Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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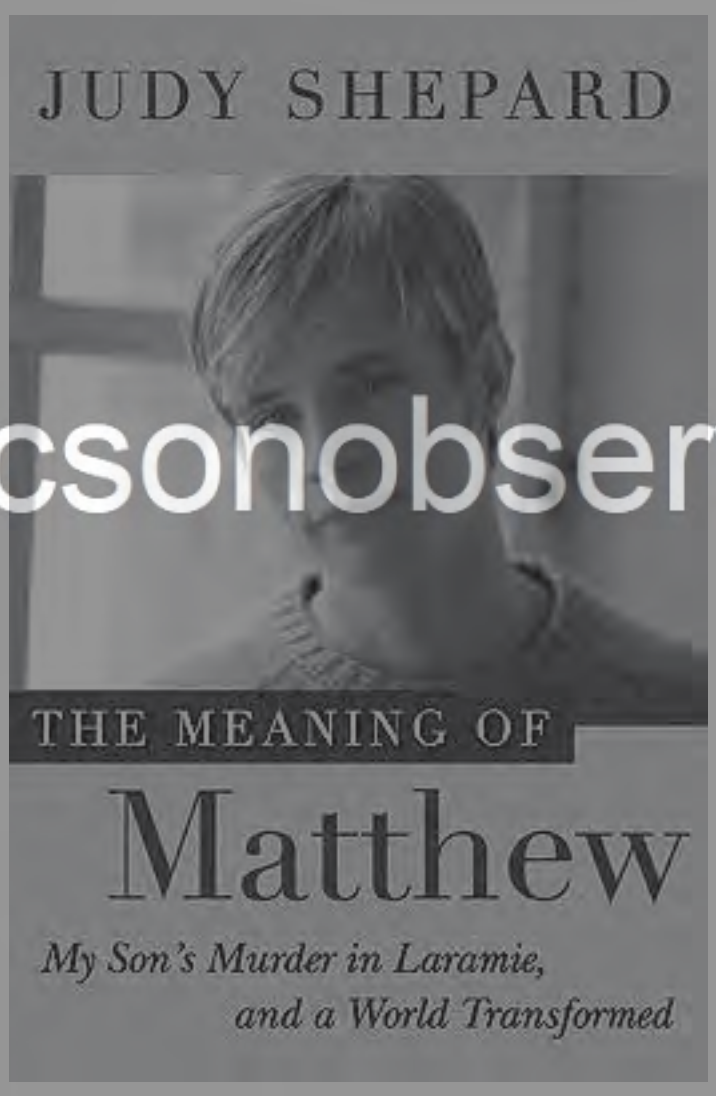
Tucson Observer Archives

'The Laramie Project : Ten Years Later'

Premieres In Over 100 Cities Including Tucson On October 12



JUDY SHEPARD RECALLS THE PHONE CALL THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Newsweek has posted an excerpt of Judy Shepard's new memoir, The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie, and a World Transformed (Hudson River Press):

"But the phone call that Thursday morning wasn't from Matt. It was about him. When the man on the other end of the line announced who he was, an emergency-room doctor from Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie, I went numb. I don't remember what he said, or what I did next. I'm not sure whether it was the ringing phone or my subsequent gasp that startled the still-sleeping Dennis. Whatever it was that woke him, Dennis took the phone from me and then, after a seemingly endless silence, made a noise–a sort of helpless and mournful groan–that I'd never heard before and haven't heard since. Coming as it did from my husband, a man whose reserved manner is as typically masculine and Western as his Wrangler jeans and cowboy boots, the moan confirmed my worst fears."

TUCSON- The creators of the highly acclaimed play, The Laramie Project, which since 2000 has been one

of the most performed plays in America, will premiere a compelling and groundbreaking epilogue to the original piece. Entitled The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later, the play will be performed as a staged reading at Centennial Hall and over 100 other theaters in all fifty states, Canada, Great Britain, Spain, Hong Kong and Australia on October 12, 2009. The writers of this play are Tectonic Theater Project members Moisés Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, and Stephen Belber. The evening will start with a pre-show event broadcast from Alice Tully Hall in New York City. Featuring the Tectonic Theatre Company and special guests from the original film, the pre-performance event will unite audiences across the nation who are about to experience the epilogue. Following the reading, the audience will rejoin the proceedings at Alice Tully Hall for an informative discussion with an expert panel to explore the continuing impact of The Laramie Project.

The epilogue focuses on the long-term effects on the town of Laramie of the murder of Matthew Shepard. It explores how the town has changed and how the murder continues to reverberate in the community. The play also includes new interviews with Matthew's mother Judy Shepard and Matthew's murderers Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, who are serving two consecutive life sentences. The writers also conducted many follow-up interviews Laramie residents from the original piece, including, Romaine Patterson, Reggie Fluty, Jedediah Shultz, Father Roger Schmidt, Jonas Slonaker, Beth Loffreda and others.

"The Tectonic Theater Project set out to find out how Laramie had changed in the ten years since the murder of Matthew Shepard. When we arrived, we were forced to confront the question, 'How do you measure change in a community?' One of the things we found when we got there, which greatly surprised us, was people in Laramie saying this was not a hate crime," said Moisés Kaufman, Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project.

"We found the people of Laramie still fighting to own their own history, their own identity, their own story, and part of that is shaped by how they understand what happened that night to Matthew," continued Leigh Fondakowski.

"Creating the epilogue also gave us the opportunity to talk to Aaron McKinney about his crime, what his thinking is about it now, and what his experience has been in prison over the past decade," said Greg Pierotti, the Tectonic Theaer Project member who interviewed McKinney. "We were also able to speak with Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, whose striking transformation from privately grieving mother to civil rights activist has captured the nation's attention," concluded Andy Paris.

On September 19-20, a special workshop will be held with Laramie Project Head Writer Leigh Fondakowski for the actors from the Tucson production. Directed by the UA School of Theatre Arts' Bobbi McKean, the actors will include students from the University of Arizona and other local actors. The workshop will focus on Moment Work, a technique for creating and analyzing theatre created by Moisés Kaufman and members of Tectonic Theatre. More events will be announced shortly.

"The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later" - Monday, October 12, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m. at Centennial Hall, 1020 E. University Blvd on the campus of the University of Arizona. This event is free and open to the public

Turnabout 2009 Huge Success

Emcees Bunny FuFu and Janee Star (above) kept the crowd laughing with their edgy comedy and comic digs at each other.
There are more pictures on page sixteen.

TUCSON - Over three hundred people crowded the Grand Ballroom of the Doubletree Hotel last Sunday to be thoroughly entertained by the 13th Annual Turnabout Show. This annual extravaganza is a fund raiser for the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network or TIHAN as it commonly known. As of presstime, Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN, the Turnabout had raised over $9,500 with some pledges still outstanding.

There were sixteen performers representing the four Tucson participating bars - Woody's, IBT's, Coyote Moon Pub and Colors - and two special guests from the Imperial Court of Arizona - Emperor IV Bubbaboy and Empress IV Regine Rochelle.

Scott Blades said, "We are grateful for all the donors and volunteers who helped make this benefit such a success! We are especially appreciative of those who took leadership positions, including David Zinke and his crew creating the stage and set, Cathy Ernst and friends for the raffle, Tom Wallace for organizing the food and Natalie Perry and Dean R. Taylor and company for tallying the donations in support of TIHAN."

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UPDATE

Tucson Latin Gay Pride Festival Sept. 9 - Oct. 3

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Latino/as can celebrate their heritage through music, art, poetry, dance and film at the second annual Tucson Latin Gay Pride festival Sept. 30-Oct. 3.

Coordinated by Wingspan, the festival will highlight the theme "Familia! (Family!)" with a Latin Dance Party, a local documentary, a community forum, a cultural showcase, a resource fair and a program for area youth. Wingspan - Tucson's LGBT community center - is presenting these social and educational events in collaboration with the University of Arizona's Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs program and Pride Alliance, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, and Ain't Nobody's Bizness (The Biz) nightclub.

The festival, which falls in the middle of National Hispanic Heritage Month and just before the beginning of Tucson Gay Pride celebrations, is designed to foster community and address concerns relevant to LGBT Latinos.

