Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

National Equality March Floods U.S. Capitol

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Thousands of LGBT people and straight allies rallied Sunday as part of the National Equality March. The ground before the U.S. Capitol was flooded Sunday with tens of thousands of protesters urging Congress and President Obama to extend full legal equality to LGBT people, reported the Washington Blade. The National Equality March brought participants from states across the country – some from as far away as California and Alaska – and included a strong contingent of protesters from the D.C. area.

Different contingents advocated for a variety of issues ranging from same-sex marriage, to changing immigration rules, to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Participants carried rainbow-colored flags and held up signs calling for immediate action to enact equality. The bright, nearly cloudless sky and unseasonably warm weather greeted marchers as they called for their rights. After marching through D.C. and before the White House, participants converged on the U.S. Capitol, where a series of high-profile LGBT speakers energized the crowd and urged them to action.

Cleve Jones, a longtime Gay activist and one of the chief organizers of the march, urged attendees to fight for their rights and not accept any compromises or delays proposed by public officials. "If you believe we are equal, then it is time to act like it," he said. "A free and equal people do not tolerate prioritization of their rights. They do not accept compromises. They do not accept delays. And when we see leaders and those who represent us saying, 'You must wait again.' We say, 'No! No! No longer will we wait!'" Jones urged participants to return home and "build action teams" in all 435 congressional districts that urge lawmakers to commit to equality.

Julian Bond, the march's keynote speaker and chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, equated the struggle for LGBT equality to a large struggle for civil rights in America. "When I'm asked, are Gay rights civil rights, my answer always is, 'Of course they are,'" he said. "Civil rights are positive legal prerogatives – the right to equal treatment before the law. These are rights shared by everyone. There is no one in the United States who does not or who should not share and enjoy these rights." Dismissing the notion that comparing the struggle for LGBT rights to the black civil rights struggle diminishes the latter movement, Bond said people of color "should be flattered" that other activists have derived their rhetoric and tactics from the African-American struggle. "Many Gays and Lesbians worked side by side with me in the 1960s civil rights movement," he said. "Should I now tell them thanks for risking life and limb helping me win my rights but now they're excluded because of a condition of their birth? … Not a chance. We must demand full equality for all'

By far, the speaker who received the most excitement and applause from attendees was Lady Gaga, a popular Bisexual singer-songwriter, who called her presence at the march the "single most important moment" in her career. "I am also inspired by the masses of all the young people here today," she said. "The younger generation, my generation, we are the ones coming up in the world. And we must continue to push this movement forward and close the gap. We must demand full equality for all." Lady Gaga called on Obama to fulfill his promises of new rights and protections for LGBT Americans, and said people "will continue to push you and your administration to bring your words of promise to a reality." She also took a dig at Gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who was earlier quoted as saying that, only pressure protesters would apply during the march was on the grass. "We are putting more than pressure on this grass," she said. "And today, this grass is ours. We will come away today and continue to do the work in our own back yards with our local politicians." Calling herself "a woman with the most beautiful Gay fans in the whole world," Lady Gaga said she refuses to accept any misogyny or homophobia in lyrics or the music industry.

Another speaker who generated noticeable excitement was David Mixner, a Gay Democratic activist, who reiterated his call for Obama to issue a stop-loss order to prevent the discharges of Gay service members under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." "On 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' we elected you, Mr. President, not to be led by Congress but to lead Congress," Mixner said. "So let us help you find your way. Today, in your office, cut off all funding for the prosecution of our soldiers. Tomorrow, when you walk into your Oval Office, issue a stop-loss order."

Lesbian activist Irvashi Vaid, former executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, was among a handful of rally speakers to call for linking the LGBT movement with efforts to defeat "right wing" forces in the country. She defined the right wing, among other things, as religious "fundamentalists of all faiths." "I'm not here just to stand up as a Lesbian," she said. "I'm here as a woman, I'm here as an immigrant. I'm here against racism. I'm here for health care for all. I'm here for freedom of expression. I'm here to change the status quo – because I believe in America and I believe in the future of this country."

Organizers of the march called the event a success and were pleased with the number of participants. Bruce Bastian, a Gay philanthropist who donated $100,000 to stage the march, told the Blade that the turnout was "much more than any of us even dreamed." "You saw it at [protests following the passage of California's] Prop 8, you know," he said. "I think people felt disenfranchised for so long, are fed up and … they want change, and they're tired of waiting around, they're tired of Congress jerking us around."

Several speakers associated with the march, including co-organizer Tanner Efinger, urged people at the rally to take out their cell phones and send an immediate text message identifying the zip code of their home residence to a special number. According to Efinger, the cell phone numbers and zip codes of the senders would be compiled by a newly formed group, Equality Across America, which plans to build a "national grassroots network" of organizers in each of the nation's 435 congressional districts. The number released for sending the messages was 37686.

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DADT Disproportionately Affects Women

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Government statistics show that one third of those dismissed last year under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy were women, although women account for only 15% of active duty and reserve members, reported the Associated Press (AP) on advocate.com.

The statistics, which were obtained by the Palm Center could reflect deep-seated sexism in the military, or perhaps a specific bias against Lesbians, but the nature of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy makes the issue impossible to probe, according to the Associated Press.

"Pentagon spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said officials will not look into the matter because even inquiring about it might violate the 1993 policy, which says Gay men and Lesbians in the military cannot be investigated or punished as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves," reported the AP.

"If we did investigate it, we would have to ask questions, and we aren't supposed to ask any questions," Smith said.

An only member of the Tucson Gay Museum

UPDATE

SAAF Suspends Therapies Program

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation has temporarily discontinued its complementary therapies and alternative health-care service, said Michele Bart, director of development for the foundation, reported the Arizona Daily Star. The program provides services to help people with low incomes fight the side effects of AIDS and HIV medications, Bart said. These include naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, massage, chiropractic medicine, and vitamins and nutritional supplements, she said.

The program, which costs about $80,000 a year to operate, has had to cut back on the number of people it serves over the last several years, she said. This is the first time the foundation has had to suspend its services, she said. The suspension will affect the quality of life for patients who rely on the services, said Wendell Hicks, foundation executive director. "In the larger picture, we're going to have some people end up sicker," Hicks said. "These are services that actually help people deal with the side effects of not only the virus but also the drugs."

