Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Kate Clinton In Tucson, Sunday, November 8

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Kate Clinton

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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Senate Passes Hate-Crimes Measure

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Senate voted 68 to 29 to pass a Defense Department funding bill that includes a measure extending hate-crimes protections to people targeted on the basis of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, advocate.com reported.

The National Defense Authorization Act now goes to President Barack Obama's desk for his signature. "As the President said back in April, the hate-crimes bill takes on an important civil rights issue to protect all of our citizens from violent acts of intolerance, while also protecting our freedom of speech and association. He looks forward to signing it into law," said White House spokesman Shin Inouye.

The late senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts originally introduced the legislation in 1997 during the 105th Congress. The bill was renamed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in honor of Shepard, a 21-year-old Gay man from Wyoming, and James Byrd, a 49-year-old African-American man from Texas, both of whom were brutally murdered in 1998.

Along with expanding the protected groups, the legislation will provide extra resources to state and local law enforcement officials, give the U.S. Justice Department the power to investigate hate crimes that local officials decline to pursue, and direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to track hate crimes committed against transgender individuals – statistics the FBI already keeps for other groups.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said including hate crimes within the defense authorization bill was perfectly logical.

"It is highly appropriate for this law to be part of the National Defense Authorization Act," he said. "The values our men and women fight for include tolerance and freedom from hate-inspired violence against our citizens. Indeed, hate crimes represent a dangerous variety of domestic terrorism while our troops fight terrorism overseas."

HHS To Create A National Resource Center For LGBT Elders

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced plans to establish the nation's first national resource center to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and supports for older LGBT individuals.

Experts estimate that as many as 1.5 to 4 million LGBT individuals are age 60 and older. Agencies that provide services to older individuals may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the needs of this group of individuals. The new Resource Center for LGBT Elders will provide information, assistance and resources for both LGBT organizations and mainstream aging services providers at the state and community level to assist them in the development and provision of culturally sensitive supports and services. The LGBT Center will also be available to educate the LGBT community about the importance of planning ahead for future long term care needs.

The LGBT Resource Center will help community-based organizations understand the unique needs and concerns of older LGBT individuals and assist them in implementing programs for local service providers, including providing help to LGBT caregivers who are providing care for an older partner with health or other challenges.

The Administration on Aging will award a single Resource Center grant at approximately $250,000 per year, pending availability of funds. Eligible entities will include public-private nonprofit organizations with experience working on LGBT issues on a national level. The funding announcement for the Resource Center will be made available on the following website very soon.

UPDATE

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 Upstaged! Divas and Mis(s)Leading Men. See you at the theatre!

LGBT Adoption Seminar, Nov. 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Ethica with the support of The Alliance Fund is holding an informational meeting on November 15th to release our recently published "Navigating LGBT Adoptions: Pitfalls, Protections on the Road to Parenthood".

The event details will be held November 15th, 2-4 pm at the Lighthouse YMCA at 2900 N. Columbus Blvd. There will be a panel discussion about adoption issues in the LGBT community with adoptive parents, adults, and prospective parents.

For questions contact Melissa at (520) 975-0385.

TIHAN Volunteer Orientation Fast Approaching

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will be holding our volunteer orientation on November 12th from 5:15pm to 9:15pm. The orientation will take place at First Congregational UCC which is located at 1350 N Arcadia Ave, Tucson.

TIHAN is a volunteer driven organization with a commitment to providing compassionate, nonjudgmental care to those living with HIV/AIDS. Visit us at tihan.org to learn more. Here are some of our volunteer positions:

Care Team Member - Make someone's day brighter by visiting them, running errands with them, or helping them get to their doctors appointments. Care Teams provide compassionate nonmedical support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Link Specialist - This position was rated the second most important to wellbeing by the people living with HIV that we serve. Link specialists provide referrals and well calls to our CarePartners.

Administrative Support for TIHAN Staff - The TIHAN office seeks fun-loving people to help with a data entry and administrative tasks.

Grants Team Member - Looking to keep your grant writing skills fresh? Looking for experience in grant writing, editing, or research? TIHAN is searching for both experienced and inexperienced-but-interested volunteers to join our grants team. We are a small, but dynamic nonprofit and your skills will make a huge difference here!

To sign up for orientation, simply contact Katelyn, Volunteer Resources Coordinator at (520) 299-6647 or email her at katelyn@tihan.org. We hope to see you there!

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Gay-Allied Fraternity At ASU Marks New Milestone: 100th Member Initiated

TEMPE - Sigma Phi Beta National Fraternity, an Arizona-based gay-allied fraternity, reached a new milestone when its founding chapter at Arizona State University (ASU) initiated its 100th member.

Ten students became members of the Fraternity after successfully completing a six-week pledge education program designed to teach new members how to fulfill the Fraternity's values of leadership, service, scholarship, diversity and brotherhood. With the completion of the initiation ceremony, 108 members have joined the Brotherhood since 2001. There are currently 18 active members of the Alpha Chapter at ASU.

"The accomplishments of the Alpha chapter and its newly initiated members are a testament to the vision that our founding members set forth when they decided to form Sigma Phi Beta National Fraternity," said Nathan Arrowsmith, the Fraternity's national president. "The uniquely-diverse, character-building space that our Fraternity provides to Gay, straight, Bisexual and Transgender men in college continues to have a positive impact on campus and on the lives of our members."

