

*Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community*

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER

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A Very Busy Weekend Coming Up In Photos



Friday, October 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. Be there for the Tucson Pride Parade down 4th Avenue and to a Block Party on 7th Street at Wingspan. Then on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. is the Pride In The Desert festival at Reid Park. Join the 6,500 or so this event attracts. See accompanying story in detail.



On Sunday, Oct. 11, the 21st Annual AIDS Walk hosted by SAAF will take place on University of Arizona campus. Portions of the famous AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display. PHOTO by Bill Morrow

A Very Busy Weekend Coming Up In Words

TUCSON PRIDE PARADE AND BLOCK PARTY, OCT. 9

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson's LGBT community will take to the streets to march in Pride of who they are and who they love. Now in its 5th year, Pride on Parade will continue to delight Tucson with a colorful procession taking place this year on Friday, October 9, 2009 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.!

Come see Celebrity Grand Marshal Margaret Cho. Revered for her crass in-your-face style, Margaret Cho burst onto the scene in 1994 with her sitcom All American Girl and has since become one of the most prolific and critically acclaimed comedians of our time. In 1999, she chronicled her legendary struggles with network executives over her weight and ethnicity into a groundbreaking one-woman show, I'm the One that I Want, praised by Entertainment Weekly as one of the "Great Performances of the Year!" Margaret is currently starring in the all-new comedic drama series, Drop Dead Diva, on Lifetime, Sundays at 9pm ET/PT. Her latest stand up concert film, Beautiful, is airing on Showtime and will be available on DVD on November 17th.

This year's Community Grand Marshal is Desert Voices. Just ending their Platinum Season in Tucson, Desert Voices is an inclusive chorus organized to provide the opportunity for GLBT and supportive others to sing together in order to: Build community within & outside the chorus through our love of music; Produce shows that are entertaining and musically excellent; Perform music that reflects the lives of the LGBT community; Promote an ongoing, positive TLGB presence in our community and advance positive social change in the larger society.

For more information, go online to : tucsonpride.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=28

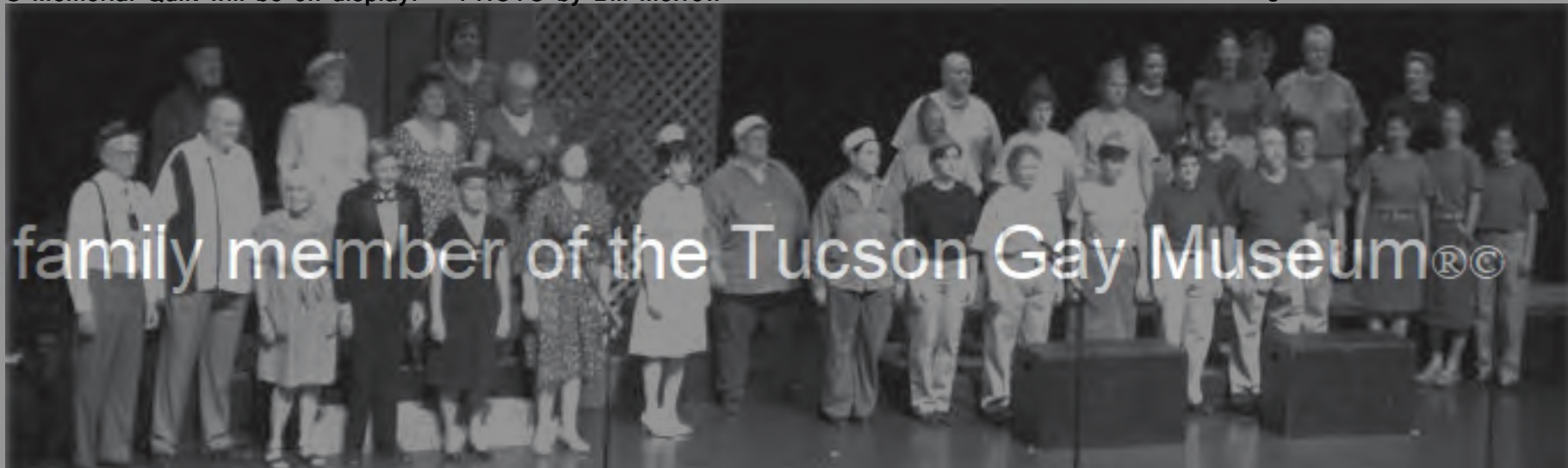
PRIDE IN THE DESERT, OCT. 10

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Pride in the Desert is an all-day, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., festival held at Reid Park (22nd Street and Country Club), organized by Tucson Pride, that attracts more than 6,500 participants each year.

Highlights of the festival are local, regional, and national entertainers performing live on our main stage as well as several smaller stages and dance areas featuring drag shows and other live entertainment. Headliners include:

Jonny McGovern & Team Pimp - Gay pop superstar, TV personality, and nightlife legend, "Gay Pimp" Jonny McGovern blazed onto the New York scene in 2000 with his satirical mix of character comedy and dirty Gay hits and his fire continues to burn bright. Jonny broke into TV with several high profile gigs. Comedy Central's Out On The Edge, hosted by Alan Cumming brought Jonny's Gay Pimp revue to a national TV audience. For an entire season, Ricki Lake highlighted his comedy and solidified his status as a ghetto superstar. He then

Continued on Page Five



This year's Community Grand Marshal is Desert Voices pictured above will be among the performers at the Reid Park event..

got pride?

UPDATE

Motorcycle Riders Wanted

TUCSON - Looking for all motorcycle riders interested in riding in the 2009 Pride Parade on Friday, October 9. The Parade starts at 6:00 p.m. Riders need to be at the staging area between 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. The staging area is Catalina Park at 2nd and 4th Avenue.

All riders must provide proof of insurance and registration and have a valid motorcycle endorsement on their driver's license. Please contact April Moss at mizpo@yahoo.com or at (520)891-2288.

Lesbian Looks Film Series - Straight-Laced And Pariah, October 9

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 17th annual Lesbian Looks Film Series opens Friday October 9, 7:30 p.m. at the Gallagher Theater, U of A Student Union, with Straightlaced, a documentary about the toll that deeply held stereotypes and rigid gender policing have on all of our lives.

Also screening: the award-winning narrative short Pariah, a coming-of-age drama about a Lesbian teenager unsuccessfully juggling multiple identities to avoid rejection from her friends and family. FREE and open to the public. Co-sponsors: School of Media Arts, Hanson Film Institute, McClelland Institute for Children, Youth and Families, Gender & Sexuality Studies, School of Anthropology, Center for Student Involvement in Leadership

For more Information, contact Beverly Seckinger, (520) 621-1239, website: lgbcom.web.arizona.edu/lesbianlooks/lobbydoor.html.

Governor's Last Try For G/L Equality

SANTA FE, NM (Observer Update) - With one year left in office, Governor Bill Richardson will make one last push for a piece of legislation that eluded him earlier this year, reported advocate.com. He'll try to

win domestic partnership rights for all couples— including same sex couples— across New Mexico.

It's something the governor wants to see done before he leaves office. According to the Santa Fe New Mexican, he'll introduce the bill when the legislature meets in January. This time around, advocates are getting a head start and working with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe to try to keep opposition from Roman Catholic bishops at bay.