"The events are meant to bring to the forefront issues specifically affecting LGBT Latino/as, such as disproportional HIV infection rates, domestic violence and immigration," says Oscar Jimenez, Wingspan Anti-Violence programs manager and Tucson Latin Gay Pride committee chairman. "It's also an opportunity for LGBT Latino/as to express themselves through culture sharing, art and music and for LGBT Latino/as to show that they have a voice in the LGBT rights movement."

As part of the celebration, Tucson filmmaker Angela Soto will document the "coming-out" stories of local Latino/as and premiere the short movie at the cultural showcase. Tucson Latin Gay Pride organizers are seeking local artists, poets and musicians who are interested in displaying their works or performing at the showcase.

For more information, please contact Oscar Jimenez at (520) 954-2343 or ojimenez@wingspan.org.

Register To Vote!

TUCSON - If you are new in town or have recently moved, you need to register to vote for the Tucson City Council November election. October 3 is the deadline. Forms are available at Antigone Books or at Wingspan. Also, you can call 740-4330 for more information.

The City Council is important. Your vote counts.

Call To Fill Out ADAP Survey Made

PTUCSON (Observer Update) - As many in the community are already aware, the state funding for ADAP medication to Pima county residents living with HIV/AIDS has been cut. The biggest impact will be felt by those whose doctors have prescribed medication to control side effects, address behavioral heath needs, and pain management; as the cost of these drugs will no longer be paid by ADAP.

Also, the MAP co-pay coverage has been eliminated for many medications. The Pima County HIV/AIDS Consortium is seeking input from the community about the effects of these changes on finances, health, lifestyle and general welfare of HIV/AIDS persons in the form of a brief survey. It can be taken online at http://surveymonkey.com/consortium2009 or it can be filled out on paper. Local health care providers have made space available for the distribution and collection of the paper surveys. They include: SAAF, El Rio-SIA, UMC, and COPE. We will also have drop boxes at the COPE, CODAC, and HOPE center methadone clinics.

The survey is open right now until Monday, September 14. The results will be forwarded to the state health department in Phoenix to assist in planning for future policy, and used here in Tucson by the Consortium and the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona to improve assistance for HIV/AIDS persons.

SAAF Fundraiser Sept 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Last November, Courtney Kelly a local artist donated an art piece to the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation's Festival for Life event not knowing what to expect but hoping that her piece would help raise money for SAAF. Her style was different, colorful, and hugely popular with guests. Courtney's piece was such a big hit that her piece of colorful greyhounds started an auction bidding war and raised more than $2,000 that evening.

Now almost a year later, Courtney Kelly is still supporting SAAF through her art. With each art sale she gives back a % of her proceeds to help support SAAF's programs and services. "Her art has been a big hit. Her style is fun, colorful, and often includes pets - who can't relate to that?" says Wendell Hicks, Executive Director of SAAF, " her art just makes you smile!". Courtney has offered to put together an evening of art and cuisine thanks to support from Vila Thai Cuisine on East University Blvd. The event is taking $5.00 donations at the door. Complimentary appetizers will be provided by Vila Thai and the evening includes $5 wine tasting.

An Evening of Art and Cuisine, Sunday, September 20, beginning at 3:30 p.m., at Vila Thai Cusine, 972 E. University Blvd. An RSVP is not required. For more information visit facebook.com/event.php?eid=108716594363 or call 520-628-7223 and speak with Tara.

T-Squares Hold Classes In Sept.

TUCSON (Observer Update) - T-Squares, Tucson's GLBT square dance club, is holding two free classes for new or returning dancers.

For anyone interested in trying out square dance with a uniquely Gay style, T-Squares live caller will be teaching beginners' lessons on the Tuesdays of September 15 and 22 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., and a dance partner will not be necessary. No special clothing is required either. In fact, they dress quite informally, often in shorts or whatever is comfortable.

T-Squares is one of Tucson's longest running clubs and has been known in our community for 25 years as a venue for fun, music, dance, and a place to socialize with new and old friends and acquaintances. Their dance site, the Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, is also easy to find at 2902 N. Geronimo Ave off of Laguna St.

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. For more information about T-Squares, email them at T-Squares@azgaydance.org, or visit azgaydance.org and click on "Tucson, AZ".

P.O. BOX 50733,
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(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Informing the Community
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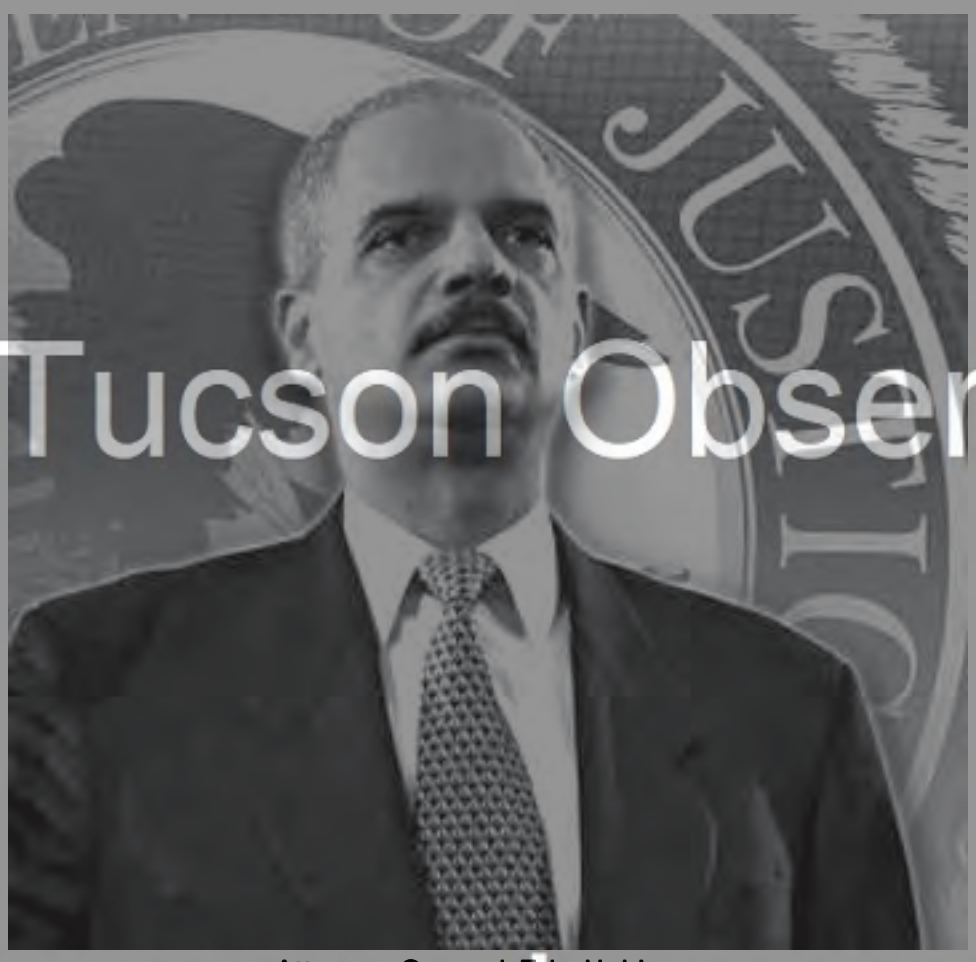
Holder Expanding Department of Justice For Civil Rights



Attorney General Eric Holder

Tucson Observer Archives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Attorney General Eric Holder announced plans to reshape the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division after the 2010 Census is conducted, fulfilling a campaign promise from President Barack Obama, reported advocate.com.

The Justice Department is looking to hire about 50 civil rights attorneys to get the division "back to doing what has traditionally been done," Holder told The New York Times.

The expanded division would concentrate on cases pertaining to employment and housing discrimination – issues at the crux of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, introduced by a team of bipartisan senators on August 5. The division would also work on bank lending practices, redistricting, voting rights, and other high-impact civil rights cases.

Matt Nosanchuk, an attorney in the civil rights division, has also been appointed as the liaison for upcoming LGBT-related cases.