"We are proud to welcome our new members, who will help our chapter continue to be a leading Fraternity at Arizona State University," said Sigma Phi Beta's Alpha Chapter President Michael Begay.

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.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

EDITORIAL

Vote For Your Community November 3!

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.

Karin Uhlich

Richard Fimbres

Nina Trasoff

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

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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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Yard Dog Saloon's October Spooktacular Events:

October Only!

Wednesday October 28th:
Karoake @ 8p.m. with Robin!
Friday October 30th!
@ 3p.m. The most Fantastic Pumpkin Carving Contest In Tucson!...
Followed By: Karoake @ 9p.m. with Brian!
Saturday Day:
"Poker Pub's" Progessive Texas Hold-Em (no-limit) Tourneys @ 1 and 4p.m.
Saturday---HALLOWEEN NIGHT.....
Sing or Lip-Sync Costume Contest @ 10:30pm!

THE YARD DOG WILL BE CLOSING ON NOV. 1ST, THANK YOU FOR 8 1/2 YEARS OF PATRONAGE FROM ALL OF US! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!!!

Happy Halloween

It is with the saddest, most heartfelt feelings that our friends and family from the Yard Dog will not be with us for a while. We love you all so dearly! Bill Sly

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For Tucson City Council

They support the LGBT Community!

YOUR VOTE COUNTS! VOTE Nov 3rd!

Obama Administration To Ensure Inclusion Of The LGBT Community In HUD Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan has announced a series of proposals to ensure that HUD's core housing programs are open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. "The evidence is clear that some are denied the opportunity to make housing choices in our nation based on who they are and that must end," said Donovan. "President Obama and I are determined that a qualified individual and family will not be denied housing choice based on sexual orientation or gender identity."

The initiatives announced are a proposed rule that will provide the opportunity for public comment. The proposed rule will: clarify that the term "family" as used to describe eligible beneficiaries of our public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs include otherwise eligible lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals and couples. HUD's public housing and voucher programs help more than three million families to rent an affordable home. The Department's intent to propose new regulations will clarify family status to ensure its subsidized housing programs are available to all families, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Require grantees and those who participate in the Department's programs to comply with local and state non-discrimination laws that cover sexual orientation or gender identity; and specify that any FHA-insured mortgage loan must be based on the credit-worthiness of a borrower and not on unrelated factors or characteristics such as sexual orientation or gender identity.

In addition to issuance of proposed rule, HUD will commission the first-ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the rental and sale of housing. HUD expects to begin the regulatory process immediately. The LGBT discrimination study is similarly fast tracked. HUD undertook important research in 1977, 1989 and 2000 to study the impact of housing discrimination on the basis of race and color. It is believed that LGBT individuals and families may remain silent because in many local jurisdictions, they may have little or no legal recourse. HUD's study will examine housing discrimination based on Sexual orientation or gender identity.

While there are no national assessments of LGBT housing discrimination, there are state and local studies that have shown this sort of bias. For example, Michigan's Fair Housing Centers found that nearly 30 percent of same-sex couples were treated differently when attempting to buy or rent a home.

University of Arizona Mystery's
A Bizarre Collection Of Solved & Unsolved Mysteries At The UofA

www.uofamystery.com

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Stanley The One To Watch On DADT

General Cllifford Stanley

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York said that she anticipates the hearing for Clifford Stanley, a retired general who has been nominated to a key post in the Department of Defense, will precede Senate hearings on the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, advocate.com reported.

"I expect that the hearing on 'don't ask, don't tell' will take place next month after the confirmation hearing for marine general Clifford Stanley," said Gillibrand, who met with Defense Department officials Tuesday to discuss the military's Gay ban. "There is a lot more support in Congress for full repeal of DADT than people realize." Neither hearing has been officially scheduled yet and a spokesperson for the Senate Armed Services Committee could not be reached in time for the posting of this article.

Stanley was nominated by President Barack Obama as the undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness – the position within the Defense Department that oversees the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. A spokesperson for Senator Gillibrand indicated that Stanley's hearings could be very decisive. "The Senator's view is that this will be the hearing to watch and a critical prelude to the public debate about 'don't ask, don't tell,'" Matt Canter said.

Stanley's opinion on the military's Gay ban is not explicitly known but the repeal lobby group Servicemembers Legal Defense Network issued a statement of support for his nomination. "There were indications of seriousness of purpose on DADT repeal today by this White House with its intent to nominate an Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness," said spokesperson Kevin Nix of SLDN.

Stanley served 33 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, became the Marines' first African-American regimental commander, and retired in 2002 as a two-star general. Most recently, Stanley was the president of Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship organization.

G/L Couples In 2020 Census, Not 2010

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - U.S. Census Bureau officials said that concerns for accuracy have led them to delay counting legally married same-sex couples in the 2010 census. Officials expect the information to appear in the 2020 count, reported advocate.com.

The 2010 census marks the first time officials have attempted to include same-sex couples in the population count. Since the bureau's June announcement, officials have discovered roadblocks to that goal, reports the Associated Press.

"'Statistical problems related to the development of the 2010 census form and the evolving legal state of same-sex relationships led census officials to conclude that trying to include married gay couples in the overall snapshot of household marital status could yield an inaccurate number,'" said Gary Gates, a University of California, Los Angeles, demographer advising the bureau on gay issues, according to the AP.

