

Changing Their Tune On DOMA

150,000 Same-Sex Couples Report Being Married

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Nearly 150,000 same-sex couples reported being in marriage relationships last year, many more than the number of actual weddings and civil unions, according to the first U.S. census figures released on same-sex marriages, the Associated Press reported on 365Gay.com.

About 27 percent of the estimated 564,743 total Gay couples in the United States said they were in a relationship akin to "husband" and "wife," according to the Census Bureau tally provided to The Associated Press. That's compared with 91 percent of the 61.3 million total opposite-sex couples who reported being married. A consultant to the Census Bureau estimated there were roughly 100,000 official same-sex weddings, civil unions and domestic partnerships in 2008.

Analysts said the disparities are probably a reflection of same-sex couples in committed relationships who would get married if they could in their states. The numbers are also an indicator of the count to come in the 2010 census, a tally that could stir a state-by-state fight over same-sex marriage, Gay adoption and other legal rights.

Nationwide, about 56 percent of the 149,956 total same-sex marriages in the census survey last year were Lesbian couples. Same-sex spouses were reported in every state; specific breakdowns weren't immediately available.

"Even though in 2008 there were only a few states where you could get legally married, a large portion of same-sex couples either were married or chose to use that term," said Gary Gates, a demographer at UCLA who is advising the Census Bureau.

Gates reviewed the number of marriage licenses issued and other factors to estimate the number of same-sex couples in legal relationships. During 2008, same-sex marriage was legal in California, Massachusetts, Iowa and Connecticut, while a handful of other states recognized civil unions and domestic partnerships. U.S. same-sex couples also can marry in Canada and other foreign countries.

Curtis Chin, 41, and Jeff Kim, 43, of Los Angeles, are among those who plan to report to the census that they are spouses. The two were planning a big wedding for 2009 but rushed into a private legal ceremony last fall when it became clear that California voters would soon ban same-sex marriages. Chin says he and Kim won't feel like

Continued on Page Three



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Clinton, Bob Barr and seven sitting members of Congress who supported DOMA now oppose it. So why the about face?

Legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, which federally restricts marriage to heterosexual couples, was introduced Tuesday in House of Representatives amid a growing chorus of people who have had a change of heart on the matter, reported advocate.com. The man who signed the bill into law, President Bill Clinton, and the man who authored the legislation, Bob Barr, along with seven representatives who voted to pass it in 1996, now support the law's repeal

"When the Defense of Marriage Act was passed, gay couples could not marry anywhere in the United States or the world for that matter," Clinton said in a statement. "Thirteen years later, the fabric of our country has changed, and so should this policy." Barr, who was a member of the House at the time, joined Clinton, saying, "This legislation would strengthen the principle that each state is free to set the definition of marriage the citizens of that state have adopted."

Congressman Earl Blumenauer posted a candid editorial on Huffington Post that began, "On July 12, 1996, I cast the worst vote of my political career." DOMA originally passed the House by a vote of 342-67, and at least 98 of the people who gave it the nod are still sitting Congressional members today. Seven of those members switched gears and signed on to the DOMA repeal bill - the Respect for Marriage Act [H.R. 3567] - making a total of 92 original cosponsors by day's end: Reps. Rob Andrews (NJ); Earl Blumenauer (OR); Rosa DeLauro (CT); Mike Doyle (PA); Bob Filner (CA); Nita Lowey (NY); Ed Pastor (AZ).

For Blumenauer, the vote was a strategic move, or so he thought at the time.

"I made the political calculation that we might be able to defuse (antigay sentiment) by throwing a bone to the right on DOMA and heading off a constitutional marriage amendment, because people were talking about that," said Blumenauer, who has supported a number of LGBT equality initiatives throughout the years. "I was wrong on several levels - it didn't stop the right wing, it only encouraged them."

Blumenauer has been in public office since 1993 and estimates he has cast tens of thousands of votes during that time. "But this is one vote that stands out in my mind," he said. "I would put this at the top of the list of things that if I had to do over again, I would have done it differently." He regretted the vote within months as he began talking to more and more LGBT people who told him the vote, far from being a political calculation, was a fundamental statement of self worth.

Blumenauer now plans to reach out to those members who helped pass the measure in 1996 but still aren't on board. "This week I plan on sitting down with a number of them," he said. By The Advocate's count, he will have at least 36 Democratic and 55 Republican opportunities:

Sanford Bishop (D-AL), Rick Boucher (D-VA), Corrine Brown (D-FL), James Clyburn (D-SC), Jerry Costello (D-IL), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Norman Dicks (D-WA), John Dingell (D-MI), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX),

Chet Edwards (D-TX), Bart Gordon (D-TN), Gene Green (D-TX), Tim Holden (D-PA), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Paul Kanjorski (D-PA), Marcy Kaptur (D-

OH), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Sander Levin (D-MI), Daniel Lipinski (D-IL), Alan Mollohan (D-WV), John Murtha (D-PA), Richard Neal (D-MA), James Oberstar (D-MN), David Obey (D-WI), Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), Collin Peterson (D-MN), Earl Pomeroy (D-ND),

Nick Rahall (D-WV), Bobby Rush (D-IL), Ike Skelton (D-MO), John Spratt (D-SC), Bart Stupak (D-MI), John Tanner (D-TN), Gene Taylor (D-MS), Peter Visclosky (D-IN), Spencer Bachus (R-AL), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), Joe Barton (R-TX), Brian Bilbray (R-CA), John Boehner (R-OH),

Ken Calvert (R-CA), Dave Camp (R-MI), Michael Castle (R-DE), Howard Coble (R-NC), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), David Dreier (R-CA), John Duncan Jr. (R-TN), Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Elton Gallegly (R-CA), Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Ralph Hall (R-TX), Doc Hastings (R-WA), Wally Herger (R-CA), Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), Duncan Hunter (R-CA), Bob Inglis (R-SC), Sam Johnson (R-TX), Walter Jones (R-NC), Pete King (R-NY), Jack Kingston (R-GA), Tom Latham (R-IA), Steven LaTourette (R-OH), Jerry Lewis (R-CA), John Linder (R-GA), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Frank Lucas (R-OK), John McHugh (R-NY), Buck McKeon (R-CA), John Mica (R-FL), Sue Myrick (R-NC), Thomas Petri (R-WI), George Radanovich (R-CA), Harold Rogers (R-KY), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ed Royce (R-CA), James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), John Shadegg (R-AZ), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Lamar Smith (R-TX), Mark Souder (R-IN), Cliff Stearns (R-FL), Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Todd Tiahrt (R-KS), Fred Upton (R-MI), Zach Wamp (R-TN), Ed Whitfield (R-KY), Frank Wolf (R-VA), Don Young (R-AK).

UPDATE

Tucson Latin Gay Pride Festival

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. 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.

For the schedule of events, go online to tucsongaylatin.webs.com/schedule.htm or for information, please contact Oscar Jimenez at 954-2343 or ojimenez@wingspan.org.

