Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Justice Dept. Seeks Action vs. Gay Discrimination

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration's point man on civil rights said he will seek to fight discrimination against Gays, an area in which the Justice Department has had only a small role in the past, reported the Associated Press on pageoneq.com. Tom Perez, the assistant attorney general in charge of the department's Civil Rights Division, said pending legislation in Congress will allow the department to attack discrimination against Lesbian, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender people, a group often referred to by the acronym LGBT.

That would be new territory for the division that has historically gone after discrimination based on race, gender or religion. It would also be a major shift from the division's work during the Bush administration, which opposed expansion of the federal hate crimes law to prosecute those who attack Gays. Perez on Wednesday he gave his first speech to division employees, saying the division must be transformed "so that we are capable of tackling the civil rights challenges of the 21st century," include issues not historically addressed by the department.

"We must fight for fairness and basic equality for our LGBT brothers and sisters who so frequently are being left in the shadows," he said, and to "ensure that there's a level playing field in which our LGBT brothers and sisters are judged by the content of their character." Allison Herwitt, legislative director for Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay rights group, called Perez's words "fantastic."

"What's so different between this administration and the last is that we have people who want to have these protections in place and to enforce these protections, and you have the top of the Civil Rights Division willing to openly talk about these protections," said Herwitt. Conservative activists argued that such moves could come at the expense of people of religious faith.

"Too often it's religious liberty that's at stake when homosexuality is promoted in our society. The rights of people of faith who adhere to a biblical view of sexuality should not be crushed under the Obama administration's political promises to homosexual activists," said Carrie Gordon Earll, senior director of Focus on the Family Action. Federal civil rights laws say little about attacks or discrimination fueled by anti-Gay bias. The Senate, though, is on the verge of passing legislation that would broaden the hate crimes law and allow federal prosecutions of bias attacks on Gays.

Attorney General Eric Holder has repeatedly urged Congress to pass the new hate crimes law, saying the expansion of federal prosecutions for such attacks is long overdue. Separately, the House has taken a tentative step to consider a law that would outlaw anti-Gay or gender identity discrimination in the workplace.

During the Clinton administration, the department's Civil Rights Division had an internal group that examined Gay rights issues, but the effort ended during the Bush administration.

Perez's goal of greater government action on Gay rights speech can only come if Congress changes civil rights law. That seems likely in the case of bias-driven violence. The new hate crimes bill has survived a number of votes and now needs only a final vote in the Senate before going to the president's desk for his signature. In the case of the workplace bill, called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the chances of success are less clear.

Twenty-one states already have laws prohibiting workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and 12 extend those laws to gender identity – California, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Several other states protect public employees who are Gay or Transgender.

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Judge Refuses To Toss Suit Challenging Prop. 8

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - A federal judge in San Francisco refused to dismiss a lawsuit challenging California's Proposition 8, the voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, and ordered a trial on whether the measure denies fundamental rights to Gays and Lesbians. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker has said repeatedly that a trial is needed to resolve disputes that may determine the measure's constitutionality, so the ruling did not surprise either side, sfgate.com reported.

But the breadth of his decision was a boost for Gay rights advocates, who argue that Prop. 8 unconstitutionally discriminates against Gays, is rooted in anti-homosexual bias and violates the right to marry the partner of one's choice. Walker left all those issues on the table, rejecting arguments by Prop. 8's sponsors that higher courts had already resolved them. Among the questions to be answered, he said from the bench, is "whether Prop. 8 was passed with discriminatory intent."

Lawyers for Protect Marriage, the religious conservative coalition that campaigned for the November constitutional amendment, say the measure had a clear purpose - to restore the traditional male-female definition of marriage. They say opponents' claims of a hidden anti-Gay agenda are both unfounded and legally irrelevant. "Voters who passed Prop. 8 are essentially on trial in this case, accused of being irrational and bigoted," Andrew Pugno, a lawyer for the sponsors, said after the hearing. Protect Marriage is challenging Walker's order that the sponsors must disclose internal campaign strategy documents, which opponents hope will reveal plans to appeal to voter prejudice against Gays.

A federal appeals court's decision to review that order would delay the trial, now scheduled to start Jan. 11. It will be the nation's first trial on the validity of a law against same-sex marriage. Prop. 8 amended the state Constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, overturning a May 2008 state Supreme Court ruling that allowed Gay and Lesbian couples to marry. The state's high court upheld the measure in May while allowing 18,000 same-sex couples who married before the election to remain legally wed.

The court's ruling was based on state law and did not address any U.S. constitutional issues. Plaintiffs in the federal case - two same-sex couples, a Gay-rights group and the city of San Francisco - claim Prop. 8 discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and gender and interferes with the right to marry one's chosen partner. The initiative's sponsors argued that the U.S. Supreme Court validated bans on same-sex unions in 1972 by rejecting a challenge to a Minnesota law defining marriage as being between a man and a woman. The court did not spell out its reasoning but issued a brief order that said opponents had not raised any substantial federal questions.

But Walker said prevailing legal doctrine has changed since 1972. He cited Supreme Court rulings since then that condemned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender and overturned state laws against homosexual conduct. Another central issue is whether Prop. 8 should be judged like laws that discriminate against historically persecuted groups. Courts generally overturn such laws unless government can show a compelling need for them.

Charles Cooper, lead attorney for Protect Marriage, noted that the Supreme Court has never categorized Gays and Lesbians as a persecuted group, entitled to the same legal protection as racial and religious minorities. That means Prop. 8 must be upheld if voters had any rational basis for approving it, he said. He cited several grounds for such a finding - the traditional definition of marriage, the ability of opposite-sex couples to conceive children naturally, and the voters' decision to wait and see how same-sex marriages work out in other states before allowing them in California.

But Walker said federal courts haven't resolved the standard for judging laws that treat heterosexuals and homosexuals differently. The answer, he said, could be determined by testimony on such topics as how much political power Gays and Lesbians hold and to what degree they are discriminated against. Even if it's rational for the state to promote marriage among opposite-sex couples, the judge asked Cooper, how would that goal be impeded by allowing same-sex couples to wed? "The answer is, I don't know," the attorney replied. But he said it doesn't matter, because it's up to Prop. 8's opponents to show that the law is irrational.

Congressman Sorry For Saying 'Pansy'

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PHOENIX (Observer Update) - U.S. congressman Jeff Flake, who said that his motivation for vacationing alone in the Marshall Islands was to feel less like a "pansy," has apologized for his choice of language, advocate.com reported.

Flake, an Arizona Republican, talked with CNN's Wolf Blitzer about why he decided to spend a week by himself in deserted conditions. "I did it mostly for physical exertion," Flake told Blitzer. "I love Teddy Roosevelt's speech he gave on the strenuous life." Flake said that ever since he left his childhood ranch, "I've felt like a pansy, I guess, and this made it feel like I was actually doing something again."

Flake's spokesman, Matt Specht, e-mailed Ben Smith at Politico.com to clarify the statement. "Congressman Flake didn't realize that that word can have a negative connotation," Specht wrote to Smith. "He simply meant 'wimpy.' He apologizes if anyone took offense to it."

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UPDATE

TGLBTCC Breakfast Meeting November 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The November breakfast meeting of the Tucson Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Chamber of Commerce will take place Thursday, November 19, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., at the Hotel Tucson City Center Conference Suite Resort (formerly Inn Suites), 475 N. Granada Ave.

The program, is a Town Meeting: An Action Plan to Promote Economic Development in Our Community, Chair: City Councilman Rodney Glassman. The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee is putting this forum together as part of its mission to provide leadership in the business community on local government issues.

RSVP by Monday, November 16, noon (any member who RSVP's after this day will be charged $20), 615-6436 or info@tucsonglbtchamber.org.

Desert Voices Concert Nov. 14-15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - There are still tickets available for the upcoming Desert Voices November 14 and 15 performances (season tickets as well), so it's not too late to get great entertainment by your favorite non-profit chorus at a gonga price - one ticket for $15/two for $25 - and you will be supporting a local business, important in difficult economic times. (Season tickets are one for $50/two for $100 - also a gonga deal!)

Check out the website at desertvoices.org to purchase your tickets on line through Brown Paper Tickets (a very secure internet site), call the Desert Voices Box Office at 791-9662 to purchase via mastercard or visa, or mail your check (made out to Desert Voices) to PO Box 270, Tucson 85702-0270. See how easy it is?!