"Instead, same-sex married couples will be added into the category for unmarried partners, just as they were for the 2000 census. But in a marked policy departure, the agency plans to make the data on same-sex couples who described themselves as married available on a state-by-state basis," the AP reported.

A Week of Partying at Woody's!!!
Woody's
Oct 31st
Gigantic Halloween Party
Hosted By Ajia Simone
Contest 11:30PM $250 1st Place
Nov 6th
Woody's 10th Anniversary Party
Hot Drink Specials 9-11PM - Prizes - Dancers
Nov 7th
"Meow Mix"
Tucson's Women's Night Out With Dancers Shot Girls AND At 10PM the Famous Joanna Brings Her Live Vocal Impersonations and Comedy
Only to Woody's $5
But Wait..Just Added!
Nov 14th
Bilatinmen.com Party
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Desert Voices Chorus Concert November 14-15

See story on Page Two

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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. First to 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.

Now on to 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 www.brownpapertickets.com

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COMMENTARY. . . .

'Save For Retirement Week' Rings Hollow For Gay And Lesbian Couples

By Naomi G. Goldberg and Michael Steinberger

The United States Congress has designated this week (ending October 24) as National Save for Retirement Week to encourage Americans to save for retirement. Research continues to shows that the majority of Americans aren't doing enough to prepare for retirement. A 2009 report from the Employee Benefits Research Institute found that 53% of American workers have less than $25,000 in total savings and investments.

For most Americans, the congressional cheerleading is backed up by a range of substantive policies that provide incentives for savings. But for members of same-sex couples, the Congressional proclamation will ring hollow. Federal policies penalize Gay and Lesbians for retirement savings and greatly hamper their ability to provide for their families after they die.

In two new studies released this month by UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, researchers have found that when compared to different-sex married couples, Gay and Lesbian couples have less retirement income and have less ability to provide for their families after they die. For example, female same-sex couples have 20% less income during retirement than different-sex married couples, and they rely more heavily on social security benefits. Male same-sex couples are more likely to continue working during retirement and rely on wage income as a large share of their income during retirement.

One of the main incentives for retirement savings is to provide for family members after death. Federal policies make this more difficult for same-sex couples. For example take two hypothetical couples: Joe and Marla and Jared and Mark. Both couples have been together for twenty years and have raised children. Both couples are among the half of Americans whose jobs sponsor a defined contribution retirement plan, like a 401k. Unexpectedly, Marla and Mark die. In the case of Joe and Marla, the balance of Marla's 401k can be transferred to Joe without any tax bill. Joe can then wait until age 70½ to begin taking money from this retirement account.

Jared can still rollover the balance of Mark's 401k into an IRA. But, because Jared isn't recognized as Mark's legal spouse, Jared will lose nearly half of any amount over $3.5 million due to the estate tax. Plus, Jared will be forced to take money out of this account immediately, even if he doesn't need that money now - and the money will be taxed more now as opposed to when he's older and less likely to have income from other sources. Jared doesn't have the option of waiting until he is 70½ like Joe does.

Plus, if Mark's estate, such as the value of his house, retirement plans, stocks, cars, or artwork, is worth more than $3.5 million, Jared will have to pay the estate tax on that value. In 2009, it is estimated that 73 same-sex couples will be in just this situation. And they will, on average, have a tax bill of $3.3 million. Meanwhile, all of Marla's assets can be transferred to Joe without any taxes.

Much of this inequality in retirement assets and estate taxes is due to the fact that same-sex couples aren't recognized as married couples by the federal government. This is the case even if they are legally married in Massachusetts, Connecticut, or Iowa. The repeal of DOMA would mean that for legally married same-sex couples, this unfair taxation on retirement assets would end. Even prior to the repeal of DOMA however, Congress could address these estate tax and retirement plan inequalities similar to the way it allowed same-sex spouses to rollover, albeit with strings attached, the balance of their dead spouse's 401ks in 2006.

As part of National Save for Retirement Week, Congress should turn its attention to the ways in which committed, same-sex couples are treated unfairly and are disadvantaged when it comes to the ability to prepare for retirement and protect their families. For these families, federal proclamations should be backed by federal policy.

(Goldberg and Steinberger are writers and contributors to the Huffington Post, from which this article is reprinted.)

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POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

This And That

Tucson Observer Archives

Hate Crimes VIctims James Byrd and Matthew Shepard

At a ceremony to be held on Wednesday, October 28, the White House has announced that President Barack Obama will sign The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act gives the Justice Department the power to investigate and prosecute bias-motivated violence where the perpetrator has selected the victim because of the person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

This new law will provide the Justice Department with the ability to aid state and local jurisdictions either by lending assistance or, where local authorities are unwilling or unable, by taking the lead in investigations and prosecutions of violent crime resulting in death or serious bodily injury that were motivated by bias.

Grants will be made available to state and local communities to combat violent crimes committed by juveniles, train law enforcement officers, or to assist in state and local investigations and prosecutions of bias motivated crimes.

This legislation was first introduced in the 105th Congress and it is named for the victims of two horrific crimes in 1998: Matthew Shepard, a gay teenager from Wyoming who was beaten to death; and James Byrd. Jr., a black man from Texas who was tied to a pick-up track and dragged to death. ...

