Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER NOVEMBER 25, 2009 ISSUE 1322

Tucson Observer Archives

New York Court Upholds Marriage Recognition

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ALBANY, NY (Observer Update) - The New York state court of appeals upheld the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions where they are legal, although the narrow ruling applies only to the specific cases under consideration and leaves open the door to future challenges, advocate.com reported.

The cases, involving the extension of benefits to same-sex partners of government employees who wed out of state, arose in response to the executive order from Gov. David Paterson last year to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other places, which include Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Iowa and Canada. According to The New York Times, the ruling does not decide the broader issue surrounding recognition of same-sex marriages performed outside New York.

"In their majority ruling, four of the seven members of the court said they were making their decision on narrow grounds involving the specifics of each case, and not settling the broader question of whether same-sex marriages performed in other states should be recognized," reportedthe Times. "Judge Eugene F. Pigott Jr., writing for the majority, expressed 'hope that the Legislature will address this controversy.'

But in a concurring decision, three of the justices said that the court should have addressed the wider issue because New York law already allows for the recognition of marriages that are considered legal elsewhere."

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Gay Couple Awarded Benefits Compensation

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - A federal judge has ordered compensation for a Los Angeles couple whowere denied spousal benefits by the federal government because they are Gay, latimes.com reported.

Stephen Reinhardt, a judge with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, deemed the denial of health care and other benefits to the spouse of federal public defender Brad Levenson to be a violation of the Constitution's guarantee of due process and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which is prohibited by California law.

Levenson married his partner, Tony Sears, on July 12, 2008, in the five-month period when same-sex marriage was legal in California. A ballot measure, Proposition 8, was passed a year ago defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Reinhardt, the federal judge responsible for resolving employee disputes in the Federal Public Defenders office within the 9th Circuit, earlier had ordered the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to process Levenson's application for spousal benefits for Sears.

The federal government's Office of Personnel Management stepped in to derail the enrollment, however, citing the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that prohibits the recognition of same-sex marriage for the purpose of federal benefits or programs.

Levenson appealed, seeking either an independently contracted benefits package for his spouse or payment of the equivalent value of the coverage denied. Reinhardt ordered the latter, based on a "back pay" provision in the law covering federal defense lawyers' employment.

"Considering that the federal government won't give Tony (Sears) the equal benefits package of other spouses, we are very pleased with this

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A family member of the Tucson Gay Community

World AIDS Day 2009

Dec. 1 - 4:00-11:00 p.m. Free Event

World AIDS Day Participants

Parasol Project: is a community-based arts and performance organization. Their goal is to engage and build unity through avenues of expression including participatory, environmental, and spectacular arts.

Batucaxe: "Batucaxé" is a combination of "batuca", or drum beat, and "axé", the life-force in all things, and the power to make things happen. Featuring the music and movement of many traditions, from Brazil and all over the world.

J. Sebastian: Mexican tenor, accompanied by Arizona Ballroom Dancers, will perform pop and traditional Spanish-language ballads.

MetalHead: The name says it all - Old School 80's style metal band - volume, spandex and lots of hair all included. Playing late night.

In addition there will be speakers living with HIV/AIDS, Free and Confidential HIV/AIDS testing, free hors d'oeuvres, information booths, and much more - thematic drama as well as local activist talent, high-energy world music and performance artists...

Pre World AIDS Day Events

Nov 28 - BobFest: An all ages ska and punk show at Club Congress Starting at 7:00 p.m. Bands performing are: AIDS Free, Boogie Nazis and Logan Greene &The Bricks

Nov 30 - Artfully Positive: Recent Works: Opening night at Rocket Gallery (270 E. Congress) @ 7:30 pm

World AIDS Day 2009 is brought to you by BePositive Tucson, Positively Beautiful, AIDS Ribbon Tucson, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, COPE, Pima County Health Services and The Hotel Congress.

Free & Confidential HIV Testing

Nearly 25% of those living with HIV do not know that they are positive. Knowing your status is the first step in prevention against HIV/AIDS. Free HIV testing will be offered during World AIDS Day in private rooms donated by Hotel Congress through COPE.

HIV shows no discrimination. The World AIDS Day committee invites everyone to get tested.

Living With AIDS - And Art

Southern Arizona's observance of remembrance and celebration of life surrounding World AIDS Day this year will sport a new twist: a large number of HIV-positive artists and artisans will share their recent works with the public at Rocket Gallery, 270 East Congress Street in downtown Tucson.

Entitled "Artfully Positive: Recent Works", the exhibit will run from November 30th to December 2nd, 2009 and will showcase the vitality and talent of HIV-positive persons throughout Southern Arizona.

"This show is designed to highlight the productive spirit and connection to the community that people living with HIV/AIDS have," says Carl Stoeckel, Director of BePositiveTucson and the show's curator. "The goal is to help break down the barriers that the societal and personal stigma of HIV/AIDS has brought to the men, women and children who live the daily battle against this disease," he adds.

The gallery has gathered an eclectic mix of works, ranging from 2-D and 3-D artwork, to collectibles, textiles, clothing, photography, poetry, automobiles, cycles, bikes and furnishings. One artist, Richard Zelens, will also have his paintings of local personalities featured in the lobby of the Hotel Congress to help cross-promote the HIV+ exhibit and World AIDS Day activities.

The show's Grand Opening reception will be Monday, November 30th from 7:30 to 9:30pm. The gallery will also be open to the general public from 2:00 to 10:00pm on Tuesday, December 1st in conjunction with the World AIDS Day events at the historic Hotel Congress; and then from 4:00 to 8:00pm on Wednesday, December 2nd.

Special hours and informational tours are available for school or other groups by contacting Carl Stoeckel at 520.235.2343.

"Artfully Positive: Recent Works" is made possible through the generosity of David Aguirre and Dinnerware ArtSpace, the Tucson 2009 World AIDS Day Committee, David Slutes and The Hotel Congress and the dedicated membership of BePositiveTucson, Southern Arizona's grassroots HIV/AIDS social and educational network.