Performances will be held at the Proscenium Theatre, West Pima Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road - 7:30 pm on the 14th and 3:00 pm on the 15th. Join Desert Voices as the chorus pays tribute to memorable musicals from Broadway and Tinseltown in Up-staged! Divas and Mis(s)Leading Men. See you at the theatre!

Mutual-Commitment Registry Sought In Mesa

MESA (Observer Update) - When Stephanie Zinn rushed her partner, Meta Goforth-Zinn, to an East Valley emergency room, hospital staff asked Stephanie to call Meta's family. Stephanie said, "I am her family." But no one would listen to her until she produced a medical power of attorney document giving her the right to be at the bedside of her longtime Lesbian partner, the East Valley Tribune.

"Before she brought that piece of paper, Stephanie got absolutely pushed out of the room," Meta said. "It was basically a case of 'Who are you?' and 'Get out of here.' " To Goforth-Zinn, that incident was a reminder that people in relationships like hers, many of whom don't have such papers handy, can have a hard time with visitation rights in hospitals and the right to make medical decisions for their loved ones.

That's why the Queen Creek couple is in full support of ongoing discussions, in a fledgling stage at this point, about instituting a mutual-commitment registry in Mesa. The registry, as envisioned by proponent Denise Heap, chairwoman of the East Valley LGBTQs for Change organization, would allow for hospital visitation rights and the right for a registered individual to be able to make medical decisions for a partner. The group is pushing for such a registry in Mesa, but it also plans to expand efforts to other East Valley cities. Heap said her organization chose to approach Mesa first because it would be the "hardest because of the conservative demographics."

At this point, the registry is just in the discussion stage. No policy has been written. At its Oct. 28 meeting, Mesa's Human Relations Advisory Board is expected to vote on whether there should be an open forum for community members to speak on the issue. Goforth-Zinn said a registry would be less expensive than the legal document she and her partner had to file. Their powers of attorney and living wills, among other documents, altogether cost them $3,000.

"Why not make that license cheap, as cheap as anyone with a marriage license, so anyone can do it?" said Goforth-Zinn, communications and field coordinator for Equality Arizona. The registry envisioned by Heap would allow people to register with the city by paying a nominal fee and could be used when they go to the hospital to show that they are in a relationship. It would be modeled after the mutual-commitment registry in Salt Lake City, where it's also used by private companies to verify a relationship when offering benefits to domestic partners. Heap, who also serves on Mesa's human relations board, said her group wants the registry to also include "seniors, straight people, people with family members over 21, anyone." Goforth-Zinn and Heap say that increasingly, committed relationships or living situations are falling outside the realm of marriage. "It's unfair to not be able to do these things without the benefit you automatically get with marriage," Heap said. Heap's also interested in initiating a nondiscrimination ordinance in Mesa, which would make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. "Taking these steps would make more people feel comfortable buying homes and spending money in Mesa," Heap said.

The discussions, still within the confines of the advisory board and a subcommittee, were prompted by an initial proposal early this year by Councilman Dennis Kavanaugh to explore the option of a domestic-partner registry. That idea came after the Phoenix City Council passed such a registry, which has been in effect since February and had 212 registrations. Mesa was barraged with e-mails and messages opposed to the registry when Kavanaugh brought it up. He said he still supports that idea and hopes it comes before the City Council. There are areas of medical facilities where only immediate family members are admitted, like ICUs, so that's where a registry helps unmarried couples, Gay or straight, he said. He had proposed calling it a domestic-partner registry, but he said he wouldn't mind if it was called "mutual-commitment registry," as was done in Salt Lake City, if that makes it more palatable to the community. But he isn't as sure about including the right to make medical decisions, though he says the idea has merit. "Let's work with what's been accepted by other communities first," Kavanaugh said. Mesa Mayor Scott Smith said it's too soon to comment on the issue, but he'd be interested to see what the board comes up with. "I know there are other registries around, but I'm still wondering if there's a real issue that needs to be addressed and if it's something government needs to solve or individuals can solve it," Smith said.

OBSERVER

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Tucson LGBT.Com 2009 Halloween Dash for EON

Tucson Observer Archive

TUCSON (Observer Update) - There's an old saying that says, "The early bird gets the worm", well, in this case two local LGBT organizations Eon and Wingspan rose to the occasion and their worm came in the shape of a 700 item shopping spree at a local Dollar Tree store. With ideas of necessities in their heads, Eon Youth group members as well as Eon Youth Program Director Khara Ellasante and Youth Outreach Specialist Kevin Jackson came prepared to conquer the store and stock up on supplies that this local LGBT organization so desperately needed.

The timer was set and the "Dashers" had exactly 30 minutes to shop to their hearts content. Among necessities for the shopping spree were hygiene products, cooking, and office supplies. But, with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, party supplies were also priorities on their minds in order to ensure that they could provide their deserving local youth with celebrations to remember this holiday season. As the wild round of shopping came to a close, nearly half a dozen Dollar Tree store carts were overfilled past the brim. The timed shopping spree had came to a close and 500 items ($500 dollars) were accumulated. A Tucson LGBT.Com representative realized that more than a cart and a half of supplies had yet to be rung up at the cash register.

Keeping the flow of generosity going, it was announced that there would be a "Bonus Round" that would ensure all the extra items would also be included in the shopping spree and allow the three (3) Eon Youth Group members to each fill three more empty carts with an additional 50ea items ($50 dollars worth) of merchandise. This would give them the opportunity to tie up any loose ends and grab all the last minute supplies the Eon Youth Group sorely needed since facing recent budget cuts.

The timer was set once again for 10 minutes, a Tucson LGBT representative announced, "READY SET GO!", and the Eon Youth Group Members blasted off to conquer the aisles once again. Three more shopping carts were filled up again and it was time to do the final ring up at the register. The gracious staff at the Dollar Tree location at Grant and 1st Avenue worked diligently to ring up the badly needed items, all while providing their regular clientele with assistance as well, showcasing the kind of superior service the staff at TucsonLGBT.com have come to enjoy and appreciate in their charity events.

When all was said and done, 45 minutes of shopping later, 6 super sized carts filled to overflowing, and a cash register receipt over 8 feet long, eveeyone was all smiles! With the help of TucsonLGBT.com this Halloween is sure to be one long remembered by the local LGBT organizations Eon and Wingspan.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

White House Says No To Anti-G/L Referenda

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - In response to an inquiry from The Advocate, the White House issued the following statement regarding President Barack Obama's position on same-sex relationship recognition voter referenda in Maine and Washington, advocate.com reported.

"The President has long opposed divisive and discriminatory efforts to deny rights and benefits to same-sex couples, and as he said at the Human Rights Campaign dinner, he believes 'strongly in stopping laws designed to take rights away.' Also at the dinner, he said he supports, 'ensuring that committed Gay couples have the same rights and responsibilities afforded to any married couple in this country.'"

Maine's Question 1 asks voters whether to overturn a law that legalized same-sex marriage earlier this year; Washington's Referendum 71 asks voters to affirm or repeal a law passed earlier this year that expands domestic-partnership rights for same-sex couples and some senior couples. Voters in both states will weigh in on the measures November 3.

The White House statement could help LGBT activists fighting to defeat Maine's anti Gay measure, as Obama's approval ratings continue to flourish there – a new poll this month found that 58% of Maine voters approve of the president's job performance. A late September poll put his approval ratings in Washington slightly lower, at 53%.

President Obama supports civil unions over full marriage equality for same-sex couples, but he has increasingly walked a fine line on the issue now that six states have legalized same-sex marriage. The president has also said that he believes states should have the right to determine the question of marriage, and as such he supports full repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing legal same-sex marriages. His administration, however, continues to defend the law in the courts.

IBT'S
Tucson's #1 Gay Club
Event Calendar
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HALLOWEEN

Saturday October, 31st

Join us for the Best Halloween Party in Tucson!

*Drag Show at 8:30pm Hosted by Bunny Fu Fu

*DJ Hurricane Spinning Inside at 10pm

*DJ Mike Lopez on the Patio at 10pm

*COSUME CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT!