Holder's Justice Department is attempting to break away from its tarnished image following revelations that only those who showed dedication to the Republican Party and conservative values would be hired and retained during President George W. Bush's administration. Leslie Hagen, a liaison between the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorneys' committee on Native American affairs, was fired in 2006 after a top department aide learned that she is a lesbian, despite sexual-orientation discrimination protections within the Justice Department. Monica Goodling, senior counsel to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, was reportedly responsible for removing Hagen from her position. After an investigation by the inspector general it was discovered that Goodling had also been instrumental in preventing Hagen from seeking a new position within the Justice Department. Hagen was rehired to her former post in February.

This summer, the Department of Justice has issued two briefs defending the law that bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages performed in states where they are legal.

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G/L Military Ban Stalled?

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' isn't on anyone's agenda in the near future, says Politico (hat tip: Towleroad), reported 365Gay.com.

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) says the Senate is swamped and has little time on the schedule for this fight. The Pentagon brass is reticent and wants a go-slow strategy, while a majority of the rank and file in the military opposes changing the "don't ask, don't tell" law. With no Republican co-sponsors for a repeal, key moderate Democrats such as Sens. Jim Webb of Virginia and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas remain uncommitted.

And the Senate's patron saint of this cause, Ted Kennedy (D-MA), died before being able to introduce long-promised bipartisan legislation to overturn "don't ask, don't tell".

And absent a big push from the Pentagon and Obama, key Senate Democrats are signaling that there is little appetite to anger some of their more socially conservative voters at a time when election forecasters are signaling a tough 2010 election cycle for the party."

Still, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold hearings on the ban this fall - the first since 1993, thanks to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, the NY Senator who has become one of our most stalwart supporters after taking over Hillary Clinton's seat.

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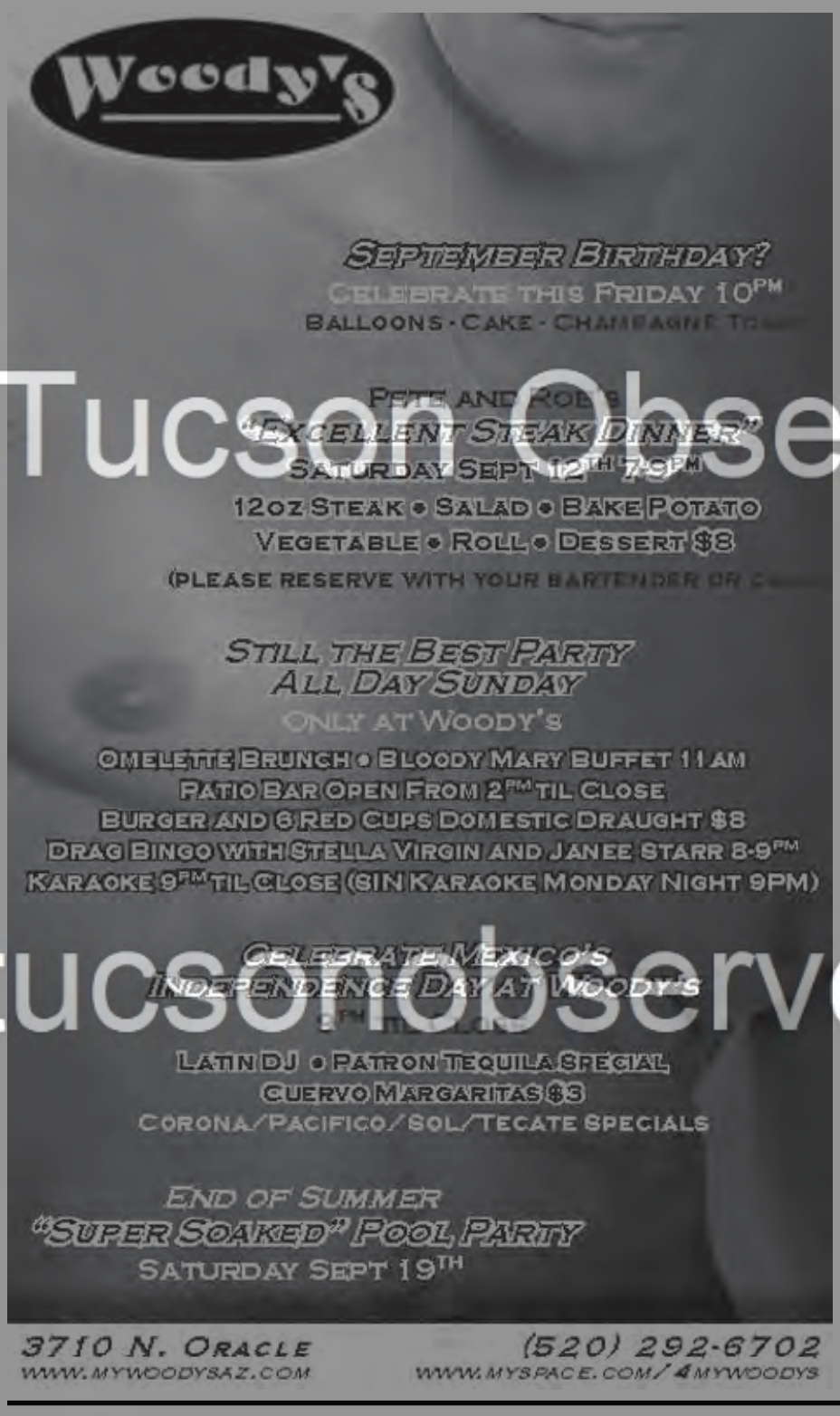

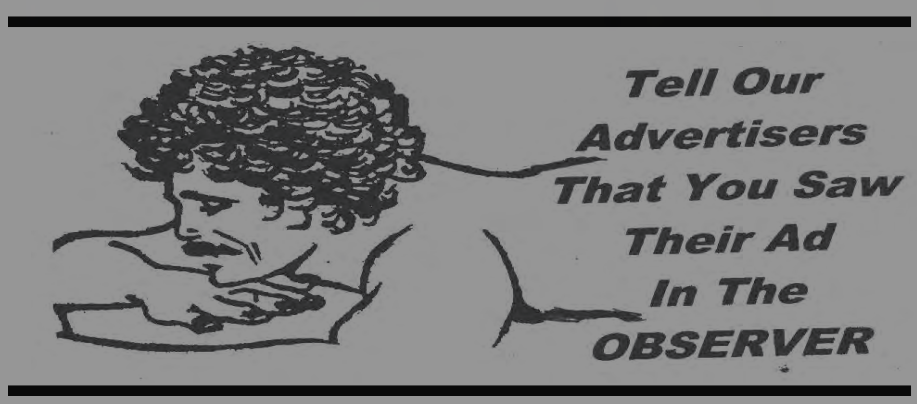

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Well little missies, its over, done, caput. Before you become overjoyed at the thought of my impending demise, I must hasten to inform you that even at my advanced age, I am doing reasonably well, and unlike Dick Nixon, you will have Jack to kick around some more. What I allude to, of course, is the summer of fun - picnics and tubing and winery tours and sweating one's butt off in Phoenix.

Now before you get your knickers in a knot, I am aware that according to the calendar, we still have a few weeks left. But don't let the facts get in the way here - they only screw things up and ruin my train of thought. As I pen this article, the nation is celebrating Labor Day. All well and good, except it means I must now labor (and I, who have always believed manual labor is a Mexican bullfighter, am not amused).

You see, boys and girls, the theatre season is upon us once again, and that means I will have to pen more articles. This year, unlike the past, I will be reviewing the plays of two theatres the Rogue Theater and The Arizona Theatre Company. Depending upon my level of ambition and how much it cuts into my leisure time, I may include others, but don't bet on it!

The Rogue Theatre opens with a fund raiser and a presentation of George Orwell's ANIMAL FARM - originally a satirical novel that sought to expose Stalinist Communism for the empty promise that it was. It will play through September 27 at the Historic Y. A complete review will appear in the next edition of the OBSERVER. For ticket information call (520) 551-2053.

On September 17, The Arizona Theatre Company will open its season with THE KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseni. When it appeared as a novel, it shot to the top of best-seller lists throughout the world. It will play at the Temple of Music and Art at 330 S Scott. For ticket information, call (520) 622-2823. Again, a full review will follow.