VIP Tickets To Pride In The Desert 2009 Now On Sale

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join your friends in the newly expanded VIP Tent at Pride in the Desert and get the best seat in the house for this year's mainstage entertainment. Enjoy complimentary food and drinks (4 free drink tickets with each VIP Pass

purchase). The VIP Tent also affords you one of the best views in the park of the mainstage entertainers. Tickets are \$50 and are available at tucsonpride.org.

Your ticket purchase gets you: Free admission to Pride in the Desert; 4 complimentary drink tickets; Catered food; Free water and soda; Shade; A chance to win a Tucson Pride/GayTucson.com party pack which includes Broadway in Tucson season tickets, an autographed Margaret Cho CD, and a GayTucson.com t-shirt.

Deadline for VIP ticket purchases is September 30 so get your tickets today!

AIDSWALK, Oct. 11

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Sunday, October 11, 2009, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be hosting the 21st annual AIDSWALK Tucson.

AIDSWALK 2009 will be an important day for the Southern Arizona community in helping to raise funds in support of people living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV/AIDS who utilize SAAF's programs and services. Annually SAAF reaches thousands of southern Arizonans through critical care services or targeted education, outreach, and intervention. "To stand by and do nothing about the HIV epidemic is not an option. Today is about making a difference in a healthier community for all of us" says, Wendell Hicks, Executive Director.

SAAF provides care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona, including case management, housing, transportation, food support, medications and dental assistance and support groups. SAAF also provides outreach to groups at high risk of HIV/AIDS through targeted prevention programs as well as general community education to help reduce the risk of HIV. The funds raised at this year's AIDSWALK are more important than ever. Come out to AIDSWALK on October 11th, stand up to the stigma, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and help bring an end to new infections in our community! The people SAAF serves will feel the

impact of your support and they will know that the community cares.

For more information about AIDSWALK visit aidswalktucson.com or call (520) 791-WALK (9255).

Rainbow Families Picnic, Sept. 27

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join Rainbow Families for a picnic in the park. Bring your best potluck item to share and join the group for an afternoon outdoors. The park has a lake and lots of area for frisbee, softball, and other games.

Join us at Christopher Columbus Park, 4600 N. Silverbell Rd. on Sunday September 27, noon- 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call (520) 245-6659 or E-mail: rainbowfams@yahoo.com.

Casa Grande Gay Day 2009 Sept. 26

CASA GRANDE (Observer Update) - Casa Grande Gay Day is one of Casa Grande's largest LGBT events. Featuring live music, drag, politics, food, and merchandise.

On Saturday, September 26, noon to 9:00 p.m., come Out and join in on the fun, 2121 N. Thornton Road, for the event sponsored by Central Arizona Rainbow Equality.

For More Information, contact Christopher Hall (520) 208-4681.

Arizona Rally For Equal Rights Set In Support Of The National Equality March Oct. 10

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - A rally in the state capital will take place in support of the National Equality March on Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am, Cesar Chavez Plaza, 201 W. West Washington.

Sponsored by the Arizona Stonewall Democrats, who stated in a press release, "We are guaranteed equal protection by the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution. Free and equal people do not bargain for or prioritize our rights, so we are rallying in support of the National Equality March in Washington, D.C. this October 10th to demand equal protection in all matters governed by civil law in Arizona and all 50 states.

"The rally is not our final destination. It is our first step toward building a statewide grassroots network that will continue organizing until we have achieved full equality."

For more information, go online to ArizonaStonewallDemocrats.org.

Voter Registration Alert!

TUCSON - Stonewall Democrats remind us that time is running out for voter registrations for the coming City Council elections in November. The final date is October 15. Forms are available at Antigone Books or Wingspan. For information for on-line and vote-by-mail call 740-4330. Your vote is important.

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.



If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaaf.org



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Wingspan Classic, November 20

FIRST ANNUAL



Tucson Observer Archives

Charity Golf Tournament

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Looking for a way to promote your company, support a worthwhile cause, and have fun all at the same time? Register now to be a part of the First Annual Wingspan Golf Classic, a competition that tees off at the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Golf Club at Dove Mountain, on Friday, November 20. The proceeds of the event will be donated entirely to Wingspan, Southern Arizona's LGBT community Center which provides a variety of programs critical to youth and the prevention of violence.

The Wingspan Classic tournament is open to all members, friends, family, and allies of the LGBT community. Tournament entry fee is \$150/golfer for the 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. All golfers will have the opportunity to buy mulligans and other fun advantages throughout the event. Green fees include driving range use, cart, a deluxe goody bag, and post-play BBQ dinner. Players will have the opportunity to win a variety of prizes on-course, to include a Lexus from Lexus of Tucson at the AutoMall, and \$500 off a cruise with Olivia. Fabulous raffle prizes will also be available, including a cruise for two with Olivia to the West Carribean and an exotic, all-inclusive tropical vacation package for two courtesy of Dr. Tax, Inc.

For more details and to register to play or be a sponsor, see Wingspan Classic (wingspanclassic.org).

Corporate Giants Support Washington's DP Law

SEATTLE, WA (Observer Update) - On the question of domestic partnerships for same-sex couples in Washington, large employers such as Nike say, "Just do it," reported advocate.com.

Some of the largest employers in the Pacific Northwest, including Nike, Microsoft, and Boeing, announced their support for the Approve Referendum 71 campaign in Washington. The campaign urges voters to uphold expanded domestic partnerships for same-sex couples in a November referendum.

The new expanded domestic-partnerships law passed the legislature last spring, but opponents collected enough signatures over the summer to place the measure on the ballot. The large corporations want the new law to be retained, according to The Seattle Times.

"In a joint statement, the Boeing Co., Nike, Microsoft Corp., Puget Sound Energy, RealNetworks, and Vulcan Inc. said the law does not 'sanction or encourage same-sex marriage ... but recognizes that, regardless of their sexual orientation, people may enter into partnerships and create family units that deserve respect and equal treatment.

"We embrace everyone's fundamental right to be judged on their merits and contributions rather than factors such as their sexual orientation," the statement said.

150,000 Same-Sex Couples

Continued from Page One

they are really married until they do a follow-up ceremony in front of family and friends but believe it's important to get a full count.

"Gay couples are getting married or in committed relationships, and we are out here," he said.

The numbers come as the Census Bureau prepares to make an official count of same-sex marriages, unions and partnerships for the first time in the 2010 head count, following the Obama administration's decision to provide the numbers under pressure from Gay-rights groups.

The figures provided to the AP also included higher, previously unreleased numbers for the three previous years.

In 2007, 341,000 out of 753,618 total same-sex couples reported being in a marriage relationship, even though only about 11,000 marriage licenses had been issued in the country. The numbers were even higher for 2005 and 2006; about 390,000 each year reported being in a same-sex marriage out of nearly 780,000 reported Gay couples.