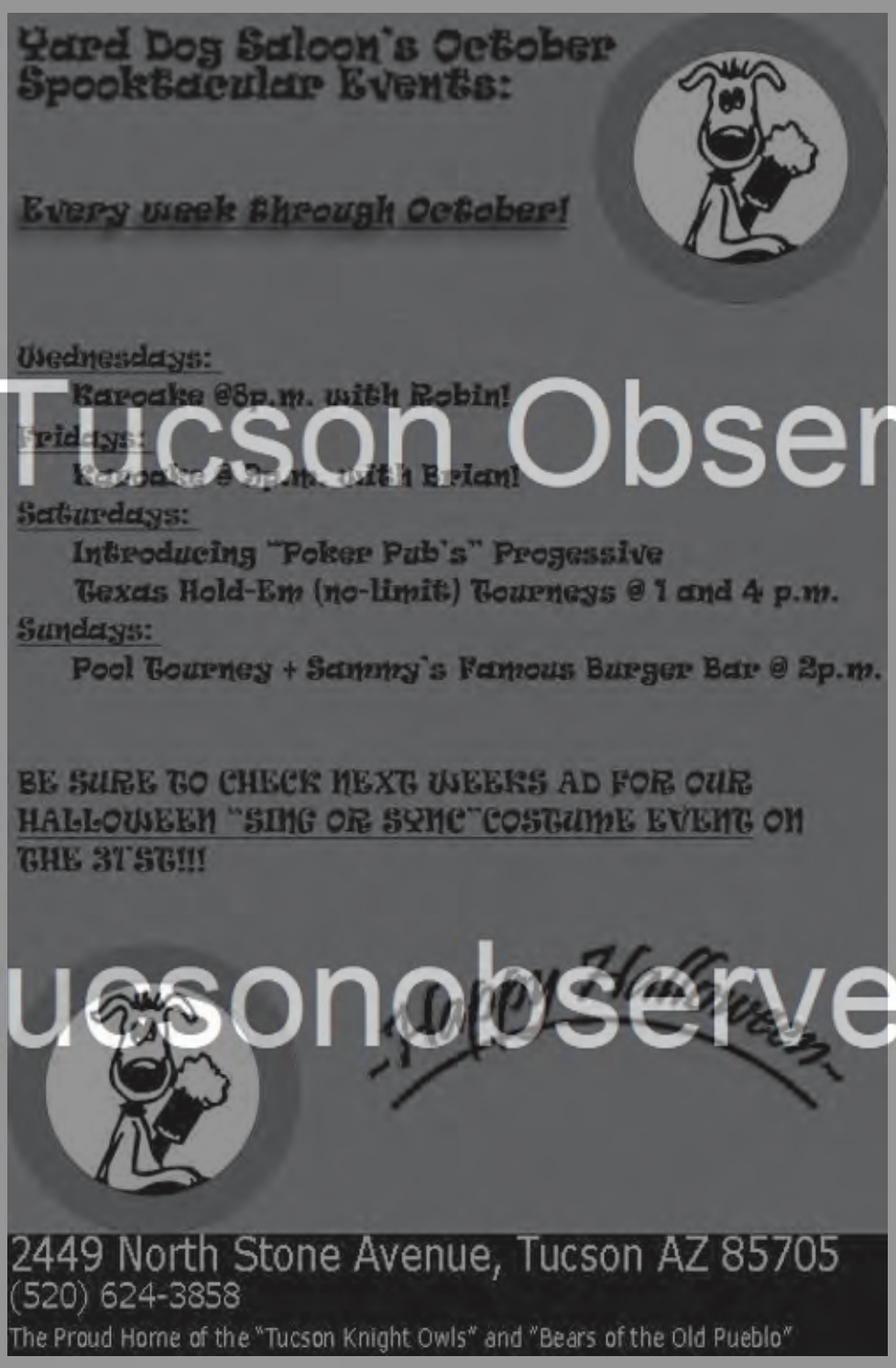
1ST PLACE=$1,000.00 CASH

2ND PLACE=$200.00 CASH

3RD PLACE=$100.00 CASH

ARRIVE EARLY TO AVOID THE LINES & TO SIGN UP FOR THE COSTUME CONTEST BY 11PM!

$5.00 COVER STARTS AT 9PM



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DP Benefits Bill Sails Through Hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Senate hearing on the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, which would extend benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees, included three friendly senators, three friendly witnesses, and no opposition, advocate.com reported.

"Senator Collins and I introduced this bill because we believe it is the fair and right thing to do and also because we think it makes sense – practical sense – for the federal government as an employer, particularly as we approach a generational change in the federal work force that will see the retirement of approximately one third of all federal employees," said Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an independent from Connecticut, who is the lead sponsor of the bill and also chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee where the hearing took place.

Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican who is chief cosponsor of the bill and the ranking member of the committee, and Sen. Daniel Akaka, a Democrat from Hawaii, both offered supportive statements for the bill.

Testifying on behalf of the bill's passage were out U.S. representative Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat, who introduced the bill in the House; John Berry, the highest-ranking LGBT Obama official and director of the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the federal government's nearly 1.9 million employees; and Dr. William Hendrix, chair of Dow Chemical Co.'s LGBT affinity group.

Berry's testimony stressed the competitive disadvantage of not offering domestic-partner benefits, especially as the federal government recruits a new generation of workers. He said new graduates today are using domestic-partner benefits as one of their "litmus tests" for where they want to work. "So this is not just important to the LGBT community, this is important so that we can be competitive in hiring kids out of colleges and graduate schools today," he said. Despite the dismal economy, he added, the federal government still has dire hiring shortages, especially of engineers, nurses, and veterinarians. The two main points of interest they addressed that could be used as arguments against the bill were the cost of offering same-sex partner benefits, and whether some federal employees might fraudulently claim people as their domestic partner.

Hendrix said Dow Chemical, which has offered domestic-partner benefits to both straight and Gay couples since 2002, has not found a single case of domestic-partner fraud since inception of the policy. Berry added that at the federal level, fraud would carry a criminal penalty. In terms of the bottom line, Berry called the cost of adding same-sex domestic-partner benefits "negligible." "The total cost of the entire implementation of this program equates to about two tenths of 1% of the entire cost of our federal health insurance program," he said.

Berry also pledged that the program overhaul within OPM would save the government enough money in the short term to make the benefits program deficit-neutral. "I can assure you today that the efficiencies and the program reforms that we intend to put in place that will benefit our federal employee retirees will more than offset the cost of the programs over the life of this administration," he said.

Lieberman said that the committee intended to mark up the bill sometime in November or December, and "then take it up sometime early next year" on the Senate floor.

The companion bill in the House has already had a hearing, been marked up, and passed out of committee. Whether the legislation will be voted on by the full House before the end of year is still in question.

Stimulus Funds To Aid In HIV Fight

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - New York University's Langone Medical Center has been awarded more than $30 million in research grants from the National Institutes of Health for 86 research projects being conducted at the NYU School of Medicine across a broad range of basic science and clinical departments, reported HIV Plus Magazine. The funding for these grants is part of the $5 billion of federal money provided for critical research projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Fund, often referred to as the economic stimulus package.

"Given the intense competition by scientists for funding at many respected institutions, the grants we've been awarded are a true testament to the quality of the investigators and their research here at the Medical Center," says Vivian Lee, MD, Ph.D., MBA, senior vice president and vice dean for science, at the NYU Langone Medical Center. "We appreciate the federal government's enhanced commitment to research and look forward to translating its investment to important discoveries that advance science and health care and also help the economy."

The funding will support ongoing efforts to advance science from the lab to the patient to the community. With these grants, researchers at NYU Langone Medical Center will expand their work in fields such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, immunology, Alzheimer's, among many others. "We are pleased to receive this funding from NIH and the government to extend our research initiatives as we work to push the boundaries of discovery and identify new ways to diagnose, treat and ultimately eradicate disease," says Robert I. Grossman, MD, dean and chief executive of NYU Langone Medical Center. "I want to congratulate all the scientists and doctors whose projects have received funding and to commend them for helping to raise the bar on research."

The new grants continue the steady rise in funding that NYU Langone Medical Center has received through the NIH, which topped $122 million in 2008.

$2.7 Million Raised For Marriage In Maine

AUGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - The organization spearheading the push to keep same-sex marriage legal in Maine has raised $2.7 million from 12,000 donors, reported advocate.com. No on 1/ Protect Maine Equality announced that nearly half of the money has come from Maine residents. The numbers came from third-quarter filings, which covered the period between July 6 and September 30.

"What we've seen is that as more and more people have focused on Maine, more and more people have wanted to participate, whether that's writing a check or staffing a phone bank," No on 1 campaign manager Jesse Connolly said in a statement.