UPDATE

Holiday Benefit For Wiingspn Nov. 28

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Shop for holiday gifts (or a little something for yourself) at locally-owned Bohemia, 2920 E. Broadway, Saturday, November 28. 10% of sales will be donated to Wingspan, Tucson and Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center!

It's a wonderful opportunity to holiday shop and give back to an important cause.

Bohemia offers a unique shopping experience for those on the hunt for great handmade gifts, an accent for a wall or table, a unique home accessory or just some fun kitsch. Bohemia works with over 200 different local and regional artists and crafts people to create a diverse inventory that will inspire your senses and color your soul. Bohemia, an Artisans Emporium was rated: Best Place for Gifts, 2009, Tucson Home Magazine and Best Art/Artisan Jewelry, 2009 & 2005-2007, Tucson Weekly.

Attend Tucson Man-2-Man And Gdt $100 Gift

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Free Weekend retreat for Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Men... Let's talk Man to Man. Man To Man Seminar You are invited to attend a two-day seminar, Dec. 5-6 at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid, providing education on sexuality and intimacy between men. All men who have sex with men or are attracted to men, and are 18 or older are invited.

Seminar Goals and Topics: Learning about healthy sexuality, Sexuality across the life span, Understanding effects of fear, violence and abuse, Sexual identity formation, Developing assertiveness and empowerment, Male intimacy and relationships, Breaking isolation and developing networks, Bisexuality and sexual diversity, Being sexual in the age of HIV/AIDS and Sexual functioning.

For more information visit azman2man.org, or contact Cesar Egurrola at (520) 628-7223, cegurrola@saaf.org Participants must register before December 3.

At Antigone Books

TUCSON - Please join in for an event at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Ave., on Friday, November 27, 7:00 p.m., for a discussion of the art world with art dealer Richard Polsky and listen to live music by local legend Al Perry.

Richard Polsky will discuss his new book, I Sold Andy Warhol (Too Soon) (Other Press, $23.95), a fascinating look at the art world told by an art dealer who was pleased to sell his Warhol painting for $320,000, seven times its original price, only to discover it might have sold for $70 million a few years later. In this instructive, irreverent and often uproarious memoir, Polsky explains the capricious functioning of the art market and the economic and cultural forces that have transformed it in recent years. Local legend Al Perry will celebrate his newest CD, "The Three Track Session," by playing a short solo acoustic set. Perry has taken home the "Hall of Fame" award in the Tucson Area Music Awards (or TAMMIES), as well as Critics Choice for Album of the Year.

The reading will be followed by a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (520) 792-3715.

EAA-Tucson Meeting Dec. 6

Equality Across America Tucson Congressional District Action Team (EAA-Tucson) will meet Sunday, December 6, 2009 2 to 4:00 p.m. at Colors, 5305 E. Speedway Blvd.

EAA continues the work of achieving full federal equality for LGBT Americans in all matters of civil law. Please bring your ideas, passion, and a friend! This meeting will focus on creating a sustainable organization and outreach to allies and allied organizations.

For more information visit: www.eaatucson.org.

Reveille Concert December 5 - 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join Reveille for their production of "Our Holiday Memories."

Sit back and relax as Reveille takes you on a sentimental journey to the holidays of years gone by. Reveille members will share their photos and memories from their own personal holidays growing up, intermingled with songs of the season, sung in that gorgeous Reveille style. There will be laughter and tears as they travel down memory lane. Make Reveille's holiday concert one of your holiday traditions.

Our Holiday Memories - Saturday, December 5 at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 East Adams Street. Tickets are $15 in advance, $10 students with I.D. or $20 at the door, and may be purchased from any Reveille member, online at reveillemenschorus.org, Antigone Books or by calling Reveille at (520) 304-1758.

DC Agenda Launches

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The DC Agenda, the new iteration of the shuttered Washington Blade, launched its website and distributed its first print edition Friday morning, Nov. 20.

The DC Agenda website posts the content available in the newspaper, including a letter from editor Kevin Naff. He quickly reviews the indignities experienced by staff members when parent company Window Media abruptly closed the publication due to financial problems, but he stresses staff members' intention to move ahead with the new project.

"The former staff of the Washington Blade remains united and DC Agenda represents our effort at continuing the important mission and work of the Blade," writes Naff. "It will grow and evolve to include a much larger and more diverse group of voices. But the core of the Washington Blade's work remains unchanged. We will cover Congress, the White House, the LGBT rights movement, the D.C. marriage fight, local hate crimes and other political issues important to the LGBT residents of the city."

Gay Couple

Continued from Page One

decision," Levenson said. "Is it equal treatment? No. Is it a good remedy? Yes. And we are appreciative of the judge's order."

Levenson said he and Sears have been keeping track of the costs of insuring Sears independently and estimate the back pay and future compensation will amount to thousands of dollars each year.

The judge's order is expected to resolve the injustice Reinhardt has cited in previous orders in Levenson's case. But it also recognizes the status quo of federal government rejection of Gay marriage under the Defense of Marriage Act. Several other challenges by those denied federal benefits, like filing joint tax returns, are making their way slowly through the federal courts.

The Obama administration has spoken out against what it sees as a discriminatory policy toward Gay spouses of federal employees, but Attorney General Eric Holder also has said the Justice Department is obliged to defend the practice as long as the Defense of Marriage Act remains law.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Why Do We Hate? Academics Seek Answer In New Field

(Spokane, Washington) Why did the Nazis hate the Jews? Why did the Hutus hate the Tutsis? Hate is everywhere, but the fundamental question of why one person can hate another has never been adequately studied, contends Jim Mohr of Gonzaga University, who is developing a new academic field of hate studies, reported AP on 365Gay.com.