Martin O'Connell, the Census Bureau's chief of the fertility and family statistics branch, attributed the higher numbers in previous years to a confusing survey layout and formatting errors. He said those problems were corrected for 2008.

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Insurance Company Must Pay \$10 Million For Revoking Policy Of Teen With HIV

CHARLESTON, SC (Observer Update) - The South Carolina Supreme Court has ordered an insurance company to pay \$10 million for wrongly revoking the insurance policy of a 17-year-old college student after he tested positive for HIV. The court called the 2002 decision by the insurance company "reprehensible," reported Murray Waas for the Huffington Post. That appears to be the most an insurance company has ever been ordered to pay in a case involving the practice known as rescission, in which insurance companies retroactively cancel coverage for policyholders based on alleged misstatements - sometimes right after diagnoses of life-threatening diseases.

During the case, evidence emerged that Health Net had paid bonuses to employees to reward them based on the number of policyholders they had rescinded. The judge who awarded Bates the \$9 million said in his decision: "It's difficult to imagine a policy more reprehensible than tying bonuses to encourage the rescission of health insurance that keeps the public well and alive."

William Shernoff, the attorney who represented Bates, said in an interview Wednesday that he was not unhappy that there was a new verdict larger than the one he won for Bates. "I am glad to see that the courts in other parts of the country are coming down hard on this reprehensible practice of dumping sick patients," he said. "It has been a practice going on decades, is widespread, and ruins lives." Shernoff currently said he has more than 100 pending cases against California insurance companies on behalf of patients he alleges were wrongly rescinded. He said he has already settled about 90 similar cases over the last three years.

The ruling emerges from a conservative Southern state with one of the most pro-business climates in the country. And it comes as progressive Democrats on Capitol Hill are pressing for health care reforms, such as a public insurance option, that reflect wariness about the private insurance industry's motives. The Supreme Court upheld a lower court's verdict against Fortis Insurance, now known as Assurant. The trial jury had awarded the former college student, Jerome Mitchell, \$15 million in punitive damages; the Supreme Court reduced that amount by \$5 million.

Mitchell learned that he had HIV when, while heading to college, he donated blood. Fortis then rescinded his coverage, citing what turned out to be an erroneous note from a nurse in his medical records that indicated that he might have been diagnosed prior to his obtaining his insurance policy. Before the cancellation of the policy, an underwriter working for Fortis wrote to a committee considering whether or not to rescind his policy: "Technically, we do not have the results of the HIV tests. This is the only entry in the medical records regarding HIV status. Is it sufficient?" The underwriter's concerns were ignored and the rescission went forward.

In the ruling, Chief Justice Jean Hoefler wrote: "We find ample support in the record that Fortis' conduct was reprehensible ... Fortis demonstrated an indifference to Mitchell's life and a reckless disregard to his health and safety." An investigation this summer by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and earlier ones by state regulators in California, New York and Connecticut, found that thousands of vulnerable and seriously ill policyholders have had their coverage canceled by many of the nation's largest insurance companies without any legal basis. The congressional committee found that three insurance companies alone made at least \$300 million over five years from rescission. One of those three companies was Assurant.

In February 2008, a private arbitration judge in Los Angeles ordered Health Net Inc. to pay more than \$9 million to a breast cancer patient whose health insurance it revoked shortly after her diagnosis and while she was undergoing chemotherapy. The plaintiff in that case, Patsy Bates, a then-52-year-old grandmother and hair-salon owner, was unable to continue her chemotherapy for several months.

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Obama wasn't exactly correct in his telling of Beaton's ordeal. Beaton's insurance was canceled because a doctor wrote that she potentially had a precancerous lesion on her face. Further investigation showed that she instead had acne. But even after her physicians pointed out the error, her insurance remained rescinded. Only with the help of her congressman, was she able to pressure her insurance company to pay for her breast cancer surgery—five months later.

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Across The Gay Globe

Uruguay Gay Adoptions: Not So Fast? On closer inspection, a new law in Uruguay may not give gay couples the right to adopt children. The celebrated new law that was thought to give gay and lesbian couples the right to adopt in Uruguay may not provide that right, some legal experts now say, reported *advocate.com*. When the law passed, proponents said it would make Uruguay the first country in Latin America to allow gay and lesbian couples to adopt children. However, a closer inspection of the law's language casts doubt on that conclusion, according to the Associated Press (AP). "Nowhere in the law does it specifically say that homosexual couples have a right to adopt," reported the AP. "And in some places, it suggests otherwise – for example, by specifying how the child should take a mother and father's surnames."

Experts say that because there is no explicit mention of adoption by gay couples, subjective interpretation could result in legal problems for couples wishing to adopt. Others say the fact that same-sex couples may legally join in civil unions, which are covered under the new law, will resolve any doubts. The law awaits signature by President Tabaré Vázquez. ...

A Malawi official said that recognizing the rights of gay citizens is essential to success in the fight against AIDS, *advocate.com* reported. The statement from Mary Shawa, secretary for nutrition, HIV, and AIDS in the president's office, marked the first public comment from a government official about gay issues in the conservative country. Shawa, speaking at a two-day conference on HIV/AIDS, said that in order to fight the disease, Malawi needs to give gay people access to HIV and AIDS services, according to Reuters. "There is a need to incorporate a human rights approach in the

delivery of HIV and AIDS services to such risk groups like men who have sexual intercourse with men if we have to fight AIDS," said Shawa, according to Reuters.

Advocacy organizations within Malawi report that 25% of the country's gay population lives with HIV. More than 800,000 people have died of AIDS since it first appeared in the country in 1985, and over 1 million children have been orphaned. ...

Lawmakers in a devoutly Muslim Indonesian province voted unanimously that adulterers can be sentenced to death by stoning, just months after voters overwhelmingly chose to throw conservative Islamic parties out of power, reported *advocate.com*. With only weeks to go before a new government led by a moderate party takes over in Aceh province, hard-liners still in control of the regional parliament pushed through legislation Monday to impose steep punishments for adultery and homosexuality.

The chairman of the 69-seat house asked if the bill could be passed into law and members answered in unison: "Yes, it can." Some members of the moderate Democrat Party, which will lead the incoming government, voiced reservations, but none of them voted against the bill. It also imposes severe prison terms for other behavior considered morally unacceptable, including homosexuality, which will be punishable by public lashings and more than eight years in prison. Human rights groups said the law violates international treaties signed by Indonesia. The province's deputy governor also opposed the legislation, saying it needed more careful consideration because it imposes a new form of capital punishment.

Straight Spouses Back Marriage Equality

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - As the marriage equality battle rages on, advocates for same-sex marriage have picked up a huge vote of support from unlikely sources – the former spouses of closeted Gay men and women, *advocate.com*. According to ABC News, the board of the volunteer-run Straight Spouse Network – an organization based in New Jersey with 52 local chapters – has adopted a policy to oppose laws that limit marriage to a man and a woman.