Some believe it was their opposition that doomed the domestic partnership bill in the state senate this year. If the bill were passed, all unmarried couples, including same-sex couples, could sign contracts establishing the same rights that married couples have under state law.

Domestic Partnerships Become Legal In NV

CARSON CITY, NV (Observer Update) - Nevada is now one of more than a dozen states to recognize domestic partnerships. In Carson City, Lee Cagley and Larry Davis arrived at the secretary of state's office to pick up the first domestic partnership certificate issued by the state, reported the Associated Press on google.com/news.

The law passed by the 2009 Legislature extends rights similar to those held by married couples— including community property and the right to seek financial support after a breakup—to cohabitating couples, whether gay or straight. State Sen. David Parks of Las Vegas, the openly Gay sponsor of SB283, says the bill is about fairness and equality.

The measure was vetoed by Gov. Jim Gibbons, but overridden by lawmakers.

Wingspan Benefit Concert Oct. 17

TUCSON - There is a music concert on Saturday, Oct. 17, 7 PM, at MCC Church which is at 3269 N. Mountain Ave.

Six local musicians are donating their time. This is a benefit for Wingspan and all money received will go directly to Wingspan. This will be an eclectic concert with several kinds of music.

The musicians appearing are: Kathleen Williamson, Dorothea Nobile, Elyse Levy, Rev. Pastor Knight and Rev. Chewee Hughley (both of MCC Church) and Ted Warmbrand. The donation being asked is \$15, with less asked if one cannot afford that and hopefully more if one can afford to do so. There will also be a raffle at \$1 per ticket or six tickets for \$5, and cookies and bottled water to purchase.

To reach MCC Church, on Ft. Lowell go one block west of Mountain to Navajo. Go north there about one block and you will see a gate on the right. This leads to the MCC parking lot.

Gay Comedian Scott Kennedy To Appear At Laffs Comedy Caffe

TUCSON - Laffs Comedy Caffe has announced, in conjunction with Tucson's Gay Pride events this month, an evening with nationally-touring comic Scott Kennedy, October 16 and 17. Which includes a special late-night 'pride show'.

Originally from Texas, now living in Los Angeles, Kennedy is one of the founders of The Gay Comedy Jam which has sold-out shows in 150 cities across the U.S. and Canada. Along with the tour, Kennedy has headlined comedy clubs and theatres coast to coast and has sold out the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas Twice!

Kennedy is the only comedian that can do a 45-minute set without ever mentioning his sexuality and get a standing ovation and can turn around and do another 45-minute set centered around his sexuality. He has risen through the ranks and become one of the most unique comics in the world.

Once asked if he was surprised about his career, Kennedy has said, "Not surprised that I do stand-up comedy, I was always kind of the class clown. Surprised that I'm gay? I'm sure some will be surprised."

Laffs has always been inclusive and diverse and is proud and looking forward to having Kennedy perform here.

Show times Friday, October 16th are 8:00 p.m. with a 10:30 p.m. special "pride show". October 17th shows at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Laffs is located at 2900 E. Broadway. For more information contact Laffs Comedy Caffe at 32-FUNNY

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@saaft.org



Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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Monday thru Friday

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Informing the Community
The Observer



Coyote Moon Pub

sports pub & dance club

Pride Weekend
Friday, Oct.9
Sonoran Rodeo Association Meet & Greet
come say "Howdy"

Saturday, October 17th
classic rock & blues
with Two Sons

915 W. Prince Rd.
1st stoplight west of Oracle
SW corner of Prince & Fairview
293-7339
myspace.com/coyotemoonpub

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Every year, Wingspan honors leaders of Southern Arizona who have worked hard to support the LGBT community. This year, Wingspan is proud to honor three outstanding leaders with the Godat Award, the Community Ally Award and the Steve Hall Award. Please join us in congratulating our honorees!

2009 Godat Award Honoree: Maurice Grossman - Maurice Grossman has been an activist and advocate for LGBT causes for more than 50 years. He is much beloved and well-known for his work on behalf of Wingspan, TIHAN, Equality Arizona, Tucson Pride and PFLAG. A founding member of the Stonewall Democrats (Tucson's LGBT Democratic Party Club), he is a ubiquitous and indefatigable presence at LGBT and political events. He has been a personal ambassador for LGBT issues within the city and county governments.

Maurice had a long career as a Professor of Ceramics in the University of Arizona Fine Arts Department, where he served as a role model for students, faculty and staff. His work has been shown in numerous galleries and exhibitions, earning him national renown. For his outstanding, long-term contribution to the Southern Arizona LGBT community.

2009 Community Ally Award: The Honorable Raúl Grijalva - U.S. Representative Raúl Grijalvawas elected to represent the 7th Congressional District of Arizona in 2002. Over the past 30 years, he has built an exceptional record of public service to Southern Arizona, including election to the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board and the Pima County

Board of Supervisors, where he championed domestic partner benefits for LGBT families. Congressman Grijalva has continued to be an outspoken advocate for LGBT issues since his election to Congress. His civil rights voting record is rated 100% by HRC's Equality Index. He has supported funding for Eon, Wingspan's youth center, and currently serves as a Vice-Chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. In 2006, he worked to defeat Proposition 107, a ballot initiative to ban same-sex marriages and domestic partnerships, by producing Spanish-language radio ads.

2009 Steve Hall Award: Elliott - In 2001, Wingspan introduced the Steve Hall Award. Named after a former volunteer and Board President who played a key role in Wingspan's early growth, the Steve Hall Award is given to an individual who makes outstanding volunteer contributions to further Wingspan's mission of promoting the freedom, equality, safety, and well-being of LGBT people. Elliott, a front-desk volunteer has worked above and beyond her volunteer job description for the past 5 years. Elliott consistently steps-up to take on projects vital to the maintenance of the building space. She serves as a lead trainer for new volunteers and contributes to a consistent and vibrant volunteer presence that has been the strength and the core of the community center for the past 21 years.

We'll be celebrating our award winners at the Tucson Pride, Inc. Parade and Block Party in front of Wingspan, Friday, October 9, and presenting the awards at Pride in the Desert, Saturday, October 10.

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tickets are now on sale for Kate Clinton's YES on K8 show, Sunday, November 8 at 7 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Avenue.

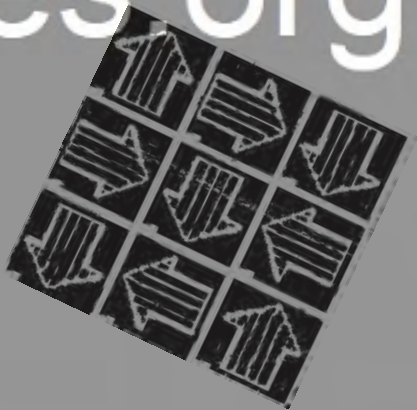
This performance benefits The Alliance Fund, a special project of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. This year YES on K8 will tour the US and Canada. Clinton has said, "Our long mental curfew has been lifted! It's time for some restoration comedy." From ponzi schemes to stimulus packages, from Obama to Rick Warren, nothing is sacred and Clinton will bring her unique levity to some of today's most controversial topics. Last presidential year, Kate's show Hilarity Clinton '08 toured nationwide. It followed her 2007 show, Climate Change. In 2006, Kate Clinton celebrated her 25th Anniversary of performing with a 50-city It's Come To This! tour.