The goal is to explain a condition that has plagued humanity since one caveman looked askance at another. "What makes hate tick?" Mohr, director of Gonzaga's Institute for Action Against Hate, wondered. "How can we stop it?" Gonzaga founded the institute a decade ago after some black law students received threatening letters. It has since started a Journal of Hate Studies, hosted a conference and offered its first class on hatred last spring.

The hope is that other universities will follow suit, said Ken Stern of the American Jewish Committee in New York, who has been involved in the effort. "We wanted to approach hate more intelligently," he said. Stern, who has spent 20 years battling anti-Semitism, said the need for hate studies became obvious when people started fighting groups like the Aryan Nations, which once flourished in this area. Opponents galvanized against the Aryans, but didn't really know how best to fight them, Stern said. "We were flying by the seat of our pants," he said. "There was no testable theory." There is not even a good definition of hate, Stern contends.

Philosophers have offered numerous definitions: Rene Descartes said hate was the urge to withdraw from something that is thought bad. Aristotle saw hate as the incurable desire to annihilate an object. In psychology, Sigmund Freud defined hate as an ego state that wishes to destroy the source of its unhappiness. Gonzaga, a Jesuit university best known for its basketball team, offered a class on the subject taught by five professors from different disciplines. Student Kayla De Los Reyes was in that class, and said the information both horrified her and gave her hope. "Hate is something that is part of the human emotional makeup," she said. "Everyone feels it at one point or another. You have to learn to control it."

The goal is to create an academic home where a variety of disciplines, including history, psychology, religious studies, anthropology and political science, can be brought together to focus on hate. It's the same sort of effort that led to the creation of disciplines like black studies or women's studies, Mohr said. Such academic efforts are not without controversy. Some skeptics fear they are little more than attacks on the dominant power structure. "This stuff tends to be one dimensional and presumes the guilt of an archetypal white male," said Glenn Ricketts, spokesman for the National Association of Scholars.

Indeed, De Los Reyes said one of the more interesting topics in the class involved white privilege. The most recent Journal of Hate Studies contained articles about oppression of Gays, Nazi experiments on Jews, the local battle against Aryan Nations, and Muslim support for suicide bombings. Heather Veeder, a graduate assistant for the institute, said the organization has an important mission. "Hate thrives in areas not illuminated by education," she said.

But Stern said it is too easy to blame ignorance for hate. People can have plenty of knowledge about something and still hate it, he said. The problem is when one person or group can separate another person or group from their humanity, thinking of them as an "other," Stern said. "We dehumanize them and justify violence against them," Stern said.

There is no simple answer to why people hate, Mohr said. Hate can be sparked by greed, or fear, or a tribe bonding together in opposition to another. People looking to belong will hate others to fit into a group, he said. With all the political conflict in the United States, it can seem that hate is on the rise. Some people seem to hate President Obama. Some hate Muslims. Some hate homosexuals. But Mohr said he wouldn't pursue a field of hate studies if he didn't think something positive could be achieved. "We can change," Mohr said. "There has to be hope."

Principal, Bus Driver Ignore Anti-Gay Beating

HOUSTON, TX (Observer Update) - A 16-year-old student in Houston who was attacked late last week by fellow students because he's Gay says he was ignored by two school principals and a bus driver when he asked for help, reported advocate.com.

Jayron Martin told people he had heard the boys planning the attack, and his fears were confirmed when he was chased off of his school bus and assaulted for seven minutes by a boy with a metal pipe while eight others watched.

A property owner finally broke up the attack when he scared the boys away by firing his shotgun.

"All they kept saying was, 'We going to get you. We going to fight you,'" Martin told Houston TV station KHOU, "and all that and so when they started coming after me they were like, 'You're not going to be Gay anymore.' They just kept hitting me. ... You don't understand, I was just running for my life and nobody was like there at all. Nobody was doing anything for me."

Officials with the Cy-Fair school district in Houston say they are looking inot the incident. The bus driver has been placed on administrative leave, and the actions of an assistant principal are under investigation.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WINTER STREET FAIR

IBT's

*FRIDAY DEC. 11TH
5PM-9PM KARAOKE
9PM-DRAG SHOW

*SATURDAY DEC. 12TH
OPEN AT 10AM
2PM-DRAG SHOW
5PM-KARAOKE

*SUNDAY DEC. 13TH
OPEN AT 10AM
2PM-DRAG SHOW
5PM-9PM-KARAOKE ON THE PATIO
9PM-KARAOKE INSIDE &
CHEAP ASS DRINK NIGHT

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AT http://twitter.com/IBTs

SUNDAY KARAOKE

4:30PM-8:30PM KARAOKE ON THE PATIO

HAPPY HOUR TILL 8PM

9PM-CLOSE KARAOKE INSIDE

*CHEAP ASS DRINK NIGHT

*$1.50 WELL COCKTAILS

*$1.50 DOMESTIC BEER

*$2.50 CALL COCKTAILS

*$2.50 PREMIUM BEERS

*SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY

Stanley Remains Neutral On DADT

Tucson Observer Archives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Senate Armed Services Committee held a confirmation hearing for Clifford Stanley, a retired Marine general who has been nominated as undersecretary of Personnel and Readiness within the Department of Defense – the position that oversees the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, reported advocate.com.

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, he was the president of Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship organization.

The military's Gay ban was one of the main points of inquiry during the hearing, with Republican senator John McCain of Arizona, ranking member on the committee, providing the opening salvo on the issue. "I would be remiss if I didn't mention a challenge that will probably fall under your purview, and that would be changing the DOD's homosexual conduct policy," McCain said during his opening statement, adding that he believes the current policy works. "I would be opposed to any attempt at modifying the existing policy in ways that will harm military readiness, placing upon the shoulders of military leaders an extra burden they simply do not need."

But Democratic senators were the only members of the committee who directed questions on the matter to Stanley, whose answers generally provided little insight into his personal views.

Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the committee's chairman, noted that Stanley would be responsible for implementing any change in the policy as well as studying the issue and making recommendations. "Will you give us your best objective opinion on the question of whether or not 'don't ask, don't tell' should be maintained or dropped," asked Levin.