According to other figures, the average online donation was $95.45. On-the-street donations averaged out to $17.25. Only three out of 29 fund-raising events in the third quarter occurred out of the state, in Miami, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

New TIHAN Director Of Education And Community Relations Announced

Natalie Brown

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) is pleased to announce the addition of staff member Natalie Brown, who will be serving as its Director of Education and Community Relations.

Natalie is a University of Arizona graduate with a degree in molecular and cellular biology. She has a passion for public health and has been involved in AIDS education efforts in the United States, Mexico, and Tanzania, as a volunteer with Support for International Change and the United Methodist Church. She currently serves on the United Methodist Church's Desert Southwest AIDS Task Force and assists with Strength for the Journey, a retreat for individuals living with HIV and their care givers. Natalie is thrilled to make the transition from TIHAN volunteer to staff member and is excited to work more closely with TIHAN's wonderful education volunteers.

In her role as Director of Education and Community Relations, Natalie coordinates HIV/AIDS awareness and education programs, including developing HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention materials for faith communities, trainings for volunteers, working closely with liaisons and congregations, and building relationships with other agencies, service providers, and the general community.

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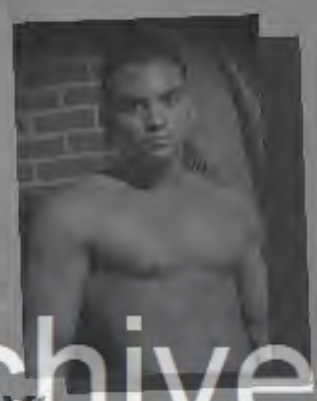
Woody's

The Wett Party
Saturday Oct 24th 8PM
Starring Gunner Pierce
Shows at 10:30PM and 12:30PM
Hot Dancers - XXX Giveaways



Woody's Halloween Xtravaganza
Saturday Oct 31st
Hottest Costume Contest In Tucson 11:30PM
$250 1st Place
$150 2nd Place
$50 3rd Place

Coming UP:

Friday November 6th
Woody's 10th Anniversary
Gala Party
With The Best Drink Special Tucson's Seen In Years
Saturday November 7th
Meow Mix 8PM With Live Girl Dancers and Drink Specials
ALSO,
From Her National Tour Joanna
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Candidates For New HIV Meds Found

PITTSBURGH, PA (Observer Update) - While studying an HIV protein that plays an essential role in AIDS progression, researchers at the University of Pittsburgh school of medicine have discovered compounds that show promise as novel treatments for the disease, reported HIV Plus Magazine. Anti-HIV drug discovery efforts have met with little success in finding compounds that interact with an important HIV virulence factor, called Nef, because it lacks biochemical activity that can be directly measured, explains Thomas E. Smithgall, Ph.D., in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics, and the senior author of the paper, which was published in the early, online version of ACS Chemical Biology.

To get around that problem, Smithgall's team developed an assay to measure Nef function indirectly by coupling it to another protein, called Hck, which Nef activates in HIV-infected cells. Because Hck activity can be easily measured, the investigators were able to use it as a reporter for Nef activity in an automated high-throughput screening process. In collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh Drug Discovery Institute, they screened a library of 10,000 chemical compounds against the coupled proteins to see which ones influenced Nef-induced activation of Hck. After further testing, they confirmed that three compounds inhibited the activity of the Nef-Hck complex and, more importantly, all of them also interfered with HIV replication. One compound was so effective that it suppressed HIV replication to undetectable levels in cell culture experiments.

"So we now have a way to rapidly and efficiently screen for inhibitors of Nef signaling through Hck," Smithgall says. "But the surprise was that some of those inhibitors also showed strong antiviral activity in cell culture models." There is evidence that people infected with HIV variants that have mutations in the Nef gene take substantially longer to develop disease symptoms or AIDS, he says. In animal models, disrupting the production of Nef from the virus or its interaction with Hck also delays or prevents disease symptoms. The next challenge for the researchers will be to determine whether these compounds also interfere with progression of AIDS-like disease in animal models by blocking Nef function.

"Most current therapies for HIV infection use drugs that interfere with the function of viral enzymes such as reverse transcriptase or with the interaction of the virus and the host cell," Smithgall says. "Targeting Nef represents an entirely new approach that could be useful to deal with issues such as drug-resistant HIV strains, and may slow the progression to AIDS." He adds that Nef is just one of several so-called accessory proteins encoded by HIV that are important virulence factors in AIDS. Inhibitory compounds against some of the others might be revealed using a similar coupled protein approach for high throughput screening.

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Why Iowa Is Targeting Theme Park-Loving Californians

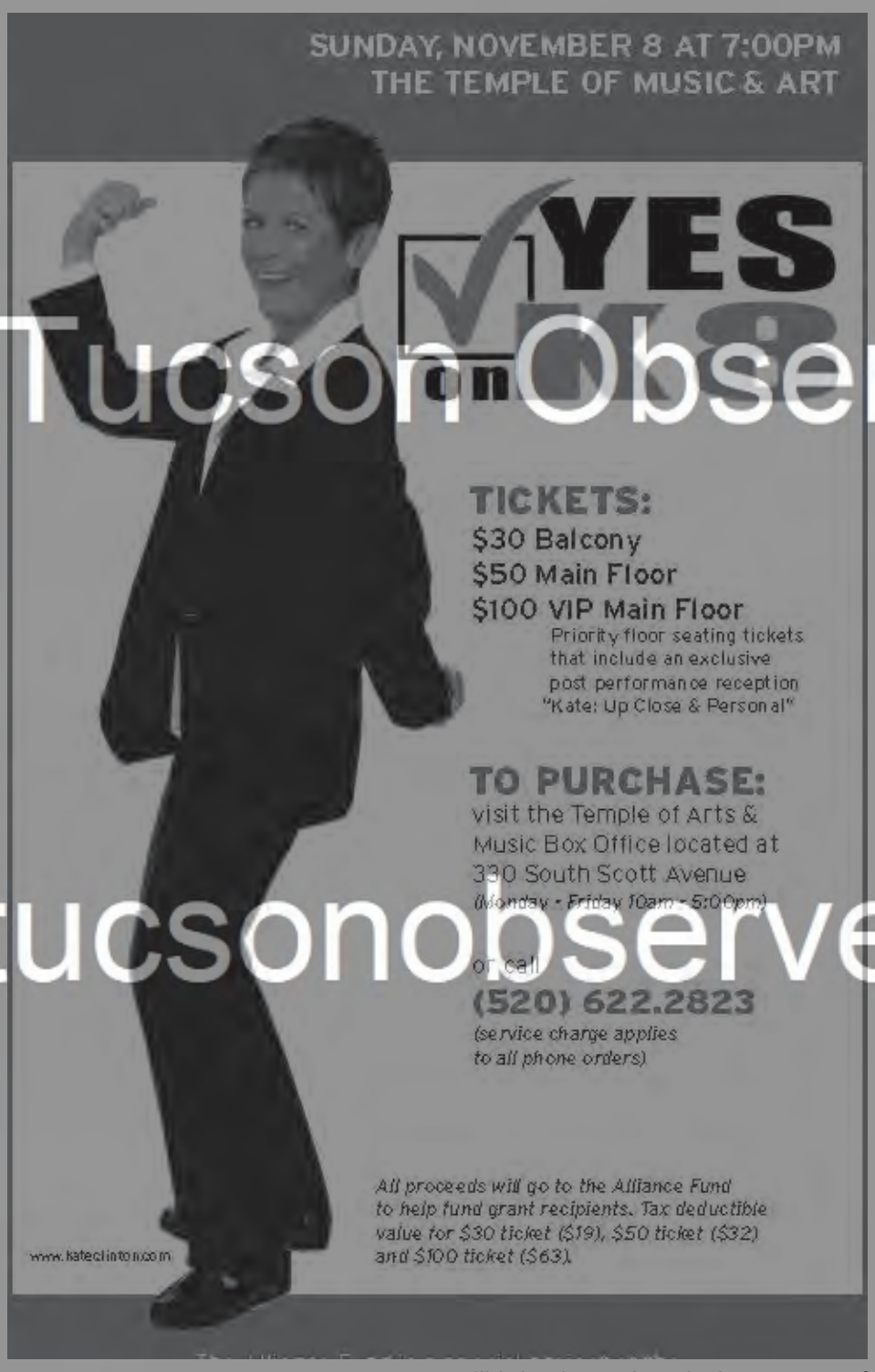
DES MOINES, IA (Observer Update) - Legal Gay marriage is good for state and local economies in so many ways. It's a boon to the party planning and florist business. It attracts progressive business and their tax dollars, reported queerty.com.