As an actress, humorist, panelist and host, Kate has worked with some of the great writers and performers of our time. Kate participated in a staged reading of Tony Kushner's play, SLAVS, with Olympia Dukakis, Tracey Ullman and Madeline Kahn at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York. Kate was a panelist in a public discussion Satire in America and hosted an evening at The Kennedy Center when Richard Pryor received the first-ever Mark Twain Award. Kate has performed nationally since 1981 from Joe's Pub in New York City to the Park West in Chicago to the Herbst Theater in San Francisco, and back to New York for several off-Broadway runs, with hundreds of comedy club



dates in between. She has come a long way from those first performances in Unitarian Church basements.

Tickets are \$30 balcony, \$50 main floor, \$100 VIP Main Floor and can be purchased at the Temple of Music and Art Box Office or by calling (520) 622-2823.



IBT'S

Tucson's #1 Gay

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

PARTY WITH US FOR PRIDE!



A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

*FRIDAY OCT. 9TH

*SATURDAY OCT. 10TH

*OPEN NOON-2AM

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IBT'S

NEW FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

& KARAOKE

*5PM-9PM

*KARAOKE WITH TROY ST. JOHN

*\$2.00 WELL COCKTAILS

*\$2.00 DOMESTIC BEERS

FOLLOWED BY

"I'M A SEXY BITCH NIGHT" FEATURING:

*DJ HURRICANE SPINNING INSIDE

*DJ MIKE LOPEZ' PARTY ON THE PATIO

A Very Busy Weekend Coming Up In Words

Continued from Page One

highlighted his comedy and solidified his status as a ghetto superstar. He then began a long string of appearances on VH1, first being profiled on Totally Gayer and then starring on My Coolest Years. He is also a cast member of the sketch comedy show The Big Gay Sketch Show on the LOGO television network.

Ari Gold - Award Winning Independent Recording Artist Ari Gold is turning the music scene on its head, rewriting the rules and trailblazing a storm of political pop. Ari has been seen and heard on TV and Radio on VH-1, MTV Europe, Radio 1, IFC, HBO Zone, Here!TV, BBC, FOX News, WOR, Sirius, XM, NPR and was the first independent artist to debut at #1 on LOGO. He has received critical acclaim from People Magazine, trade publications, Billboard and HITS and has appeared as a style icon in VIBE, W and V. Gracing the covers of countless magazines around the world Ari has built an international fan base as what he calls a “homofessional Gaylebrity.” Ari remains at the forefront of the fight for human rights. His song “Home” can be heard on the Human Rights Campaign’s benefit album Love Rocks along with music by Melissa Etheridge, Christina Aguilera, and Dolly Parton and his song “Bashert (Meant To Be)” appears on the ACLU benefit CD Marry Me, released in an effort to secure the rights of same sex couples.

Adam Joseph - Adam Joseph has exploded onto the scene with a debut that has music insiders comparing him to the likes of Anita Baker, Jill Scott, and Erykah Badu. His diverse

background (hip hop + reggae + jazz + soul) vintage charm, and soft spoken charisma all foster this old souls unique style of musicianship. Adam’s music is a smart blend of soul and pop, catchy hooks and deep heartfelt lyrics.

God-des & She - A hip-hop/pop/soul duo bred in the Midwest, God-Des & She now play to packed venues all over the world, from Lacrosse, Wisconsin, to Stockholm, Sweden. Ever since they appeared on Showtime’s The L Word three years ago, performing their infamous single “Lick It,” the pair haven’t had a moment’s rest, selling over 30,000 albums, holding down the #1 song spot on MTV LOGO with their song “Love You Better,” and signing autograph after autograph for eager fans. With their new unreleased album, God-Des & She are about to blow up—big. Produced by Brian Hardgroove (>Public Enemy, Wu Tang, Burning Spear, Aerosmith), their new album confirms their status as an underground act about to hit the mainstream.

In addition to the multitude of entertainment venues, Pride in the Desert features commercial and non-profit exhibitors, a food court, and interactive displays and activities. Every year, the event grows to accommodate an ever-expanding number of vendors, exhibitors, and entertainers.

For more information, call (520) 622-3200, pride@tucsonpride.org, online, tucsonpride.org.

AIDS WALK THIS SUNDAY, 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.

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,

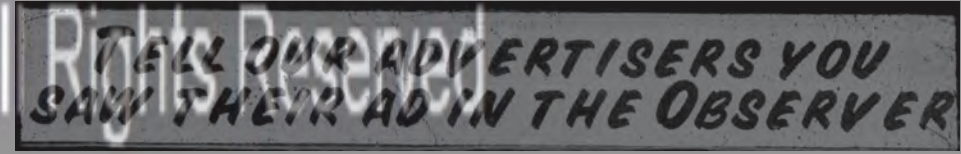
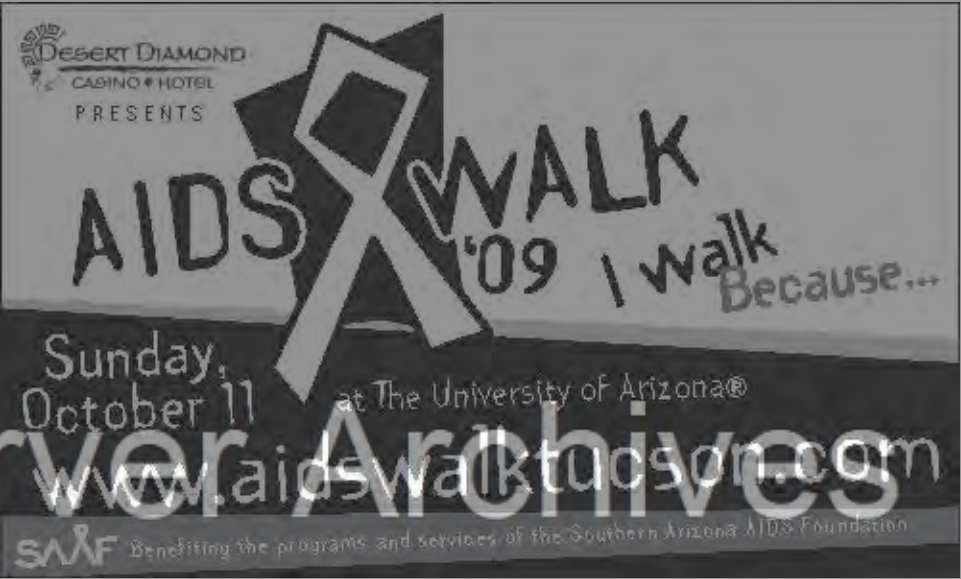
show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and help bring an end to new infections in our community! The people SAAF serves will feel the impact of your support and they will know that the community cares.

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

Kevin Jennings’ Student Was Of Age In 1987

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The smear campaign against Obama appointee Kevin Jennings for advice he once gave to a former student who had admitted to sleeping with an older man has hit a road block. The student’s driver’s license, obtained by media watchdog Media Matters, shows that at the time the conversation took place, he was of legal age of consent in Massachusetts.