The foundation had contracted with licensed health-care providers, who charged discounted rates. It had struggled to provide the services since it stopped receiving federal funding about four years ago, Bart said. Private donors kept the program alive, but the money received from them has declined over the last few years, she said. Thirty people were receiving services before the program was suspended, she said.

But there is some hope. Foundation officials said the AIDSWalk on Sunday could provide enough money to continue the program. The group needs to raise about $200,000 to restart the services and help other struggling programs, Bart said. Otherwise, the effects might be felt throughout the health community, Hicks said. "We could end up seeing more people in the hospital," he said.

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.

Employees Get One Year Before Partners Lose Benefits

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - State employees will get another year of health benefits for domestic partners and some adult offspring until a law eliminates them from coverage. A legal review determined existing contracts with state employees will be honored, the Arizona Daily Star reported.

The law will change who is eligible as of Oct. 1, 2010, instead of this month, according to an Arizona Department of Administration memo dated Friday. A bill signed by Gov. Jan Brewer redefined a "dependent" to mean a "spouse under the laws of this state, a child who is under 19 years of age or is under 23 years of age and a full-time student." That excludes domestic partners, full-time students ages 23 and 24, and disabled adult children of employees who previously qualified for benefits.

The law cancels a rule change made by former Gov. Janet Napolitano that allowed domestic partners to receive benefits. State offices were closed for Columbus Day, but the Department of Administration previously has stated that about 800 state employees are affected and that the cost to insure domestic partners is about $3 million of the $625 million the state spends on benefits. The policy change will cut an estimated 40 same-sex partners and 130 opposite-sex partners at the University of Arizona. In a September memo, UA President Robert Shelton discussed the policy change.

"When coverage for domestic partners was announced last year, we celebrated the state's stance," he wrote. "HB 2013 challenges our values of equity and inclusion, and also appears to exclude vital health insurance coverage for many disabled dependents. Benefits parity is essential for a world-class university, and we are resolved to achieve it."

Tucson Filmmaker Launches Arizona's First LGBT Archive

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Jamie A. Lee, award-winning documentary filmmaker and member of Pan Left Productions, launched her Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project: Community Histories, a Pan Left production / Jamie A. Lee project.

Lee screens select clips of video oral histories she has collected since January 2008, thanks to funding from the Alliance Fund of Southern Arizona and Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC). Visit this link for details about the project and view the streaming digital archive through iTUNES University: lgbcom.web.arizona.edu/research/research_communityhistories.html.

The Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project: Community Histories is the first collection of its kind of oral histories and digital documentation of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities in the state of Arizona. The project is directed and coordinated by Jamie A. Lee (link visionariesfilmworks.com/people.html) in collaboration with many volunteers throughout southern Arizona.

The purpose of the Arizona LGBT Storytelling Project: Community Histories is to record and commemorate the voices, images, and memories of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people living in the state of Arizona. Our goal is to develop and build on the historical record of the diverse LGBT individuals and communities here in Arizona, capture memories of historical moments and movements; reveal our struggles, triumphs, healing, and beliefs; as well as share knowledge with future generations. This project is considered a production of Pan Left Productions, a filmmaking collective based in Tucson, Arizona. As a part of its mission, Pan Left puts the tools of video production into the hands of people who are not equally represented in the mainstream media. Funding for this project has come from the Alliance Fund of Southern Arizona and Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC). Major partners and ongoing supporters include the University of Arizona Institute for LGBT Studies and its Oral History Cluster, OSCR, Wingspan, Wingspan's Senior Pride, Odyssey Storytelling, Eithne Luibheid, Adela C. Licona, Gregory Anderson, Penelope Starr, and all those who have volunteered to tell our stories and those who are learning to use the digital video camera equipment to gather our stories.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Supreme Court Refuses Two LGBT Cases

WASHINGTON D.C., (Observer Update) - During opening day, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear two LGBT-related cases, reported advocate.com.

The first case involved an appeal by a Michigan school district to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the parents of a student who was being repeatedly harassed for being a "faggot," reports Bay Windows.

Court records for the case, Hudson Area Schools v. Patterson, show that students repeatedly harassed the unnamed Patterson student referred to as DP. Harassment began in sixth grade and ranged from calling him "queer," "Gay," and "faggot," writing anti-Gay slurs on his books and locker, and urinating on his clothes.

Despite seeking help from school officials, the harassment escalated in high school with a student sexually assaulting him in a locker room.

Since the Supreme Court refused to hear the school's appeal, the parents' lawsuit will now be heard in a federal district court in Detroit.

The Supreme Court also refused to get involved in a dispute between breakaway Episcopalians and their former national church over who owns a California church and its property.

The St. James parish in the diocese of Los Angeles separated from the denomination in 2003 because the Episcopal Church allowed the consecration of a Gay bishop, Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

The Episcopal Church fought the parish's efforts to take the property.

The California Supreme Court ruled that, while St. James had the right to split off from the larger church, the congregation could not take parish property with it, according to the Associated Press.

By refusing to hear the St. James Parish appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court has left the ruling of the California court intact.

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Hate Crimes Passes House; Senate On Deck

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The House voted 281 to 146 to pass a Defense Department funding bill that includes a measure extending hate-crimes protections to people targeted on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, advocate.com reported.

The conference report for the Defense bill, which is a melding of the versions passed separately in the House and the Senate, will now move to a vote in the Senate.

"The week of the 13th, we expect the Senate will take up the conference report and pass it as well, and then the bill gets pushed over the finish line and sent to the president's desk for signature," said Allison Herwitt, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign.

At a daily briefing, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs pledged that President Barack Obama would sign the legislation.

Herwitt said the legislation should remain intact exactly as it passed the House. "A conference report cannot be amended, so it's simply an up or down vote in the Senate," she said. "We are extremely optimistic."

The conference report kept several amendments that were offered by Republicans but dropped the most problematic amendment, which would have included the death penalty as a possible sentence for perpetrating a hate crime.

The two provisions that remained added additional First Amendment protections to the measure and charged the U.S. attorney general with providing guidelines for determining whether a hate crime has been committed.

Herwitt highlighted the work of senators Patrick Leahy, Carl Levin, and Susan Collins as well as representatives John Conyers, Tammy Baldwin, and Mark Kirk as instrumental in ensuring passage of the measure. "And of course, the years of work that Senator Kennedy did," she added. "What a tribute that it's going to become law this year."

Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who passed away this August, and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan originally introduced legislation to expand hate-crimes protections in both chambers of Congress in 2001. The legislation was renamed the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act in honor of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old Gay man who was brutally murdered in Laramie, Wyo., in 1998.

G/L Marriage Licenses Now In New Hampshire

MANCHESTER, NH (Observer Update) - Attention, early birds. Same-sex couples may now apply for marriage licenses in New Hampshire, although ceremonies cannot be performed until the new law takes effect on January 1, advocate.com reported.

Marriage licenses are valid for three months from the date of purchase, at which point they expire, according to the Boston Herald. "Stephen Wurtz, acting director of the state division of vital records, said Wednesday that the licenses cost $45 and are good for 90 days," reported the Boston Herald. "Wurtz said couples who have already entered into civil unions can either get a marriage license for a new ceremony or – at no cost – convert the civil union to a marriage after the first of the year. Couples wishing to convert civil unions must apply at the clerk's office where the union was recorded."

Couples in civil unions who do not act will have their unions converted to marriages on January 1, 2011, when civil unions will be phased out.

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PHOTOS: Bill Morrow

White House Talks DADT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Shortly after President Barack Obama pledged to end "don't ask, don't tell," the Administration's highest-ranking LGBT official said the White House is speaking with certain senators about strategies for repealing the policy – specifically Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an independent from Connecticut, who sits on the Senate Armed Services Committee, advocate.com reported. "On 'don't ask, don't tell,' this administration is talking directly to the Hill – we are in direct discussions with Senator Lieberman," John Berry, the director of the Office of Personnel Management, told The Advocate.

A spokesman for Senator Lieberman confirmed that the senator had been speaking to the White House about the bill. "Senator Lieberman has had discussions with representatives of the Administration and others on the best way to reverse this policy, which he has opposed since it was first proposed in 1993," said Marshall Wittmann, Lieberman's press secretary. Wittmann gave no further information on the senator's plans regarding the legislation.

A House repeal bill that was introduced in March is being carried by Rep. Patrick Murphy, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, and currently has 177 sponsors. Berry said on Saturday that the goal was to introduce Senate legislation with bipartisan support – the same goal the late Sen. Edward Kennedy had always hoped to achieve. People familiar with the strategy around Senate introduction say the discussions generally involve two different tracks: the bipartisan track, with at least one of the cosponsors sitting on the SASC; and a second track, which would be a Democratic introduction by someone who sits on the SASC.

Some reports have mentioned Sen. Jack Reed, a Rhode Island Democrat, as a candidate to sponsor the bill, but a source familiar with discussions who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Reed was not a prime target. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a New York Democrat, has taken a strong interest in the issue, but the fact that she does not sit on the Armed Services Committee makes her a less likely candidate to carry the bill. Colorado Democrat Mark Udall is generally considered to be in the running given his position on the committee. During Senate hearings on the Defense Department authorization bill, Udall asked Adm. Mike Mullen to draft recommendations for changing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy before the Senate hearings on the matter this fall.

Lieberman is generally seen as a strong candidate for carrying the bill given his position on the Armed Services Committee and his strong engagement with the military. Insiders also say the senator could use the legislation to burnish his progressive credentials, which might be a consideration for him based on his support for Sen. John McCain during the 2008 election and the fact that he lost his 2006 Democratic primary to Ned Lamont. Lieberman also has strong ties to Republican senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, one of whom might consider being his Republican counterpart on a repeal bill. Collins cosponsored Lieberman's introduction this year of the Domestic Partner Benefits and Obligations Act, which would extend spousal benefits to the same-sex partners of federal government employees.

Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of the repeal lobby group Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said during a symposium two weeks ago that he believed a bill was only weeks from introduction. Though Sarvis said he preferred a bipartisan track, he added, "A number of other Democrats are ready for bill introduction and I suspect we may soon have a Senate bill introduced." Contacted for comment, Sarvis said, "SLDN is working with key senators on Senate Armed Services Committee and believes the White House is actively engaged to help facilitate a timely, bipartisan bill introduction and is also having critically needed repeal discussions within the Pentagon. SLDN is counting on getting repeal done in 2010."

EEOC Nominee Target Of Conservatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Now that the case against U.S. Department of Education official Kevin Jennings, who was falsely accused of condoning statutory rape, has subsided somewhat, conservative pundits are targeting a new Obama administration appointee, reported advocate.com.

Chai Feldblum, an out Lesbian and Georgetown Law School professor, was nominated to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, particularly in light of her work to end discrimination toward Gays and disabled people in the workplace. Despite those qualifications – or perhaps because of them -- conservative talker Rush Limbaugh has labeled her "another oddball duck" who has "praised polygamy, and has contended that traditional marriage should not have privileged status."

The statement on polygamy refers to a statement Feldblum signed in 2006, which advocated for diverse relationships like those in polyamorous homes, and couples co-raising children with other couples. Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Families & Relationships was signed by thousand of Gay rights advocates, academic leaders, and individual citizens.

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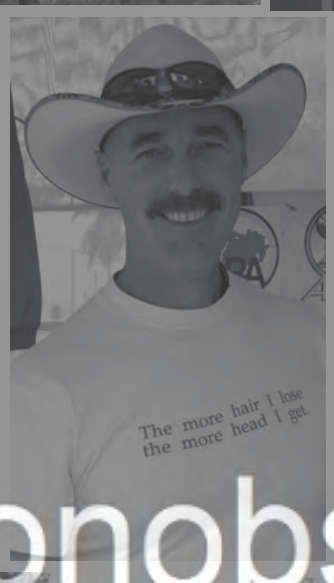
It Was A Perfect Day For The Pride Festival In Reid Park

PHOTOS BY AMANDA IRVIN



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AZ-Based Gay Allied Fraternity Announces Indiana Interest Group

TEMPE (Observer Update) - Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, an Arizona-based Gay-allied fraternity, announced today the formation of an interest group at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. A group of five men at the university registered their group with the Fraternity's national headquarters, signaling their desire to establish a chapter on campus.

"We are thrilled to be working with students at Indiana University to create a unique, character-building space for Gay and allied men within the traditional Greek fraternity system," said Nathan Arrowsmith, Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity's national president. "In our short history, members of Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity have lived up to our core values of diversity, service, scholarship, leadership and brotherhood while breaking barriers that previously existed between the Gay and straight communities. We are hopeful that we can fulfill this vision at Indiana University, which is home to one of the oldest and largest Greek systems in the country."