Next Tuesday, November 3, is an important election for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community of Tucson. Yes, its just a council election and there are a couple of measures on the City ballot, one of which, Proposition 200, could destroy our wonderful community, by bankrupting it, if approved.

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 but this progress is something that can't be taken for granted and must be maintained by our community going to the polls and supporting those people who support us, openly and honestly.

So read the editorial in this week's edition and take it to the polls and vote pink, vote proud but cast your ballot Tuesday, November 3.

9th Circuit Releases G/L Rights Ref. Decision

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer) - October 22, Thursday was a busy day on the Referendum 71 front, reporter spi.com. R-71 is the November ballot measure brought by people seeking to overturn the state's new "everything but marriage" same-sex domestic partner law. An "approve" vote keeps the new law in place; "rejected" overturns it.

A conservative political action committee opposed to the new law sued in federal court (they actually did this late Wednesday) trying to keep their donor lists secret and to be exempt from campaign fundraising limits. And the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of appeals released its opinion in the R-71 case. The appellate court says the names of people who signed the petitions should be made public, despite the protests by conservatives who fear those people will be harrassed. The appellate ruling is on hold while the U.S. Supremem Court decides whether to weigh in on the matter.

According to the Washington Secretary of State's office, highlights of the 9th Circuit decision are: The district court's analysis was based on the faulty premise that the PRA regulates anonymous political speech. The signatures at issue, however, are not anonymous. First, the petitions are gathered in public, and there is no showing that the signature-gathering process is performed in a manner designed to protect the confidentiality of those who sign the petition. Second, each petition sheet contains spaces for 20 signatures, exposing each signature to view by up to 19 other signers and any number of potential signers. Third, any reasonable signer knows, or should know, that the petition must be submitted to the State to determine whether the referendum qualifies for the ballot, and the State makes no promise of confidentiality, either statutorily or otherwise. In fact, the PRA [Public Records Act] provides to the contrary. Fourth, Washington law specifically provides that both proponents and opponents of a referendum petition have the right to observe the State's signature verification and canvassing process. Thus, the district court's finding that the speech at issue is anonymous is clearly erroneous.

Without the Public Records Act, the public is effectively deprived of the opportunity independently to examine whether the State properly determined that a referendum qualified, or did not qualify, for the general election. The stated aim of the Public Records Act, which itself was passed through the initiative process, is to keep the citizens "informed so that they may maintain control over the instruments that they have created." There is no indication that despite this clear statement, the Public Records Act was nonetheless intended to suppress free expression. The Public Records Act as applied to the referendum petitions does not violate the First Amendment.

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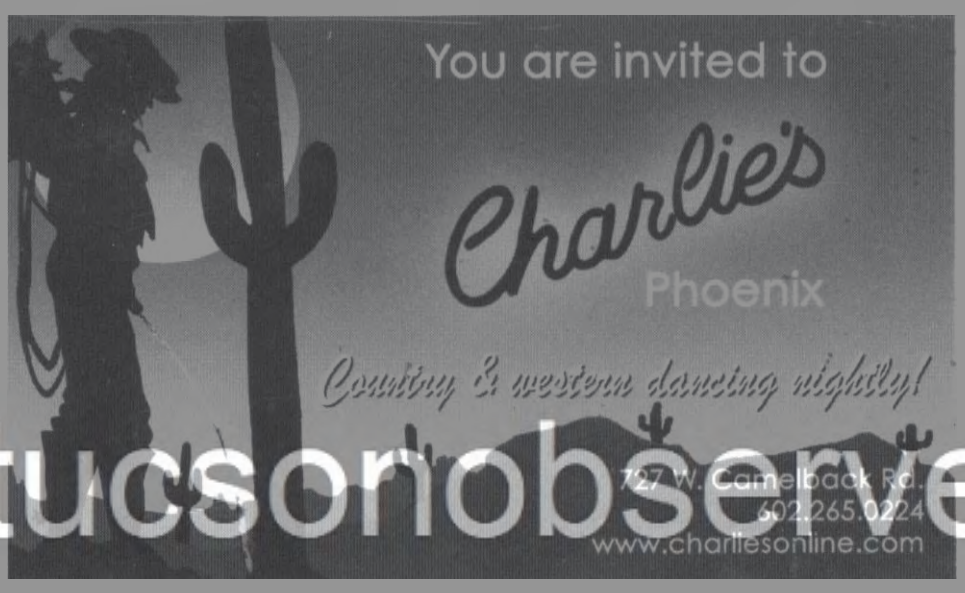

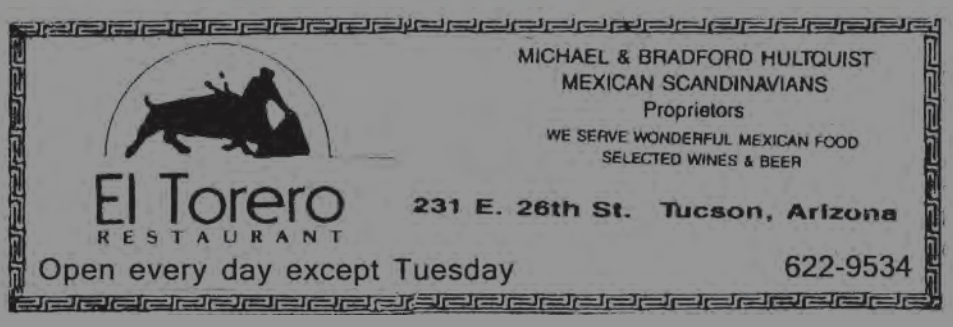

COMMENTARY. . . .

