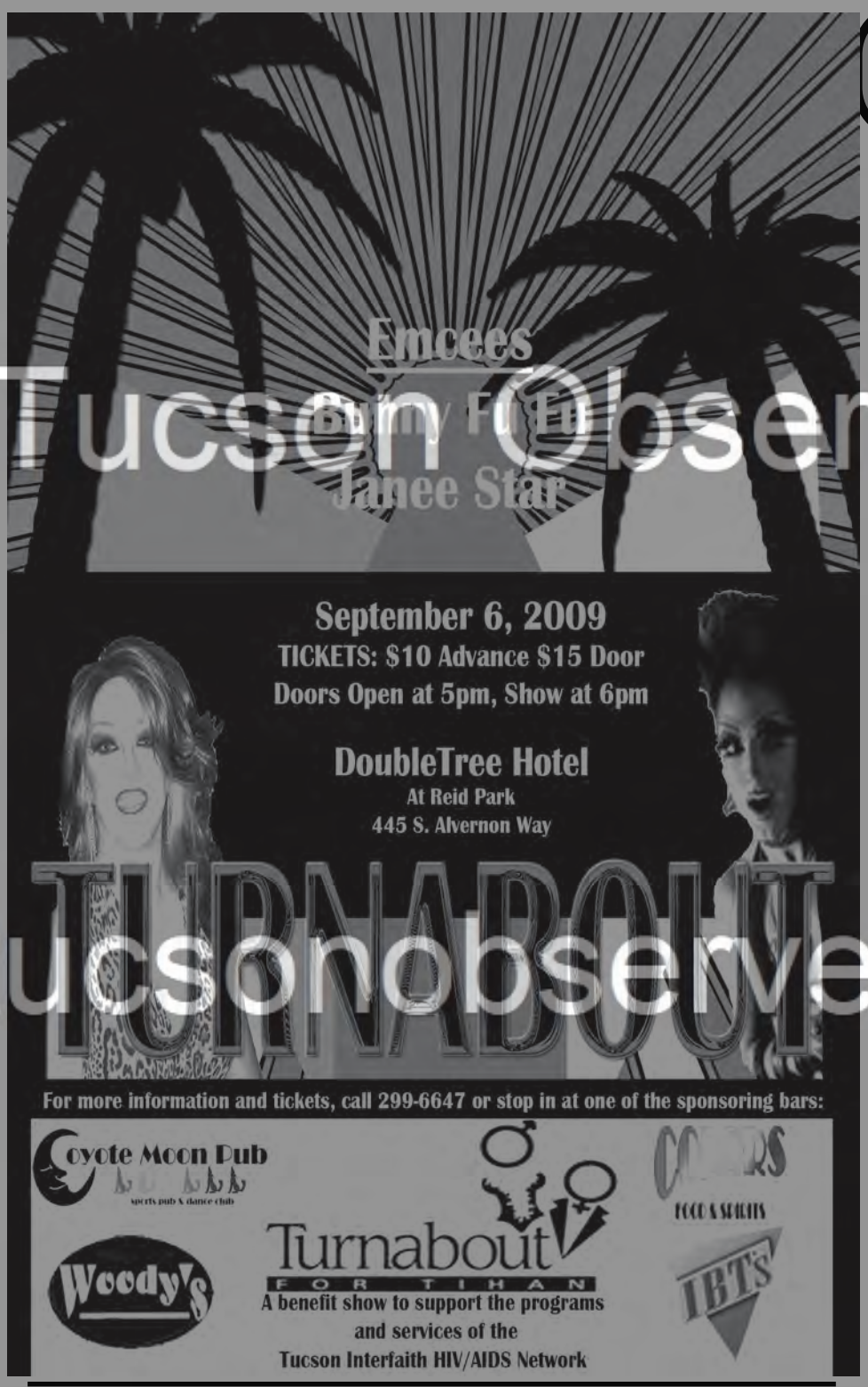


POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

ENDA Update

S. 1584 is the U.S. Senate companion version of ENDA (the Employment Non Discrimination Act), which if passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama, would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"There is no place in the workplace for employment discrimination," said U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley in a press release. "No worker in America should be fired or denied a job based on who they are. Discrimination is wrong, period. I'm proud to join Senator Kennedy, who is a civil rights legend, and Senators Collins and Snowe, both champions for equality, in taking this next step in our ongoing effort to create a more perfect union and guarantee every American, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, the right to earn a living."

"The promise of America will never be fulfilled as long as justice is denied to even one among us," said U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy in a press release. "The Employment Non_Discrimination Act brings us closer to fulfilling that promise for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens. I'm proud to join Senators Merkley and Collins in introducing this important legislation."

ENDA is supported by a broad range of civil rights, religious, civic and professional organizations, including the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, NAACP, AFL_CIO, Service Employees International Union, AFSCME, National Education Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, Anti_Defamation League, Religious Action Center, Unitiarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, American Civil Liberties Union, and many others.

Federal law provides legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age and disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity but in 29 states across America, it is still legal to fire someone based on his or her sexual orientation, and in 38 states, it is still legal to fire someone for being Transgender.