Oh, and it's also great for tourism! Not only can states like Connecticut and Massachusetts encourage "marriage tourism," where visitors drop by to get a marriage license before heading home, but states like Iowa are going one step further: Lobbying residents of anti-Gay states to move there full time. That's why Iowa reps were at Gay Days at the Disneyland Resort in a vendor booth trying to convince Californians to head to a land that welcomes them.

Two representatives for three regional visitors bureaus flew out for the three-day Gay Days, when 30,000 partipants roll into town to attend Disneyland. Gay Days is not sponsored by nor discouraged by Disney. At the booth set up inside Disney's Grand Californian hotel, Gay and Lesbian couples sampled wedding cake and posed for photos inside a frame that read, "Just Married … In Iowa City!"

The Iowa representatives took the free photos and supplied the tuxedo jackets and bridal veils. They also handed out brochures touting Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Coralville, among other cities. They did not, however, have a good answer to the question, "Okay, but is it sunny and warm there 365 days a year?"

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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EDITORIAL

Cast Your Ballot With Pride For Tucson

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. Ward 3 Councilmember Karin Uhlich and War 6 Councilmember 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 with the monies taken in. 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.

Louisiana Fights To Keep Gay Dads Off Birth Certificate

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - Two Gay dads who successfully sued the state of Louisiana for refusing to put both fathers' names on the birth certificate of their adopted son are now fighting an appeal by the state to overturn the ruling, reported advocate.com.

Lambda Legal attorney Kenneth Upton argued before a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. circuit court of appeals Wednesday on behalf of the couple, Oren Adar and Mickey Ray Smith, whose son was born in Shreveport, La., in 2005 and later adopted in New York in 2006. The family now lives in San Diego, Calif.

Though Louisiana issues birth certificates for children adopted by out-of-state parents, the state's Registrar of Vital Statistics only allows a single person or a married couple to be listed on the certificate. Upton argued that a refusal to recognize both parents in the New York adoption is in violation of the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution.

In December, a U.S. district judge ruled in favor of Lambda and ordered the registrar to honor the adoption by including both men's names on the birth certificate. The Louisiana attorney general's office appealed the decision. Louisiana attorney general appellate chief Kyle Duncan argued that the state should not be forced to issue a birth certificate that violates Louisiana adoption law, the New Orleans Times-Picayune reports.

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

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

H. R, 3827

On Thursday, October 15, one of many proposed pieces of legislation was introduced into the U.S. Congress, specifically in the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 3827, is the bill number, known by the title "The Every Child Deserves a Family Act," which would cut off federal funding for any entity, such as a state program or an agency, that receives federal assistance for adoption or foster care placements but does not comply with the nondiscrimination policies set forth in the legislation.

Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, today introduced H.R. 3827, the "Every Child Deserves a Family Act."

"It is unacceptable that states are denying children healthy, loving homes simply because of a potential parent's sexual orientation or marital status," said Rep. Stark. "The Every Child Deserves a Family Act ensures that the best interests of children are the only criteria for finding adoptive and foster parents."

Currently Utah, Florida, Arkansas, Nebraska, and Mississippi all have laws that explicitly ban or restrict adoptions by same-sex parents, and a dozen or so more states are considering or have considered similar laws.

"The states have a right to their own laws, but they don't have a right to federal money," Congressman Stark said in an interview. "Morality is hard to legislate, control of money is a lot easier."

In the same interview, Congressman Stark added that the issue goes well beyond state laws and, in some cases, same-sex parent adoptions are denied or delayed by individual agencies, judges, or social workers.

Over 129,000 children are awaiting an adoptive home or permanent placement, and there is a shortage of adoptive and foster parents. Those who never find a permanent family – about 25,000 a year who "age out" of the system – are more likely than nearly any other group to become homeless, incarcerated, or suffer with mental illness or substance abuse. Despite this shortage of adoptive and foster parents and the terrible consequences of long stays in the child welfare system, some states have enacted discriminatory bans prohibiting children from being placed with qualified parents due to the parent's marital status or sexual orientation.

Nearly all mainstream organizations that advocate for children, including the Child Welfare League of America, the American Psychological Association, and the American Bar Association all support adoption and foster parenting by qualified unmarried and gay and lesbian parents.

HR. 3827 currently has no cosponsors, is modeled after the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA), passed in 1994, which prohibits racial discrimination in foster care and adoption placements. H.R. 3827 was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Theatre Updates

by Jack Melichar

This is going to be a busy week for theatre in Tucson. the Arizona Theatre Company opens with GEORGE IS DEAD and Studio Connections opens with ANGELS IN AMERICA both on Friday the 23rd.

GEORGE IS DEAD, a new comedy by acclaimed writer and director Elaine May which will be performed at the Temple of Music and Art at 330 Scott Ave. Marlo Thomas plays Doreen, the socialite wife of a right-wing Republican named George, played by Don Murray. On her way to a fundraiser, driven by a possibly illegal immigrant, she ends up at the home of a former employee and her left-wing husband. How? Why? Do they kill her? Reject her? Adopt her? Is George really dead? Arizona audiences will have to see this comedy by the award-winning writer of The Birdcage, Primary Colors and Heaven Can Wait to find out! For ticket information, call (520) 622-2823.

ANGELS IN AMERICA. I am always delighted to discover a theatre of which I am unaware as occurred when I participated in the recent Aids Walk Someone handed me a post card advertising Studio Connections located at 9071 E. Old Spanish Trail. But better yet, it advertised an upcoming production of ANGELS IN AMERICA part one Millennium which previews on October 22nd and opens on the 23rd. Since its opening on Broadway in 1993, the play has been making headlines by winning two Tony Awards for "Best Play", two Drama Desk Awards for "Outstanding Play," the London Drama Critics Award for Best New Play, and a Pulitzer Prize for drama.

It deals with relationships and interactions between lovers, married couples, parents, friends and colleagues while dealing with illness (read that as aids), divorce, religion, secrets and lies. The beauty of this piece is how it shows that regardless of beliefs or moral standings, we all have to battle the same demons. Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose – but it is never as simple as it seems. The play is prophetic and profane. Consequently, the audience can view this fantastical diorama allowing them to see different versions of themselves and perhaps come to a better understanding of not only themselves, but those around them. For ticket information, call (520) 731-1889 or go online to brownpapertickets.com. I will review the plan in next week's Observer. Note: Angels in America deals with mature themes, and may not be appropriate for children under 16.

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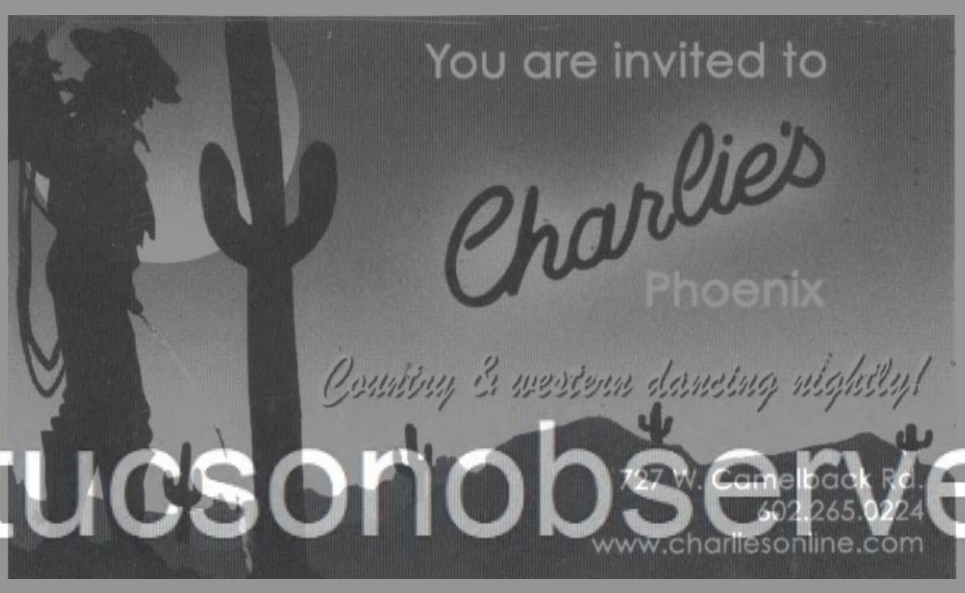

COMMENTARY. . . .