Right-wing pundits have been harping on an entry in Kevin Jennings’s book One Teacher in Ten: Gay and Lesbian Educators Tell Their Stories, where he admitted to talking to a male student about the teenager’s relationship with an older man. Conservatives have called for Jennings to be fired because he did not report the student’s relationship with the older man, which in some states would have constituted statu-



Observer Recommendations For 2009 General Election:

RICHARD FIMBRES, KARIN UHLICH AND NINA TRASOFF FOR THE CITY COUNCIL;
NO ON PROPOSITION 200; YES ON 400; SUPPORT SCHOOL MEASURES

From the adoption of the Human Relations (anti discrimination) ordinance in 1997 to funding for HIV/ AIDS and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) organiza- tions, such as Wingspan in the 1990's to the approval of an enforceable, hate crimes statute in 1995, extending medical and dental benefits to the same-sex, domestic partners (and families) of their employees in 1997, creation of the Commission on GLBT Issues in 1998, the recognition (use of facilities and hospital visitation rights) of committed, same-sex (and oppo- site sex) relationships with their domestic partnership registry in 2003, and the defeat of Proposition 107 in 2006, the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities of Tucson have achieved much during the past thirty years, thanks to the support of Tucson's Mayor and Council.

With this current election for the three seats on Tucson's City Council (Ward 3, Ward 5 and Ward 6), everything that has been gained, making the city one of the most tolerant and accepting, according to many surveys and studies is now threatened by those people and groups (sexist, racist, homophobic, tea-party supporting Republicans) who succeeded in the adoption of a constitutional amendment barring recognition of same-sex marriages (despite a 1996 law and a 2003 court ruling notwithstanding) in 2008 and the elimination this year of medical and dental benefits, for the same and opposite sex domestic partners (and families) of state government employ- ees this year, or in other words the "wedge" issue for the beginning of 2009.

Currently the three Tucson City Council seats are held by Demo- crats, out Lesbian Karin Uhlich (Ward 3) and Nina Trasoff (Ward 6) but one of them, Ward 5 Councilmember, Steve Leal, is not running for another term, and is retiring. Trasoff and Uhlich are running for another term. For the Ward 5 Council seat, the Democratic candidate is Richard Fimbres, the current, District 2 Pima Community College Board Member, former Director (under Governor Janet Napolitano) of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and currently employed with the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

Three Republicans, Ben Buehler-Garcia (Ward 3), Shaun McClusky (Ward 5) and Steve Kozachik (Ward 6) are running for the three seats and in Ward 3, Mary DeCamp is running as the Green Party candidate.

Ms. DeCamp's effort, for which the Observer applauds anyone trying for political office, seems primarily to qualify the Green Party for future ballots in Tucson elections but the Republican's effort is one of concern, since all three individuals vying for the respective city council seats have embraced the tea-party group, as well as their support for the "wedge issue" for this campaign, Proposition 200, an unfunded man- date that if approved, will bankrupt (Chapter 9 Federal Bankruptcy) the City of Tucson and financially cripple

Pima County, since it would cost more than a quarter billion dollars to implement with no dedicated funding source.

In 2006, Tucson's Mayor and Council approved a financially prudent, sustainable plan to hire more individuals for the police and fire departments and had done so for the past two years until the economy tanked, thanks to the policies of the Bush Administration and Republicans in Congress (2001-2008), and in late 2008, they put a moratorium on this until the economy improves. Also, during these turbulent times, Tucson's Police and Fire Departments were the two agencies that were spared the budget ax and layoffs, when the Mayor and Council had to make cuts.

Proposition 200 is an un- funded and unneeded measure that is on the ballot to ensure that ultra- conservative supporters, those of the tea-party ilk, get to the polls for the Tucson election. Sound familiar? Does Proposition 102 that was on the ballot in 2008, the constitutional amendment barring recognition of same-sex marriages, ring a bell or for that matter, Proposition 107 in 2006, when these same people also tried to bar civil unions and domestic partner- ships as well?

Many achievements have been accomplished thanks to a vibrant LGBT and HIV/AIDS commu- nity in the Old Pueblo and a coopera- tive and open-minded Mayor and Council. This progress is something that can't be taken for granted and must be maintained and in two races, for the Ward 3 Council seat and the Ward 6 Council seat, the choice is quite obvious. Karin Uhlich and Nina Trasoff have been allies of our community while serving these past four years. There are some areas in regard to policy and decisions, which there may be disagreement but on issues of concern to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, their record strongly speaks for itself.

In the case of the Ward 5 Council race, Richard Fimbres is a solid supporter on issues of concern. Fimbres, a lifelong, voting Tucsonan, unlike his opponent (who cast his first vote in a city election this year after living in Tucson since 1999), was opposed to Proposition 102 and Proposition 107; supports expanding the domestic partner registry to include as many rights as possible under current law; believes and supports the work and effort of community service organizations such as Wingspan, SAAF and TIHAN; expressed his pride that Tucson is one of the first cities in the nation, to have an anti discrimination ordinance on the books. Richard Fimbres will be a solid vote on the Tucson City Council representing Ward 5.

Tucson voters will have two ballot measures to consider, in addition to voting for three City Council seats up for consideration in this election.

Proposition 200, would mandate Tucson's Mayor and Council to hire more individuals for

the police and fire departments to reach a standard of 2.4 per 1,000 people, and a response time of 4 minutes for the fire department, but doesn't provide a dedicated funding source for this. Proponents (the Tucson Association of Realtors, SAHBA and Jim Click) of this mea- sure say it is needed since crime in Tucson is rampant, but the statistics from the Tucson Police Department's own website, as well as the FBI Uniform Crime Reports, show that crime is down.

As previously written in this editorial, in 2006, Tucson's Mayor and Council already dealt with this issue in a responsible and prudent manner, following the present mandate in the Tucson City Charter that the number one priorities are the police and fire departments. For the current fiscal year, \$257 million of the \$420 million general fund, for which the Mayor and Council have control over goes to public safety (police and fire), and as previously written, neither department has had their budget cut or had to layoff people.

According to reports and studies both conducted by the City of Tucson and Pima County government (who prosecutes crimes and houses inmates), Proposition 200, if ap- proved, will cost \$267 million to implement over the five year period. So where is the funding for this? As stated, the proposition does not have a funding source written into it, an unfunded mandate, and thus taxes, fines and fees would be dramatically increased, departments, such as transportation or parks and recreation would end and the funding to commu- nity service organizations, totalling only \$13 million would cease immedi- ately.

In regard to the fire standards set down in Proposition 200, of a four minute response time, according to reports done by the fire department and subsequent statements, these are being met already. Most impor- tantly, no city in the nation has adopted these standards set down in Proposition 200, according to re- search conducted.

Everyone supports public safety and especially those willing to serve but there are other ways to fund this through federal grants and subsidies, changing of rules and regulations regarding serving, efficiency reviews and the further implementation of groups from different law enforcement agencies, such as M.A.N.T.I.S. and F.I.S.T., to name two of many, to get more officers on the streets.

Proposition 200 is an ill- conceived, badly timed, unfunded proposal that must be defeated, so vote no.