S. 1584 was introduced August 5, read and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

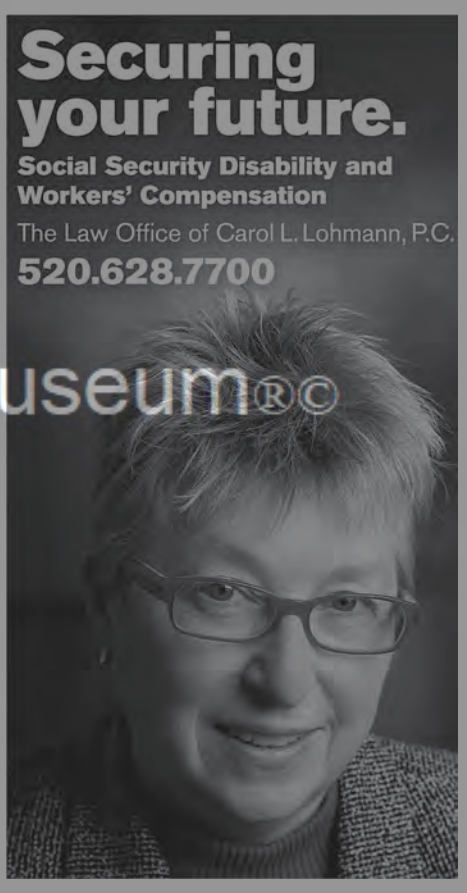
H.R. 3017 (the U.S. House companion version) was also introduced in the U.S. House on June 24, and was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the House Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

G/L Adoption Debated In Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, LA (WAFB) - The controversial issue of same sex adoption was front and center at the Louisiana Capitol as a Gay rights group out of New Orleans met face-to-face with members of a marriage and family commission appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal called the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family. The Gay rights group, Forum for Equality, made a video presentation to the Louisiana Commission on Marriage and Family with heartfelt hopes of changing a few minds. The group says it promotes Gay adoption and its benefits. "The state of Louisiana shouldn't be kicking Gay families, instead it should be doing what it can, assisting all families in Louisiana and helping children," said Randy Evans.

While the commission can't actually write legislation, what it can do is make suggestions to the House and Senate, leaving open the possibility of stricter laws that may include making single-parent adoptions illegal. "If they want to see changes in the laws as they exist, perhaps they need to provoke or advocate a change within the law," said Louisiana Senator Sharon Weston Broome, D-Baton Rouge. Right now, the state allows single-parent adoption. Some say it's an alternative way for Gay couples to adopt. Forum for Equality members say they're afraid the commission will ask the legislature to ban the practice altogether. "It's mean to kids because you are affecting them," said Mary Griggs. "You are hurting children by not allowing Lesbians and Gays to adopt." Broome says the commission's job is to follow Jindal's executive order, which promotes adoption by a man and a woman. "They need to find a strong advocate for their issues, if they want to see the particular law changed," Broome said.

Forum for Equality says this commission was its advocate and members say they'll continue their fight. Broome says she looks forward to continuing the business of the commission. When asked directly if the committee would propose legislation to ban single parent adoption, she said there is no way of telling what will happen when the session convenes next spring.



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COMMENTARY. . . .

by David Mixner

The LGBT Civil Rights Movement: Part Three: Picking Our Issues

Over the few last years, I have found myself amused while giving a speech when someone stands up and demands to know why we picked this or that issue to fight. Especially in the early years of the marriage debate, concerned members of the community wanted to know why we were struggling with this issue now when clearly America wasn't ready. I was amused because often there is this image of a group of leaders sitting around the table deciding that we will go with this issue or that issue at any particular moment. That simply has not been my experience.

Instead, I have found the leaders, including myself, running to catch up to an issue that was suddenly thrust forward by events rather than by carefully planned decisions. No one put Rosa Parks on the bus, she was just tired and the Montgomery Boycott took place. The police dogs and fire hoses of Birmingham did more to pass the 1964 civil rights bill than all the meetings in the world. The same can be said of the bridge at Selma and the role it played in pushing passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Average citizens exhibiting extraordinary courage forced the rest of the world to catch up with their sheer determination to be free.

With the war in Vietnam, it was the same. The Tet Offensive propelled Senator Eugene McCarthy forward in New Hampshire and Senator Robert Kennedy into the race. The Life Magazine picture of the naked young girl running down the street in Hue covered in burns from napalm helped turn a horrified America away from this war. The man burning himself alive outside the Pentagon to protest the war changed Defense Secretary Robert McNamara more than the tens of thousands who marched on that building. Again, the individual with courage suddenly was showing us the way. Challenging us to do more and to do it now.

For us in the LGBT community, there has been excellent work by such groups as Freedom to Marry and especially Evan Wolfson to prepare for such a moment. However it was the thousands and thousands who stood in the pouring rain in San Francisco waiting to get married that inspired a nation to embrace this cause. Those brave souls gave us clarity _ not to mention humanity _ on a complicated issue. Standing in that line, those renegades realized that marriage provided the solution to so many of issues that would give them total citizenship in America. The Massachusetts ruling gave the needed boost and caught many of us attempting to play catch up. No one can deny that the crucifixion of young Matthew Shepard gave us a new energy around hate crimes. In good, part the hate crimes legislation was passed this week because of the agonizing hours that Matthew spent on that fence. So many others who were brutally murdered and beaten, especially in the transgendered community, forced us to fight back literally for our lives. Anita Bryant, who came out of nowhere in Miami, did more to define our issues in the late 1970's than all the planners who had a neat agenda. The first cases of HIV/AIDS changed our long term plans for Gay liberation into a fight for survival and holding our own against hateful amendments introduced by the likes of Senator Jesse Helms. Bill Clinton saying "I have a vision and you are part of it" in 1992, led the community into a more political direction to seek answers and solutions to our oppression.

Now once again we are being transformed by the courage of individuals (especially our young!) and current events. There is no question that the passage of Proposition 8 and even more interestingly the Department of Justice brief on DOMA have transformed us to into an unstoppable civil rights movement. LGBT citizens are no longer willing to wait, to have their rights handed to them at the whim of or for the convenience of any politician. They want full equality now. They want marriage and they want to serve their country. They want to keep their lover from another country with them in America. They want our young to be protected against harassment in the schools. They want all the 1,000 rights and privileges granted to all our Americans under civic marriage. It is not about emulating traditional marriage or assimilating or losing our culture; it is simply about full equality and total freedom.