The SSN's decision to back marriage equality started after founder Amity Pierce Buxton wrote an impassioned opinion piece last fall to voters in California urging them to vote against Proposition 8. "We are the unacknowledged victims of the victims of homophobia," Pierce Buxton told ABC News. "When Gays and Lesbians feel they have to get married to be accepted and to have kids, that hurts not only Gays and Lesbians, but straight spouses and kids."

From ABC News: "To be sure, not all mates who discover they are in what has become known as 'mixed-orientation marriages' are so sanguine. [Wah Cheong, a lifelong Republican and the soon-to-be-divorced father of two teenage boys,] who was married for more than 17 years when

his wife told him she thought she was a Lesbian, said he knows other straight spouses who voted for California's same-sex marriage ban 'out of spite for their exes, nothing else.'" Regardless of where they are on the acceptance scale, each spouse can pinpoint devastating moments of discovery or disclosure that rendered their marital relationships unrecognizable, if not shattered.

For Carolyn Segal Lowengart, 61, who lives outside Washington, D.C., it came after 31 years of marriage. Lowengart thinks if her husband had not seen his sexual orientation as a stigma, both of them would have been free to pursue other relationships. After her husband moved out, "I asked him, 'When did you know?' He said, 'When I was a teenager.' I said, 'Why did you marry me?' And he said, 'Because I didn't want to be [Gay],'" she said.

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

It Isn't The Person, It Is The Bill

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell," expanding the current federal Hate Crimes Laws, the federal defense of marriage act, a proposed law to prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, perceived or otherwise, funding for HIV/AIDS research and programs are some of the many measures being considered in the U.S. Congress.

In the chambers of the various state legislatures, proposals dealing with similar matters, such as Hate Crimes, domestic partnerships, state recognition of committed, same sex relationships, anti-discrimination ordinances are being considered.

With all that, when one peruses LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) newspapers, magazines and now, blogs and website, stories about on what open LGBT elected officials think about proposals and legislation in the respective governmental body.

So if an openly-LGBT elected official, feels that a bill or proposal isn't quite right, do they need to do "an exclusive" interview with a member of the median to criticize it and declare their non-support as Congressman Barney Frank, D-MA, in regards to H.R. 3567, the Respect Marriage Act introduced by Congressman Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, adding that the courts would be the better way to go.

Is not the purpose of the U.S. Congress to enact laws, effective in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories, which can make the lives of American's better, as stated in Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution, which reads, "All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives?"

Is not the purpose of those wanting change in federal statutes to be able to air their grievances to the U.S. Congress as stated in the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights - Amendment I, which reads:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances?"

As written in the U.S. Constitution and subsequently approved by the states, it is up to the citizens to petition their Members of Congress and U.S. Senators and for those individuals serving in those posts to fulfill their duties as proscribed.

With that, as previously mentioned is H.R. 3567, the Respect for Marriage Act, sponsored by Congressman Nadler and would repeal the 13-year-old "Defense of Marriage Act," which is prohibiting the federal recognition (by whatever name) of committed, same-sex relationships and their subsequent families.

There is the Employment Non Discrimination Act of 2009, S. 1584, H.R. 3017, which would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

H.R. 1723 is the Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, that would grant essential benefits to working families by providing twelve weeks of paid FMLA coverage to employees seeking to take leave to care for their families, including leave to care for a domestic partner and their children.

S. 909, H.R. 1913 are the companion bills, known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (LLEHCPA) / Matthew Shepard Act, and provides the DOJ (Department of Justice) with the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions either by lending assistance or, where local authorities are unwilling or unable to act, by taking the lead in investigations and prosecutions of bias-motivated, violent crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury, and also makes grants available to state and local communities to combat violent crimes committed by juveniles, train law enforcement officers or assist in state and local investigations and prosecutions of bias-motivated crimes.

H.R. 2262 is the Safe Schools Improvement Act and if enacted and signed into law, would amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (part of the No Child Left Behind Act) to require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

H.R. 1283, known as the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, would overturn the 16-year-old, federal law, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which prevents Gays and Lesbians from serving openly in this country's Armed Services.

S. 424, and H.R. 1024, known as the Uniting American Families Act, would allow U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor their same-sex partners (called "permanent partners" in UAFA) for family-based immigration.

S. 833, H.R. 1616, the Early Treatment for HIV Act would permit state Medicaid programs to provide HIV treatment to individuals before they develop AIDS.

There are many other measures in addition to these written about being considered and it is up to the people, not one politician, to work to get these bills heard, considered and passed. To do so, go online to hrc.org or to call your Member of Congress or Senator, go online to callcongress.org.



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Pride And Joy On Display At Peoria's First LGBT Festival

PEORIA, IL (Observer Update) - Diversity and acceptance were key as hundreds of children, adults and families flocked to the Peoria Riverfront for the first Peoria Pride Festival, reported the Peoria Journal Star. The festival was a six-hour Gay pride event, featuring music, speakers, food and information booths, as well as children's activities.

Kim Roe, 43, of Peoria brought her 3-year-old son, Jackson, to the festival in order to help him learn about acceptance and diversity. "I'm not Gay, but I went to (a similar festival) in Chicago, and I think it is so important to celebrate diversity," she said, adding, "People need to understand, there is more than one way to love somebody."

Peoria Pride was organized by local volunteers who created a not-for-profit organization called Central Illinois Alliance for Diversity and Equality (CIADE), said Dave Barker, festival organizer and alliance president. "CIADE's goal is to unite the established LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) organizations and community in order to speak with a common voice in central Illinois about LGBT issues and needs. This Pride event today is the first step," Barker wrote in a forward to the event's program.

Barker said he was pleased with the 37 vendors and hundreds of people who showed up to support the festival and enjoy the experience. "It's about our community being proud of who we are and coming out to support each other and have a great time," he said. A great time was had by many at the event, including Ashley Lacey, 18, and Jessica Culp, 19, a Lesbian couple from Washington who attended the festival with their black Labrador puppy, Jordan. "A friend of mine started (the festival) and I thought, 'Cool, my dog can come,'" Lacey said.

The couple met four years ago when they both worked at an animal hospital in Morton. Although Lacey said she always knew her sexual orientation, it took Culp a while - after becoming friends and finding they had common interests - to know they were in love, Culp said. "She turned me," Culp joked. Lacey said she was glad the festival could help raise public awareness that there are many Gays and Lesbians in the Peoria area.

"I've never had trouble with acceptance, but I've always kept an open mind to other people and their opinions. I know not everyone is going to accept me, but I just think it's good for people to know how many people are represented here," she said.

Tampa Gets First Female, Out Police Chief

TAMPA, FL (Observer Update) - Out Lesbian Jane Castor was named chief of the Tampa Police Department by Mayor Pam Iorio. Castor will be the first woman in Tampa's history to hold the office once she is sworn in on October 1, but the future chief hopes her legacy does not end there.