"Something has happened here that we all agree with the Taliban and Iran about, and that is: He doesn't deserve the award...we all are on the same side as the Taliban

-Rush Limbaugh

As destructive as the Republicans have been to this nation over the past eight years, they're finding new ways to drag America back into the grips of the failed Bush-Cheney-Rove policies.

They've proven they'll stop at nothing in their blind quest to destroy President Obama and regain national power - even if it means siding with the Taliban in criticizing our Commander-in-Chief.

When President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize, it sent a powerful message to the world: America is returning to her rightful role as a symbol of hope, justice, and promise on the international stage.

That should have been a proud moment for all of us. But the Republicans have yet again taken something great and used it for callous political maneuvers. And it's not just their right-wing, Limbaugh-loving fringe...the chairman of the national Republican party, Michael Steele, even issued an attack on the President within hours of the Nobel prize announcement.

It's time to tell the Party of No that their anti-American political posturing must end. Voice your outrage at the GOP and support President Obama by signing the Democratic Governors Association's petition.

Remember, this isn't the first time Republicans have shown their true colors, not by a long shot. Republicans didn't waste a minute cheering for America's failure at the Olympics...just because President Obama was working for our success.

Then think about healthcare reform. To finally be working toward a solution to this national crisis should be the dream of every legislator -- but not for Republicans. They see it purely as Obama's "Waterloo."

Let's not forget President Obama's speech to kids about staying in school and working hard to accomplish their dreams. Only the most vicious partisans could find something wrong in that message -- but that was all we heard from the GOP for days.

And before that, when the President launched the stimulus package that ended our freefall into a second Great Depression and stabilized the country -- Republicans tried to smother it before it got off the ground.

In every case, what started as an unprecedented opportunity to unite as Americans was turned into negative, anti-American posturing and obstructionism by the GOP...all because they've placed their party above their country. It's shameful. But it's the Republican way.

Tell the Party of No that we've had enough of their anti-American rhetoric and anti-American obstructionism. Sign the DGA's petition today and show your support for President Obama.

Every voice we add to the DGA's petition will make our message even more powerful. So please sign it now and forward the word on to every friend and family member you can.

Together, our voices will rise above the din of Republican hate-mongering and show that America wants and deserves progress, not partisan political games.

Thank you for joining this critical cause.

Sincerely,
Colleen Turrentine
Democratic Governors Association

P.S. This is your chance to tell the Republicans that their anti-American cheerleading is a disgrace to themselves and our country. E-mail the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) at info@dga.net and sign the DGA's petition on-line and stand with President Obama now, then keep building the power of this message by inviting your friends and family to add their names as well.

Paid for by the Democratic Governors Association. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions are not tax deductible.

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BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ -

Mob Informer Tells Court: I'm Gay

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - In a headline that reads like it was ripped straight from The Sopranos, Robert Mormando, a confessed Gambino family gunman, broke two cardinal rules members of the mob are meant to follow while appearing in court for a hearing on Monday.

First Mormando admitted to being a government informant. Then he outed himself in court.

Mormando was appearing at a hearing on his sentence for his role in the shooting of a Queens bagel store owner in 2003. He came out while trying to negotiate himself a lower sentence, saying his cooperation with authorities was riskier than most, since he had lived for many years as a closeted Gay man in the mob.

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Irish Hurler Says, "I'm Gay"

DUBLIN, Ireland (Observer Update) - Dónal Óg Cusack, a star of the ancient Gaelic sport of hurling, broke a national barrier with his recent revelation that he is Gay, reported advocate.com. Dónal Óg, as he is known throughout Ireland, revealed his sexual orientation in his autobiography, Come What May. He is believed to be Europe's first openly Gay elite sportsman, according to The Times of London.

While the reaction of the conservative Gaelic Athletics Association generally has been positive, he reports some bumps along the road, according to The Times. "He also tells of how, during a championship away match against rivals Tipperary a spectator used a megaphone to lead an abusive chant," the paper reports. "His mother no longer attends matches as a result."

Excerpts from Dónal Óg's autobiography are being serialized in the Irish Daily Mail.

Hillary Clinton Congratulates The Gays And Lesbians

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took to the Web to film a two-minute video congratulating the Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies on winning the Employee Resource Group of the Year Award and Equal Workplace Advocates.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

GLIFFA, which according to its website is the first federal entity to receive and award from Out and Equal, was honored for the role it played in prompting Clinton and the State Department to offer benefits to same-sex partners of foreign service officers. In the video the secretary says that the state department is beginning "To track violence against Gay people globally" and added that "the U.S. supports the U.N. statement on human rights, sexual orientation, and gender identity and condemns human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity," reported advocate.com.

The secretary ended by saying, "I promise to continue to fight for a world in which all people live free from fear of violence and fear, regardless of who they are or whom they love.

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How Come You Can't Find Any Ex-Gay Books In Your Local Library?