No longer is it about fighting this bigot in one state and another bigot in another state next year. Nor is it about picking our issues at pleasure and choosing which ones to fight and often basing that decision on the needs of some elected official. Quite honestly we don't care anymore if President Obama believes marriage is between a man and a woman or if Majority Leader Harry Reid has problems because of his Mormon faith or Speaker Nancy Pelosi worries about the 50 plus "Blue Dog Conservative Democrats" who are up for reelection next year. Their issues pale compared to the oppression, injustice and system of Apartheid being established against the LGBT community. They can deal with their own conflicts politically and we will proceed spiritually with sheer determination for our freedom. We can't line up our issues like planes over Chicago's O'Hare airport, calmly allowing the easy smaller planes to land first and then saving for last the bigger more complex jumbo jets. That strategy could take decades. Can any of you imagine the civil rights leaders cheering President Kennedy if he told them in 1962 at a White House reception to trust him and they would be happy in eight years? As a group, they would have walked out, appalled at the suggestion that their freedom had to be stretched out nearly a decade in some nice plan. They simply would have not tolerated it. Nor can we.

The community has let us know what they want. They want full equality now. Included in that package are all of our issues. LGBT citizens don't want to negotiate our freedom away and take years to achieve it. That is the issue: full equality. One day more of any denial of any of our freedoms is unacceptable. The brutality and anger directed to our transgendered allies is unacceptable. Creating a new language to describe our relationship thus continuing the march toward Apartheid is unacceptable. Tolerating our allies ducking and weaving to avoid taking tough stands on behalf of our freedom is unacceptable. Allowing our freedom to be an issue of majority rights is unacceptable. We come from a proud history and culture, brought together by a common oppression. Many have died for us to be at this moment and many more have been beaten, lost their jobs, served time in jail and suffered in order for us to stand together now. We cannot dishonor them nor can we dishonor each other by accepting anything less than the honor, dignity and rights given to all other Americans. Until that moment, we will not stand patiently by waiting until others decide it is our turn. We have too much pride for that.

Openly Gay Pugh Wins Detroit City Council Primary

Charles Pugh

DETROIT, MI (Observer Update) - Gay rights activists are expressing praise after openly Gay Charles Pugh received the most votes in the Detroit City Council primary. The former broadcaster is the first openly Gay person to win a major election in Detroit.

"I was truly humbled," said Pugh. "I know there were people who didn't vote for me because I was Gay ... but I think people looked at me to see who I was as a complete person and where I was on the issues and that's what made the difference." Pugh will now move on to the November 3 primary. He was one of 18 candidates to advance after earning 8.9 percent of the vote with 59,560 votes. He received almost 10,000 more votes than City Council President Kenneth Cockrel Jr., who came in second.

The Detroit Gay community has expressed their excitement over Pugh's success, but several religious institutions in Detroit have backed him as well. Both the AME Ministerial Alliance and the Council of Baptist Pastors have decided to support Pugh despite the fact that Detroit churches have historically condemned homosexuality. "He was young and energetic, and he had good ideas," said Rev. Lonnie Peek, a spokesman for the Council of Baptist Pastors. "He's just the right person to bring about change. He did great."

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Are LGBT Churchgoers More Devout, More Active?

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - A report on PoliticsDaily.com suggests that Gay and Lesbians may be more spiritually active than is publicly perceived, reported 365Gay.com. The survey indicates that not only do a majority of Gay and Lesbian Americans consider themselves Christian, but the pollster's anecdotal findings suggest that Gays and Lesbians who actively attend church may be more invested and committed participants in their church than their straight counterparts.

The article on PoliticsDaily.com states: "A new surveyof 9,000 Gay, Lesbian, and bisexual Americans from George Barna, a well-known evangelical pollster, showed that 70 percent of Gay adults describe themselves as Christian and 60 percent say their faith is 'very important' in their lives. Granted, those figures are lower than the population as a whole, which register 85 and 70 percent on those rankings, respectively. But Barna, himself a Bible-believing, born-again Christian, points out that the numbers demonstrate that 'popular stereotypes about the spiritual life of Gays and Lesbians are simply wrong.'" Furthermore, while the numbers may suggest that Gay and Lesbian parishioners may be squeamish when it comes to being officially active participants in institutionalized religious organizations, those who do attend church are serious about it.

The report attributes this to several factors, perhaps the most persuasive being that "...Gays and Lesbians are drawn to ministering to others as a result of their own experience, and that the Christian journey of forgiveness and redemption and acceptance resonates deeply with them." In greater details the report notes: "'One reason homosexuals are drawn to the church is that many of these people have been wounded themselves, so they know what it's like to feel broken, and they want to help others in whatever way they are hurting,' said the Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit priest and author, who knows many Gays and Lesbians who work in ministry despite the fact that they cannot openly identify as homosexual. 'The Christian paradigm of the scapegoat – the marginalized one, the one who suffers unjustly – is quite powerful, especially for Gay people.'" Also, Gays may be more active voices in their church, as they're attuned to activism and how to affect changes, the survey analysis suggests. Specifically, it notes how the ordeal of coming out as Gay may be akin to a similarly personal journey of spiritual self-discovery and acceptance.

"I have a theory that once you discern one call – that God has created you to be Gay – that you are more adept at understanding God's call in other ways, as into ministry," states Ann Kansfield, Lesbian co-pastor of a Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, N.Y., in the PoliticsDaily.com report. Thusly, "homosexuals who have come to terms with their sexuality also tend to be active in church, and especially in lobbying to change church policies on homosexuality, for the same reasons they are involved in these causes in the secular sphere: because they want Christianity, and America, to live up to their stated beliefs."

The report goes into greater detail suggesting (often via speculative methods) as to why Gay and Lesbians may make for more avid or devout churchgoers.

Life Sentence For Murder Of Ryan Skipper

BARTROW, Florida (Observer Update) - Joseph Bearden, a known methamphetamine addict, has been sentenced to life behind bars for his part in the killing of Ryan Skipper in 2007. Prosecutors had sought the death penalty, 365Gay.com reported.