Kevin Jennings Is Highly Qualified For His Job

Kevin Jennings

By Joan Garry

Kevin Jennings is an Assistant Deputy Secretary in the Department of Education and he runs the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. His credentials and his commitment to student safety are impeccable.

Anyone who tells you that Kevin Jennings is not qualified for his job:

1. Is a big ol' homophobe
2. Is not looking after the best interests of students in America
3. Is looking out for the interests of a party working to position President Obama's support for Gay equality as something other than personal commitment to social justice and his efforts to create a more perfect union
4. Is part of an effort to fire someone based on his sexual orientation.

Shame on the 53 Republican Congressmen who have signed a letter asking for Kevin Jennings' head on a silver platter. They have started a witch hunt. Van Jones was first. Now Kevin Jennings. I'm sure there is a list.

There. I've said it. For those of you who read my posts here, you know me to be fairly measured in my points of view. Today I don't feel measured.

I am mad. But I am going to take a deep breath and step back.

OK. The vast majority of Americans don't really believe that there are 29 states in which a Gay or Lesbian person can be fired no questions asked simply because of their sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation). This is why the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is so important.

And let's not forget the U.S. military. You get fired there too if they find out you are Gay. It used to be that the military could hunt you out - now it is a kinder, gentler hunt. They call it "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

So let's just call it out for what it is. 53 Republican members of Congress are trying to get Kevin Jennings fired based on his sexual orientation. And that should enrage everyone regardless of their sexual orientation.

Kevin Jennings is highly qualified for this position. For twenty years, his work has been about the safety of kids in schools. He is hard wired as an advocate for those who are bullied - because they are Gay, because they are perceived to be Gay, because they are other, because they are perceived to be less than. Because they listen to kids use the word "Gay" as a pejorative on the playground and feel threatened. Because for whatever reason, the kids who are bullied are second-class citizens in what can be a very rough neighborhood. And how easy is it to connect the dots between low self-esteem and drug abuse.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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COMMENTARY

(Continued from Page Eight)

And you don't have to take my word for it. You could take a look at the very long list of education organizations that threw their support behind Kevin for this appointment - The National Association of School Psychologists, Learning First Alliance, National Education Association, National Association of Secondary School Principals, The Council for Exception Children and the Social Workers Association of America.

And oh, by the way, did the New York Times reach out to a single one of these education experts at the organizations listed above for any balance in its story this morning. I'll save you the trouble. No they did not.

Kevin Jennings and the leaders of these organizations endorsed Kevin have something in common. They care about the well being of kids.

Therein lies the difference. The 53 Republicans say they care about kids. But they care about politics. They care about creating a witch hunt because they have so very few other cards to play.

It's wrong. And it's scary. Witch hunts have a long rich history here in America and around the globe. A very ugly history.

(Joan Garry is a contributor to the Huffington Post from which this commentary is reprinted.)

Utah Governor Meets With LGBT Rights Groups

SAL LAKE CITY, UT (Observer Update) - Governor Gary Herbert met with two LGBT rights groups, the AP reported in On Top Magazine. It is the first time Herbert has spoken to the groups since publicly declaring he opposes legislation that would make it illegal to discriminate against Gay and Transgender people.

"Where do you stop? That's the problem going down that slippery road. Pretty soon we're going to have a special law for blue-eyed blondes. We don't have to have a rule for everyone to do the right thing. We ought to just do the right thing because it's the right thing to do and we don't have to have a law that punishes us if we don't," Herbert told reporters during his first monthly KUED news conference in August.

Both Equality Utah and the Foundation for Reconciliation requested to meet with the governor after he delivered his remarks. The groups say the governor is against discrimination and willing to discuss options. "Fundamentally, he agrees that discrimination is a problem. We're coming at this from how to solve a problem we agree on. That's a great place to begin," Will Carlson, public policy director for Equality Utah, told the news service.

Herbert, who ascended to the governor's mansion after President Obama tapped Governor Jon Huntsman as Ambassador to China, initially made his remarks in response to a proposed Gay protections bill in Salt Lake City. Huntsman backed a failed effort last year to extend some rights to Gay men and lesbians in the state.

Herbert insists he's opposed to discrimination, and both groups described him as welcoming and open. "He is not, obviously, in favor of any discrimination of any group," Angie Welling, a spokeswoman for the governor, said in a statement. "The question he has is: Should government intervene in that situation and in what way? It's not a secret to anyone that Governor Herbert tends to favor limited government in all cases."

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LGBT Group Works To Shut Down Homophobic Bar Owner

LOUISVILLE, KY (Observer Update) - The Louisville, Kentucky-based LGBT group Fairness Campaign is working to put a local bar out of business after its owner drove out customers using homophobic and racist slurs, WHAS reports:

Members of the Fairness Campaign, along with other LGBT groups, spent the day handing out fliers, trying to convince people not to go to Woody's Tavern because of an alleged incident two weeks ago, reported towleroad.com.

Chris Hartman, Fairness Campaign says,"Woody's Tavern owner David Norton chased all of his customers out of the bar. As he did he yelled an anti-Gay slur at them calling them all 'trashy faggots' and then referring to a group of African American patrons in his bar he said 'look at the color of their skin you know what's on the tip of my tongue.' It's not the first time Woody's Tavern owner, David Norton, has been accused of making these kind of comments. In August, he issued a public apology for comments made over a year ago."

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Most Conn. G/L Marriages Are Out-Of-Staters

HARTFORD, CT (Observer Update) - Almost a year since Connecticut's marriage equality law took effect, more than 1,700 Gay and Lesbian couples have married in the state, reported advocate.com.

Figures from the state Department of Public Health vital statistics show that 75% of Connecticut's same-sex marriage licenses were issued to couples who live outside of the state.

Barbara Lowden, the assistant registrar of vital statistics for Greenwich, told the New Haven Register that only 16 of the 242 marriage licenses issued in the town went to in-state Gay couples. She said it's mostly because Greenwich is the first city New Yorkers hit when headed into the state.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Obama To Name Gay Ambassador

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Advocate has learned, according to an Administration official, that President Barack Obama intends to nominate David Huebner as the ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, reported advocate.com.

Huebner is a partner in the Shanghai law office of Sheppard Mullin Richter and Hampton and heads the firm's International Disputes practice and its China practice. He has also served as a mediator and arbitrator and specializes in dispute resolution. Huebner co-chaired the board of directors of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in 1997 and has served as legal counsel for the organization. He has also taught international business and intellectual property classes at the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law.

Huebner graduated from Yale Law School and received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University. Huebner is the first openly Gay person to be nominated to an ambassadorship in the Obama administration. If confirmed, he will become the third Gay man to hold such a post. James Hormel served as U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg during the Clinton administration, and Michael Guest was appointed by President George W. Bush as U.S. ambassador to Romania.

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Robert Hannah Gets Six Months For Assault That Killed Gay Man

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Robert Hannah, who last month pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault for the September 2008 assault on 27-year-old Tony Hunter near Washington D.C.'s Be-Bar, has been sentenced to just six months in jail, towleroad.com reported. Hannah claimed that Hunter made a sexual advance toward him which inspired him to punch Hunter to the ground. Hunter died of his injuries ten days later in the hospital.

The Washington Post reports: Before issuing his sentence, Judge Rafael Diaz acknowledged many of the letters written to the court from Gay rights groups and Hunter's family asking Diaz to sentence Hannah to the maximum 180 days.

During the hearing, Hannah told Hunter's mother, sister and stepfather – who sat in the front row wiping away tears – that he was sorry, although he never looked at the family and kept his eyes on Diaz. Diaz told Hannah that he was lucky that he wasn't charged with homicide. "You have to consider other options other than violence," Diaz said. "You could have done other [things] than punch or hurt someone." Before a marshal led Hannah away in handcuffs, Diaz also ordered him to pay $50 in court costs. "We drove 300 miles to see him get six months in jail for killing my son," said Hunter's stepfather, John Yarborough of Franklinton, N.C., Hunter's home town."