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - Normally we hear about Gay haters trying to yank books like And Tango Makes Three out of public libraries. But now Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) is trying to insert a whole new class of books onto shelves: their own, reported queerty.com.

Still high off their new legal recognition, PFOX is calling on libraries to include works like You Don't Have to Be Gay and A Parent's Guide to Preventing Homosexuality – which the group says aren't being stocked because ex-Gays are being discriminated against! (A Parent's Guide is currently No. 37 in Amazon's "Parenting & Families - Parenting - Teenagers" category.) While public and school libraries may carry books with a, ahem, positive slant on homosexuality, there isn't much of a "Hey, you can ditch the Gay lifestyle" selection. Then again, leading medical groups and the American Psychological Association are in agreement: Changing your sexuality is impossible, and the only possible reason to counsel anyone to give up their same-sex feelings is so they can be in line with their religious beliefs.

So why stock books that are based in disinformation and heretical declarations? The best argument we could come up with: Because the Self-Help section is basically that already. But hey, if ex-Gays get their books stocked, make sure they're positioned next to Creationism theory and, well, Sarah Palin's new one.

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LAPD To Ditch Youth Program Over Bias?

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - The Los Angeles Police Department is looking for a way to abandon its ties with an organization that is also connected to the Boy Scouts of America, which openly discriminates against Gay people, advocate.com reported. Learning for Life says it does not discriminate, nor does it take funds from the Boy Scouts. According to the LAPD, Learning for Life was once known as the L.A. Police Explorer Program. It was established in 1962 as a way for young people ages 14-20 to learn more about joining the police force and to train them as junior officers.

Robert M. Saltzman, a member of the L.A. board of police commissioners, wrote in an op-ed for the blog L.A. Observed last week that Learning for Life is administered by a city contractor that subcontracts the program to the Boy Scouts. "The problem is that the Boy Scouts openly proclaim their right to discriminate based on sexual orientation and religion," he wrote. "I know first-hand the significant value of the Explorers Programs to the LAPD and for the young men and women who participate. But no matter how valuable the programs, that value is no justification for them to be administered by an agency that does not comply with the city's non-discrimination laws."

The LAPD's antidiscrimination policy states that the department is an equal opportunity employer, "free of discrimination, or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion/creed, sex, disability, age, medical conditions, marital status, sexual orientation, retaliation for filing a claim of discrimination, or being afflicted or perceived as afflicted with" AIDS or HIV. The Los Angeles city attorney has recommended that the LAPD find another way to run the program, as the fire department has with a similar youth program.

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AIDS Funding Bill Passes House

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. House of Representatives voted 408-9 in favor of reauthorizing the Ryan White Act. The bill, which the Senate had already passed by unanimous consent, now moves to the desk of President Obama, whose administration has signaled strong support for it, advocate.com reported.

Congress last reauthorized the act in 2006. It had been set to expire on September 30, but was extended for one month. Similar in its provisions to the 2006 renewal, the new four-year reauthorization provides $2.55 billion for fiscal year 2010 and increases funding to $2.95 billion by FY 2013. The act requires states to convert to name-based HIV case reporting by FY 2013; however, it allows them – at a penalty – to continue submitting code-based data until that time.

The reauthorization also continues the act's "hold harmless" provision, which protects communities that achieve relative drops in case figures from being penalized by large funding cuts. In contrast to 2006, when the reauthorization debate was marked by quarrels over allocations between lawmakers from large urban areas and those from rural locations, the latest renewal was the product of negotiation by members of both parties in both houses of Congress.

"We all had to compromise," says Rep. Henry Waxman, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee. "This bill doesn't contain all the provisions I wanted to see, but it's a good solid bill." Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Ryan White Act funds HIV-related assistance to about 500,000 lower-income people each year.

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Dot-Gay Hopes To Be Online Force For LGBT Civil Rights

SEOUL, Korea (Observer Update) - At the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) conference, a group called the Dot Gay Alliance will lobby for the creation of a '.Gay' top level internet domain under which self-identified LGBT organizations can park themselves. According to Reuters, the group's plan for the domain is to "provide a reliable and ethical source of funding for LGBT civil rights."

The organization explains on its website: "It's a community that gives back: 51% of all profits earned will be returned to the LGBT community in the form of grants to leading civil rights organizations. That means that everyone who owns a .Gay web address automatically contributes to the fight for LGBT equal rights in the US and around the world." Reuters adds: "Everyone is familiar with generic web addresses (known as top-level domains) ending in .com, .org, .net, .edu and .gov. There will soon be many more when early next year the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will begin accepting applications for new web addresses from cities, companies, organizations and entrepreneurial ventures that want to create their own."

The NY Observer reports on the origin of the efforts: "The group was founded by former Star and Details editor Joe Dolce, who started the media strategy firm, DolceGoldin with former NY1 anchor and MSNBC editorial director Davidson Goldin last year. Supporters of the Dot Gay Alliance are New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, New York State Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, author Edmund White, attorney Paula Ettelbrick, Executive Director of In The Life Media Michelle Kristel, and the first openly Gay member of the Nepal Parliament, Sunil Babu Pant.

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Charitable Drag Queens Upset W. Va. Churchgoers

KERMIT, WVA (Observer Update) - A church congregation is up in arms after a drag show was booked in town to benefit cancer research, reported advocate.com.