The jury took two days to find Bearden guilty Friday (Feb. 27) of second-degree murder, theft of a motor vehicle, accessory to after-the-fact, tampering with evidence and dealing in stolen property. Bearden's co-defendant, William Brown Jr., will be tried separately. Throughout the trial Bearden maintained Brown killed the then 25-year old.

Brown, on the witness stand pled the fifth, declining to testify. Skipper, who was openly Gay, was attacked in his own car. His body was found on the side of a road. His throat had been slashed and there were multiple stab wounds - as many as 20- covering his torso. John Kirchoff, a friend of Brown, testified that Bearden planned to rob Skipper at Skipper's home. "He was going to rob the guy at his house," Kirchoff testified, "but somebody came home, so they left."

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New Yorkers Get Taste Of Big Gay Ice Cream Truck

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Even if you're not in the mood for a vanilla cone, you can't miss Doug Quint's ice cream truck on the streets of New York City, reported npr.org. Quint owns and operates the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck. And with that name emblazoned on the truck – along with a big, rainbow-colored soft-serve cone logo – Quint is bound to turn heads.

What exactly makes it the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck? Quint gets that question a lot. "Every day, at least a couple of times," Quint says. "And every time, I say, 'I make it Gay.' " Quint also gets asked whether he's Gay. "If I weren't Gay, I wouldn't call it the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck. And if I weren't happy, I wouldn't have the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck. It would just be the big crabby ice cream truck," Quint says.

Quint, who is a classically trained bassoonist, has only been in the ice cream business for a few months. The ice cream truck is just a summer gig while most orchestras are on break. "It kind of came about because the idea of a middle-aged Gay guy driving an ice cream truck seemed pretty humorous and a little bit suspect to me. I love the idea of what people might be saying, so I thought, 'Whatever they might be saying, let's grab it and amplify it times a hundred and label the truck that way,' " Quint says. "There's gonna be no doubt. It's the Big Gay Ice Cream Truck." As for Quint's menu, he says it's sort of "metrosexual," with toppings like ground wasabi peas, caramelized bacon, Trix cereal and Nutella. But if you're looking for something more traditional and more in line with the truck's name, you can always order rainbow sprinkles.

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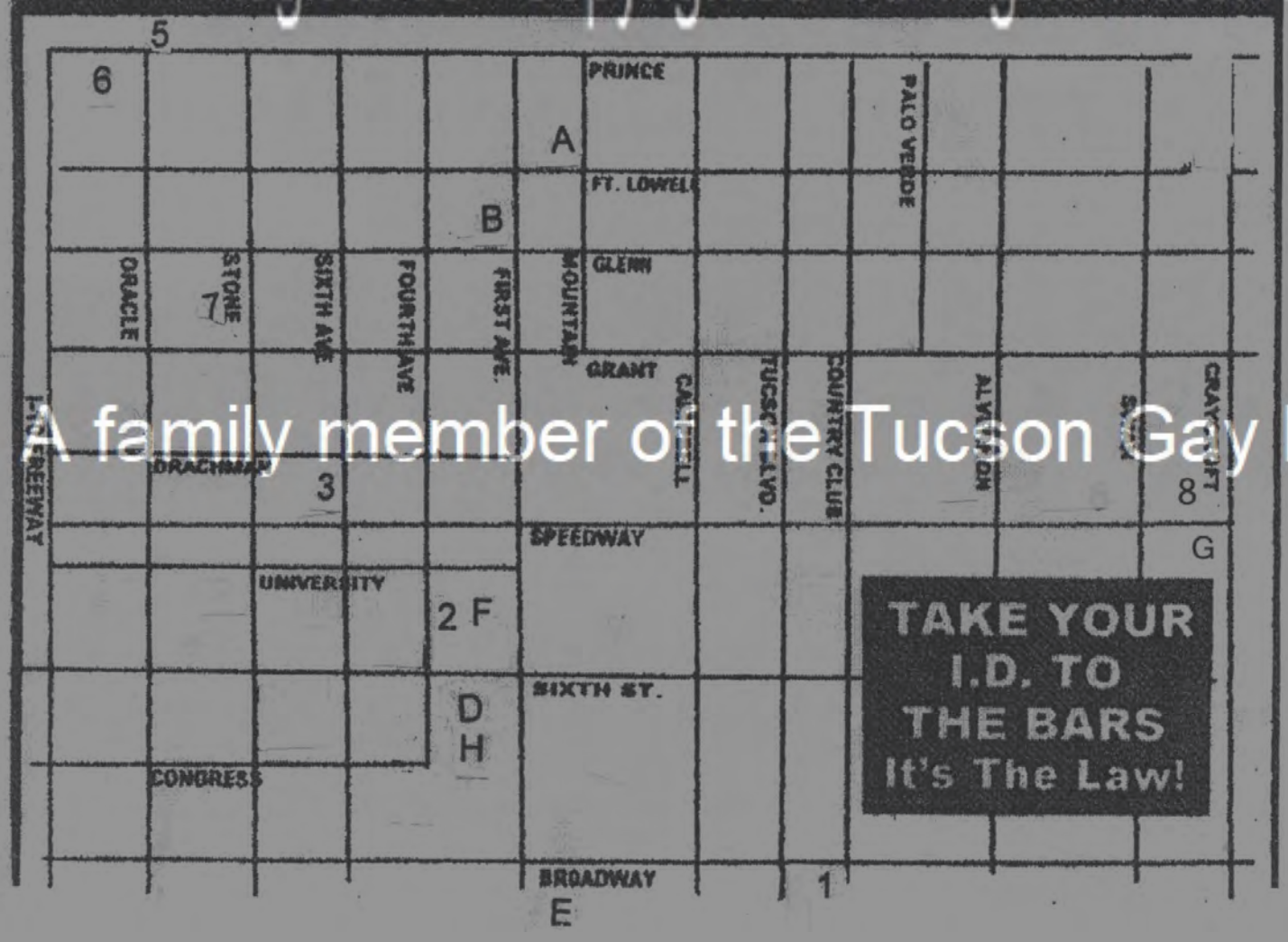