"Yes, senator, I will," Stanley answered.

Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado said that when President Barack Obama pledged last month to end the ban, he "sent a clear message to every service member in uniform – straight and Gay, regardless of service or rank – that this change was coming." Udall noted that some Congress members believe the president may include repeal of the policy among the recommendations he submits to Congress for next year's Defense budget. "Is that a recommendation that you are prepared to support?" Udall asked.

"Senator, I clearly recognize that this is a very sensitive issue, it is an issue that I'm prepared to address if confirmed," Stanley answered. He listed a number of sources from whom he would seek input on the matter, including the Pentagon, Congress, the respective service chiefs in particular, and military experts. "This is a very very challenging subject, but one that I know we can get our arms around," said Stanley. "I have to provide, based upon that input, a recommendation to Secretary Gates."

Sen. Roland Burris of Illinois questioned Stanley about how he would treat pending discharges, a potential reference to the fact that Defense secretary Robert Gates is looking into ways to soften implementation of the policy.

"They would fall under the existing statute, as I understand it," said Stanley.

Burris responded, "We're hoping we can get something done in this Congress with reference to that that would free up your hands, because we need all volunteers who will commit to serve this country of ours to be able to serve and to serve in a capacity that's honorable."

Nearly every senator expressed concern about the stress and strain of conducting two wars on the troops and their mental health. Stanley shared their concern and said that maintaining an all-volunteer force was his "number 1" priority.

General Clifford Stanley, Ret.

Following the hearing, Aubrey Sarvis, executive director the pro-repeal lobby group Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said he was disappointed but not surprised that Stanley wasn't more definitive in his answers on the policy. "Obviously, General Stanley's objective today was to get through the hearing and to be confirmed without any controversy," Sarvis said.

Sarvis added that he was not personally aware of Stanley's view on repeal but that sources on the Hill have suggested he supports overturning the policy. "I understand that the president's views on 'don't ask, don't tell' were discussed with Dr. Stanley and that they are in alignment," said Sarvis.

Sarvis expects that the Senate's first "don't ask, don't tell" hearing will take place next month, and he said congressional leaders were in the process of figuring out how to formulate the panels. "I think they are talking about Secretary Gates or Admiral Mullen, so just those two by themselves could be a full hearing," he said, adding that the Senate may in fact hold more than one hearing.

If the president does include repeal of the Gay ban in his policy recommendations to the armed services committees, Sarvis said that would happen around January or February of next year.

"I think that would be a real viable place for the president and for the Defense Department to indicate clearly and precisely what they want to receive on 'don't ask, don't tell,'" he said.

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Questions About Gay Teen Murder In Baltimore

BALTIMORE, MD (Observer Update) - Jason Mattison Jr., 15, an openly Gay high schooler, was found dead in his aunt's home; the suspect charged, Dante Parrish, 35, was a family friend. Mattison was raped, gagged with a pillowcase, stabbed repeatedly in the head and throat and shoved in a closet, reported 365Gay.com. Says the Baltimore Sun: Jason's killing left his teachers, classmates and relatives in tears and family members asking questions of one another even in the days leading up to today's funeral. Did Jason leave his mother's house and move in with his aunt, as his grandmother suggested? Or was he just visiting on that fateful day, as a cousin said? And why did people in his aunt's house open their door to the suspect, a convicted killer released early from prison because of flaws in his case?

His paternal grandmother, Wanda Williams, one of the first Jason confided in about being Gay and who handed him a few dollars now and then for food and clothes, questioned how other relatives could have allowed the boy to be in the same house with Parrish, given his violent past. "I haven't cried so much this entire life," Williams said. "My grandson hollering for help and there is nobody there to help him."

Jason was one of the most popular kids at school, his English teacher said, always first to class, always first to the cafeteria, where students fought to sit at his table, always first to turn in his homework and always getting near-perfect grades. "He was outspoken and excited about everything he talked about," Jones said. "Walking into school, he was the first one to share what he did over the weekend. He was very, very popular, and he was everyone's best friend."

Jason wanted to be a pediatrician, Jones said, and the only thing the two debated was Jason's constant chatter. "He was not a behavioral problem," Jones said. "He was a talking problem." A Baltimore police spokesman would say only that Jason "was staying at his aunt's house." It was there that Jason met Parrish, with whom the spokesman said the teen had a "forced sexual relationship."

Banned Director Brings Gay Romance Film To Hong Kong

HONG KONG - A prominent mainland Chinese director banned by Beijing from making movies brought his new Gay romance film to Hong Kong for what is likely the last of a handful of screenings on his home soil, reported the AP on 365Gay.com.

In 2006, China banned Lou Ye from shooting movies for five years after he screened "Summer Palace" at the Cannes Film Festival without government approval. In the film Lou tackled the Chinese military's brutal crackdown on pro-democracy student protesters at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people are believed to have been killed. But he defied the ban, secretly shooting the love story "Spring Fever" with small, digital cameras in the eastern city Nanjing last year. He also entered it at Cannes this year, where it won best screenplay in May.

In "Spring Fever," he takes on homosexuality - another taboo in China - with graphic Gay sex scenes. The 115-minute movie is about a private investigator hired to spy on a married man having a Gay affair. But the investigator falls into a love triangle with his own girlfriend and the boyfriend of the husband he is investigating. Commercial distributors have bought "Spring Fever" for release in Russia, South Korea, France, and the U.S., but not so in China. It was only screened in four showings at an independent film festival in Nanjing last month.

It screened as one of the two opening movies at this year's Hong Kong Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. But a Chinese distribution deal is unlikely, given Lou's status. Lou said, however, that Chinese film officials have turned a blind eye to his supposedly illegal activities, including for shooting "Spring Fever" and showing it at the independent film festival in Nanjing. He has also been allowed to travel freely in and out of China, but he wants the ban lifted so his films can be screened more widely in China. "It's regrettable that this film won't be released in the Chinese market," Lou told The Associated Press in an interview before the Hong Kong screening.