"The significance of being the first female is certainly not lost on me," said Castor, according to the St. Petersburg Times. "Frankly, I'd rather be known as a good chief than the first female." Castor's promotion has further importance, as she is openly Lesbian. For the past six years, the mother of two has served as the department's liaison to the gay and Lesbian community.

"We think it's incredible," Brian Winfield, spokesman for Equality Florida, said to the St. Petersburg Times. "She's been instrumental in building a bridge of communication, and she's built a trust that is exceptional and unfortunately rare in the rest of the state." On top of her police duties, Castor is also on the board of the Hillsborough House of Hope, which provides temporary housing to women who were incarcerated in Hillsborough County, and she serves as a mentor through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tampa Bay.

While selected by Mayor Iorio, the Tampa City Council must vote on October 1 to approve Castor's appointment before she can take office.

Pelosi Invokes Milk's Murder In Speech

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi finds the conservative rhetoric surrounding health care reform similar to the violent debate over Gay rights in San Francisco in the 1970s that resulted in the murders of Harvey Milk and Mayor George Mascone, reported advocate.com.

"I have concerns about some of the language that is being used because I saw this myself in the late '70s in San Francisco. ... It created a climate in which violence took place," Pelosi said, according to Politico.com. "I wish we would all curb our enthusiasm in some of the statements and understand that some of the ears that it is falling on are not as balanced as the person making the statements may assume."

While supporting the freedom of speech, Pelosi also made it clear that individuals who may incite violence must be held responsible.

"I think we all have to take action and responsibility for our words," she added. "We are a free country and this balance between freedom and safety is one that we have to carefully balance."

Pelosi, who knew Milk and Mascone, was serving as chairwoman of the Democratic Party in Northern California when the two men were shot in November 1978.

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COMMENTARY...

by Deb Price

Obama Invites LGBT Americans In

Hurrying to dress for a concert featuring one of her favorite blues singers, Easter Spencer felt something frightening. "Honey, I found a lump," she told her partner, Phyllis. Her partner calmed her, saying, "Let's just get a mammogram and get it taken care of."

Spencer, who had a job but no health insurance, turned to the Mautner Project, a Washington, D.C., based group that helps Lesbians with cancer. Mautner referred her to a free mammogram program, and her lump proved benign. But doctors recommend that Spencer have it removed, something she can't afford to do until she's able to sign up for insurance next year. "I feel panicky. I hope it doesn't get bigger," Spencer frets.

When President Barack Obama wanted to single out Americans whose problems illustrate shortfalls in the health care system, he invited Spencer to sit in the first lady's box for his high-stakes address to a joint session of Congress.

Spencer's story was recounted in a White House press release along with other guests' insurance woes: A yarn shop owner, for example, can't afford to insure her three workers; a Maryland woman faces \$30,000 in health care bills despite having insurance; and a college student had to sell his family's home after his uninsured mother died of brain cancer and left behind \$255,000 in bills.

Spencer's inclusion is the most recent example of how the Obama White House has seamlessly woven everyday Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Americans into its events. For example, it made sure Gay families participated in the Easter Egg Roll and that a Gay dad attended the Fatherhood Town Hall.

Rob Keeling, a human resources executive from Virginia whose son Max is 4, was invited to the White House to hear the president stress fathers' importance in children's lives.

"You really saw a cross-section of fathers. And that reinforced that family is something that everyone can relate to," Keeling says. "There were service members who were dads, dads who were stepparents, dads in trans-racial families. I was there because I was a dad."

Quite a few parents are among the folks receiving the unprecedented number of LGBT invitations from the Obama White House. Chris Caldwell and Richard Llewellyn of Los Angeles, a married couple with 19-year-old twins, met with the president and first lady before the White House's big Stonewall commemoration in June.

Caldwell recalls that the Obamas appeared completely comfortable when he told them, "This is my husband, Richard." Michelle Obama gave one of the twins, Rosemary, college tips.

"We felt that we were interacting on a very human level as parents to other parents," Caldwell said. "It was very affirming to have the president recognize that Gay people are parents and part of the basic fabric of American life. It felt like the message was that he understood we are families that deserve the same recognition and respect as every other type of family."

Spencer similarly sees the Obamas as spreading the word that Lesbians and Gay men struggle with medical nightmares all too familiar to millions of other people.

"I felt the Obamas really cared and wanted other Americans to know people like me are having trouble getting health insurance," Spencer says.

The president clearly knows how much good that can flow from small acts of kindness. At the Fatherhood Town Hall, he said he ended up loving basketball and jazz because his own father, whom he scarcely knew, gave him a basketball and took him to his first jazz concert. "I really want to emphasize ... small moments and gestures can make a huge difference," the president said.

Taken together, the Obama administration's small, inclusive gestures send a big, inclusive message: This president embraces the diversity of the Gay community and the nation he leads.

(Deb Price is a columnist for the of The Detroit News, from which this is reprinted.)

Both Sides Debate G/L Count In Census

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. Census Bureau, which decided it would count legally married same-sex couples during the 2010 national tabulation, is expected to turn up several statistics supporting needs for federal reform on Gay rights, advocate.com.

According to the Washington Post, some Gay advocacy groups will expect the results to show the need for legal rights like employment protections and parental adoption rights.

"Why does the census ask if people are young or old, black or white, married or single?" Joe Solomon, president of the Human Rights Campaign, told the Post. "It's because we want to understand if the country is meeting the public-policy needs of those Americans. That's particularly so for LGBT Americans."

However, Gay rights opponents like Wendy Wright, of Concerned Women for America, say the numbers will just be used to "force people to go along with whatever they demand. Regardless of what the numbers are, they're going to exaggerate the importance of it and claim all of society must change in order to comport with their demands."

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Department Of Justice Asks Court To Dismiss Challenge To Marriage Law

BOSTON, MA (Observer Update) - The Justice Department has asked a federal judge in Boston to dismiss a lawsuit that claims a federal law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman is unconstitutional because it denies Gay couples access to federal benefits given to other married couples, reported the Associated Press on 365Gay.com.

2010. The Massachusetts lawsuit was brought by seven Gay couples and three widowers, all of whom were married in Massachusetts after it became the first state in the country to legalize Gay marriage in 2004. They argue that DOMA violates the equal-protection clause of the U.S. Constitution because it treats married Gay couples differently than other married couples.

determinations by the states as to what constitutes marriage. "We're seeking justice for the widows and widowers who are denied death benefits, for people who can't get on their spouse's health plan, for parents who can't file taxes jointly and pay thousands extra each year that they could put away for their children's education or family emergencies," said Gary Buseck, GLAD's legal director.

In court documents, the Justice Department makes it clear the Obama administration thinks the law is discriminatory and should be repealed. But the department said it was defending the statute because the law is "constitutionally permissible." The 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act, known as DOMA, bars federal recognition of Gay unions and denies Gay couples access to pensions, health insurance and other government benefits. The law was passed by Congress at a time when it appeared Hawaii would become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. Opponents worried that other states would be forced to recognize such marriages.