To establish a chapter, the members of the registered interest group must first complete several tasks. Their next step is to petition Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity's national board of directors for recognition as a colony, a process that involves establishing a relationship with Indiana University's Greek Life office, recruiting other potential members, identifying a board of advisors, and submitting a mission statement to the Fraternity's national headquarters. After a colony is formed, colony members would participate in a pledge education program to learn the Fraternity's history and values while also building interpersonal, leadership and chapter management skills. Those who successfully complete the program would be initiated as full members of the Fraternity.

Once a colony has demonstrated an ability to successfully recruit and educate new members about the mission, values and purpose of Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, the national headquarters could grant an official chapter charter.

Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of building character in Gay, straight, Bisexual and Transgender men in college through social and meaningful activities. The Fraternity was formed in 2003 as a chapter at Arizona State University (ASU). The national organization was established in 2005. Since forming as a national organization, Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity has been nationally recognized for raising the level of consciousness among leaders in the fraternity system about issues like transgender membership and immigration. The founding chapter at ASU has also become a leader on campus, receiving the university's Chapter of the Year award in February for the second year in a row. For more information about Sigma Phi Beta Fraternity, visit sigmaphibeta.org.

Schwarzenegger Signs Harvey Milk Day and Marriage Recognition Bills

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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - Governor Schwarzenegger has signed into law two historic LGBT rights bills - recognizing the contributions of slain civil rights leader Harvey Milk and a bill that underscores that same-sex couples married before the passage of Proposition 8 are entitled to full recognition as married spouses in California, regardless of whether they married in California or out of state.

Both bills were sponsored by Equality California (EQCA) and were introduced by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). The Harvey Milk Day bill marks the first time in the nation's history that a state will officially recognize and celebrate the contributions of an openly LGBT person with an annual "day of special significance."

The Marriage Recognition and Family Protection Act, also signed today, holds that same-sex couples married before the passage of Proposition 8 must be recognized as married spouses in California, regardless of whether they married in California or in another state or nation. In addition, the new statute also confirms that same-sex couples married outside of California after November 5, 2008, must be given all of the rights, protections and responsibilities of married spouses under California law, with the sole exception of the designation of "marriage."

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Promises, Promises

Before a speech, a song was played to those in attendance and it wasn't the song "Promises, promises," by Naked Eyes but "Hail to the Chief," for President Barack Obama, whom on Saturday, October 10, addressed a gathering of 3,000 individuals, most of which, so aptly put by Lawrence O'Donnell, the substitute host on Countdown on Monday, October 12, for the national Equality March and which applied here too, as "treated as second class citizens."

President Obama stated the stood with the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Community in its fight for equality under law, declaring, "you are Americans who care deeply about this country and its future."

Continuing, the president said, "he expected it would look back on his administration as a time when "we put a stop to discrimination against Gays and Lesbians, whether in the office or on the battle field."

Obama also stated that:

He would be signing federal hate crimes legislation; he supports ENDA (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act);

Funding for HIV/AIDS programs should continue,

The end of, with another promise, for the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy of preventing those Gays and Lesbians, who want to serve in this country's armed services openly, and honestly, from doing so, and his support for extending federal benefits to committed same-sex couples (and families), which opposite-sex couples currently get.

LGBT Americans, the president said, should continue pressuring their elected officials, including himself, to work for pro equality laws and polices.

Excuse me but wasn't that the reason for the 2008 election, subsequent vote, etcetera, or was this just more "promises, promises?"

For example:

With two ongoing wars, Gays and Lesbians continue to be discharged on an average of more than two per day from the military under "don't ask, don't tell," and the president has not issued an order, as Commander in Chief, or an Executive Order, halting discharges by stop-loss or the pending cases under "don't ask, don't tell."

People who are HIV+ or living with AIDS still can not either, emigrate or travel to this country due to the ban, with America being one of the few countries with such.

Despite fulfilling their legal and constitutional obligations, the federal, Department of Justice, used questionable language and arguments to defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act law (which prevents same-sex couples from being recognized legally on the federal level of government), in several court challenges this year.

Some of those who are treated as "second class citizens," cheered the remarks the president made and the following day, took part in the LGBT March for Equality in Washington D.C., protesting the Obama Administration and the Democratically-controlled Congresses, lack of action on issues of concern.

Kate Clinton In Tucson, Nov. 8

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.

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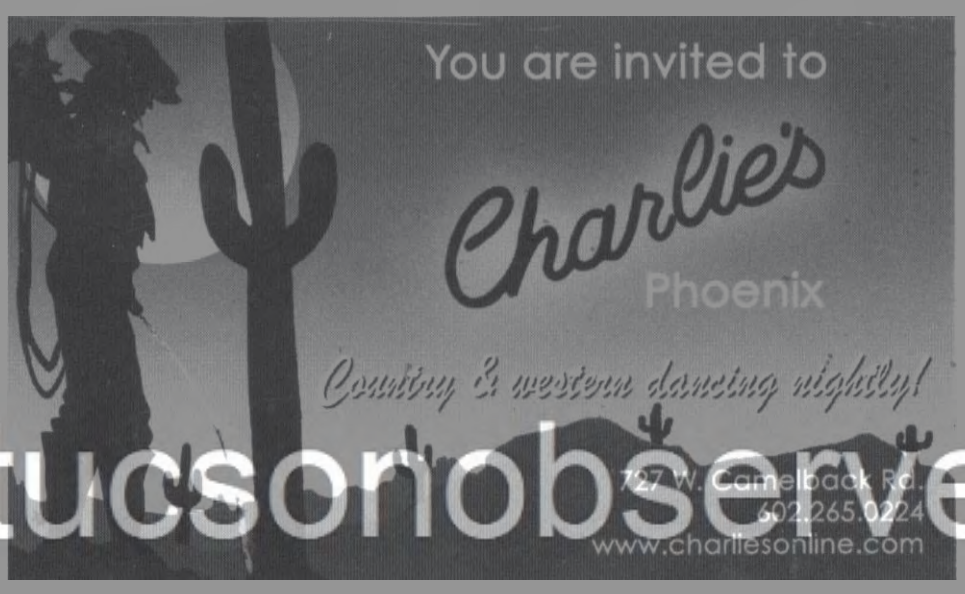