Lou, whose credits also include "Suzhou River" and "Purple Butterfly," urged the Chinese government to shorten his ban. "Everyone should be able to make movies. I hope this ban will be canceled earlier and I hope the government won't impose any more bans on other directors," the 45-year-old director said. Lou arrived in Hong Kong from Paris, where he was preparing for his next project, his foreign-language debut - a French film about a Chinese student's romance in Paris.

DC Board Of Elections Declares No Popular Vote On G/L Marriage Rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Civil rights triumphed over another failed attack from advocates of discrimination when the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics rejected a proposed referendum to put the rights of a minority up for a vote.

The proposed effort to limit the rights of District residents was brought by Stand For Marriage and Maryland pastor, Bishop Harry Jackson. The BOEE denied the referendum as a violation of the Human Rights Act of the District of Columbia. "Equality should never be up for debate or denied on a ballot," said D.C. resident Michael Crawford, Co-chair of D.C. for Marriage. "We only want what every other American already has - the right to marry the person we love."

Rev. Cedric Harmon, a D.C. resident and a representative of D.C. Clergy United for Marriage Equality, a group of nearly 200 Washington, D.C. faith leaders representing all eight wards of the District and a variety of religious faiths added the following statement in support of the BOEE's decision: "It is shameful when religious leaders fail to uphold the Christian teachings of our faith by trying to institutionalize a second-class citizenship on our neighbors. People of faith have worked for generations to achieve social justice for all people – regardless of race, creed, class, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We serve our entire flock, and there is no justification under God that we should discriminate against any of God's children.

"The District of Columbia has not voted on the civil rights of a minority since the Civil War, when a majority prevented freed male slaves from gaining the right to vote. Today, the Board of Elections and Ethics reminded us that human rights should never be put to a vote. As members of the clergy who support equal rights for all citizens, and who struggle to achieve social justice in the District of Columbia, we applaud the BOEE for standing up for human rights in the face of discrimination."

Murder Charge Filed In Puerto Rico Gay Teen Slaying

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (Observer Update) Murder charges were filed in the slaying of a Gay teenager whose decapitated, partially burned body was found, while U.S. authorities said they were still considering whether to make it a hate crime case, reported 365Gay.com.

Gay activists expressed disappointment that the suspect wasn't immediately charged with a hate crime, saying authorities in Puerto Rico have never invoked a law covering crimes based on sexual orientation. The dismembered body of 19-year-old college student Jorge Steven Lopez Mercado was discovered along a road in the interior town of Cayey. Lopez was widely known as a volunteer for organizations advocating HIV prevention and Gay rights, and activists are planning remembrance vigils for him in cities including San Juan, New York and Chicago.

The suspect, 26-year-old Juan Martinez Matos, was arrested earlier this week and allegedly confessed to killing Lopez and mutilating his body. He was charged with first-degree murder and weapons violations and jailed on $4 million bond. It could not be immediately determined if Martinez was represented by an attorney.

Martinez met Lopez while looking for women in an area known for prostitution, according to prosecutor Jose Bermudez Santos. Bermudez said the suspect confessed to stabbing Lopez, who was dressed as a woman, after discovering he was a man. "He has a deep-seated rage," Bermudez said in remarks reported by the newspaper El Nuevo Dia.

"All the information we have is very clear that this is indeed a hate crime," said Pedro Julio Serrano, a Puerto Rico native who is a spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. A 2002 hate crime law in this U.S. territory has not been applied to any cases involving sexual orientation or gender identity despite calls to use it more aggressively, Serrano said. A suspect convicted of a hate crime offense as part of another crime automatically faces the maximum penalty for the underlying crime. For murder, that would be life in prison.

Serrano said he has identified at least 10 slayings on the island over the last seven years that should have been investigated as hate crimes, including some in which the victims were sex workers.

Two U.S. Congress members from New York, who are of Puerto Rican origin, have suggested prosecuting the case under new federal hate crimes legislation that extended coverage to sexual orientation. President Barack Obama signed it last month.

The FBI is monitoring the investigation, and Lymarie Llovet Ayala, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in San Juan, said that federal prosecutors are considering whether to take on the case. Puerto Rico has some history of violence against Gays. In the 1980s, the island was terrorized by serial killer Angel Colon Maldonado, known as "The Angel of the Bachelors," who was linked to the murders of 27 homosexual people and is serving life in prison.

But the island also is known as a welcoming place for Gays, particularly in comparison with more socially conservative Caribbean islands where homosexuals often live in hiding. "The people of Puerto Rico are very inclusive and accepting of differences," said Serrano. "I think these kinds of crimes show the ugly side of homophobia, but it's a minority of people that are willing to be so violent in expressing their prejudice."

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Maine Aftermath

By Bobby Parker

We closely watched the Maine campaign and vote regarding marriage, and it reinforced our position about the proper strategy for pushing for LGBT equality. Our opponents in Maine used the institution of traditional marriage against us in two ways: They used the tactic that Gay marriage would be taught to students in public school as well as the usual ploy that Gay marriage is a threat to traditional marriage.

But the people for equality fought back by political organizing - calling, walking, engaging voters with their message. They did well, but narrowly lost the vote. Despite the furor and press coverage there, about half of Maine voters sat out the election. Hard to believe, but it illustrates the opportunity we have. If only a few more Maine voters sympathetic to equality had been identified and had been convinced to vote, the outcome could have been different. That task is something that only determined political organizing and action can make happen.

We believe in Arizona, we need to take the offensive and reframe the debate not as marriage, but as equality. Simply put, should all Arizonans be treated equally before the law? When people are asked that equality question, we believe they will say yes.

But in order to win our equality, we must conduct political organizing and activism - calling, walking, engaging voters strategically, incrementally. It starts with getting more Democrats elected to the legislature to advance equality and stymie the efforts of our opponents.