The Justice Department, however, argues that there is no fundamental right to marriage-based federal benefits and says Congress is entitled to address issues of social reform on an "incremental" basis. "Congress is therefore permitted to provide benefits only to those who have historically been permitted to marry, without extending the same benefit to those only recently permitted to do so," the government argued in its written response to the lawsuit. "Congress may subsequently decide to extend federal benefits to same-sex marriages, and this Administration believes that Congress should do so. But its decision not to do so at this point is not irrational or unconstitutional."

Since then, six states have enacted laws or issued court rulings that permit same-sex marriage, including Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut and Iowa. New Hampshire's law takes effect Jan. 1,

Gay & Lesbian Public Advocates & Defenders, the legal group that filed the lawsuit, said DOMA is an exception to a long history of the federal government deferring to



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Gay, Lesbian, And Seeking A Job

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Two years ago, Matthew Logan went to the Out to Work job fair for Gay men and Lesbians, and he met representatives for AXA Equitable. Last year, he went to the fair and decided to work for the company. On Thursday, he was back to recruit.

The Out to Work job fair was originally started as a diversity outreach project to showcase workplaces that are friendly to Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employees. This year, it has become an economic lifeline for thousands who are out of work. More than 2,000 people preregistered for Thursday's job fair, which took place at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center in Greenwich Village. Last year, 300 did, though about 1,500 ultimately showed up.

This year, about 2,500 people attended the job fair. Laid-off M.B.A.'s, recent college grads and entrepreneurs waited in lines that stretched down the block in both directions. A flurry of suits, BlackBerries and résumés converged in a lavender room under disco balls.

Despite the tough economic times, the job fair had the same number of employers recruiting as last year: about 50. They represented a range of enterprises, private and public, big and small: HBO, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Gay Men's Health Crisis and Pfizer. While finance and Fortune Companies were there in force, the entertainment companies – such as HBO and A&E – had notably much longer lines than the others.

The organizers looked to the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, which evaluates workplaces for Gay-friendly policies, like domestic partner benefits and affinity groups for to Gay, Lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employees.

"We started with the companies that got good marks on the report card," said Tony Juliano, the president of the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, a sponsored of the fair. Some companies are known to be more friendly than others.

Those who attended the fair emphasized that it was not just about finding a job, but finding a job where they did not have to have second thoughts about putting a personal photo on their desk, bringing a same-sex companion to a corporate social event, or obtaining health insurance for their domestic partners.

Mr. Juliano, who is Gay, recalled that 30 years ago, he would have a female friend come to company events when he worked at AT&T. "She was my beard," he said. (AT&T is now a progressive company, he added.)

Mr. Logan, 42, came out to colleagues 12 years ago and was met with some surprise. "Some friends say I'm the straightest Gay person they've ever met," he said. "I'm a boring M.B.A. finance guy" who likes sports. (He even invests in a Gay sports bar called Gym.)

But he had become tired of having co-workers ask "what her name was" when he mentioned he went to a movie with someone. Finally he would just say, "Her name was Bill." "I'm not bashful to talk about who I wake up with in the morning," he said. "It was career limiting," Mr. Logan said. "They didn't discriminate against me, but they didn't feel comfortable inviting me to dinner."

Without the dinners and the golf outings, a person is not in line for the next promotion, he noted. "You can't be part of the old boys' club," he said. In contrast, AXA Equitable has marketing materials aimed at Gay and Lesbian clients. He picked up one brochure. It explained that Gay men and Lesbians could create trusts so as to leave inheritances for partners. "I wouldn't have joined if they weren't progressive," he said.

Albert L. Gordon Dies At 94; Attorney Fought For Gay Rights

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Albert L. Gordon, an attorney who helped advance Gay rights in the 1970s and '80s by challenging discriminatory practices and laws, including a successful effort to decriminalize consensual homosexual acts, died Aug. 10, reported the Los Angeles Times. He died of natural causes, his son Harold said.

Gordon, a heterosexual whose twin sons were Gay, became a lawyer in his late 40s and devoted most of his practice to defending the rights of homosexuals and battling the bigotry of law enforcement. Often working for free, he became known as "the leading pro bono lawyer to L.A.'s Gay community," historians Lillian Faderman and Stuart Timmons wrote in their 2006 book "Gay L.A."

"Before there was a straight-Gay alliance in America, there was Al Gordon," the Rev. Troy Perry, a longtime activist and founder of the Gay-friendly Metropolitan Community Churches, said in an interview. "When other people wouldn't touch us, he did. He was a hero."

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OCTOBER

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NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - The GLBT History Month 2009 Web site is now online (glbthistorymonth.com) with a new look, expanded resources and easier navigation. No passwords are needed to access the GLBT History Month 2009 resources.

A 2-½ minute overview video showcasing all 31 GLBT Icons is available on the site. Beginning October 1, a GLBT Icon is presented daily, with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images and other resources - all provided for free. The 93 Icons with resources for 2006, 2007 and 2008 are archived on the site. The 31 Icon videos can be embedded without charge on Web sites or blogs by following the instructions on the site. Once embedded, the video player will automatically update the daily Icon video. Icon videos are offered for free to educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, for profit companies and the public.

GLBT History Month resources can be used to make a GLBT History Month Exhibit. GLBT History Month teaches our heritage, provides role models, builds community, and recognizes our extraordinary national and international contributions.

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Lesbian Deserter Seeks Refugee Status



OTTAWA, Canada (Observer Update) - Bethany Smith, a private who deserted the U.S. Army, is seeking refugee status in Canada, advocate.com reported. Smith says she feared for her life because of the treatment she suffered as a Lesbian. "I had to endure not only verbal and physical harassment, but death threats and harassment letters on my door every day," she said, according to the CBC.

Smith said the harassment began after other soldiers saw her holding hands with another woman at a local shopping mall and determined she is a Lesbian. She said that fellow soldiers discriminated against her on a daily basis and treated her as "less than human." She also claims to have received anonymous hate letters every evening, including a death threat that read, "We will suffocate you in your sleep." Smith said that sergeants stood by and laughed as she was routinely shaken and thrown to the ground by other soldiers. She asked for a discharge from her first sergeant before she was scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan. Prompt discharges are legally prescribed for soldiers who declare their homosexuality to superior officers, but Smith's sergeant was reticent to discharge her. "He told me straight-up, 'We'll figure out the paperwork when we get back

from deployment," Smith said.

Smith's lawyer, Jamie Liew, believes the military ignored its own policies because of the paucity of soldiers available for overseas deployments. After her discharge was denied, Smith drove to the border at Cornwall, Ontario, where the War Resisters Support Campaign helped her move to Ottawa. Other U.S. deserters opposed to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have fled to Canada to avoid being deployed. Many of them have been denied appeals to Canadian courts, and some have served prison terms after being deported back to the United States.