Also on the ballot is Proposi- tion 400, known as the "home rule initiative" a measure to allow the city government to continue funding services and programs at the current levels. According to Arizona law, every four years, voters in Arizona cities and towns must vote on a "home rule" initiative to continue funding programs and services at the

current levels. If Proposition 400 is defeated, funding must be rescinded back to the levels set by the enact- ment of the state law, 1980. A yes vote on this measure is a must.

Depending upon the location, many voters will see school bond measures on the ballot for the respec- tive school districts. The Observer is supportive of these measures since it will help in the long run to show that the community is concerned about the future, by funding education that will in turn, improve workforce development and make Tucson an attractive place for businesses to relocate, creating more jobs in the area.

Early voting starts October 8 and the last day to request an early ballot is Friday, October 23. Tucson's LGBT, HIV/AIDS and straight support- ive community have a lot at stake for this election and voting in these races is paramount. For more information, call the Tucson City Clerk's office, (520) 791-4213 or the Pima County Recorder's office, (520) 740-4330.



Richard Fimbres



Karin Uhlich



Nina Trasoff

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Addressing A Crowd Or Writing A Letter Is One Thing But

While Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT), Queer, Questioning, HIV+, HIV- and just plain, straight supportive Americans gather in the nation's capital for the National March for Equality to take place Sunday, October 11, to express their frustration with the notable, lack of progress on issues of concern, it has been reported that President Barack Obama will be addressing the Human Rights Campaign, annual fundraising dinner in Washington D.C., the night prior, October 10.

"We are honored to share this night with President Obama, who has called upon our nation to embrace LGBT people as brothers and sisters," said Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese in a press release. "It is fitting that he will speak to our community on the night that we pay tribute to his friend and mentor Senator Edward Kennedy, who knew that as president, Barack Obama would take on the unfinished business of this nation – equal rights for the LGBT community, and for every person who believes in liberty and justice for all."

A speech is one thing, but in lieu of the comments made his national security adviser, James Jones, will these words be just that.

During an interview on a national cable news network, Jones stated that President Obama will focus "at the right time" on how to overturn the 16-year-old, "don't ask, don't tell" law which prohibits Gay and Lesbian Americans, who wish to serve their country in the armed services, from doing so, openly and honestly.

It was also reported that Senator Harry Reid, D-NV, had written President Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates and asked them

to share their views. "At a time when we are fighting two wars, I do not believe we can afford to discharge any qualified individual who is willing to serve our country," wrote Reid.

So here is a novel thought Senator Reid, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-CA, take H.R. 1283 off the "legislative shelf," hold real, substantive hearings on the subject, get it through the legislative process and both chambers and get it to Obama's desk, since it seems that Congress, to the surprise of no-one, has forgotten that this is a law, not an executive order, an amendment, court ruling or otherwise.

In 1993, it was Congress which passed the "don't ask, don't tell" law on fraudulent statements, questionable studies and fear and it will take another act by Congress to undo the sixteen year damage this "solution" was to prevent but didn't.

When a bill gets to President Obama's desk, he can sign and in the interim, he can issue an Executive Order expanding on President Harry Truman's July 26, 1948 issuance (Executive Order 9981) which itself, expanded on Executive Order 8802 by establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the Armed Services for people of all races, religions, or national origins, by halting the discharges of those individuals wanting to serve who have been charged under "don't ask, don't tell," until a bill can get to his desk for him to sign.

More than three-fourth's of this nation, according to numerous polls taken, have expressed their support for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," and spoken words and written letters are part of what is needed, it is time for a vote on this and end this travesty.

Last Minute Flood Of Money To Reject R-71?

OLYMPIA, WA (Observer Update) - After months of ceaselessly pleading for donations, Gary Randall, the leading figure in the campaign to reject Referendum 71—thereby repealing Washington's domestic partnership law—has stopped making daily requests for money. Why's that? Lurleen at Pam's House Blend has a reasonable suspicion: On October 12th, two days before the state starts mailing out ballots to voters, a large donor ban goes into effect in Washington. After that date, no single donor can give cash or in-kind gifts that cumulatively exceed \$5,000. For example, if you donated \$4,000 in September, the most you could donate after October 12th would be \$1,000. ALL major cash and in-kind donations must be on the books prior to October 12th, reported stranger.com blog.

It's said that politics is a game of chess. I think our opponent has a silent second queen on the board. I think that [Protect Marriage Washington] has stopped asking for cash because they expect an external entity to buy big media time for them. Knowing that it is harder for us to raise

funds while they remain silent, they are cannily having their media fairy wait until the big donor ban kicks in before they start their ad barrage. The progressive campaign to Approve R-71 has far out-fundraised the Christian fanatics trying to repeal Gay rights. They've raised about \$420,000 to the bigots' \$66,000, public disclosure records show. But, like Lurleen, the folks leading the Gay-rights campaign have shared the same concern that a flood of out-of-state money from Christian fanatics could inflate the Reject R-71 campaign. In California last fall, religious interests in Utah—members of the Mormon Church—sent the campaign about \$1.3 million in the final weeks of the campaign. And reports shows millions of dollars overall flooding the campaign in the last two weeks. If the anti-Gay lobbies want to do that in Washington, they'll do it by October 12.

Want to help the campaign to defend Washington's domestic-partnership law? You can donate at . u p w a r d s t e c h . n e t / approve referendum71.

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COMMENTARY . . .
by Deb Price

Uncle Sam Should Respect
All Marriages

Listen to the voices crying out for Congress to end the federal government's mistreatment of legally married Gay couples.

Listen to McKinley BarbouRoske of Iowa. She displayed a confidence well beyond her 11 years when she spoke up for her moms at a recent news conference in front of the U.S. Capitol. McKinley's parents were finally able to wed in their home state two months ago - after nearly two decades as a couple. Now they quite rightly want Uncle Sam to recognize their marriage. "One of the many things my awesome moms taught me was fairness - and how to be fair," said McKinley, standing with her mothers and 7-year-old sister, Breeanna. "They've been together for 19 years, and I think that's a fact to proud of.... It's not right to treat us differently than other families."

And listen to David Wilson of Massachusetts. He married Rob Compton on May 17, 2004, after they helped persuade their state's top court to open marriage to those of us who're Gay. "We want to retire with the security we deserve," said Wilson, pointing out how their efforts to protect one another financially are undermined by the 1996 law requiring the federal government to treat them as unmarried - in determining everything from Social Security benefits to taxes owed. "We should have the same rights and the benefits that every ... legally married opposite-sex couple enjoys in this country. We are U.S. citizens. We are Americans."

Their voices are hardly alone in calling on Congress to stop this injustice: Rep. Jerry Nadler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution, was at the news conference to unveil his repeal legislation, the Respect for Marriage Act. It would treat all marriages the same under federal law, including those of Gay couples who return home to - or move to - states that don't yet issue marriage licenses to same-couples. Nadler's bill would let each state continue to decide what marriages to recognize for state purposes.