Across The Gay Globe

Public campaigns designed to warn the public about the dangers of AIDS have not shied away from the shocking and salacious. But the latest effort in Germany to preach the gospel of safe sex is employing images of women having sex with tyrants like Josef Stalin, Sadaam Hussein, and, unbelievably, Adolf Hitler. Three different posters have been produced, reports the blog AnimalNewYork. All the posters bear the tagline "AIDS is a mass murderer" and feature different women having sex, or about to have sex, with one of the despots. The ad agency behind the posters, Germany's Das Comitee, also produced a graphic video of a woman having sex with Hitler that appears on the campaign's website.

The website describes the posters and video as an effort to ignite dialogue: "Our campaign to mark World AIDS Day 2009 (on December 1) speaks in clear terms: The new slogan is 'AIDS is a mass murderer.' The few mass murderers who have claimed a similar number of human lives are shown: Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, and Robert Mugabe. The campaign is designed to shake people up, to bring the topic of AIDS back to centre stage, and to reverse the trend of unprotected sexual intercourse. Because anyone can become infected." "Every 15 seconds, another person dies of AIDS," reads a message on the site, with a ticker counting how many lives have already been taken by the disease: currently over 28 million. ...

An Italian Catholic editor known for his attacks against the "immoral" lifestyle of Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi resigned after sustaining allegations from Berlusconi associates that he is Gay. Dino Boffo, editor of Avvenire, the newspaper of the Italian Catholic Bishops Conference, said that the smears, published by a newspaper owned by the Berlusconi family, had thrown his professional and personal lives into tumult. ...

The city of Keetmanshoop in southern Namibia will holds its first ever Gay pride march on Saturday, and inaugurate a new group for LGBT rights and HIV/AIDS in a country where sodomy remains illegal. Some 40 people are expected to participate in the first Gay pride march to be held in Keetmanshoop, a city in southern Namibia, on Saturday. The historic event, which has generated some criticism, is being sponsored by People in Need (PiN), a Czech Republic-based NGO. ...

Lawmakers in Uruguay have approved a bill allowing Gay and Lesbian couples to adopt. Despite opposition from Uruguay's Roman Catholic Church and some of the political opposition, the 99-seat Chamber of Representatives passed the bill 40-13, with the remaining members absent. It goes next to the Senate, which approved an earlier version of the bill in July but must now vote again on modifications. If it becomes law, Uruguay would be the first country in Latin American to allow adoption by Gay and Lesbian couples. The law supported by socialist President Tabare Vazquez's Broad Front coalition, which has already legalized Gay civil unions and ended a ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. ...

India's government is set to accept a landmark court ruling that decriminalizes Gay sex between consenting adults, a report said. The July verdict by the Delhi High Court was non-binding outside the Indian capital, meaning the government had the choice to appeal to the Supreme Court or repeal the law nationwide. A note from the cabinet, reproduced by the CNN-IBN television network, recommended that the government should accept the court ruling while letting the Supreme Court rule on appeals by some religious groups. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to make a final decision shortly, but CNN-IBN said he was in favour of following the advice in the cabinet note. Homosexuality has been illegal in India since 1860 under a statute introduced by British colonial rulers that banned "carnal intercourse against the order of nature."

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NOM Faces Multiple Ethics Probes

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The National Organization for Marriage (NOM) and other groups opposing marriage equality are facing ethics investigations in both Maine and Iowa, advocate.com reported. According to complaints filed with two state ethics boards, NOM has repeatedly accepted large sums of money and functioned as a political action committee (PAC) in those states but failed to disclose the names of its donors.

The executive director of the Maine Commission of Governmental Ethics and Elections, Jonathan Wayne, sent a four-page letter on Monday to Joseph Keaney, treasurer of Stand for Marriage Maine PAC, and Brian Brown, executive director of NOM, seeking written responses by September 17 to charges made by Fred Karger of Californians Against Hate that the two organizations are "laundering money."

According to the ethics commission letter, potential violations include section 1060(6) of Maine's election law, which states, "All PACs are required to report the names and addresses of contributors who have given more than $50 to the PAC," and section 1004(3) and 1004-A(3), which states, "it is illegal for a PAC to knowingly accept a contribution made by one person in the name of another person."

Karger noted in his letter to the ethics commission filed last week that the four largest organizational donors to the anti-equality Stand for Marriage Maine PAC – the National Organization for Marriage ($160,000), the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland ($100,000), Knights of Columbus, Washington, D.C. ($50,000), and Focus on the Family ($31,000) – "gave 99.999% of the money raised" by the PAC.

While the Stand for Marriage PAC raised just over $343,500 from 12 donors according to its quarterly report ended July 15, 2009, the pro-marriage equality No on 1 PAC raised a little over $143,000 from 187 donors. Donations of less than $50 are not required to be listed.

The charges parallel those made in a joint complaint filed Monday in Iowa by LGBT advocacy group One Iowa and the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa Action Fund alleging that NOM has violated the state's campaign disclosure laws.

The complaint charges that NOM reported spending $86,060 in TV and radio ads in support of Stephen Burgmeier for the Hawkeye State's September 1 special election – an action that seemingly constitutes NOM as a political action committee in the state – but has not disclosed the names of its donors.

The Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board already sent a letter to NOM's Brian Brown warning, "if people are going to donate to your organization for express advocacy activities in Iowa and those donations exceed $750 in the aggregate in the calendar year, your organization will be required to form a PAC and disclose those contributors."

The complaint filed with the ethics commission says, "NOM has a history of funneling secret money throughout the country to engage in similar activity. They refer to their Iowa campaign as a 'targeted intervention' into Iowa politics yet refuse to disclose who is behind their activity. Iowa voters deserve better than this and have enacted laws to prevent this type of deception."

NOM's lawyer, Barry Bostrom, has flat-out denied the allegations, calling them "unfounded and scurrilous."

"These accusations and complaints are intended to inhibit our freedom of speech and freedom of association," Bostrom told The Iowa Independent. "But we intend to aggressively safeguard these rights, while complying with all state and federal laws."

But Des Moines attorney Sharon Malheiro says the lack of transparency undermines the democratic process.

"Election laws are necessary to protect public confidence in our democratic system," she says. "When outsiders try to pervert the justice system and work around the election laws of our state, our public officials must call them out and hold them accountable."

Birmingham, LGBT Pride Group Settle Suit

BIRMINGHAM, AL - An LGBT pride group has settled its lawsuit with the city of Birmingham, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com.

The group filed the federal lawsuit in 2008 over Mayor Larry Langford's attempt to withhold a parade permit from the group and his banning city workers from installing parade banners on city property. David Gespass, an attorney for Central Alabama Pride, said the city will craft a nondiscrimination policy when it comes to hanging banners and will pay the group's costs and legal fees. The city will pay $40,350 for legal fees and the lawsuit filing fee.

The group sued after the parade, saying there was no rational basis for Langford to restrict city workers from hanging the banners.