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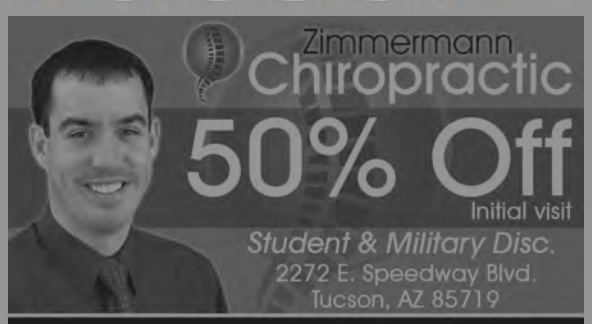

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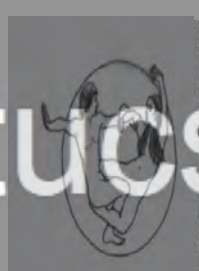

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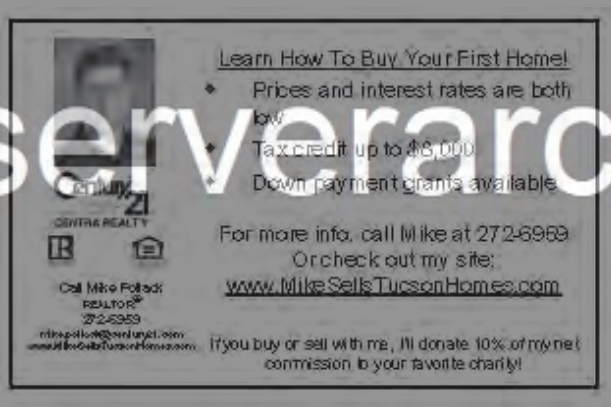

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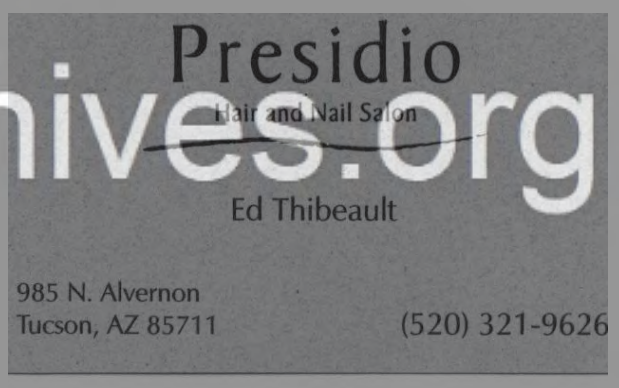

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Gay, Straight Adult Entertainment, Toys Face 'Skin Tax'

OLYMPIA, Washington (Observer Update) - It's enough to make you blush: Some politicians want a bigger taste of the economy's naughty side, pushing for special taxes on dirty magazines, racy movies, sex toys and strip clubs, 365Gay.com reported.

In Washington state, a half-dozen cash-strapped legislators recently endorsed a huge sales tax increase on explicit movies, magazines and other sex-themed products. New York officials recently acknowledged that Gov. David Paterson's proposed "iPod tax" on Internet downloads also would apply to online porn purchases, along with tamer diversions such as pop music and computer software. And in Texas, state lawyers are fighting to preserve the "pole tax," a $5 cover charge on strip clubs that's being challenged by business owners. In the past five years, lawmakers from Tennessee to Kansas to California have pitched special taxes on porn, escort services, exotic dance clubs and other adult businesses. A U.S. senator even toyed with the idea of an Internet porn tax on the federal level.

Most of the proposals - call them skin taxes - have stalled, often because of conflicts with First Amendment protections of free expression. Washington's proposed porn tax earned little support, despite the need to close an $8 billion budget deficit. But even with serious constitutional problems, lawmakers haven't stopped trying to capitalize on the fact that sex sells, especially when facing big budget shortfalls and weary voters who aren't likely to stomach an across-the-board tax hike.

Prison For Australian Who Blackmailed Closeted Politician

MELBOURNE, Australia (Observer Update) A man who attempted to blackmail a closeted member of Australia's Parliament was sent to prison, 365Gay.com reported. Jake Michael Della-Vedova, 25, will serve four months behind bars. He pleaded guilty to one count of blackmail.

The name of the politician has been suppressed. All that is known about him is he is married.

"You intentionally exploited an aspect of the victim's sexuality which you knew made him vulnerable, especially in light of his position in our community," Judge Lisa Hannan said in passing sentence. "It is sad that this remains the sort of information that in our society is used for blackmail, but it is the reality," she said.

California Bill Targets LGBT Domestic Violence

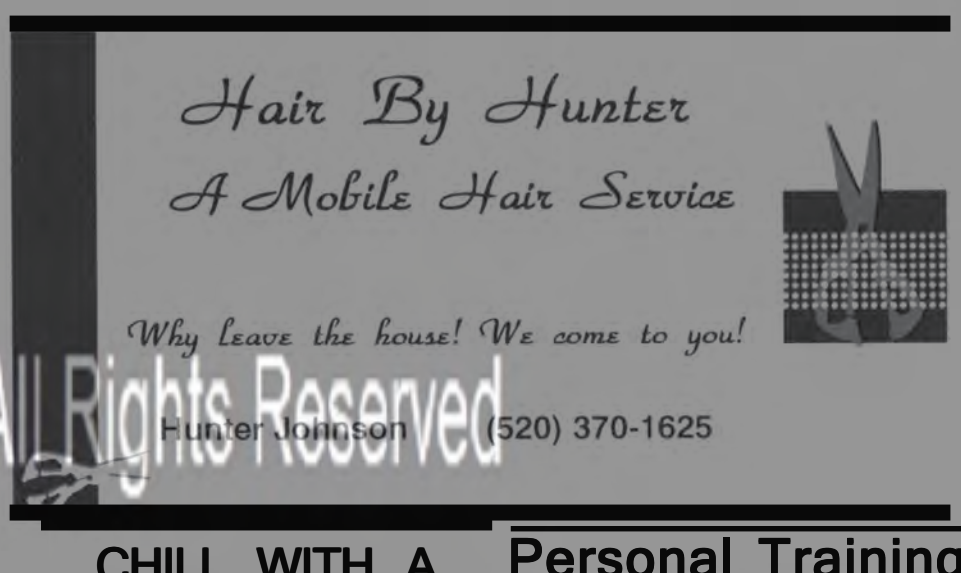
AN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - The California Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Thursday (Mar. 5) challenging Proposition 8, the measure passed by voters in November that bars same-sex marriage, 365Gay.com reported.