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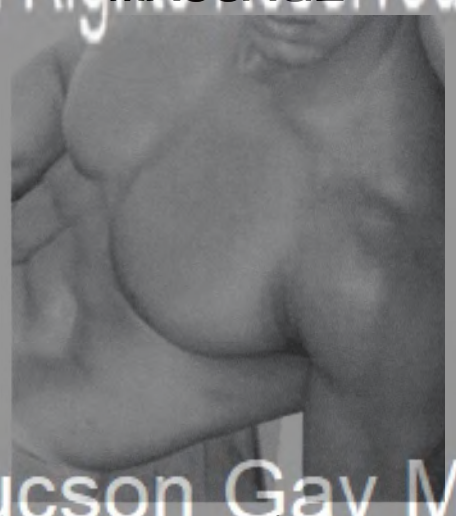
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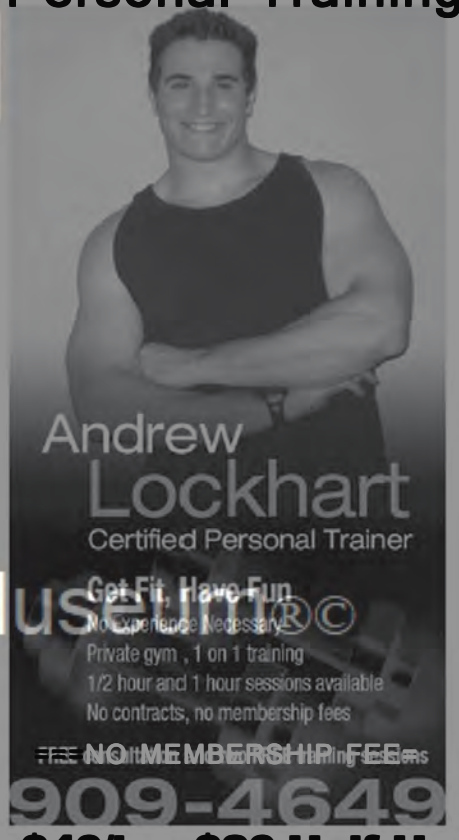

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Obama Letting Down Gays And Lesbians After Pledging Support

By Clarence Page

As if he didn't have enough headaches. President Barack Obama has to decide not only whether to deploy more troops to the war in Afghanistan but also whether Gays and Lesbians will be allowed to serve in it. Although confidential surveys show thousands are serving, officially homosexuals are still banned from military service unless they are willing to comply with a hastily constructed "don't ask, don't tell" policy that Congress passed in 1993. In short: Your superiors won't ask whether you're a Gay, Lesbian or bisexual as long as you stay in the closet.

How has it worked out? Worse for Gays and Lesbians in some ways than what they had before. As a candidate, Obama promised to be a fierce advocate for Gay rights in the fight to overturn "don't ask, don't tell." As president, he is still an advocate, but fierce? Not so much. In fact, not at all. Some of his supporters in the Gay rights community are getting mightily impatient. Maverick conservative and openly Gay blogger Andrew Sullivan eloquently endorsed Obama's candidacy, but you could not tell from his review of Obama's Saturday speech to the Human Rights Campaign, the world's largest Gay political group. "Much worse than I expected," he wrote on The Atlantic magazine's Web site. "(The president) failed every test" – by offering no specifics on key issues – "this speech was highfalutin bull (bleep)." (Censorship mine.)

I appreciate Sullivan's point. I used to think that allowing Gays in the military would weaken national security. I have since discovered how much our national security would be weakened without them. I was led to this view not so much by what military people have said but by what military commanders have done. The discharge numbers indicate that tolerance for Gays and Lesbians in the ranks actually rises sharply when the military is called upon to perform its primary mission, which is to fight wars.

Discharges under "don't ask, don't tell" doubled from 617 in 1994 to 1,273 in 2001, the Defense Department reports. But despite assertions by the Pentagon that nothing has changed, discharges under the "don't ask, don't tell" law took a nosedive after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led to new wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. By 2007 such discharges dropped sharply in half to 627. It even has become a challenge for some Gay personnel to get themselves discharged after revealing their homosexuality on purpose. Some who came out of the closet on purpose, like the famous case of Army Sgt. Darren Manzella, were told to get back in. Manzella, whose story was broadcast on 60 Minutes, served as an openly Gay soldier in Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, for more than two years before he was honorably discharged in 2008.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group formed in response to don't ask, don't tell, estimated more than 500 Gay troops are serving openly like Manzella. For their commanders, "don't ask, don't tell" apparently has become "look the other way and keep marching." Attitudes about equal rights for Gays appear to have evolved within the military as they have in the civilian world. A 2006 Zogby International poll found 73 percent of the military personnel were comfortable with the idea of serving with Gays and Lesbians. About one in four U.S. troops who served in Afghanistan or Iraq told Zogby pollsters they knew a member of their unit who was Gay.

Today's military and the reporters who cover them report a generation gap in the ranks on this issue. The older personnel are opposed to Gays and Lesbians serving openly. The younger ones tend not to think of the issue as a big deal either way. They have bigger issues to worry about. Or, as we used to say about racial integration when I was a Vietnam-era Army draftee, there are no bigots in foxholes. A group of 28 retired generals and admirals, including retired Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, issued a letter in late 2007 calling on Congress to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" act. Yet the firings continue.

Busy as he is on other issues, Obama owes at least a timetable for action on the big issues of concern to Gay and Lesbian communities that enthusiastically supported his election. The equal rights fight calls not only for outreach to opposing views but also leadership, commitment and action that spends some political capital. That's a tough call for any president, but as his predecessor might say, Obama is "the decider" now.

(Clarence Page is an award winning columnist for the Chicago Tribune, nationally syndicated writer, for which this article is reprinted from the Houston Chronicle.)

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Non-Bar Calendar

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.

Saturday & Sunday, November 14-15

Desert Voices Concert at the Prescenium Theatrre, West Pima Campus, 2202 W. Anklam Road, 7:30 p.m. on the 14th and 3:00 p.m. on the 15t. Join Desert Voices as the chorus pays tribute to memorable musicals from Broadway and Tinseltown in Upstaged! Divas and Mis(s)Leading men.

Thursday, November 19

The November breakfast meeting of the Tucson Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Chamber of Commerce will take place today at 9:00 a.m. at the Hotel Tucson City Center Conference Suite Resort (formerly Inn Suites), 475 N. Granada Ave. RSVP by Monday, November 16. 615-6436 or info@tucsonglbtchamber.org

Friday, November 20

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

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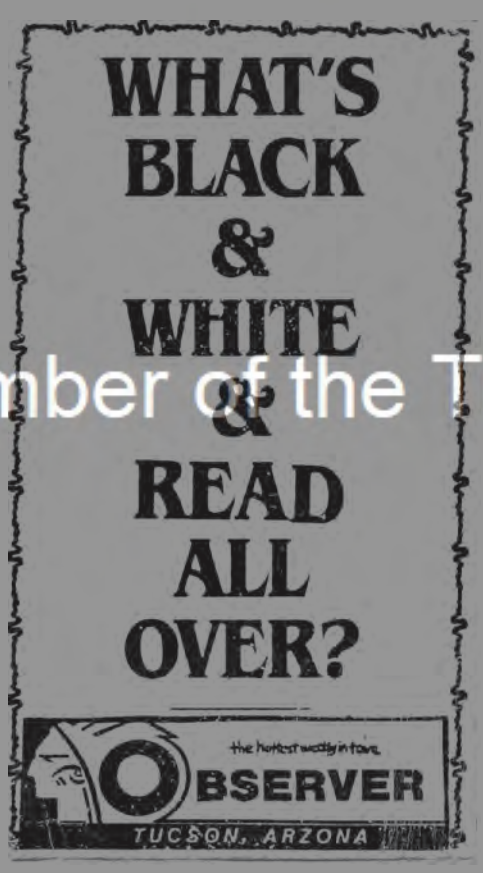

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Poet's Corner

ZERO'S

by Ron Rose - Tucson

They'll print some more money
So spend while you can
Enjoy it my dears
Til the shit hits the fan.
The zero's don't matter
So write some more checks,
The problem is simple, the answer complex.
The plastic invasion has us in it's grip
Just look at your balance, I'll bet it's a pip.
So spend all your money, tomorrow can wait
Today we must have it, the debt's not so great,
Enjoy all your pleasures, just go the last mile,
For when you count zero's, you ain't gonna smile.

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
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292-9151
www.wolmcc.org

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

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 256-8723.

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
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*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. .

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).

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. Y-Not Karaoke with Anna at 8:00 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.

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.

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".