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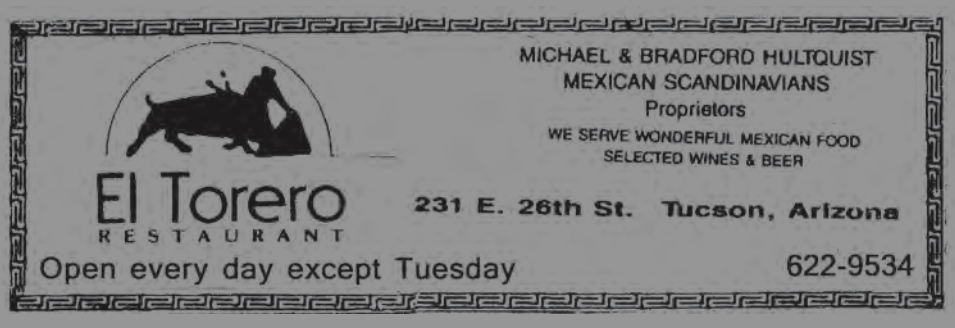
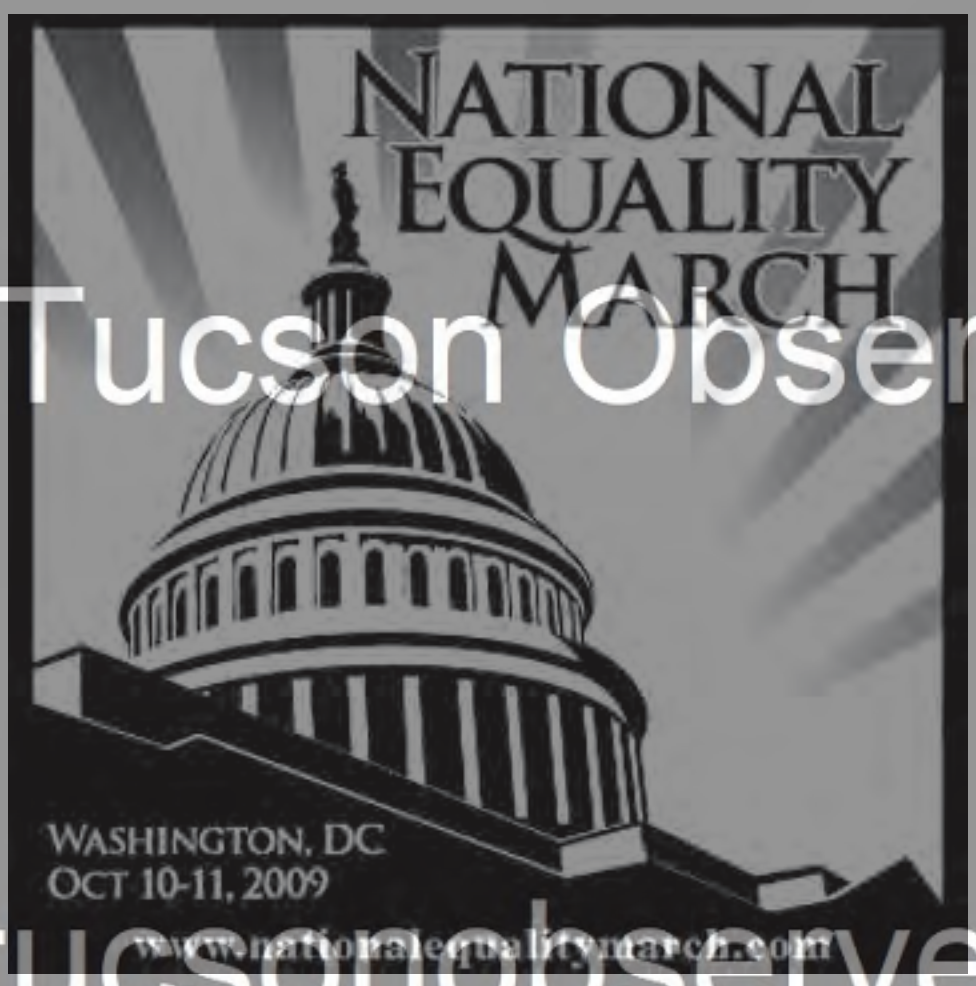


National Equality March Endorsements Pour In



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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Charlize Theron, Dustin Lance Black, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, and activist Cleve Jones are among the 140 LGBT leaders and allies to officially endorse October's National Equality March on Washington, D.C., reported advocate.com. The National Equality March on Washington has been met with mixed reactions, but judging from the sudden groundswell of support from LGBT leaders and allies, the October event looks to be off to a good start.

Towleroad.com has an exclusive list of the 140 leaders and allies who have backed the march, which will take place October 10th and 11th. The march seeks equal protection in all matters governed by law in all 50 states. Among the 140 new endorsers of the march are activists, strategists, and leaders in the fight for LGBT equality, including Neil Giuliano, Cleve Jones, David Mixner, Nicole Murray-Ramirez, Torie Osborn, and Judy Shepard.

Entertainment industry endorsements include Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron, Oscar-winning producer Bruce Cohen, Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, Emmy-winning actress Judith Light, Tony award winners Alan Cumming and Harvey Fierstein, and Mad Men's Bryan Batt.

Water Garden Tour
Sept 19th & 20th 9:00AM - 3:00 PM
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$10.00 per person. Tickets available at:
Civano Nursery, Harlow Gardens, Magic Gardens Nursery,
Mesquite Valley Growers, Rillito Nursery, Tohono Chul Park,
Tucson Botanical Gardens, Mountain View Koi Fish & Nursery
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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Domestic Partner Update

During the recent session of the Washington State Legislature, held in Olympia, SB 5688 was approved by both chambers and signed into law by Washington's Governor, Christine Gregore.

SB 5688, the Domestic Partner Law ensures that all families in the state, who are registered as domestic partners, are treated the same as married couples, with the same protections, the same rights and the same obligations as their neighbors.

This legislation was warranted since Washington's Legislature in 1998, approved legislation defining marriage as between "one man and one woman." Then Washington Governor Gary Locke vetoed the bill which was overridden by the Washington Legislature.

In the Domestic Partner Law of 2009, SB 5688 provides for:

Death benefits for the partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty;

Pension benefits for the partners of teachers and other public employees;

Victims' rights, including the right to receive notifications and benefits allowances; using sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner;

Workers' compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment; receiving unemployment benefits if an employee must leave a job to care for a seriously ill partner and the right to adopt a partner's child without paying for a home study.

Under SB 5688, areas covered by the law include labor and employment law, pensions, survivor, and other public employee benefits, family law, insurance rights, higher education, banks, financial institutions and loan agencies, creditors' rights and business licenses.

As reported in this publication as well as other online sources, opponents have gathered the minimum required signatures of registered Washington voters to force a vote on the Domestic Partner Law.

Pending current court challenges, voters on November 3 will go to the polls to determine the fate of it, through Referendum-71, also known as R-71, by either approving or rejecting it.

Proponents' of Washington's Domestic Partner Law have organized as Washington Families Standing Together and launched their campaign to ensure the Domestic Partner Law of 2009 remains in effect.

For more information or to donate to help the more than 5,000 registered Washington State domestic partners ensure their hard-fought rights are preserved and that they continue to be treated equally, go online to approverefendum71.org. ...

Meanwhile, Republican Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has told the 700 state employees who had signed up for medical and dental benefits for their domestic partners, and families, what she thought of their loving and committed relationships by signing HB 2641, a budget reconciliation bill into law, ending their benefits.

Education, Not Race Determines Voting Patterns

TALLAHASSEE, FL (Observer Update) - Education is about five times more important than race when determining whether voters in Florida favored the ban on same-sex marriage in 2008, reported advocate.com. According to a new study by the University of Florida, the results contradict previously held assumptions that newly registered African-Americans who voted for Barack Obama were the ones to blame for voting to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage.

Dan Smith, a political science professor and coauthor of the study, told the Gainesville Sun that education levels are the leading contributor to voting patterns. "There is a lot of evidence showing increased education leads to greater tolerance," he said. The report shows that "for each additional 1% that a county's population had attained bachelor's degrees, the county showed a 1% decrease in support for the amendment. Comparatively, for each 1% increase in a county's black population, the county showed a 2/10% increase in support.

Twenty percent of Floridians above the age of 16 lacked the basic literacy skills to read a newspaper article, according to data from the National Center for Educational Statistics released in January. Only 58% of Floridian high schoolers earn a diploma in four years, compared to the national average of 69%, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education. Smith also agreed with a study by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute revealing that the National Exit Poll, which has been cited as proof that African-Americans voted in favor of such marriage bans, consistently overrepresented that population's support for California's Proposition 8. Early exit polls said that 70% of blacks voted for Proposition 8 in California. However, the NGLTF study revealed that the figures were closer to 58%, similar to numbers in polls leading up to the November 2008 vote.

Though they are often seen as a voting bloc, especially given the first viable option to elect an African-American president, black voters have differing education levels and religious observances, leading to more varied results, Smith said, adding, "I think the study shows they shouldn't be written off."

Harvey Milk Day Passes California Legislature

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - The California legislature passed a bill to honor Harvey Milk, the Gay rights leader who was assassinated in 1978, with a day of recognition as opponents of the symbolic measure appealed to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to veto the legislation for the second year in a row.

The contentious bill, authored by openly Gay state senator Mark Leno of San Francisco, also passed the legislature last year, but the governor rejected it with the claim that Milk held only local significance. According to the Los Angeles Times, "Conservatives are pushing hard for Schwarzenegger to veto Leno's legislation, which would proclaim Milk's May 22 birthday a day of recognition and encourage schools to consider commemorating his life."