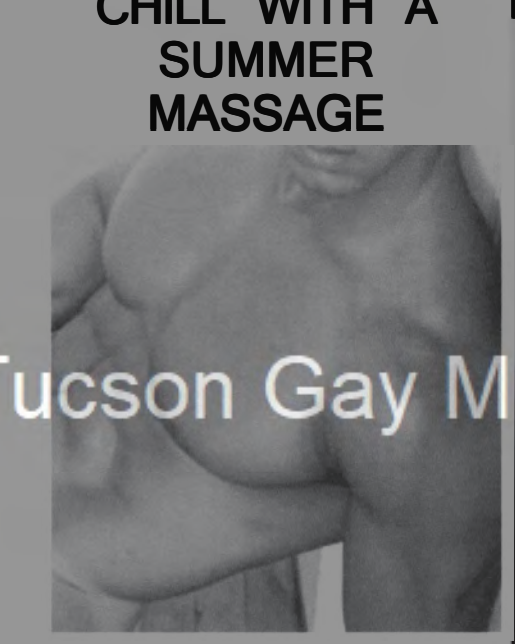
Proposition 8 was passed by voters by a slim 52 percent. The American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights immediately filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the vote. They were joined by additional suits by the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles and a legal opinion by California Attorney General Jerry Brown. The lawsuits charge that Proposition 8 is invalid because the initiative process was improperly used in an attempt to undo the constitution's core commitment to equality for everyone, by eliminating a fundamental right from just one group – Lesbian and Gay Californians.

They also say that Proposition 8 improperly attempts to prevent the courts from exercising their essential constitutional role of protecting the equal protection rights of minorities. The suits say that under the California Constitution, such radical changes to the organizing principles of state government cannot be made by simple majority vote through the initiative process, but instead must, at a minimum, go through the state legislature first.

The California Constitution itself sets out two ways to alter the document that sets the most basic rules about how state government works, the groups said in a written brief to the court. Through the initiative process, voters can make relatively small changes to the constitution. But any measure that would change the underlying principles of the constitution must first be approved by the legislature before being submitted to the voters. That didn't happen with Proposition 8, and that's why it's invalid, the petitioners said.

Brown's office took a slightly different approach, arguing in its brief to the court that Proposition 8 should be invalidated on the ground that certain fundamental rights, including the right to marry, are inalienable and cannot be put up for a popular vote. The brief said said the measure should be overturned because it deprives people of the right to marry – an aspect of liberty that the Supreme Court has concluded is guaranteed by the California Constitution.





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Charles Perez: Fired For Being Gay On Air?

MIAMI, FL (Observer Update) - After telling Miami-Dade's Equal Opportunity Board that network brass demoted him from his anchor slot in a discrimination complaint that claims his sexuality played a role, Gay Miami newscaster Charles Perez has been booted from the station entirely, reported queerty.com.

The move comes a week after Perez's complaint alleged he'd been pushed into a chain of demotion after personal emails to his therapist made their way into the inboxes of colleagues (allegedly forwarded his ex, who he's in the middle of a domestic dispute with). And while Perez says he plans to file a "7 or 8 figure lawsuit" against ABC affiliate WPLG (wrongful termination? discrimination?), TMZ notes that "the boss who demoted him is himself Gay and issued a statement saying, 'As a Gay man myself, I can safely say the station does not discriminate against Gay people.'"

Maybe so. And while we'll let the courts work this out, it's not going to bode well for WPLG that they fired him one week after he complained about being discriminated against. Please, Perez, have some of your boss' comments on tape!

POET'S CORNER

TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL "T"
By Ron Rose - Tucson

It was the right time, and the right placed
But the wrong girl for me.
She was a hooka, a real good looka
Named trouble with a capital "T".
She gave me free love for a "C" note
That was Trouble's standard fee.
The world-class lova, she blew my cova
and told my wife on me.
She had a heata, and shot this cheata
I was dead as I could be.
Then turned to meet her, and really beat her
My trouble with a capital "T"