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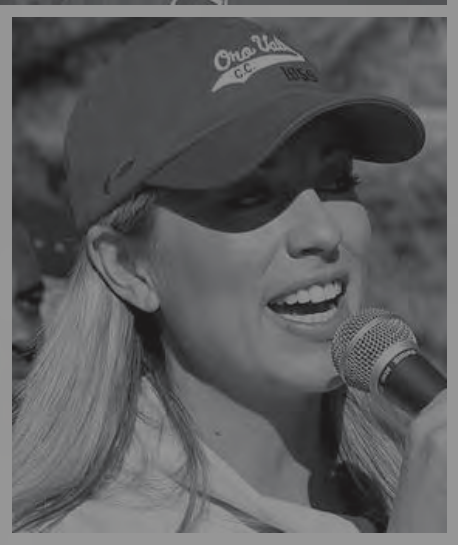

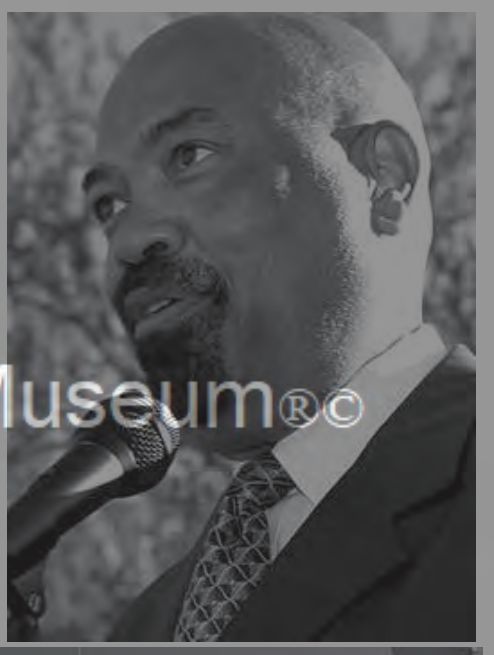

PHOTOS BY BILL MORROW

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Vote In Tucson's Election

Many achievements have been accomplished thanks to a vibrant LGBT and HIV/AIDS community in the Old Pueblo and a cooperative 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.

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.

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

Also on the ballot is Proposition 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 enactment 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 respective 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 started October 8 and the last day to request an early ballot is Friday, October 23. Tucson's LGBT, HIV/AIDS and straight supportive 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.

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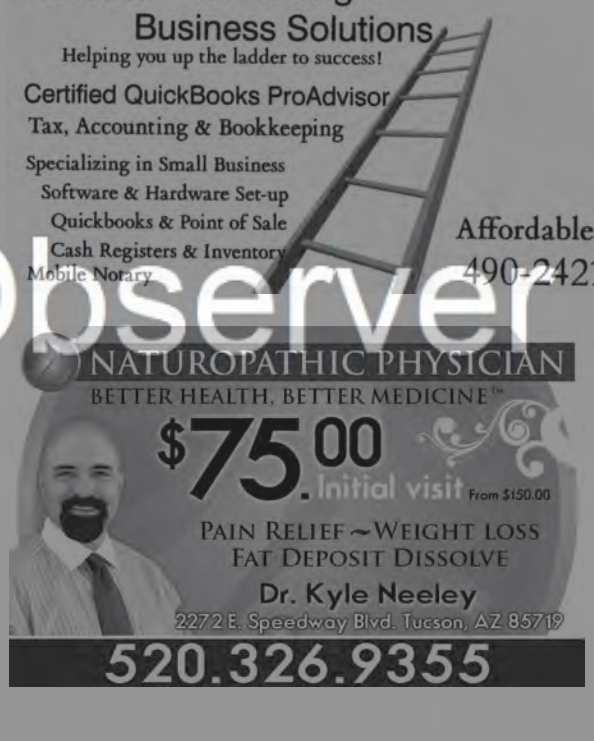

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Portland Mayor Sam Adams Will Keep His Job For Now-ish!

PORTLAND, OR (Observer Update) - It's not so easy trying to get Portland's Mayor Sam Adams ousted from his job, reported queerty.com.

An effort to recall him – started after it was revealed Adams and intern Beau Breedlove enjoyed more than each other's conversation – stopped short when recall supporters failed to gather the necessary 32,000 signatures.

But they say they're renewing their efforts to recall Adams (with, supposedly, $150k from local businesses), promising that just like the mayor's bicycle wheels, this thing is going to go 'round and 'round and 'round.

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Montana High Court Upholds Historic Same-Sex Parent Custody Ruling

HELENA, MT (Observer Update) - Montana's Supreme Court has upheld a ruling by a Missoula, Montana district court judge last October, awarding custody rights to Michelle Kulstad. Kulstad had raised two kids with her partner Barbara Maniaci for nearly a decade. The kids were legally adopted by Maniaci, who sought sole custody when the couple split, towleroad.com reported.

The Flathead Beacon reports: "The Supreme Court backed District Judge Ed McLean's ruling last year that granted Michelle Kulstad joint custody of the two children – a 9-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. The children were adopted by Kulstad's former partner, Barbara Maniaci, in 2001 and 2004. State law does not allow both members of a same-sex partnership to adopt. After the relationship ended, Kulstad filed in January 2007 to receive parenting rights. Maniaci, who is now married to a man, filed a motion to dismiss Kulstad's petition."

Justice James Nelson addressed anti-Gay discrimination "in the strongest of language," reports The Missoulian: "In his specially concurring decision, Nelson denounced discrimination against Gays and Lesbians as 'bigotry' and called it 'a prevalent societal cancer grounded in bigotry and hate.' ... 'I remain absolutely convinced ... that homosexuals are entitled to enjoy precisely the same civil and natural rights as heterosexuals, as a matter of constitutional law,' he wrote. Nelson sided with the 6-1 majority that upheld a ruling giving parental rights to a Missoula woman who had been in a 10-year Lesbian relationship that included two children legally adopted by the other woman in the partnership. The other woman had left the relationship and married a man, and did not want to grant parental rights to her former Lesbian partner. The court ruled that the former partner has a 'parental interest' in the children and a right to joint custody. Nelson said the case shows that until the courts recognize homosexuals as 'equal participants with heterosexuals in our society ... with exactly the same civil and natural rights, Lesbian and Gay citizens will continue to suffer homophobic discrimination.' ... 'Regrettably, this sort of discrimination is both socially acceptable and politically popular,' he wrote."