Doing nothing in Arizona could have other consequences for our community. Expect our opponents to push to make adoption by Gays illegal, or to attack LGBT teachers.

We know not everyone will take political action. Most people stand around and don't do anything. But a number of people will work and fight for their issues and their equality, and these are the folks we are looking to get involved. We need you to help in the fight for full quality, and we ask you to go to our website, ArizonaStonewallDemocrats.org and sign up to help.

(Parker is the Chair of the Arizona Stonewall Democrats)

Wrestler Enlisted To Protect Young Acftivist

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Jon Stewart worries that Will Phillips, the 10-year-old Arkansas boy who refuses to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at school until LGBT people have full equality, could need some protection from bullies. Last night on The Daily Show With Jon Stewart, he proposed that professional wrestler Mick Foley provide security for the youngster, reported advocate.com.

Foley, identified as the "senior ass-kicker," promised to come to the rescue of Phillips, if need be, with his burly buddies. "I and perhaps a few of my friends will come to his school and bring a world of pain," said Foley.

In his "Gaywatch" segment, Stewart also looked at the case of Peter Vidala, the 24-year-old from Boston who claims he was fired because he told a coworker that he opposed her pending marriage to another woman.

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Homosexuality No Factor In Abusive Priests

BALTIMORE (Observer Update) - A preliminary report commissioned by the nation's Roman Catholic bishops on the roots of the clergy sex abuse scandal found no evidence that Gay priests are more likely than heterosexual clergy to molest children, the lead authors of the study said.

The full report by researchers at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice won't be completed until the end of next year. But the authors said that their evidence to date found no data indicating that homosexuality was a predictor of abuse.

"What we are suggesting is that the idea of sexual identity be separated from the problem of sexual abuse," said Margaret Smith of John Jay College, in a speech to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "At this point, we do not find a connection between homosexual identity and the increased likelihood of subsequent abuse from the data that we have right now."

The question has been raised repeatedly within and outside the church because the overwhelming majority of known victims were boys. As part of the church's response to the crisis, the Vatican ordered a review of all U.S. seminaries that, among other issues, looked for any "evidence of homosexuality" in the schools.

Yet, many experts on sex offenders reject any link between sexual orientation and committing abuse. Karen Terry, a John Jay researcher, said it was important to distinguish between sexual identity and behavior, and to look at who the offender had access to when seeking victims.

The bishops had commissioned the $2 million study as part of widespread reforms they enacted at the height of the abuse crisis. The scandal erupted in 2002 with the case of one predator priest in the Archdiocese of Boston, then spread to every U.S. diocese and beyond.

Nearly 14,000 molestation claims have been filed against Catholic clergy since 1950, according to tallies the bishops have released in recent years. Abuse-related costs have reached at least $2.3 billion in the same period.

At the meeting, Bishop Edward Braxton, of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., asked the researchers whether their study indicated that homosexuality should be considered when evaluating a candidate for the priesthood. In 2005, the Vatican issued a policy statement that men with "deep-seated" attraction to other men should be barred from the priesthood. Smith said: "If that exclusion were based on the fact that that person would be more probable than any other candidate to abuse, we do not find that at this time."

The latest findings affirmed previous reports that the rate of clergy abuse has declined steeply since the mid 1980s. Researchers found that the abuse rate peaked in the 1960s and 1970s. Most of the claims being made now involve allegations from decades ago.

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Semenya Can Keep Medal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - South African runner Caster Semenya will keep her 800-meter gold medal from the world championships, and the results of her gender tests will be kept confidential, the South African sports ministry said.

However, the question of whether she remains eligible to compete as a woman remained uncertain. The ministry also said in a statement that the International Association of Athletics Federations has agreed to allow the 18-year-old Semenya to keep her prize money.

''Because Caster has been found to be innocent ... she will then retain her gold medal,'' the ministry said. The IAAF said the gender tests performed on Semenya had not been completed.

South African Runner Caster Semenya

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

Sandra Bernhard Is Sick Of Vampires

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LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Funny lady Sandra Bernhard is sick of Twilight, True Blood, and all things vampire, advocate.com reported.

The comedian took to her Twitter to voice her frustrations. She tweets: "Can we just stop with the vampire charade already moral vampires lazy vampires erotic frustrated vampires shy vampires lonely vampires funny kooky vampires exhausted vampires exploited vampires vampires on the verge of a nervous breakdown spanish vampires sleazy southern vampires."

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Clearly Sandra wasn't camped out on Sunset Boulevard last night for the midnight showing.

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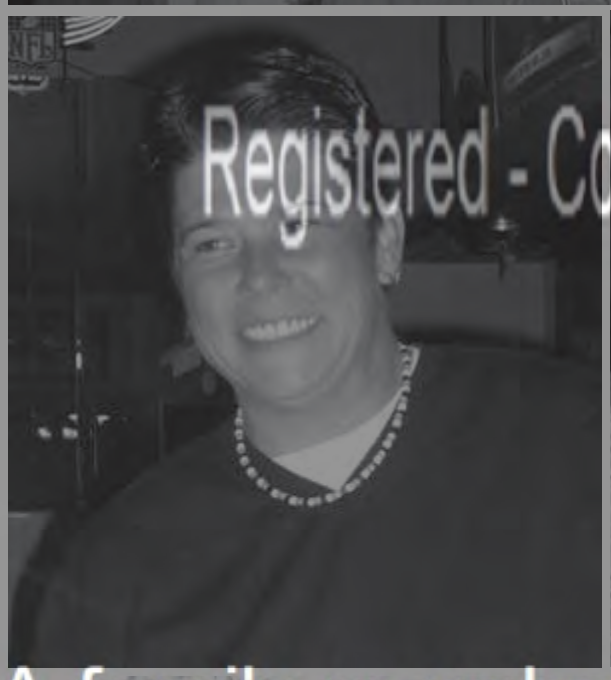