Liew believes these cases will have no effect on Smith's case. "Bethany is coming with an extremely different story. She's coming because of the way her life was threatened because of her sexual orientation," Liew told the CBC. If Smith is forced to return to the United States, Liew says she may face military charges of indecency for homosexual conduct as well as charges for desertion and being absent without leave. Military cases are decided by tribunal members from the accused's own unit, which means that the same people who assaulted Smith could decide her fate.



Humane Society of Southern Arizona
 3450 North Kelvin Boulevard
 Tucson, AZ 85716
 (520) 327-6088
<http://www.humane-so-arizona.org>



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WOULD LIKE TO BUY a batch of used gay porn magazines of the SMBD variety. Write describing what you have and how much you want for it to Box 85571, Tucson, AZ 85754 1315

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Non-Bar Calendar

Wednesday, September 23

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 7 p.m. Hand and Foot, a canasta-like game, is hosted weekly by MSN members in their homes. Please call Lee & Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, September 24

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 1 p.m. MSN invites you to bowl at a great price. This event is done jointly with Tucson Prime Timers. For further information, please call Merle at 888-7264. 7 p.m. MSN invites you to Triangle Tribe, a Men's Circle. According to a recent study, few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for the issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships? This long running, guided discussion group meets weekly. For further information, please call Lee & Merlin at 207-5336.

Friday, September 25

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 9 a.m. MSN invites you on a day trip to the Desert Museum. Seating is limited, so be sure to call ahead! If the initial car is full, other cars may join. For further information, please call Thom at 908-6160. 5:30 p.m. MSN invites you to join a truly mixed discussion group. Oasis is open to all-gay, lesbian, transgender, bi, queer, questioning, and straight allies. Displaced by the closing of Wingspan's facility, the group currently meets on the patio of Revolutionary Grounds, the former Rainbow Planet Coffee Shop. This guided discussion group includes all ages and genders. Meetings are often followed by dinner. The MSN contact for this group is Davis at 325-4754 (message phone) or wilcoxgay@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 26

Casa Grande Gay Day is one of Casa Grande's largest LGBT events. Come out and join in today from Noon to 9:00 p.m. at 2121 N. Thornton Road. The event is sponsored by Central Arizona Rainbow Equality. For more information contact Christopher Hall (520)208-4681.

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 7 p.m. Shuffle over for a floating pinochle game every Saturday of the month save the first Saturday, the night of the monthly MSN pot luck. For further information, please call Steve at 664-2076.

Sunday, September 27

Join Rainbow Families for a picnic in the park. Bring your best potluck item to share and join the group for an afternoon outdoors. The park has a lake and lots of area for frisbee, softball and other games. Join the group at Christopher Columbus Park, 4600 N. Silverbell Road from Noon to 2:30 p.m. For more information call (520)245-6659 or e-mail: rainbowfams@yahoo.com

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 6:30 p.m. MSN invites you to join us for Sunday dinner out. Every Sunday, MSN members meet at a different restaurant to eat and enjoy each other's company. This week we dine at Guilin Chinese, 3250 E Speedway, a healthy Chinese restaurant with standard Chinese dishes and an extensive vegetarian menu. For further information, please call Thom at 908-6160 or Davis at 325-4754. 7 p.m. MSN invites you to a concert under the stars at the band shell at Reid Park. For further information, please call Vaughn at 834-9980.

Monday, September 28

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 10 a.m. MSN invites you to bowl at a great price. This event is done jointly with Tucson Prime Timers. For further information, please call Merle at 888-7264.

Tuesday, September 29

Men's Social Network currently has no Tuesday events scheduled. Why not join us and start something?

Wednesday, September 30

Men's Social Network-Open to men of all ages. Newcomers welcomed. 7 p.m. Hand and Foot, a canasta-like game, is hosted weekly by

Poet's Corner

UNCIVIL WARS by Ron Rose - Tucson

Civil wars, not civil, simply can't be won Ask a wailing Shiite, who lost her only son. Ask a tiny Muslim, bombs cradled in his pack Allah waiting, salivating, sure to get him back. Or ask an Afghan rebel, cremated in his truck A dead marine still resting in the stinking Afghan muck. Or view the Nam disaster, another losing war We never learn our lesson, we seem to relish gore. Lee and Grant went at it, our countries not the same North and South still feuding, what a silly game. Leaders in our government, fuel differences so slight Folks arming for protection, what a sorry plight. So let's all work together, its firmly in our laps Dialogue that's rational, can save the world, perhaps

Water of Life Metropolitan Community Church The Rev. William H. Knight, D.D., Interim Pastor "It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." Sydney Smith, (1771-1845) Sunday Worship: 10:15am Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m. 3269 North Mountain Avenue Tucson AZ 85719 (Just North of Ft. Lowell) 292-9151 www.wolmcc.org

MSN members in their homes. Please call Peter at 881-8276.

Wednesday, Sept. 30 - Saturday, October 3

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Latino/as can celebrate their heritage through music, art, dance and film at the second annual Tucson Latin Gay Pride festival. 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. 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. For the schedule of events, go online to tucsongaylatin.webs.com/schedule.htm or for information contact Oscar Jimenez at 954-2343 or ojimenez@wingspan.org

Friday, November 20 First Annual Wingspan Golf Classic, a competition that tees off at the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Golf Club today. The proceeds of the event will be donated entirely to Wingspan which provides a variety of programs critical to youth and the prevention of violence. Entry fee is \$150/golfer for the 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. For more details and to register to play or be a sponsor see Wingspan Classic (wingspanclassic.org)

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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, please contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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 Domestic and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Dinner 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 p.m. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes.
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + \$1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & \$1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, \$2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.
VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust \$2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, \$3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping HIV/AIDS clients with their Veterinary bills).
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties
YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8. \$4.25 Long Island, Tokyo and Long Beach Teas, all nite with sexy Spencer.
COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.75 Skyy Cocktails, \$3 Domestic & Well. ½ price appetizers 4-6pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o' Beer - \$10 Domestic, \$12 Imports and microbrews (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close \$5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".
VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. SKYY Martinis \$3 ea., 4-8pm.
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.
YARD DOG - Open 11am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close, \$1.50 pints all nite and DJ Lover Boy spinnin' 80's.
COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic 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. \$3 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.
COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well. ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Karaoke with Ynot Entertainment at 9pm.
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.
VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm \$2.50/Pitcher.
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Full Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - \$1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with \$1.00 off for those who participate (excl.

Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..
YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 5-9 \$3 glasses of wine. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10pm.
COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic 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 Domestic. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/ Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. \$1.75 Long Island, \$1.50 Tequila Shots, \$3 Dkyy Cape Cods and \$4 Skyy Cosmos.
VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am..
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, \$1.00 PBR Longnecks, \$2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..
YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm..