Since last year, Milk has been the subject of an Academy Award-winning film, and the governor recently announced that he would be inducted into the California Hall of Fame. A decision on the proposal to honor Milk annually on his birthday is expected soon from Schwarzenegger.

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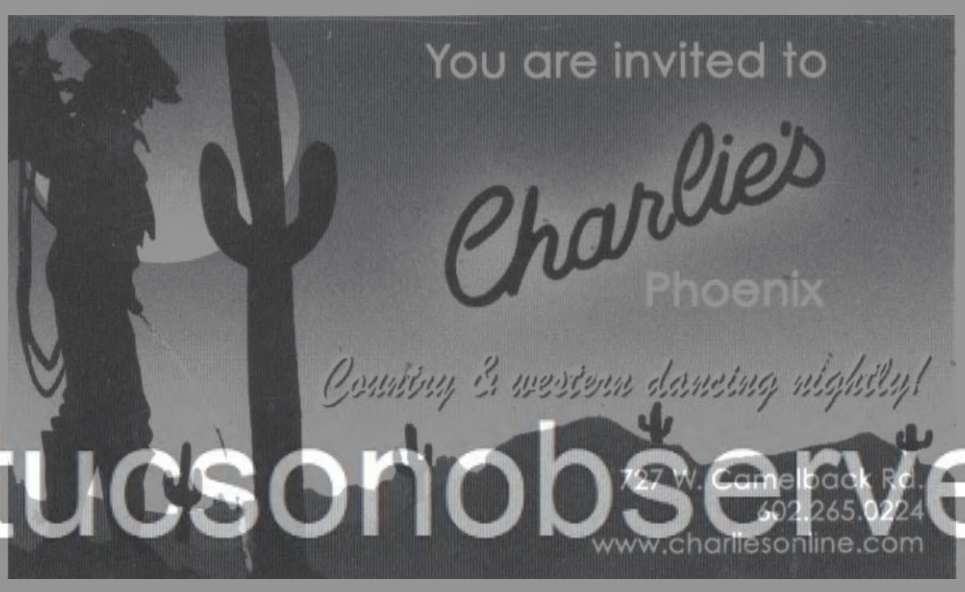

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Deb Price

Kennedy Led Gay March For Progress

Teddy Kennedy was the star attraction at a Gay Hollywood fundraiser I covered in the early 1990s at a posh home that wealthy guests called a "bungalow." A cameo appearance – with the legendary senator quickly ushered in and out by a whirlwind of aides – would have been enough to dazzle the crowd. But instead of dashing for the door, Kennedy proceeded in a very down-to-earth way to get acquainted with folks. I knew he was Gay Americans' fiercest advocate in the Senate, but I was struck by how comfortably he chatted about Gay issues.

On his broad shoulders, he carried his family's legacy, especially that of his brother John. President Kennedy, of course, was killed before the quest for Gay rights broke into the consciousness of mainstream America. At the fundraiser, I asked Ted Kennedy whether John would have become a Gay-rights supporter. The senator paused to reflect. "That was a different time.

But I really think that had he lived he would have become a supporter. I'd like to think that," he told me. Over the years, I heard Sen. Kennedy umpteen times. But our brief encounter in California is what really taught me the depth of his commitment to marching toward full equality for Gay men and Lesbians: He wanted to believe that his beloved brother John would have traveled that road with him.

"I call this ... the march for progress," he declared in a rip-roaring pep talk to the Gay Human Rights Campaign (HRC) early last year, just two months before his cancer diagnosis. "We're never going to be America until we have freed ... ourselves, this country, from all forms of bigotry."

Kennedy's off-the-cuff remarks were often a bit jumbled, but his big-hearted meaning was never in doubt: He championed the underdog and knew his embrace of Gay rights was all the more important because so many politicians were too afraid to take up the cause – or were actively hostile.

When the AIDS crisis hit in the 1980s, Kennedy's was the voice of reason as Sen.

Jesse Helms stirred up fears. In the 1993 uproar that led to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," Kennedy fought to allow Gay Americans to serve openly. Likewise, he fought to protect Gay and trans workers from discrimination. ?He was a longtime supporter of Gay marriage, saying that Massachusetts' experience "has refuted the critics. We only strengthen our society when we allow our citizens to enter into a solemn commitment to share in life's joys and difficulties."

And, as he told the HRC gathering on March 7, 2008, "I can give you the assurance that as long as I have a voice and as long as I have a vote in the United States Senate, it's going to be for the agenda of the LBGT community."

Gay Americans have other friends in the Senate. With Kennedy gone, will one now emerge as a passionate gladiator for Gay rights?

Worth watching is 42-year-old Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who replaced Hillary Clinton. A Gay-marriage supporter, she got Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., to agree to hold Don't Ask, Don't Tell hearings this fall.

Among senior senators, keep an eye on 65-year-old Chris Dodd, D-Conn., who has young daughters. He's evolved to support Gay marriage: "I believe that, when my daughters grow up, barriers to marriage equality for same-sex couples will seem as archaic and as unfair as the laws we once had against interracial marriage. And I want them to know that, even if he was a little late, their dad came down on the right side of history."

Teddy Kennedy believed in picking up fallen torches. Who will try to lead his march for progress?

(Deb Price, is a writer for the Detroit News, from which this article is reprinted from.)

Here Is The Entire Cast of TIHAN's Turnabout Show Last Sunday

More Photos On Page Sixteen

PHOTOS: Bill Morrow

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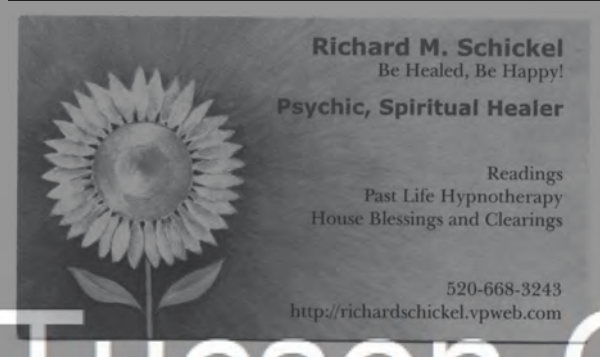

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No Hate Crime For Drag Attackers

SAN ANTONIO, TX (Observer Update) - The San Antonio police officer responsible for accidentally shooting a drag performer who was being robbed at gunpoint has been cleared of charges of criminal conduct, advocate.com reported.

Officer William Karmen stepped in to stop a robbery in progress against 45-year-old James Lee Whitehead. According to the Associated Press, three men had jumped out of a car, demanded money from Whitehead, and then began pistol-whipping him. When Karmen demanded that the attackers stop, suspect Jesse Ramon, 22, allegedly pointed his gun at the officer. Karmen fired his gun five times, with four bullets hitting Ramon. One of the bullets struck Whitehead in the chest, fatally wounding him. Ramon survived the spray of bullets. Whitehead, also known as Niki Hunter, was a performer at the Saint, a club near the site of the attack. Whitehead was not in drag at the time of the attack.

"This is absolutely, totally a clean case of justification of an officer's actions," Bexar County district attorney Susan Reed said. "The officer was doing what he was hired to do, which is protect the public." Ramon and the other two men, 21-year-olds Michael Martinez and Fernando Rodriguez, are being charged with capital murder. They will not be charged with a hate crime. Police spokesman Sgt. Gabe Trevino said witnesses don't recall the attackers voicing any derogatory slurs when attacking Whitehead.

Jim Kane, a friend of the victim, told Advocate.com that the police and district attorney's office had been improving relations with the Gay community after years of tension between local law enforcement and LGBT people. In 2007, police chief William McManus received backlash from conservatives when he participated in the local pride parade as its grand marshal. There was even more uproar when Mayor Julian Castro aligned himself with the celebration this year. However, sentiments were not helped when the police department came under fire for arresting two Lesbians for kissing at a local mall last December. According to QSanAntonio, Shanenn Yvonne Johnson and Jessica Louise Garcia were arrested for trespassing and other charges when they were kissing at the Rolling Oaks Mall. They were escorted out of the building by a security guard and Bexar County deputy sheriff Fernando Luna, who was on duty at the mall.