Tucson Observer Archives

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(Just North of Ft. Lowell)
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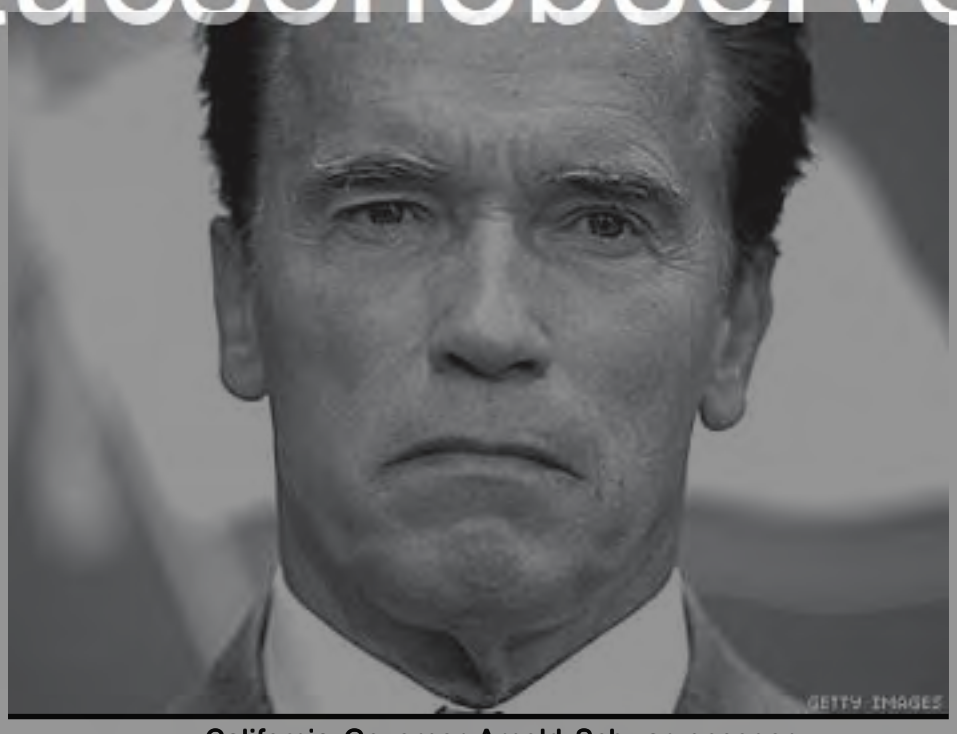
www.wolmcc.org

Arnold Under Attack For Health Cuts

tucsonobserverarchives.org



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - California senate president pro tem Darrell Steinberg announced that he will sue California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger over his alleged liberal use of line-item veto authority, reported advocate.com. Following the announcement of Steinberg v. Schwarzenegger, the senator said in a release, "We elected a governor, not an emperor. In making these line-item vetoes the governor forced punishing cuts on children, the disabled, and patients that he couldn't win fairly at the bargaining table. And in doing so, he overstepped his constitutional authority."

Schwarzenegger's cuts would have a major impact on health and welfare programs; some determine state-funded HIV/AIDS support. While California faces major budget deficits, the state's Legislative Counsel Bureau issued an opinion that said the governor violated the system of checks and balances outlined in the state's constitution. The bureau said Schwarzenegger could use the line-item veto on appropriations, but only current ones, not those that had already passed through the legislative process–which were the kinds of cuts the governor made.

The suit will address the governor's constitutional authority and will be paid for by Steinberg's campaign funds.

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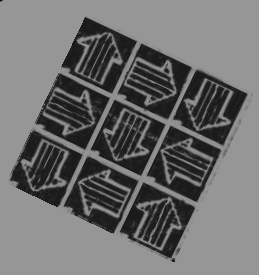
Gay Ex-Cop Settles Harassment Suit With NJ City

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

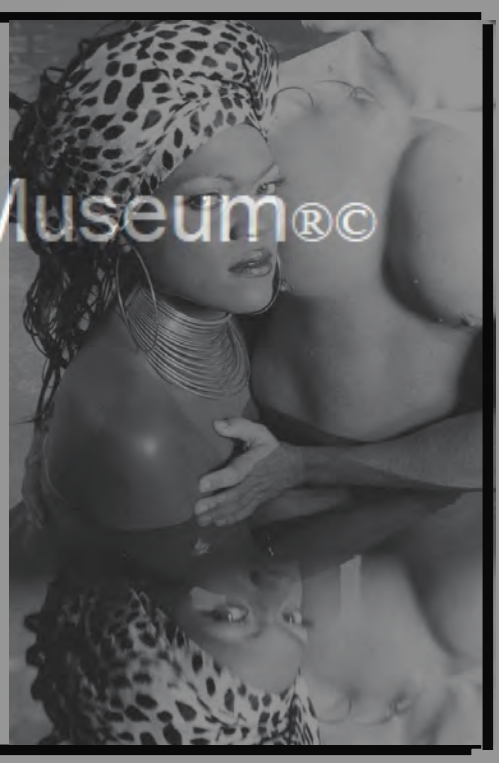
MILLVILLE, N.J. - A New Jersey city has agreed to pay a former police officer $415,000 to settle a lawsuit he filed claiming other officers harassed him because he is Gay.

As part of the deal, Robert Colle has resigned from the Millville police force. He had been on leave since August 2007. Colle sued in October 2007, claiming he was ridiculed by the man who was then chief and other officers because he's Gay. He said city officials ignored his harassment complaints.

He also said officers refused to back him up when he was dealing with a disorderly woman. According to his legal filings, the woman bit his finger to the bone.



Ahead of Style
A Hair and Nail Salon
Owner
Ajia Simone
426 East 9th Street
624-8400



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QUALITY THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE & Sensual TANTRIC SESSIONS ! My sensitive touch gives you an exceptional experience ! Creating a sacred space, for 27 years. Call Marc - 881-4582 (8 AM - 8 PM. Professionally trained -Touching in Tucson since 1983. 1310

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FOR RENT

1 BEDROOM COTTAGE IN SMALL COMPLEX. Small pet OK. Small fenced back yard. Pool. No lease. Pima/Swan area. $500/mo. + elec and gas. JoAnn 326-1934 1301

WANTED

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

EMPLOYMENT

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

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

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson . 1295

Equality Forum Event Funding Pulled

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Observer Update) - The Equality Forum, a weeklong LGBT cultural event that takes place in Philadelphia every spring, will not receive its usual $115,000 support from the city this year, reported 365Gay.com. In light of the current budget deficit, Mayor Michael Nutter has approved pulling funding from several special events that the city hosts, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Puerto Rican Day festival. Although these events draw large crowds of tourists – the Equality Forum boasts 75,000 participants – the city can no longer afford to support them.

Malcolm Lazin, executive director of the Equality Forum, expressed his disappointment at the decision to pull funding from the event, stating, "When Mayor Nutter was elected, we felt like [the LGBT community] finally had a seat at the table. Now we feel like that seat has been pulled out from under us." Nutter's spokesman, David Oliver, addressed the Equality Forum and other organizations' dismay over the lack of funding provided by the city this year. "They all make the economic argument that they bring tourism to the city. We do not refute that argument. But the simple fact remains that the city has been faced with back-to-back billion-dollar cuts," Oliver said.