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

Friday, October 23

THE BIZ - DIKE Party! Special coupons inside brochure. DJ Hill all night.

Saturday, October 24

COYOTE MOON - Tea Dance 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WOODY'S - 'Wett Party' begins at 8 p.m. Show starring Gunner Pierce at 10:30 and 12:30 with hot dancers and xxx give aways.

YARD DOG - Introducing "Poker Pub's" progressive Texas Hold-em (no limit). Tourneys at 1 and 4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27

IBT'S - 2nd annual 'Positively Beautiful' benefit show "Are You A Drag Star" showtime is 9:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres at 8pm. Hosted by Bunny FuFu. Have you got what it takes to be a dragstar? Ask your bartender for details.

Wednesday, October 28

THE BIZ - 18+ Halloween Party. $100 to the best costume.

Friday, October 30

THE BIZ - Desert View High School class of 1995 reunion fundraiser. $8 advance and $10 at the door.

Saturday, October 31

THE BIZ - HALLOWEEN!!! $500 to the best costume.

IBT'S - Big Halloween party here starts at 8:30 with a drag show hosted by Bunny FuFu, one DJ inside and one DJ outside at 10 p.m. Costume contest at midnight with $1,000 cash first place (yes one thousand!), $200 second place and $100 third place. Arrive early to avoid the lines and to sign up for the costume contest by 11 p.m. $5.00 cover starts at 9 p.m.

WOODY'S - Costume contest at 11:30 with $250 first place, $150 at second place with $50 third place.

Friday, November 6

WOODY'S - Woody's celebrating their 10th anniversary with a gala party and the best drink special that Tucson has seen in years.

Saturdy, November 7

WOODY'S - "Meow Mix" at s8 p.m. with live ggirl dancers and drink specials and from her national tour - Joanna_ the hottest comedy act ever. $5 Cover.

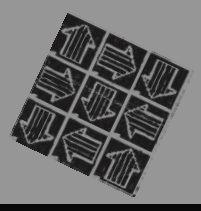
Trial Of Second Florida Gay Murder Suspect Begins

BARLOW, FL (Observer Update) - The trial of William David Brown, the second suspect accused of killing a 25-year-old Gay man, began in a Polk County, Florida courtroom, On Top Magazine reported. Jury selection ended and jurors will begin hearing testimony on Monday, October 26, theLedger.com reported.

Prosecutors allege Brown and co-defendant Joseph Bearden killed Ryan Keith Skipper, whose body was found abandoned by the side of the road with 19 cuts. Bearden was tried separately in February. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. During the trial, Associate Medical Examiner Vera Volnikh said a slash to the throat 3.5 inches deep killed Skipper, who quickly bled to death.

The coroner said it appeared as if Skipper attempted to fight off his attackers. Cuts found on the victim's hands, wrists and arms indicate he tried to block the knife. Some cuts were deeper than others, leaving the possibility that Skipper's 163-pound body blunted the blades of two knives. A woman made the ghastly discovery of Skipper's bloody body stabbed to death sitting on the side of a dirt road that leads to the small town of Wahneta in the early hours of March 14, 2007. Investigators first suggested that Skipper was killed because he made sexual advances towards one of the men. A claim friends, family and Gay rights groups decried as character assassinations.

Skipper's parents turned to Gay activism after the death of their son. Lynn Mulder, Skipper's stepfather, heads the Polk County chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG), a support group for Gay allies.



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Engineered T-Cell Trial Is The First

PHILADELPHIA, PA (Observer Update) - Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Adaptimmune Limited announced on October 8 the approval of an investigational new drug application from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and opening for enrollment of the first study using patients' cells carrying an engineered T-cell receptor to treat HIV. The trial could have important implications in the development of new treatments for HIV to potentially slow or even prevent the onset of AIDS, HIV Plus Magazine reported.

The trial makes use of the body's natural ability to recognize infected cells by enhancing the power of the T-cell receptor on killer T cells. When a virus infects cells, it hijacks the host cell machinery in order to replicate and spread infection. These infected cells then expose or "present" small parts of the virus proteins on their surface, offering a "molecular fingerprint" called an epitope for killer T cells from the immune system to identify. This triggers an immune response, eliminating the virus and any cells involved in its production. However, HIV not only replicates itself quickly on infection but also has the ability to mutate rapidly, swiftly disguising its fingerprints to allow it to hide from killer T-cells.

Researchers at the Oxford University spin-out Adaptimmune have spent a decade working on ways to improve the natural ability of the TCR to recognize infected and cancerous cells – a process that has involved remaking the natural TCR protein and then modifying its ability to bind to the molecular fingerprints of the affected cells. In 2008 with colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, they engineered and tested a killer T-cell receptor that can recognize all the different disguises HIV is known to have used to evade detection. The researchers transferred this receptor to the killer T cells to create genetically engineered "bionic assassins" able to destroy HIV-infected cells in culture. Now, less than a year later, they are taking their unique technology into the clinic.

"The immune system uses T cell receptors to find and trigger the elimination of infected cells", says Bent Jakobsen, MD, chief scientific officer at Adaptimmune Ltd. "HIV, however, poses an intractable challenge because it has a phenomenal ability to escape detection through mutation while the immune system is not able to adapt its T-cell receptors. Together with our colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania, we have previously shown that it is possible to engineer a T-cell receptor that detects the known spectrum of HIV escape mutants for this particular fingerprint and triggers a more potent immune response when transferred into a patient's cells. Today sees that important research result move into the clinic for the first time allowing us to test the power of super potent immune cells against HIV in reality."

Court In Spain Orders New Trial In Brutal Killing Of Gay Couple

VIGO, Spain - Back in March, a man who was acquitted of murder charges in the stabbing death of a Gay couple, blabbeando.com reported.

Jacobo Piñeiro Rial had spent the afternoon of January 12th of this year drinking at a Gay bar. At some point, he left the place with bartender Isaac Al Daní Pérez Triviño, and accepted an invite to Triviño's apartment. According to court testimony, the two spent the afternoon doing drugs. The pair didn't even leave the room after Triviño's partner, Julio Anderson Luciano, arrived with a couple of friends for dinner. Luciano's friends left, but Piñeiro stayed in the apartment with the couple. Something went horribly wrong and, according to forensic reports, the bloodbath began around 4am on the morning of the 13th and didn't end until 2 hours later.

Piñeiro, who argued that he wasn't Gay and that he'd panicked after the men had tried to sexually assault him, methodically took his time as he stabbed them 57 times. Forensic experts testified that he followed Luciano as the victim struggled to crawl out of a hallway into the living room, stabbing him 22 times as he went along. Once he'd killed the couple, he dumped clothes across the floor and on the bodies, dousing them with gasoline, and set everything afire. Astonishingly, despite the fact that Piñeiro spent a whole afternoon at a Gay bar and accepted an invite by a Gay bartender to go home with him, the jury that heard the case in March believed in the Gay panic defense and absolved Piñeiro of murder charges. Apparently, the jury would have set him free if it wasn't for the judge who stepped in to correct some jury 'errors' and sentenced him in setting the apartment on fire. The judge sentenced Piñeiro to 20 years in prison on the arson charges.

Understandably, there were protests. In Vigo, Madrid, New York and Berlin. The New York protest came at the calling of my friend Karlo. The outrage elicited by the acquittal led to demands that the court ruling be annulled. And this summer, the Superior Justice Tribunal of Galicia decided to take a look at the ruling and determine if it had been fair. Mincing no words, the Tribunal called the lower court ruling "defective, absurd, illogical and arbitrary"and ordered a new trial, according to El Pais. The Tribunal also dismissed petitions to reduce the sentence for setting the apartment on fire.

Asked by La Voz de Galicia how she felt about the announcement, Marta Pérez Triviño, Isaac's mother, said "I am very happy, although we have only won a battle but we have yet to win the war". She told the paper that she hopes that a new trial will take place before July. Speaking about the first trial's murder acquittal, she said "If it had been a different murdered couple, the verdict would have been a lot different; the jury was greatly swayed by racism and homophobia." Ms. Triviño has always said that she is not only fighting for justice for her son Isaac, but also for his partner Julio, who she loved as if he were her own son.

Although it didn't surface during the trial, police records show that after being arrested, Piñeiro told police that he had been particularly disgusted by the fact that a black Brazilian man made sexual advances, using some of the vilest racist terms possible. Ms. Triviño has implied that the jury in the first trial might have held similar sentiments against Julio.

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

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