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 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 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! . "Guys & Dolls" comedy 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 Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.
VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas \$3 ea., 4-8pm.
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month. **YARD DOG** - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. LATINLICIOUS . Hourly rotating drink specials. DJ Kool-A
COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Dinner served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. \$5.00 cheeseburger & fries. \$3.00 Cuervo and \$4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.
IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday 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 open 11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.
YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

Friday, September 25
THE BIZ - DJ Battle finals. One incredible DJ will win \$1,000. Come support to see who is the best!

WOODY'S - Fall wine tasting is coming tonight. Make your reservation with your favorite bartender.

Saturday, September 26
THE BIZ - Bringing back the funk!! Remember Colette's - remember the good ole days! Then join the crowd this special evening. Benefitting Wingspan. Please RSVP to Colette @ 520-909-4190 or visit colettes.org for more info.

COYOTE MOON- Tea Dance from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Then it's girls gone mad! DJ Domenica & The Deviltry Girls and show girlz! Cover \$5 or \$10 for two. Free by 9:00 p.m. Bring a book donation and get \$1 off cover. \$3 Hot Sex Booby shots and raffles and prizes!

WOODY'S - The Wett Party starring Dayton O'Conner. Live performances 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. DVD give-aways and hot dancers.

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 in Tucson at 10 p.m. See the bartender at Yard Dog for a trip package and learn how to sign up for the Cab Asharing Program to get you safely home!

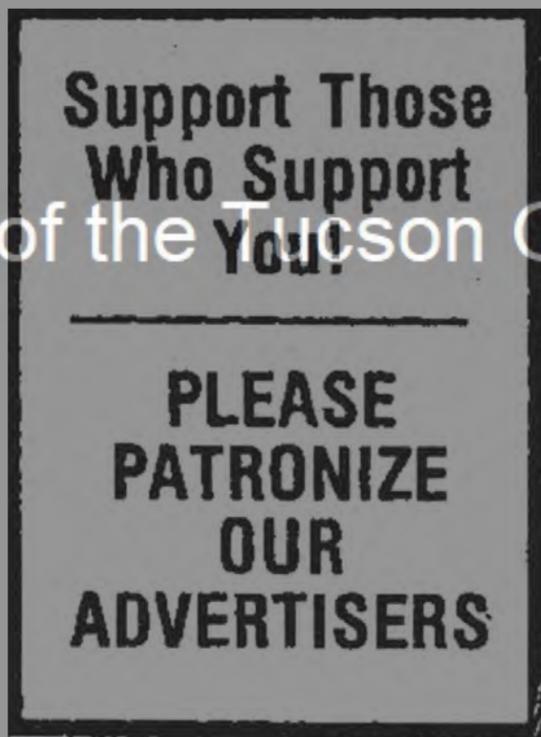
Saturday, October 2
THE BIZ - 2nd Annual Latin Pride Party @ the Biz 9pm. DJ Hill spinnin' all your Latin favorites. In part with Wingspan, SAAF, UofA Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs Program & Pride Alliance.

Thursday, October 9
THE BIZ - Pre-Pride Party with Latin Carnival! One massive Latin Party to kick off Gay Pride Weekend! Special guest Live from Sonora Dinamita Live!

Friday, October 10
THE BIZ - Pride Party Biz opens @ 5:00 p.m. Pride Party all the way til 6:00 a.m.! Arrive early to avoid the lines. DJ Hill killing you on the dance floor until 6a.m. 18+ afterhours til 6 a.m.

Friday, October 16
THE BIZ - Spin Babez wrap-up Party. Poles, toys and all the sexiness you could ask for! Free Goodie Bag to the first 150 guests and some lucky person will win a stripper pole! One incredibly hot & sexy night - DJ Hill til 2 a.m.

Saturday, October 17
THE BIZ - Flame Halloween style. Come dressed and enjoy the fun, the friends, and the great time. DJ Tweet Tweet scratchin' the Mac! Costumes encouraged. 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.



Hate Crimes On Track For Fall

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - LGBT hate-crimes legislation could reach President Obama's desk by October's end as HRC (Human Rights Campaign) pushes to strike harmful language from the provision, reported advocate.com.

Democratic sources on the Hill say the Department of Defense reauthorization legislation – to which an amendment is currently attached that would include LGBT citizens under federal hate-crimes protections – could reach the president's desk as early as mid October.

The House and Senate versions of the DOD bill still need to be reconciled and the Human Rights Campaign sent a letter this week to the respective chairs of the Armed Services committees – Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan and Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri – urging them to retain the hate-crimes provision in the final version of the bill.

HRC's legislative director, Allison Herwitz, said the hate-crimes amendment is still intact and continues to have the backing of the Democratic leadership on the Hill and in the White House. "Nothing has changed," she said, "there's still a hate-crimes provision in the bill and it has been communicated that this is a priority for the administration and the leadership both in the House and in the Senate."

But HRC is still lobbying to strike some potentially harmful amendments made on the Senate floor by senators who are generally hostile to the bill.

"When the Senate was considering the measure, some members of the Senate who were opposed to the hate-crimes provision in general offered amendments seeking to act like poison pills," explained Herwitz.

One amendment came from Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who successfully attached a death penalty provision as one of the options for punishment of a hate crime. The strategic goal of the amendment was to conflict progressives, who would generally simultaneously support the hate-crimes measure but oppose the death penalty.

Sen. Edward Kennedy did offer a second-degree amendment to the Sessions provision that weakened the death penalty language.

"But the civil rights coalition that had been working so hard on getting this bill over the finish line supports the removal of the death penalty language," Herwitz said.

As she wrote in the letter to conferees: "The death penalty will make enforcement of this provision much more complicated and much more costly, diverting scarce resources that could better be used to deter and prevent these crimes in the first place. Additionally, the death penalty is irreversible and highly controversial – with significant doubts about its deterrent effect and clear evidence of disproportionate application against poor people."

HRC would also like to strike another Sessions amendment, which instructs Atty. Gen. Eric Holder to issue guidelines with "neutral and objective criteria for determining whether a crime was motivated by the status of the victim."

While the language sounds harmless, Herwitz wrote, the amendment "threatens to inject politics into the Justice Department decision-making process in these cases. Members should be especially concerned that this additional attorney general guidance could vary from administration to administration, resulting in uncertainty and, possibly, an unequal application of this important law."

Finally, the letter takes aim at an amendment from Kansas senator Sam Brownback that added further freedom of speech protections.

Herwitz calls the provision "redundant and unnecessary."

"The Matthew Shepard Act is a carefully crafted measure designed to safeguard constitutional rights," she wrote. "The language of the act was developed in close consultation with the Department of Justice and contains explicit provisions clarifying that First Amendment rights are protected."

Herwitz added that she is concerned that the provision is confusing and may have unintended consequences.

Herwitz expects the main players in the final development of the bill to be Senator Levin and Representative Skelton, House speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate majority leader Harry Reid, and key members of the Judiciary committees: representatives John Conyers of Michigan and Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont.

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 Celebrity Grand Marshal, Margaret Cho
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DESERT VOICES

SPECIAL GUEST
GOD-DES & SHE

PRIDE In the Desert
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