Perhaps what's most encouraging about Nadler's bill is the large number of co-sponsors it has already attracted: 91, all of them Democrats. That's more than one-third of House Democrats. And that number includes an even higher proportion of the party's women, blacks, Hispanics and Asians. This long-overdue congressional step is clearly drawing on energy being generated by state-level gains. Nadler's co-sponsors, for example, include all or most Democrats from four of the five states where same-sex marriages are performed or, in the case of New Hampshire, will begin at the start of next year. (The others are Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont; Iowa is the exception). Also saying yes to federal recognition are at least half of the Democrats from locales where all Gay marriages are recognized (New York, Rhode Island

and the District of Columbia) or some are recognized (California).

Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers supports the bill, which would get rid of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. So does President Bill Clinton, who signed it into law but says, "The fabric of our country has changed, and so should this policy." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was "very pleased" the bill was introduced, spokesman Drew Hammill said. Even DOMA's father, former Republican congressman Bob Barr, supports Nadler's bill, explaining that it would "remove the federal government from involving itself in matters defining 'marriage,' which historically and according to the principles of federalism are properly state matters."

The repeal drive's importance was underscored on Sept. 18, when the Justice Department filed a motion asking a federal court to dismiss a challenge to DOMA filed in Massachusetts by seven Gay married couples and three widowers. Although the brief noted that President Barack Obama views DOMA as "discriminatory" and supports repeal, it called the wrongheaded law constitutional. State-level advances demonstrate that the push for progress shouldn't be limited to courthouses. Lawmakers need to hear the voices crying out for fairness.

Congress, it's time to listen, reflect and act: Respect all marriages.

(Deb Price of The Detroit News writes the first nationally syndicated column on Gay issues, and this oped is reprinted from truthout.org.)

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Bill Would Extend Ryan White For Four Years

Military Journal Piece Says Scrap DADT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The AIDS Institute applauds the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, chaired by Iowa Democrat Tom Harkin, for passing the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. The bill would extend for four years the Ryan White program, which provides life-saving and life-extending health care, medications, and support services to more than 530,000 low-income people living with HIV in the United States, reported HIV Plus Magazine. The bill passed the committee unanimously.

“We congratulate Chairman Harkin, ranking committee member Michael Enzi, and their counterparts in the House of Representatives for crafting a bill in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion that can quickly pass the Congress and be signed by the President,” said Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of the AIDS Institute. This is extremely important since the current program expired on September 30 and a continuing resolution allows it to operate temporarily through the end of October.

The bill passed by the committee reflects many of the recommendations advanced by the AIDS community, which worked cooperatively during the past year in advancing improvements to the current law, which was amended in 2006. The bill crafted by the Senate HELP and House Energy and Commerce committees represents a series of compromises.

“While the AIDS Institute strongly supports most aspects of the bill, there are some elements that we would have liked to be different in the end,” explained Schmid. “We realize the bill was the result of a long negotiation process and numerous interests had to be balanced.” The bill creating the Ryan White program was originally written in 1990 and reauthorized three times since under the strong leadership of Sen. Edward Kennedy, who was a longtime champion for people with HIV.

The AIDS Institute urges the full Senate and House to pass the bill so that President Obama can sign it as soon as possible. “The institute recognizes that extending the authorization of the Ryan White program is only the first step in providing the necessary care, treatment, and support services for people with HIV; we now must work with the Administration and the Congress to properly fund the program,” says Michael Ruppel, executive director of the AIDS Institute. “With state and local budget cuts and people losing their health insurance due to the economic downturn, additional federal resources will be a necessity. For the next fiscal year, the House is proposing an increase of \$54 million to the Ryan White Program, or just 2.2%, while the Senate is proposing an increase of \$35 million, or just 1.6%. Now is not the time to provide minimal increases to vital programs that save lives, improve health outcomes, and decrease long-term costs.”

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - An upcoming issue of Joint Force Quarterly, the Pentagon’s top scholarly journal, will include an article that calls for an end to the ban on Gays and Lesbians serving openly in the military, reports The Boston Globe.

The piece, which is authored by Air Force colonel Om Prakash, charges that “the military is essentially forcing thousands of Gay men and women to lead dishonest lives in an organization that emphasizes integrity as a fundamental tenet,” according to the Globe.

Colonel Prakash argues that the Obama administration should forgo a study of “don’t ask, don’t tell” and simply move forward with lifting the ban, advocate.com reported. “After a careful examination, there is no scientific evidence to support the claim that unit cohesion will be negatively affected if homosexuals serve openly,” writes Prakash, who is now working in the office of Defense secretary Robert M. Gates. “Based on this research, it is not time for the administration to reexamine the issue; rather it is time for the administration to examine how to implement the repeal of the ban.”

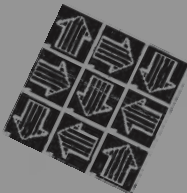
Neither Defense secretary Robert Gates nor Joint Chiefs chairman Adm. Mike Mullen have spoken out publicly about their views on the

policy, though both have said that President Barack Obama has been clear about his intent to end the ban. Secretary Gates is currently reviewing the policy to see if there’s a way to soften implementation of the ban until Congress repeals the law.

Observers of the debate over “don’t ask, don’t tell” say the publication of such an article is an indication that military leadership is open to hearing competing views on the topic.

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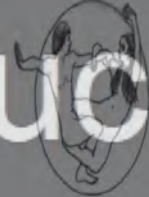
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Speakers Announced For Equality March

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - David Mixner Speakers for the October 11 National Equality March on Washington were announced. The list of more than 30 speakers includes activists from the government, the entertainment industry, religious institutions, and the nonprofit sector, reported advocate.com. Prominent names include Judy Shepard, Cleve Jones, Lt. Dan Choi, and Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black.

David Mixner, who in May called for a national march, will also be speaking. "We are coming to Washington with new messages and new strategies to build our national movement," said Mixner in a press release on the event's website. "We will have one demand in Washington: full and equal protection for LGBT people in all matters governed by civil

law in all 50 states and the District of Columbia."

The following is a complete listing of speakers to date for October 10 and 11: Stuart Applebaum, Richard Aviles, Jarret Barrios, Dustin Lance Black, Julian Bond, Marsha Botzer, Staceyann Chin, Lt. Dan Choi, Tanner Efinger, Hawaii Board of Education member Kim Coco Iwamoto, Cleve Jones, Michelle Lopez, Robin McGehee, David Mixner, Nicole-Murray Ramirez, Chloe Noble, Tobias Packer, the Reverend Troy Perry, New York City Council speaker Christine C. Quinn, Los Angeles City Council member Bill Rosendahl, Babs Siperstein, Judy Shepard, Maxim Thorn, Urvashi Vaid, Derek Washington, Falls Church City Council member Lawrence Webb, Kip Williams, Sherry Wolfe, and Kit Yan.

Glenn Close & Judy Shepard Launch Laramie Epilogue

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Actress Glenn Close will join Judy Shepard and others for the New York City premiere of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later at Lincoln Center on October 12, advocate.com reported.

That same night, more than 150 theaters across the country will hold performances of the epilogue to The Laramie Project by the Tectonic Theater Project. The epilogue examines the long-term impact of the murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998 on the town of Laramie, Wyo. In New York

City, a pre-show webcast live to the other productions will be guest-hosted by Close, with welcoming remarks by Judy Shepard, according to Playbill.com.