The Witches Ball, organized by veteran performer Lark Muncy (a.k.a. Ashley Stone) is set for Saturday night at the Kermit Community Center. However, Charles Parsley, the minister at the Jesus Name Tabernacle, has rented the same community center the night before the ball to hold a special prayer service, according to the Associated Press.

"In my opinion, it's dangerous," Parseley told WSAZ News. "They might recruit others." While he says his church's members are nonviolent, Muncy said that he has received threats that he would be beaten if the show went on. The drag show is a first for the town of 200.

Can A Former State Senator Oust Portland Mayor Sam Adams?

PORTLAND, OR (Observer Update) - Here's hoping Portland's Mayor Sam Adams didn't think he was off the hook after the first effort to recall him – for lying about his romance with Beau Breedlove during the election – failed. 'Cause now a former state senator wants his head!

Ex-Sen. Avel Gordly says he's launching a second recall to remove Adams from his post. And Gordly is gonna use paid staffers to do so, queerty.com reported. You'll recall Jason Wurster's first effort, which relied on volunteers, didn't score the necessary 32,183 signatures to trigger a new election. Wurster didn't file any signatures with the City Auditor's Office.

Ever the public servant, Gordly's mission is understandable: she wants honest-ish folks serving the people. Or does Gordly herself want to be Portland's new mayor?

Naval Hazing Scandal Prompts Firing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The naval officer accused of overseeing hazing and sexual harassment of a Gay sailor and others in Bahrain will be removed from his current position and forced to retire, reported advocate.com. The action against Chief Petty Officer Michael Toussaint comes after the Navy's review of its investigation of more than 90 hazing incidents between 2004 and 2006 at the Military Working Dog Division at Naval Security Force, according to the Associated Press.

"The Navy announced that Chief Petty Officer Michael Toussaint also would receive a letter of censure and be subject to a retirement pay-grade determination, which could significantly affect his retirement pay," the AP reported. "Toussaint, who has been deployed, has been reassigned to Naval Special Warfare Group 2 in Norfolk, Va., where he will perform administrative duties and will not be in a position of leadership."

One hazing victim, Joseph Rocha, left the Navy in 2007 by telling his commander he was Gay, a violation of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. He said he was abused because of his suspected sexual orientation.

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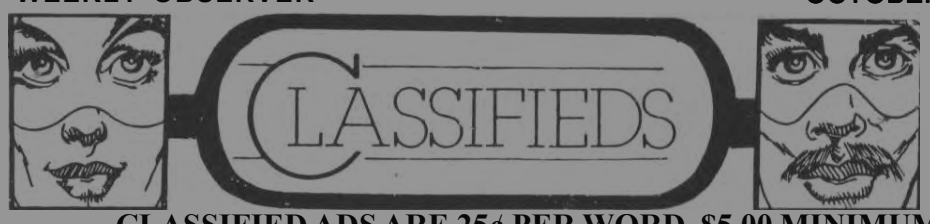

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Non-Bar Calendar

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)

Poet's Corner

DOGTOWN
by Ron Rose

The cobbled streets of Milkbone, where sleeping dogs do lie,
In Dogtown, Arizona, beneath the desert sky
The Mayor is Pat Pit bull, no gangs do rumble here
Graffiti non existent, pit bulls in still such fear
Border collies hunt illegals, chihuahuas go to jail
Coyotes sent to prison, they're carried by the tail
Policing is terrific, police dogs do their job
Our police chief rides a Harley, and really scares the mob
Deputy Rottweiler, rides shotgun at his side
A nasty doby pincher, along just for the ride
Our ethnicle population, in ghettos they do dwell
French quarter for the poodles, their houses are quite swell
The English are so proper, Spaniels, Setters, too
They seldom come a "cropper" the Queen would love this crew
These Irish, these Red Setters, chase rabbits all the day
The Afghans have their habits, strange in every way
We also have our athletes, Boxers lead the list
If I failed to mention them, they'd hit me with their fist
In Dogtown, Arizona, our leaders bark and growl,
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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
Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member $15.00
Bar Hours:
*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $100 off.
*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks $1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at $1.00

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2.25 domestic long necks. .

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

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.

YARD DOG - 2:00 p.m. A fantastic pumpkin carving contest followed by karaoke with Brian at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 31

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

COYOTE Moon - Monster Mash with TMI. 9:00 p.m. until ???

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.

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

then at 10:30 p.m. A Sing or Lip Sync Costume Party

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.

Saturday, November 7

WOODY'S - "Meow Mix" at 8 p.m. with live girl dancers and drink specials and from her national tour - Joanna - the hottest comedy act ever. $5 Cover.

Across The Gay Globe

Nearly three years after its supreme court ordered the government to end discriminatory laws against Gays and Lesbians, Nepal has plans to boost tourism by luring LGBT travelers. Government officials have met with well-known international tour operators and nonprofit organizations to discuss ways to promote Nepal as a potential destination for LGBT travelers. An international conference planned for next February will bring together many of the world's top airlines and tour operators to explore Gay tourism opportunities.

Many restaurants, discos, and hotels catering to Gay and Lesbian couples have been established in the country and employees have undergone sensitivity training to be respectful toward visiting same-sex couples, according to the Gays Without Borders blog. Nepal, bordered by India and China in conservative South Asia, is considered the world's youngest republic. ...