This year's Equality Forum, which will run from April 27 to May 3, will have to cut back on promotion and advertising, including the display of rainbow flags that usually goes up on Broad Street the month of the forum, to make up for the budget cuts.

Campus Pride Honors Three LGBT Students With Voice & Action Awards

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (Observer Update) - Campus Pride honored three college students with Voice & Action Leadership Awards for being young adult role models and activists within the LGBT community. The three college seniors, Celso Perez from Boston College, Shawna Scott from the University of Georgia, and Justin Hager from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have each contributed to the fight for LGBT equality at university, local, and national levels, advocate.com reported.

Students competing for the Voice & Action Awards must complete an extensive application, provide letters of recommendation from faculty and fellow students, and undergo a review by a selection committee of university and corporate leaders.

Shane Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride, praised the award recipients at the Midwest LGBT and Ally College Conference in Bloomington, Ind., saying, "Campus Pride is proud to recognize these young adults and the work that is being done at colleges and universities throughout the country. Seldom do we recognize young people who are indeed changing hearts and minds and leading the way today for the future of equality. The Voice & Action Award finally gives visible national recognition where it has long been overdue."

Gay New York Pair Fight Adoption-Service Bias

LANSING, Michigan (Observer Update) - Courts can oversee a custody dispute between Lesbian parents who adopted in Illinois even though Michigan doesn't formally recognize Gay relationships, the state Court of Appeals said in a decision, reported the Associated Press.

The court ruled 2-1 that the U.S. Constitution requires Michigan courts to recognize Diane Giancaspro and Lisa Congleton as adoptive parents. It reversed a trial judge who said Michigan's 2004 voter-approved Gay marriage ban kept her from enforcing the women's parental rights.

"My concern is the well-being of my children. I want them to live in a place where their rights are protected," Giancaspro said in a statement released by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the New York-based Gay rights group Lambda Legal.

Chicago Holds First Civic Salute To LGBT Veterans

CHICAGO, IL (Observer Update) - LGBT war veterans were honored in Chicago's Daley Plaza at the first civic salute to LGBT veterans, reported 365Gay.com.

Many of those in attendance at the event spoke out against Don't Ask Don't Tell. Many revealed how they have personally been affected by the bill. "If there was no ban and I were allowed to openly serve, I wouldn't have had any of those extra stressors, I wouldn't have had any of those extra worries, and I would have re-enlisted," said former US Navy officer Steven Lorandos.

Several local politicians came out to also support the event and spoke out against DADT as well. "I just came back from Iraq and I wasn't able to see black, white, female, male Gay or lesbian soldiers. They were all Americans fighting for us. And it is extraordinary that anyone would not want to let them serve and help our country," said Rep. Mike Quigley, (D) Chicago. Chicago's 7 News reported that "the United States military has more than 65,000 Gay members in active service." House Resolution 1283 has been created by DADT opponents to ask Obama to repeal the bill.

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON LATINO M2M - A social group for Tucson and Sonora Latinos, and those who appreciate them. -- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M

COPPER RAINBOW BISTRO at David's Oasis Camping Resort, Bisbee, AZ 520-979-6650
www.azgaycamping.com
Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member $15.00
Bar Hours:
*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $100 off.
*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at $1.00

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen 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.

EU Calls For Gay Couple Rights, End To Homophobia

STRASBOURG, France (Observer Update) - Members of the European Parliament have approved a motion calling for the recognition of the rights of same-sex couples and an end to homophobia in all 27 EU countries.

"It is high time the EU practices what it preaches," said Spanish deputy Ignasi Guardans. "The European Commission wants to be a champion of human rights, but sadly every day we hear about anti-discrimination laws being flouted by member states."

The document also calls for equal access to reproductive methods and guarantees for the rights of Roma - also known as Gypsies. The measure still needs the approval of the EU's Council of Ministers before becoming law.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, August 14
THE BIZ - Pole Nasty - Live performances from Transaction featuring the hottest professional female strippers, Hosted by Ruby.

WOODY'S - August Birthday Party -Cake, Balloons and Champagne Toast.
Special weekend party and fund raising for Reveille Chorus.

Saturday, August 15
COYOTE MOON PUB - Dickiechixx - Kings and Kittens - 10:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - Pete and Rob's excellent steak - $8.00 goes to Reveille from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Meet and Greet Reveille Chorus Members who will be plaing their recent concert "Make Them Laugh".

Friday, August 21
WOODY'S - Tori Steele's "Cover Girl Revue" 10-:00 p..m.

Saturday, August 22
WOODY'S - "Porno Palooza"8:00 p.m. until closing, ChiChi LaRue DJing and 11 of her porn star friends dancing! Gift bags full of goodies - XXX-DVDs.

Sunday, August 23
WOODY'S - "PornoPalooza" Recovery Party all day. Check it out!!!

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

Police Refusing To Frisk Transgender Suspects

LONDON (Observer Update) - Straight-laced London police have expressed "concerns" about frisking some prisoners – because they're Transgender.

Officers in the London borough of Lewisham have apparently told top brass they do not want to 'shake down' people who have had a sex change. The prudish police claim it could be against their religion. But ex-top cop Brian Paddick has blasted them for trying to shirk their responsibilities. The former Deputy Assistant Met Commissioner – who was Britain's most senior openly gay policeman – said: "As far as I know there's no religion that says you can't search Transgender prisoners is there?"

Minutes from a senior management team meeting show Superintendent Wayne Nash, head of operations in Lewisham, had raised concerns among his officers with the borough's top cops. The note said: "Supt Nash has circulated some papers regarding searching trans-gender prisoners. Some officers have expressed concerns around searching trans-gender prisoners for religious reasons."

A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

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An Evening of Texas Hold-Em At Coyote Moon

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