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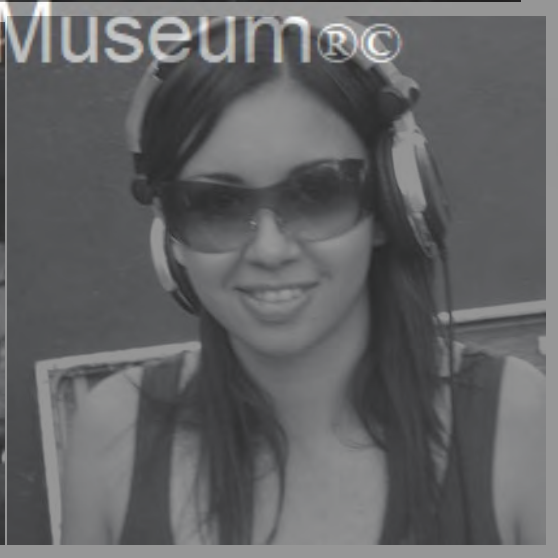

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

FBI Releases Annual Hate Crimes Report; LGBT Crimes Up

On Monday, November 23, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released its annual report on the number of hate crimes committed in the U.S. over the past calendar year (2008).

A total of 7,783 incidents and 9,691 victims were reported by various law enforcement agencies across the United States who compiled information on hate crimes.

According to the report, at total of 1,706 people were victims of sexual-orientation hate crimes, of which:

57.5 percent were victims of an offender's anti-male homosexual bias;

27.3 percent were victims because of an anti-homosexual bias;

11.6 percent were victims because of an anti-female homosexual bias;

2.0 percent were victims because of an anti-heterosexual bias.

1.6 percent were victims because of an anti-bisexual bias.

In Arizona, a total of 185 incidents of hate crimes were reported to the FBI by state law enforcement agencies.

Phoenix led the state with a total of 89 reported incidents of hate crime, of which 10 were because of the victim's sexual orientation, perceived or otherwise.

Tucson, including the University of Arizona, had 19 incidents, one incident in the town of Oro Valley and three in Pima County.

Of these reported incidents, six people were victims of sexual orientation hate crimes.

Most hate crimes targeting individuals were intimidation or simple assault, but seven murders and 11 rapes were counted among the hate crime statistics.

Data to the FBI for the report as submitted by 13,690 law enforcement agencies in most of the 50 states, which more than 80 percent of the participating agencies reported no hate crimes in their jurisdictions in 2008.

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BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ --

Joe Paolucci and his partner, Thomas Hitchcock, have been barred for life from all Wal-Mart stores following a dispute over Bic lighters. The Chicago lawyers visited a Michigan Wal-Mart with their two adopted special-needs 11-year-old sons in August. While Hitchcock bought groceries at a counter operated by a cashier, Paolucci went to a self-checkout lane to purchase, among other items, a package of lighters. As the family left the store, an employee asked Paolucci if he had purchased the lighters and requested to see a receipt. The receipt did not show the lighters, and the family was asked to enter a detention room.

Paolucci refused and then asked store personnel to call police. Paolucci believed that a review of the security cameras would show that he had in fact purchased the lighters. When the police arrived, Paolucci was immediately handcuffed without questioning and placed in the backseat of a squad car. Hitchcock was not handcuffed but was placed in the backseat of a second squad car. The twins were turned over to the store's security personnel, who took them into the detention room. Paolucci and Hitchcock estimated it was at least 45 minutes before officers told them they had reviewed the store's tapes and had determined that the lighters had not been shoplifted.

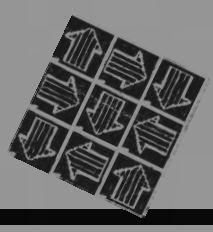
The two said they expected an apology and were surprised when personnel from the store instead read from a statement that Paolucci and Hitchcock had been barred from all Wal-Mart stores for life. Rather than shoplifting, the reason they were given was "being uncooperative," reports the South Bend Tribune. "Everything they asked us to do, we did. We cooperated 100%," Paolucci argued. "We objected only when they tried to get us to go into the detention room." Paolucci said he and Hitchcock asked the Berrien County prosecutor's office to file criminal charges against Wal-Mart's employees for injuries suffered by one of the twins as a result of the incident. R. McKinley Elliott, the county's corporate counsel, advised against it. Elliott said a thorough review of the store's videotapes revealed nothing improper by either store employees or police. "The prosecutor's office didn't see any basis for acting against anyone," said Elliott, according to the South Bend Tribune. ...

Lesbian U.S. War Deserter Wins Stay Of Deportation

TORONTO, Canada (Observer Update) Canada's Federal Court says the country's refugee board must reconsider the case of a Lesbian who deserted the U.S. Army and fled to Canada, 365Gay.com reported.

Judge Yves de Montigny said the board erred last February when it rejected Bethany Smith's bid. Smith says she fled the army instead of going to Afghanistan with her unit because she was harassed and threatened by fellow soldiers over her sexual orientation. The U.S. military has a policy of discharging openly gay members but Smith says she was denied a discharge because soldiers were needed for the Afghanistan mission.

The judge says the board unfairly dismissed evidence suggesting that gays face harsher treatment in the American military justice system. Smith says she would fear for her life if she were returned to the army.