More from the Flathead Beacon: "Justice James Nelson concurred with the decision, but added: 'Maniaci and her defense team attempt to avoid the one issue that makes this case uniquely important – the elephant in the room: whether homosexuals in an intimate domestic relationship each have the right to parent the children they mutually agree that one party will adopt (or, presumably, conceive.) The District Court and this Court have properly answered that question in the affirmative...Sadly, however, this case represents yet another instance in which fellow Montanans, who happen to be Lesbian or Gay, are forced to battle for their fundamental rights to love who they want, to form intimate associations, to form family relationships, and to have and raise children – all elemental, natural rights that are accorded, presumptively and without thought or hesitation, to heterosexuals."

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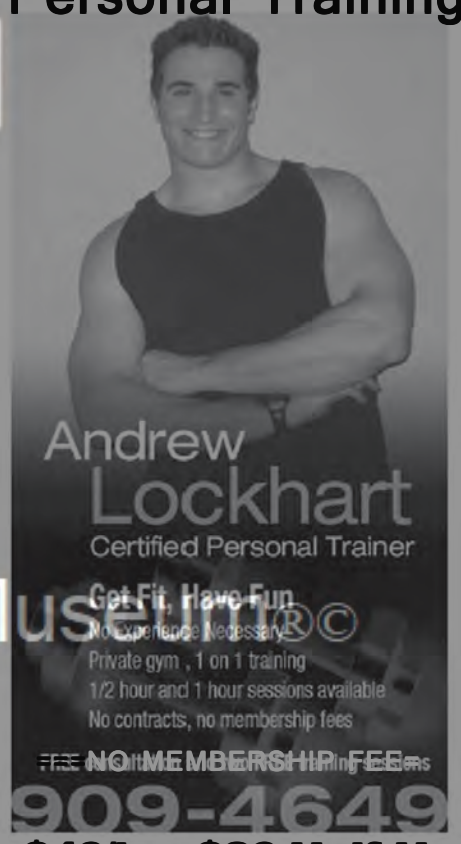

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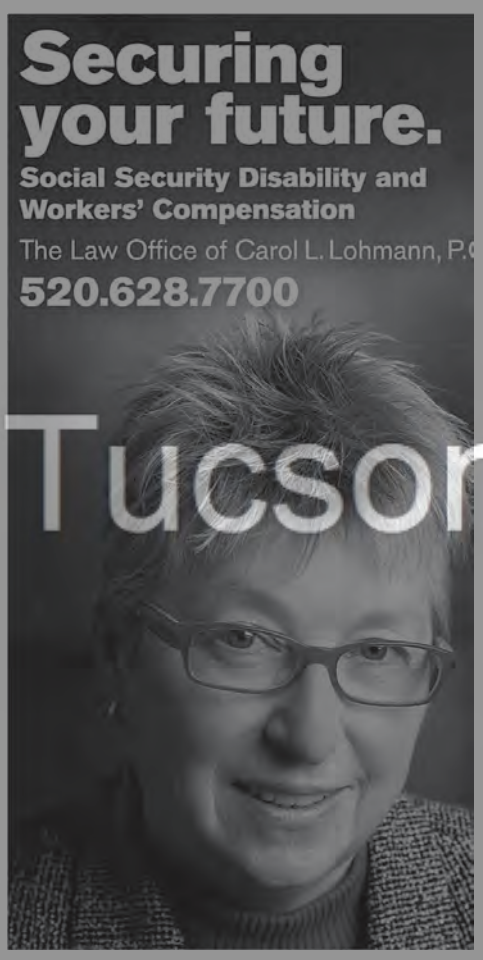

COMMENTARY. . . .

New Rule: Everyone Deserves Equal Rights

By Bill Maher

New Rule: Everyone deserves equal rights. That's why they're called "equal" and "rights." Tomorrow night President Obama will speak before a Gay rights group, and on Sunday there will be a massive Gay rally in Washington, or as I call it, the Million Mo March. Which makes this weekend the perfect time for Obama to announce he's repealing "don't ask, don't tell" and committing to a full-throated endorsement of Gay marriage. One, because it's the right thing to do and two, because it will throw the conservative base into such a frenzied, pants-shitting panic that they'll drop all that BS about death panels and socialism and let us all get some actual work done.

But of course that's not going to happen. I can tell you what the president is going to tell his audience tomorrow: How much he supports them. How much he agrees with them. And how he wishes he was President so he could help them out. But here's the thing about being president. There isn't a lot you can do without either Congress, Oprah or Goldman Sachs behind you. But there is one thing the president can do with the stroke of a pen: He can let Gays serve openly in the military. It's called an executive order. Harry Truman wrote one in 1948 for blacks in the military, and that was that.

"Don't ask, don't tell" has always been bad policy that was made out of a bullshit political compromise. You know, like you're doing now with health care. It never made sense to begin with: "Here in the Army we're all about honor. And trusting the man next to you. Now lie to my face about your sexuality, Johnson, or I'll report you behind your back." But forget all the good arguments for repeal, like because it was promised to us in the campaign or because it gets lonely on a submarine. Do it because it'll make Rush Limbaugh explode like a bag full of meat dropped from a helicopter. Do it because it'll make Sarah Palin go rogue in her pants.

Because here's the thing about today's conservatives: they're not bright. They can't keep a lot of ideas in their head at once. And by "a lot" I mean "two." If we can get them all worked up about fighting the Gay menace, it will siphon away all that crazy, right wing, town-hall energy from all the other big issues they've been fighting. The tea-baggers don't know what the word "socialism" means. But they do know what the word "Gay" means, because their hairdresser explained it to them once, and they don't like it. They will be drawn to it like a moth to a flamer. Bush was practically re-elected on a promise to keep boys from kissing. Which is ridiculous, because if you want to stop Gays from having sex, wouldn't you let them get married?

But seriously, the sheer rage of the tea-baggers can be so easily redirected that some times I wonder if Rush doesn't just spin a giant wheel of hate every morning to come up with ACORN! William Ayers! Birth certificate! It's like faking throwing a stick for the dog. "War on Christmas." "Obama's talking to school children." And "Gay" is the easiest stick to throw.