Lawyers Boycott Meeting At Homophobic Hotel

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - The State Bar of California's Annual Meeting will convene in San Diego without a slew of LGBT members and allies, advocate.com reported. This year's meeting is scheduled to be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel in San Diego, which is owned by key Proposition 8 proponent Doug Manchester. The hotel magnate gave $125,000 to the campaign to repeal marriage rights for Gay and Lesbian couples in 2008. After a boycott was launched by several organizations, including Californians Against Hate and Unite Here Local 30, a hotel workers' union, several conferences and meetings were moved to other locations. Manchester has since pledged $25,000 in support of LGBT causes and an additional $100,000 in the form of hotel credits to be used by LGBT organizations for fund-raising events, as reported in May.

Lambda Legal Marriage Project director Jennifer Pizer issued a statement on Wednesday about the decision to boycott this year's conference. "The bar associations recognize that many of their members will not feel comfortable attending conference activities at the Manchester Hyatt given its owner's extraordinary personal support of the campaign that made Gay people and their families unequal under law, and undermined the basic rights of all minority groups in California," she wrote. Howard Bragman, Manchester's publicist, told Advocate.com that the boycott is fruitless at this point because of Manchester's donation. "A boycott is not an end point," he said. "It is a tactic used to get to an end point, and the end point we are trying to achieve is converting people. In the case of Doug Manchester, we've won. He's pledged to never give a nickel to an anti-Gay cause, has given an equal amount to pro-Gay causes, and this is now reeking of something that is very mean, vindictive, and inappropriate. Despite Mr. Manchester's donations, what our own community needs to understand is that we lost Prop. 8 because of the decisions we made – because of the ways we campaigned and didn't campaign. The only way we're ever going to win is by reaching in to the middle to change hearts and minds."

Bragman added that the boycott was less about LGBT rights, and more about the hotel workers trying to unionize. "The union issues and the boycott and the GLBT issues are apples and oranges," he said. "They are two separate issues. We frankly have a boycott that is being funded and designed by people who have motives other than the GLBT community in an effort to unionize the properties." The meeting will take place from September 10 to 13. Though Lambda Legal will not participate, as it has in recent years, staff attorney Tara L. Borelli will be a featured panelist in a seminar held in a nearby hotel titled "Bias in California After Proposition 8."

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Ben And Jerry's Renames Legendary Flavor To Celebrate Freedom To Marry

BURLINGTON, VT - Ben & Jerry's, known for its euphoric ice cream flavors and dedication to social justice, celebrates the beginning of the freedom to marry for Gay and Lesbian couples in Vermont with the symbolic renaming of its well-known ice cream flavor "Chubby Hubby" to "Hubby Hubby." In partnership with Freedom to Marry, Ben & Jerry's aims to raise awareness of the importance of marriage equality and, to show its support, will serve "Hubby Hubby" sundaes in Vermont Scoop Shops throughout the month of September.

Ben & Jerry's has a long history of commitment to social justice, including Gay rights. Its partnership with Freedom to Marry, a national leader in the movement for marriage equality, aims to raise awareness of the importance of marriage equality and to encourage other states to follow the blazing trails of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, and Maine. Freedom to Marry promotes the national conversation about why marriage equality matters and brings together partner organizations into a larger whole – a shared civil rights campaign. "At the core of Ben & Jerry's values, we believe that social justice can and should be something that every human being is entitled to," said Walt Freese, Chief Executive Officer of Ben & Jerry's. "From the very beginning of our 30 year history, we have supported equal rights for all people. The legalization of marriage for Gay and Lesbian couples in Vermont is certainly a step in the right direction and something worth celebrating with peace, love and plenty of ice cream."

To kick off the celebration, Ben & Jerry's and Freedom to Marry have supported the first marriages of Gay and Lesbian couples in Vermont and raising awareness for marriage equality and how to take action by driving consumers to freedomtomarry.org. By logging onto the site, people can show their support, sign a Marriage Resolution Petition, have conversations about why marriage matters and learn more about how they can support the cause.

"It's not polite to talk with your mouth full, but the most important thing that all us ice cream lovers can do to support the freedom to marry is speak with the people we know about why marriage matters and the need to end marriage discrimination in every state"," said Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry. "Thanks to Ben & Jerry's, starting those needed conversations has never been sweeter – and thanks to Freedom to Marry, we all now have a great excuse to eat more ice cream."

Poet's Corner

by Ron Rose - Tucson

SUNSET IN THE DESERT

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Gay Sailor Terrorized By Unit Mates For Years

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WASHINGTON, D.C (Observer Update) - Petty Officer Third Class Joseph Rocha was assigned to the Bahrain Military Working Dogs Division, according to Youth Radio, which uncovered military documents chronicling the abuse, reported advocate.com.

Rocha's unit mates reportedly abused him by tying him to a chair and pushing him, still bound, into a dog kennel full of feces. The sailor also said he was forced to simulate oral sex with a man more than 30 times, on video tape, as part of a training exercise to teach sailors how to respond to a hypothetical complaint about homosexual sex. They also reportedly hit him as hard as they could repeatedly while forcing him to bend over a desk. The abuse began six weeks into his deployment in 2004 when he was ostracized for not being interested in prostitutes.

While one of the sailors involved was later promoted as chief, even though documentation of the abuse was on record with the Navy, Rocha was eventually discharged for revealing voluntarily that he is Gay. Rocha did not report the abuse to the Navy until 2006, for fear of retaliation and discharge under the military's ban on openly Gay service members. An investigation was not launched until a colleague filed a complaint.

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TGLBTCC Breakfast Meeting Sept. 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Chamber of Commerce (TGLBTCC) will be holding their monthly breakfast meeting, Thursday, September 17, 7:30 a.m., at the Hotel Tucson City Center Conference Suite Resort, 475 N. Granada.

This month's meeting is a "Spotlight on the Arts in Tucson," so you won't want to miss the annual "Focus on the Arts" Tucson GLBT Chamber Breakfast. Get the skinny on the 2009-2010 season line-up for Music, Theater and Entertainment in Southern Arizona. Your fellow chamber members will highlight what's in store for the arts this year.

There will be plenty of opportunities to win free tickets, passes and fun. RSVP by Monday, September 14, noon by calling (520) 615-6436 or E-mail: info@tucsonglbtchamber.org.

Revival Of 'Angels In America' Set For Off-Broadway

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes" will fly again in New York - off-Broadway, reported 365Gay.com. The mammoth, two-part drama by Tony Kushner will be presented by the Signature Theatre Company during its 2010-2011 season as part of a yearlong celebration of the playwright.

Artistic director James Houghton says the play's two parts, "Millennium Approaches" and "Perestroika" will be performed in rep.

No casting was announced, but the play, a tale of AIDs in the Age of Reagan, will be directed by Michael Greif, who also directed "Rent" and "Next to Normal."

The Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angels" was first seen on Broadway in 1993 and later was made into an HBO film starring Al Pacino and Meryl Streep.

More Pink Slips At Focus On The Family

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO (Observer Update) - Anti-LGBT organization Focus on the Family announced it will downsize its workforce for the third time in the past year, effective September 18, advocate.com reported.

The Colorado-based group will completely shut down its advertising department's creative division by eliminating 30 positions, according to the Colorado Springs Gazette. It will also hand over its "ex-Gay" ministry, Love Won Out, to a similar organization in Florida. Seventy-five total jobs will be lost. At its height, Focus on the Family employed 1,400. After two other layoffs since September 2008, the workforce is down to 860. The group is also attempting to bounce back from a $6 million funding shortfall after cutting its budget from $160 million for fiscal year 2009 to $138 million.

"These are tough economic times," Focus spokesman Gary Schneeberger said in the article. "The challenges have made us take a hard look at what we do structurally and strategically so we can accomplish our mission more efficiently."

Fate Of Maine Gay Marriage Law In Hands Of Voters

AUGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - The governor of Maine has signed a formal proclamation putting the state's Gay marriage law up for a vote in November, reported 365Gay.com.

Gov. John Baldacci signed the measure after election officials verified that Gay marriage foes had reached the threshold of petitions necessary to put the law on the ballot. The Gay marriage law was supposed to go into effect this month, but it was put on hold while the secretary of state's office validated the number of petitions.

The announcement comes as no surprise. Gay marriage opponents needed the signatures of at least 55,087 registered voters for the so-called People's Veto, and they turned in nearly 100,000 signatures. In May, Maine became the fifth state to allow Gay marriage, and New Hampshire followed suit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 426 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON LATINO M2M - A social group for Tucson and Sonora Lastinos, 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 - Garage Sundays. $1 Well Drinks until Midnight. Bring your band and come rock with us.