National Public Radio arts and culture correspondent Neda Ulaby will moderate a live webcast of post-show discussion. The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later includes new interviews with Matthew's mother, Judy, and with Aaron McKinney, who was convicted of murdering Matthew. Follow-up interviews with many Laramie residents from the original play also inform the epilogue.

7,000 Contributed To Decades Of AIDS Research

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - More than 7,000 Gay and Bisexual male volunteers have been integral in researching and tracking the progression of HIV through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' Multicenter AIDS Study since its inception 25 years ago, reported HIV Plus Magazine. "It has been extraordinary, the amount of knowledge [MACS] has provided for us," NIAID director Anthony S. Fauci told The Washington Post.

Of the 7,000 men who have become involved in the study throughout its course, some have died and others have dropped out, with new participants recruited periodically.

Mormon-Owned Paper Rejects Gay Ad

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (Observer Update) - A newspaper owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints rejected an advertisement for a memorial service in Salt Lake City this weekend in honor of Gay Mormons who have committed suicide, reported advocate.com. The Foundation for Reconciliation, which seeks to foster understanding between the LGBT community and the Mormon Church, paid to advertise the memorial service, "From Despair to Hope," in The Deseret News.

However, MediaOne, the agency which oversees advertising for The Deseret News, said the LDS-

owned newspaper rejected the ad, according to The Salt Lake Tribune. "MediaOne, which handles advertising for both the News and The Salt Lake Tribune, accepted payment from the nonprofit Foundation for Reconciliation to run an ad, announcing a memorial service this Sunday, in both papers," The Salt Lake Tribune reported. "But on Wednesday, a MediaOne employee told the group's Cheryl Nunn that the ad had been rejected by the News."

In August, The Deseret News also declined to run an announcement for a Gay couple that wed in San Francisco.

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Alabama's Anti-Bullying Law Could Lead To Special Protections For Queer Kids

MONTGOMERY, AL (Observer Update) - How misguided of an organization must you be when you find yourself defending school bullies? Oh, then you're familiar with Focus On The Family (FOTF)? Queerty.com reported that Alabama's Student Harassment Prevention Act goes into effect Oct. 1. It's an anti-bullying measure, and one of some 44 state-wide laws aimed at protecting kids from harassment — and criminally punishing those responsible for letting it happen. This is bad news, says FOTF!

The new law is problematic because it puts the focus on the motivations and "characteristics" of victims, rather than on the wrong actions of the bullies. Betty Peters, a member of the Alabama education board, said the bill would allow Gay activists to work their language and curriculum into schools. "We need to punish all bullies," she said, "regardless of their motivation." Peters said Gay activists are encouraging like-minded individuals to sign up for local committees that will be responsible for writing similar policies. She encour-

aged parents who oppose the Gay agenda to do the same. "They should let their local boards know that they want all children to be protected," she said.

Parents should watch out for attempts to mandate special protections for "gender identity" and "sexual orientation"— which can pave the way for pro-Gay curriculum and mandatory "diversity" training. That's right, parents. Schools that teach students to be more tolerant of their LGBT peers are also on track to push forward the homosexual activist agenda. But as Truth Wins Out notes, Ms. Peters "is a member of the American Family Association, Alabama Republican Assembly, Eagle Forum, and Christian Coalition. Peters wants creationism to be taught in schools. She was the lone no-vote on state Superintendent of Education Dr. Joe Morton's recommendation that Alabama participate in a state-led initiative to develop common core standards for English and mathematics. Peters also opposed President Obama's speech to school children."

LGBT Characters On Network TV Still On The Rise

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - The number of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) characters on broadcast TV is again on the rise, according to a new report from The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), reported ew.com. The group's 14th annual TV study found that 18 LGBT characters will account for 3% of primetime scripted series regulars in the 2009-2010 broadcast TV season. That's up from 1.3% in 2006, 1.1% in 2007 and 2.6% in 2008.

ABC continues to lead the networks with eight LGBT characters, or 5% of its 168 total series regulars. Fox, which had no regular LGBT characters two years ago, now has 4 characters (4%). NBC has 3 characters (3%), The CW has two (3%), but CBS had no LGBT characters out of its 132 regulars. The LGBT characters on scripted cable series declined, from 40 in 2007 to 32 in 2008 to 25 this year (that doesn't include the 27 LGBT regulars on niche cable channels here! and Logo).

"Our analysis also shows where there's still work to be done. This past year, we've seen real progress from many networks toward making their scripted programming more LGBT inclusive," GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios said in a statement. "At the same time, we continue to advocate that other networks including CBS follow suit and that networks

across the board better reflect the diversity of the LGBT community."

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THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE FOR MEN Trained and certified by Body Electric School. Offering a complete full body massage to provide a relaxing and rejuvenating experience. Steve - CMT 520-247-8139. www.gaymanmassage.com 1317

QUALITY THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE And Sensual TANTRIC SESSIONS! My sensitive touch gives you an Wholistic experience! Creating a sacred space for 27 years. Call Marc - 881-4582 (8a.m. - 8 p.m.) Professionally trained - Touching in Tucson since 1983. 1311

FULL BODY MASSAGE BY MALE MASSEUR also **group massages**. Great way to meet guys. 30 min. East of Kolb Road. Very Private. Call Roger or Don 520-971-5884. 1311

WANTED

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

SERVICES

EXCELLENT HOUSE CLEANING. Local References and/or Pet Sitting. Barb 620-0478

AL TERATIONS AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson . 1315

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS TRY IT!

Non-Bar Calendar

Friday, October 9
Tucson's LGBT Community will take to the streets to march in Pride of who they are and who they love. Now in its 5th year, Pride on Parade will continue to delight Tucson with a colorful procession taking place this year from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come see Grand Marshall Margaret Cho and hear Community Grand Marshals Desert Voices. Parade starts at East 2nd Street at 4th Avenue and marches down to E. 7th Street where a block party with live music, Bunny FuFu, food, games and fun continues in front of Wingspan. For more info contact David (520)622-3200.

The 17th annual Lesbian Looks Series opens tonight at 7:30 p.m. At the Gallagher Theater, UofA Student Union with "Straight-laced", a documentary about the toll that deepy held stereotypes and rigid gender policing have on all of our lives. For more info contact Beverly Seckinger (520) 621-1239.

Saturday, October 10
Pride In The Desert is an all-day event from 10a.m. until 8:00 p.m.. The Pride festival is held at Reid Park (22nd St. & Country Club), organized by Tucson Pride and attracts more than 6,500 participants each year. In addition to the entertainment venues, Pride in the Desert features commercial and non-profit exhibitors, a food court and interactive displays and activities. For more info call 520-622-3200 or www.pride@tucsonpride.org, online, tucsonpride.org.

A rally at the state capital in Phoenix will take place in support of the National Equality March at 10:00 a.m. Caesar Chavez Plaza, 201 West Washington. For more

info go online to ArizonaStonewallDemocrats.org

Sunday, October 11
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) and Title Sponsor Desert Diamond Casino and Hotel will be hosting the 21st Annual AIDSWALK Tucson on the UofA campus. For information about AIDSWALK visit aidswalktucson.com or call (520)791-WALK (9255).