Health care and the environment are complicated, but it's not hard to keep track of the places that God allows you to put your pee-pee. I mean, you can count those places on one hand. And that hand isn't something you should be using either. A year ago, if you had asked your average wing-nut neighbor what he thought about health care reform, he would have shrugged his shoulders and gone right back to eating his Moon Pie. But he's pissed-off about it now, why? Because it's in their nature to be pissed-off. They have a pre-existing condition called the Conniption Fits. The tea-baggers have taught us all an important lesson in modern politics: If you want to be taken seriously, act like a fucking loony-tune.

In fact, let me explain how the right-wing mind works: wing-nuts get up in the morning, get their "news" from Fox or Drudge, and then spend all morning drinking coffee and getting all worked up about whatever Fox and Drudge tell them to get worked up about. "Mexicans - Grrr! Socialism - Grrr! Van Jones - I don't know who he is, but sure... Grrrrrr!" By the time Rush comes on at noon, they're ready to just start demanding we build a wall around Andy Dick. And when Glenn Beck shows up at five, they're seeing red - right through the blue from the Viagra.

But while Glenn is busy explaining to his viewers that when he cries it's a butch thing, Obama and the Democrats can sweep in under the Gaydar and pass real health care and real climate change bills. This is how we fight fire with Fire Island. When Obama speaks tomorrow, he should not only revoke "don't ask, don't tell," but also change our military's slogan to "An Army of Buns." And starting next year, Gay busing. Yes, if there aren't any Gay families in your community, we'll bring them to you. Your field hockey team can thank us later.

And when they get out there on Sunday, Gay Nation also needs to do everything in their power to scare the hell out of right-wing homophobes. I want to see you guys rollerblading down the Mall in nothing but a speedo and a nun's habit, holding a sparkler in one hand and a penis popsicle in the other.

(Bill Maher is the Host of the HBO Show, Real Time and a writer/contributor to the Huffington Post, from which this is reprinted from.)

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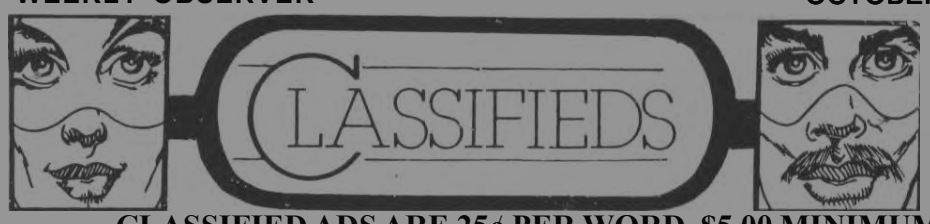

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Poet's Corner

JIBBER, JABBER

by Ron Rose - Tucson

Abracadabra, jibber, jabber
This poet's not having fun.
Words that are serious, make me delirious
Happy words need to be spun.
So here's jibber, jabber, cadaver, cadaver
Meaning less words for your ears,
Boodles, kaboodles, noodles, and poodles
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Non-Bar Calendar

Friday, October 17

There is a music concert to benefit Wingspan today at 7:00 p.m. at MCC Church, 3269 N. Mountain Ave. Six musicians are donating their time and talent. All money received will go directly to Wingspan. This will be an eclectic concert with several kinds of music. The donation being asked is $15, with less being 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.

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)

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

PLEASE HELP

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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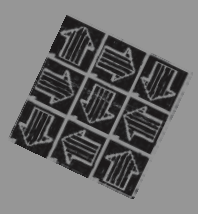

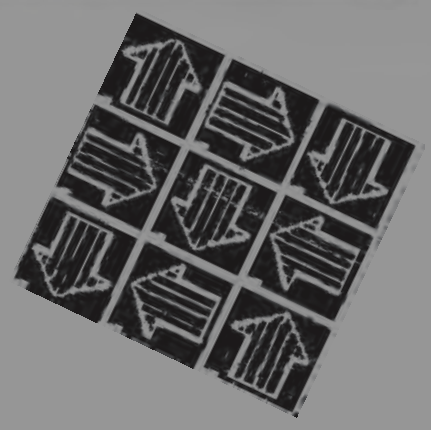

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

T-Squares, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian square dance club, dances Tuesdays 6:30-9 pm at the Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N Geronimo Ave (Northwest of 1st Ave & Glenn St). No experience needed, no partner required! For more information contact Barb at 886-0716, 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@yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

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

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

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

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

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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 Domestics & 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".

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 Domestics and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - $2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.

and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

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 Domestics 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 Domestics. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.

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 with DJ Cliint 9 til closing.

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

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 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers 4-6pm. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.. .

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Flirt Friday with Happy Hour extended to 9 p.m. and munchies. DJ Hill & guest DJs. COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well and ½ price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis $5.50 open to close! . "Guys & Dolls" 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 Domestics. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

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

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

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. LATINLICIOUS . Hourly rotating drink specials. DJ Kool-A

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. 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 Domestics. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio $1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio"

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

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

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

Rich Ross: Hollywood's First Openly Gay Studio Chairman

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Disney has long been the most Gay friendly studio in Hollywood, having had a couple of Gay production chiefs over the years, most recently Nina Jacobson, now an independent producer after being forced out in a studio purge several years ago. The studio's theme parks have allowed unofficial Gay Day celebrations for years, prompting a host of venemous attacks from various Christian right anti-Gay zealots, reported latimes.com.

But Disney now has a really big first – Rich Ross, Hollywood's first openly Gay studio chief. Ross, who had been head of the Disney Channel, hasn't been giving interviews since he was named studio chief Monday. So I started reading old Ross interviews, eager to discover what his creative tastes were like, figuring it might give me insight into the kind of movies he'd want to make. That led me to a story from this year by one of my colleagues, Dawn Chmielewski, who did an in-depth profile of Ross and his tenure at Disney TV. I found this: "The 47-year-old Ross and his partner of more than 20 years, Adam Sanderson, live in the Hollywood Hills and have no children of their own. However, he maintains a close relationship with the 14- and 10-year-old daughters of his former roommate and best friend from Fordham Law, who serve as an informal focus group." After a little more hunting, I found that the Advocate has just posted a small story, titled: "Disney Goes Gay with New Top Exec."

Still, judging from a quick canvas I made of Gay filmmakers and executives, the news about Ross was something of a revelation, even in the Gay community. That may be because people in the film world don't always keep track of TV executives, especially ones making children's programming. One filmmaker was aware that Ross was Gay, but others I spoke to knew little about his professional life, much less his private life. As one executive put it: "Every day showbiz offers a new surprise." But is it a good surprise? "Absolutely," says producer Howard Rosenman, who's not only openly Gay but played the role of David Goodstein, an early owner of the Advocate, in last year's Oscar-nominated film "Milk."