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm $3.75 Skyy Cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 1 & 4. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes.

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

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

COLORS - Colors is closed on Mondays.

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 5-9 Wild Wednesdays $1 Hump Day Drinks DJ Hill. College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. $7 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.

COLORS - Open 4-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 5-9 $3 glasses of wine. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-11pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,$3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers 4-6pm. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Flirt Friday with Happy Hour extended to 9 p.m. and munchies. DJ Hill & guest DJs. COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! . "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. LATINLICIOUS . $3 Cuervo, $2 Bud Lights all night. DJ Kool-A

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

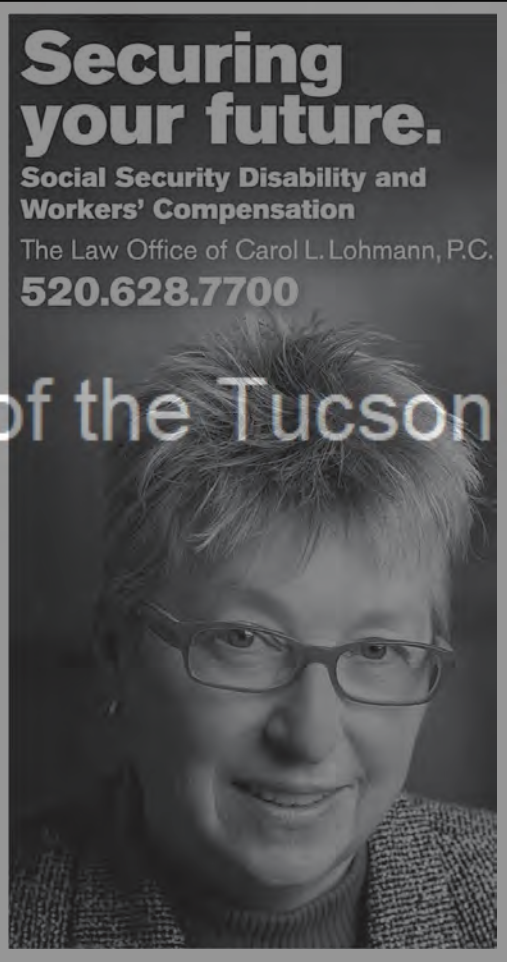
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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

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

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

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



BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 9

WOODY'S - Play Twister with Brock and Ronny only at Woody's!

Friday, September 11

THE BIZ - It's a help support Breast Cancer with Pink Drink specials all nite. $4 pink bubblegum martinis and one lucky person will win 2 tickets to see Pink along with the Ting Tings live in concert in Phoenix. DJ Hill will be playing from 9pm until 2am with top 40 and dance remixes!

Saturday, September 12

COYOTE MOON - Classic rock, folk, blues, rockabilly and more with the Spurloafers..

WOODY'S - Pete and Rob's excellent Steak Dinner served from s7-9 p.m.

Saturday, September 19

WOODY'S - "Super Soaked' Pool Party to celebrate the end of summer.

Saturday, September 26

COYOTE MOON- Tea Dance from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come on by. It's fun!

YARD DOG SALOON - Yard Dog is headquarters for the Tucson Knight Owls (TKO) "Fun Bus Run" a 12-hour adventure which includes a Bus Ride with food on board, commemorative T-Shirt and Mardi Gras Beads. The trip is $40 per person and you will board the bus at 9:45 a.m. at the Yard Dog and arrive at the Bunkhouse at Noon and stay until 1:45 when you will go to Cruisin' On Central until 3:45 p.m. then on to Roscoes until 5:45 p.m. and then to Cash In Country until 7:45. The bus will leave Phoenix at 8 p.m. and arrive back iin Tucson at 10 p.m. See the bartendere at Yard Dog for a trip package and learn how to sign up for the Cab Asharing Program to get you safely home!

Non-Bar Calendar

Thursday, September 10
Welcome To OZ, Tucsons's newest LGBT/ LGBT-Friendly mixed bowlling league will begin the fall season tonight with a meeting at 6:00 p.m. and the season beginning every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The team bowls at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st Street (22nd and Kolb). Come to the mmeeting as a team of three, a double or single. Contact the team at welcometoOZ09@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 12
SAAF is hosting a free workshop today sstarting at 10:00 a.m., 375 S. Euclid - open to the public called "Organize your most important papers." The program will teach you how to get your personal, medical and financial records together. A RSVP is required. CII 628-7223 and ask for Michele or Tara.

Saturday, September 26
Tucson Knight Owls are holding their annual "Fun Bus Run" an unforgettable 'bar hopping' trip to Phoenix. 10 am until 10 pm. You will board the big bus at the Yard Dog Saloon (they will open at 9am this day). The 12-hour advengure includes food on the bus, commemorattive T-Shirt and Mardi Gras beads. See the bartender at the Yard Dog for trip package and to learn how to sign up for the Cab sharing program to get ou safelys home. Board the bus at 9:45 a.m. get to the Bunkhouse (the 1st bar) at Noon. Leave at 1:45 p.m. etc. After the four bars the bus leaves at 8 pm and arrives back in Tucson at 10 p.m. $40 per person.

Saturday, October 3
Organizers of the Tucson Latin Gay Pride 2009 Festival are seeking artists to perform or exhibit their creations at a cultural showcase. For more information call Jimenez at (520) 954-2343. Coordinated by Wingspan, the showcase will be from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Lost Barrio as part of the festival Sept. 30 - October 3.

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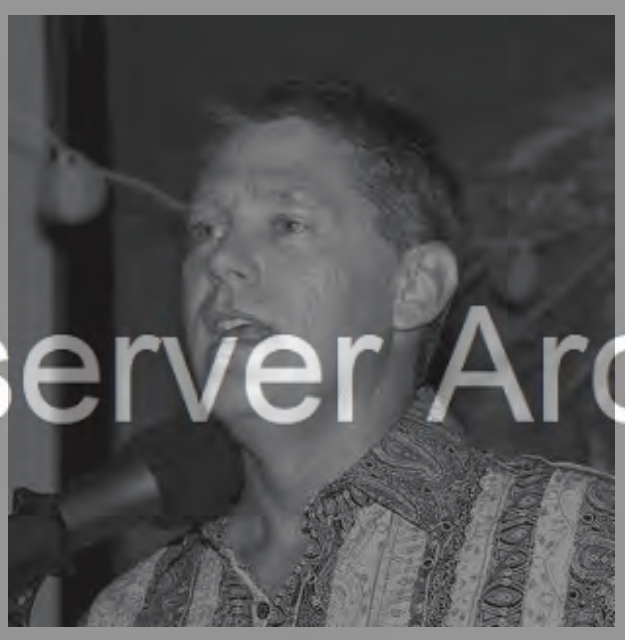
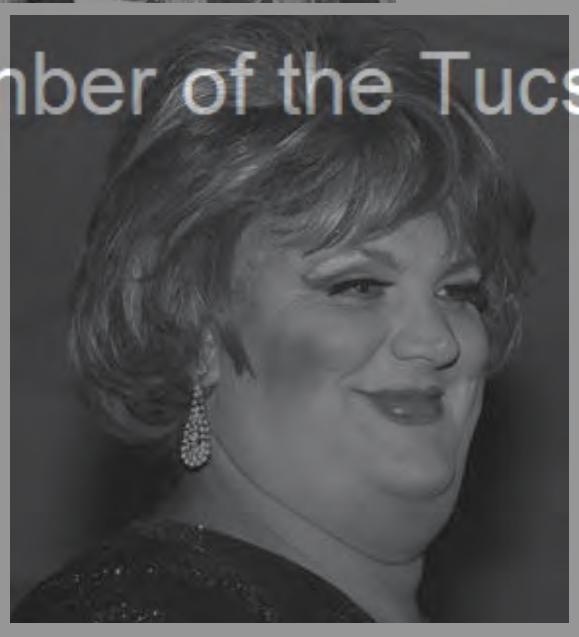
An Entertaining Evening At The TIHAN Turnabout Sunday

PHOTOS: Bill Morrow





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