Friday & Saturday, October 16 & 17
Laffs Comedy Caffe in conjunction with Tucson's Gay Pride events is presenting gay comedian Scott Kennedy. Show times are 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 (special pride show) on Oct. 16 and 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. For more information contact Laffs Comedy Caffe at 32-FUNNY.

Sunday, November 8
Tickets are now on sale for Kate Clinton's YES on K8 show at 7:00 p.m. at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Avenue. Tickets are \$30 balcony, \$50 main floor, \$100 VIP main floor and can be purchased at the Temple of Music and Art Box Office or by calling (520)622-2823.

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)

Poet's Corner
FORECLOSURE

by Ron Rose - Tucson

The house on the hill, one of three in a row
So sad, so lonely, foreclosure, you know
No signs of life, no family voices
Battered and worn, they made the wrong choices
At midnight, they squeezed in their old Chevy van
No money, no hope, not much of a plan.
Three kids, their dog Molly, suitcases heavy
Flung in the trunk of their old beat up Chevy.
The banks add this foreclosed home to their list
While kids, dog and wife are quickly dismissed.
Shame on the lenders, with credit so loose
They ought to be hung at the end of a noose.
Three kids, their dog Molly, now driven by fright
Suitcases loaded, they drive through the night
Come to their rescue, give them one more try
And hope that their time in the van will fly by.

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

Survey: Most LGBT Stay Closeted At Work

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Fifty-one percent of LGBT employees say they hide their sexual orientation or gender identity from most or all of their coworkers, according to a survey by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, reported advocate.com.

Despite major gains at many American companies and antidiscrimination laws on the books in several states, 42% of LGBT employees say they've lied about their personal relationships in the past year. Only 5% of workers ages 18-24 say they are open about their sexual orientation or gender identity, while 20% of their older colleagues say they are.

"We've found that inclusive nondiscrimination policies and equal benefits are the essential first step toward cultivating a productive and engaged LGBT employee, but they are not the last step," said Daryl Herrschaft, director of the Workplace Project. "By understanding how LGBT identity surfaces and unfolds in the workplace, we will be better able to turn policy into practice and address opportunities to improve productivity and retention of LGBT employees."

The survey also found that only

18% of LGBT Latinos are willing to be open with everyone at work, compared to 25% of African-Americans and 29% of whites.

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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.saaf.org>. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

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

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

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

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 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 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 10;m. 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 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 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. \$8 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). 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-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 Starlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

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

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

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 7

THE BIZ - Special performance by 'Vanity'.

Thursday, October 9

THE BIZ - Pre-Pride Party with Latin Carnaval!

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.

Obama Family Day Proclamation Includes G/L Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Obama included Gay and Lesbian families in his proclamation for Family Day 2009, ontopmagazine.com reported. "Whether children are raised by two parents, a single parent, grandparents, a same-sex couple, or a guardian, families encourage us to do our best and enable us to accomplish great things," the White House proclamation says.

The inclusion is certain to draw fire from social conservatives who oppose Gay rights, but it also received a tepid welcome from the Gay community, which increasingly fears Obama is all tongue and no trousers on the issue of Gay rights. Several commenters at the LGBT blog Pam's House Blend reacted negatively to the news. "Mr. President," one commenter asked, "when are you going to actually DO something for same-sex couples and their children? Other than make ceremonial proclamations, that is."

The community's relationship with the president began to sour when his administration defended the 1996 law that bans federal recognition of Gay marriages, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Obama has also refused to sign an executive order that would end the discharges of Gay and Lesbian military personnel while repeal legislation of "don't ask, don't tell," the law that bans open Gay service in the military, is debated in Congress.



Judge Rules Gay Couple Can Divorce In Texas; Says State's Same-Sex Marriage Ban Violates U.S. Constitution

DALLAS, TX (Observer Update)
- Despite a constitutional amendment put in place by voters and the Texas Family Code, which prohibits same-sex marriage or civil unions, Dallas state District Judge Tena Callahan ruled that a Gay couple can divorce in the state and "the state prohibition of same-sex marriage violates the federal constitutional right to equal protection" according to the Dallas News.

"The men married in Cambridge, Mass., in September 2006 and later returned to Dallas. J.B., citing 'discord or conflict of personalities,' sued in January to dissolve the union in what is believed to be the first such action in Texas. 'My client is ready to get on with his life,' Schulte said. 'We're ready to roll.' If the ruling were to stand, it would be a break from recent decisions elsewhere. An Indiana judge last month denied the divorce of two women married in Canada, concluding it would violate Indiana law. And two years ago, the Rhode Island Supreme Court rejected the divorce of a Lesbian couple married in Massachusetts. Neither Indiana nor Rhode Island allow same-sex marriage. In March 2003, a Texas court became the first one outside Vermont to grant the dissolution of a civil union. The judge reversed his decision after a challenge by Abbott, a Republican."

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and Governor Rick Perry expressed wingnut angst over the decision, towleroad.com reported. Said Abbott: "The laws and constitution of the State of Texas define marriage as an institution involving one man and one woman. Today's ruling purports to strike down that constitutional definition - despite the fact that it was recently adopted by 75 percent of Texas voters."

Said Perry: "Texas voters and lawmakers have repeatedly affirmed the view that marriage is defined as between one man and one woman. I believe the ruling is flawed and should be appealed."

Attorney Peter Schulte, who represents the man seeking the divorce, expects the AG to appeal the decision, "but not before his client is granted a divorce decree within the next few weeks," the Dallas Voice reports.

Said Schulte: "That's what's significant. It's the first time in Texas that a court has acknowledged that there is an issue with the way our statute and our constitution is drafted when it comes to same-sex couples. That is huge for the community."

'Billboard Will Go Back Up' Gay Veteran Says

MEMPHIS, TN (Observer Update) - The Gay former marine who appeared in the Memphis billboard destroyed last week by vandals insists the billboard will return, ontopmagazine.com reported. "The billboard will go back up," Tim Smith told Memphis' Eyewitness News. "As soon as the materials and prints come in, that billboard will go back up."

The billboard, one of five paid for by the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC), featured Smith with the caption "I'm Gay and I protected your freedom." The billboards are part of an awareness campaign for National Coming Out Day, the October 11 event during which Gay men and lesbians are encouraged to come out to a friend, family member or co-worker. Smith is expected to speak at the rally being organized by the center. Will Batts, executive director of MGLCC, said the rally will be held at the First

Congregational Church, just blocks from the center, and feature the theme “Raise your voice.” Smith was drummed out of the Marines under the military policy that bans Gay men and lesbians from serving openly, known as “don’t ask, don’t tell.” “It was the result of a minister pushing the issue of my being Gay and being allowed to continue to serve,” Smith said.

Batts said that although Memphis is a conservative city the vandalism surprised him. "We certainly live in an area that is not as open and welcoming as some other parts of the country," Batts told On Top Magazine. "Although it's an iffy lot, it's a fairly well trafficked street and being so close to the main police station downtown - a block and a half - it wasn't defaced, it wasn't shredded, it's just gone. And for that to happen on such a busy street is actually shocking to me," he said. Memphis police say they are investigating the vandalism as a theft of property.

A family member of the T



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