"It's not just the first time ever, but it's the greatest thing ever," he told me jubilantly. "After all these years, what finally matters is – show me the money! It doesn't matter what you do with your [penis], just what you do with your job. It's a new era in Hollywood. Rich Ross will only be judged by how well he makes the product and and how commercial it is, not who he is in his private life. He's obviously already been a big success at the Disney Channel, so he clearly knows what he's doing." Disney hasn't exactly been playing up that Ross is Gay. But there are two ways of interpreting that. It's possible that Disney is hoping no one makes a fuss or that none of the business reporters who will eventually interview Ross will make his personal life an issue. But it's also possible that after all these years, the sexual orientation of a major entertainment executive isn't big news anymore. That alone would be a huge step forward, especially since previous generations of studio executives have been forced to remain in the closet, or at least believed it prudent, fearing a public outcry. But I'll let Rosenman have the last word on this. "You know what I really think?" he said. "It's about time!"

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

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.

COYOTE MOON - Classsic Rock and Bluyes from Two Sons starting at 9:00 p.m. No Cover. Great sounds

WOODY'S - 7th annual "Bllue Ball"? starts at 9:00 p.m. Dress in blue for drink specials, hot dance and great giveaways. No cover.

Saturday, October 24

WOODYS - "Wett Party" starrring adult vvideo star Gunner Pierce with Woody's Dancers.

YARD DOG - Intorduciing "Poker Pub's" progressive Tesas Hold-em (no limit). Tourney's at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

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BUZZ FLASHES . . . .

ABC has ordered a full season of new episodes of its Wednesday night hit ensemble comedy Modern Family. The series has won wide acclaim for its fast pacing and clever dialogue, but is considered a breakthrough for its portrayal of Gay adoptive fathers. Actors Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet star as Mitch and Cameron, respectively, a Gay couple raising a Vietnam-born baby.

Mad Men star Bryan Batt does not plan to marry his partner, Tom Cianfichi, in Vermont this holiday season, contrary to claims in the National Enquirer. The actor's representative denied the rumor in a statement reported by Buddy TV. "Their goal is to eventually marry, but the time has yet to be determined and will not happen this year," the statement said, as reported by Buddy TV. "There must have been miscommunication in reporting the story that ran in the October 12th issue." Batt and Cianfichi, who have been together for almost 20 years, are registered domestic partners in Batt's native New Orleans. Batt plays a closeted 1960s Gay character, advertising agency art director Sal Romano, on Mad Men.

Gay Wilton Manors, Fla., resident Craig Cohen, 47, died in hospice care after a brutal attack on the night of April 6 that left him in a coma for six months. Cohen, an avid animal lover, was leaving a diner three blocks from his home when he was assaulted by a group of four men who repeatedly stomped his head against the pavement, fracturing his skull. Minutes later, David Villanova, who is also Gay, was attacked after he left a nearby bar. Villanova has since recovered. Police later arrested 21-year-old Victor Gonzalez and 25-year-old Pargu Leandro in connection with the crime; earlier in the day the two had been drinking, smoking marijuana, and talking about beating someone up for fun. They now face robbery, assault, and possible murder charges. Though police had originally considered the attacks hate crimes since both victims were Gay, investigators later determined Cohen and Villanova were targeted because they were alone, not because of their sexual orientation. The Craig Cohen Animal Advocacy Project and Cohen's friends and family will hold a candlelight vigil in Wilton Manors on October 15 to commemorate his life.

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Boyzone's Stephen Gately Dead At 33

Stephen Gately

MAJORCA, Spain (Observer Update) - Irish boy-bander Stephen Gately was found dead in a hotel room in Majorca, where he was vacationing, according to News of the World. He was 33, advocate.com reported. According to reports, Gately returned to his hotel room after a night of drinking with friends, went to sleep, and never woke up. No official cause of death has been released.

The members of Boyzone recently reunited, and all four remaining members are expected to travel to Majorca this weekend to pay their respects. The out singer caused a stir in the pop world when he came out 10 years ago, while Boyzone was still at the height of its fame. Gately joined Boyzone in 1993 after answering an advertisement in Dublin to audition for Ireland's first boy band.

Gately is survived by his partner, Andrew Cowles. The two entered into a civil union in March 2006.

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David James Bell, Acquitted Of Kidnapping, Now Going After His Attackers

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (Observer Update) - Last month, Salt Lake City's David "DJ" Bell was acquitted on kidnapping charges, brought against him when his neighbors accused him of taking their two children in the middle of the night. Jurors were left puzzled: With such flimsy evidence, why were charges even brought? Well, allow Bell to explain, queerty.com reported.

At a press conference, Bell revealed what happened that night, according to the Salt Lake Tribune: He'd joined in his neighbor's late night party, chatting, singing and having a drink. He'd walked back home to refill his glass, only to find two of the neighbors' young children in his yard, asking for Kool-Aid. Bell said he gave them a soft drink, at which point the children's mother came charging at him, slapping him and screaming. Then more neighbors poured over, Bell said, breaking in doors and windows, beating him, slashing him with glass shards and slamming his head into his driveway. His partner, Daniel Fair, was also assaulted. Police were called; the neighbors told them Bell had lured the children into his home, and that was it for the investigation, he said.

And, he and his attorneys said, South Salt Lake police spoke only briefly with people who were in Bell's home at the time – taking names and listening for a few minutes. Nor, said Megan Dunyon – who was sleeping in Bell's home when the violence began – did any investigator return her call asking for a chance to tell the other side of the story. The District Attorney is now weighing whether to bring charges against Bell's neighbors, who he alleges violently attacked him and his partner. We say: Bring it. And so does Bell, who's likely bringing a civil suit against the neighbors.

Meanwhile, despite allegations from the defense that the police bungled the case: South Salt Lake Police Chief Chris Snyder said that he stands by the investigation. Bell believes what happened to him was a hate crime. (Conversely, at his trial, a prosecutor said the defense had "played the Polynesian card" because of the neighbors' ethnicity.) Bell wants those who beat him charged, convicted, imprisoned and given counseling. "As long as the people who attacked me are free," he said, "I am not."

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It's More Than You Think. . . . .