The Church of Sweden will perform marriages for same-sex couples beginning November 1, following an overwhelmingly favorable vote by church board members. The board voted 176-62 to allow clergy to perform the ceremonies, with 11 members abstaining and two absent, the Associated Press reports. Sweden, after having marriage-like partnerships to Gay couples for several years, last spring adopted a law granting Gays equal marriage rights. Church participation was optional. The Lutheran-affiliated Church of Sweden had blessed Gay partnerships since 1997 but until now had not endorsed marriage equality. It was the national church until 2000, when state support ceased. Church archbishop Anders Wejryd praised the decision, and the Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights called it "a big step in the right direction."

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Settlement Reduced For Lesbian Soldier

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - A Lesbian British soldier who sued the Army for sexual harassment has seen her court settlement cut by a third, reported advocate.com.

According to the BBC, Lance Bombardier Kerry Fletcher was originally awarded £186,895.52 (approximately $300,000 U.S.) after filing an employment complaint with a tribunal charging sexual discrimination and harassment. However, the Employment Appeal Tribunal cut her settlement by £62,000 ($100,000 U.S.) after the Ministry of Defense launched an appeal. Critics said her award came under fire by those who thought it was too much compared to the compensation of soldiers injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The judge also reduced aggravated damages awarded to Fletcher from £20,000 ($32,000 U.S.) to £8,000 ($13,000 U.S.).

"The Army's conduct, deplorable though it was found to be, did not cross the high threshold warranting an award of exemplary damages," Judge Slade said. Fletcher, who is openly Gay, deflected persistent sexual advances from a male sergeant who sent her explicit text messages. She said in the first tribunal in November 2007 that the sergeant and other male colleagues were trying to destroy her career because she turned down his advances.

NOM Sues Over Maine Election Law

AUGUSTA, ME (Observer Update) - The National Organization for Marriage (NOM), under fire for its financial contributions to the campaign to repeal marriage equality in Maine, has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of reporting requirements, advocate.com reported.

NOM filed the lawsuit in response to an investigation by the Maine Ethics Commission into whether the anti Gay group was skirting campaign finance laws to prevent disclosing its donors' identities, according to the Bangor Daily News. NOM has raised more than $500,000 for the effort to repeal the marriage equality law. "Now, the organization has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Bangor alleging that Maine's financial reporting requirements are unconstitutional," reports the Bangor Daily News. "The lawsuit seeks a court injunction prohibiting the state from enforcing a law that NOM officials claim is being used to harass and intimidate opponents of Gay marriage."

NOM executive director Brian Brown called the reporting requirements an "infringement of free speech." The Maine election law requires organizations soliciting more than $5,000 for a ballot question to file disclosure reports with the state.

Website Tracks Atlanta Gay Bar Raid

ATLANTA, GA (Observer Update) - The Atlanta Eagle bar, which police raided last month, has launched a website seeking to gather information about the incident in one place and collect accounts to reconstruct the chain of events.

Police raided the bar on September 10 and arrested eight people. Four dancers were charged with dancing without a permit and four bar employees were charged with operating an adult entertainment establishment without a license. However, patrons were also subjected to searches and, they claim, anti Gay taunts. While the investigation continues, the bar raid has become a lightning rod during the current Atlanta political season.

Check out the site at atlantaeagleraid.com/.

AIDS Vaccine Has Modest Effect

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Full results from the world's first successful test of an experimental AIDS vaccine confirm that it was only marginally effective and suggest that its protection against HIV infection may be more modest than was at first assumed, advocate.com reported.

Last month, researchers announced that a two-vaccine combination cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31% in a trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand, reports the Associated Press. The initial findings showed the vaccine's efficacy rate as statistically significant, but new analyses released on Tuesday are not as promising. Full results, published online by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the 2009 AIDS Vaccine Conference in Paris, include two additional analyses that suggest the vaccine is beneficial, but not with a statistically significant efficacy rate.

Dr. Seth Berkley, head of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, said the vaccine combo provided a "modest effect." "I say modest because the effect was 30%, which is a relatively low efficacy for a vaccine," Berkley told Voice of America. " You like to see a vaccine to have a public health effect a higher efficacy."

The Thailand trial was the first time an AIDS vaccine was tested mostly in heterosexuals at average risk.

While the results are not ideal, the new findings suggest that the vaccine may work better in the general population than in those at higher risk of infection, such as men who have sex with men and intravenous-drug users.

Rosie And Kelli Spotlight G/L Divorce

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - News of the split between Rosie O'Donnell and wife Kelli Carpenter may bring same-sex marriage rights to mind, but their plight also creates an opportunity to think about unequal rights and protections concerning same-sex divorce, says a Huffington Post contributor, reported advocate.com.

Emma Ruby-Sachs, a lawyer, writes that Rosie and Kelli need the law on their side now more than ever. "It's one thing to say that a loving committed relationship needs the institutional and social support marriage provides, but when two people split after years together, the law really becomes central to their survival," writes Ruby-Sachs.

"Rosie and Kelli are in the midst of a pretty normal problem. It is so normal, entire legal schemes exist to assist with the process of separation. But these legal protections, like so many others, leave LGBT people out," she says.

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