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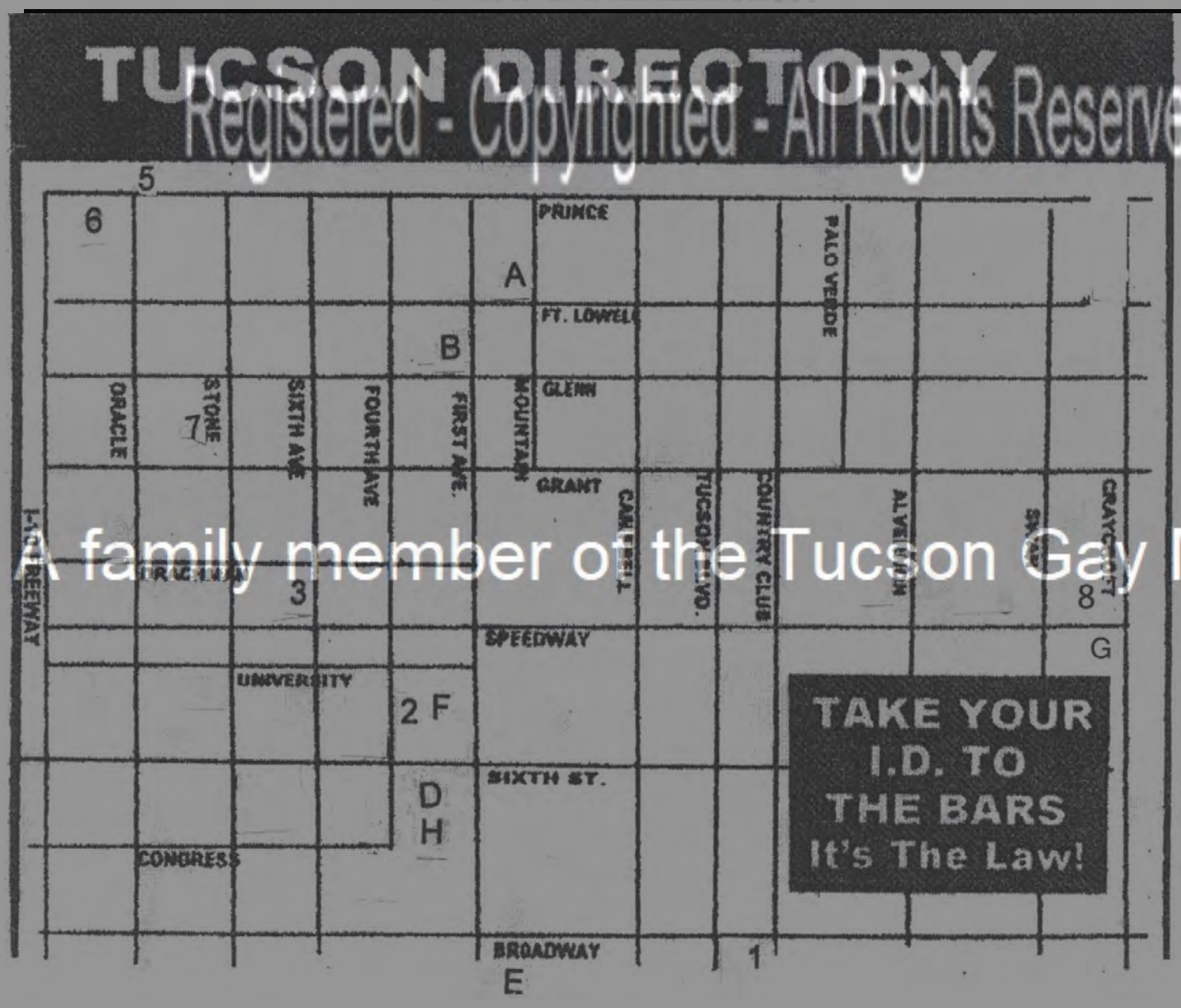

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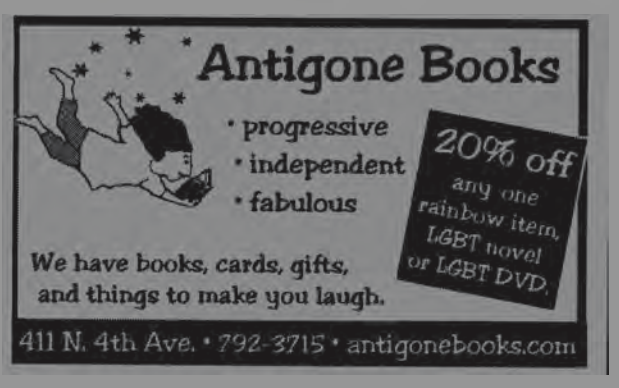

Trans Protections Approved In Tampa

TAMPA, FL (Observer Update) - The Tampa city council voted to extend antidiscrimination protections to Transgender individuals over the objections of opponents, many of whom based their criticisms on religion, advocate.com reported.

The measure, which was proposed by the city's Human Rights Board and passed the by city council unanimously in a preliminary vote November 5, underwent lengthier debate, according to The Tampa Tribune. "Following two hours of testimony from grandmothers, ministers, Transgendered people and representatives of Fortune 500 companies, the city council voted 5 to 1 on Thursday to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public facilities based on 'gender identity and expression,'" the Tribune reported.

Christian conservatives were especially incensed about the proposal. "Members of several Christian evangelical groups and other opponents called the move an assault on their religious values they fear will sanction sexually deviant behavior," reported the Tribune.

Tampa joined 16 other municipalities in Florida that have extended protections to Transgender individuals.

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Boy George To Be Locked Up On Big Brother UK

LONDON (Observer Update) - Pop star Boy George, recently released from jail for imprisoning a rent boy in his London apartment, is to be locked up again, but this time in the Celebrity Big Brother house, reports Daily Star.

The former Culture Club singer, 48, will join other celebrities in the next season of the popular British reality series and says he is the happiest he has ever been and that his stint in jail made him change for the better, advocate.com reported.

"I had prison coming to me. It wasn't that big a surprise, I kind of knew it was going to happen," he reveals. "I just thought I'm going to make this work for me. I got a job quite quickly and worked in the kitchen," he adds.

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Family Refused Country Club Membership

NORFOLK, VA (Observer Update) - A country club voted to allow two married women to join, but only as individuals, not as a family, advocate.com reported. Shannon Bowman and Martha Daas would pay about $3,200, or twice the family rate, in fees and annual dues to join the Mallory Country Club in West Ghent as individuals. The married couple is raising two children together, but same-sex marriage is not recognized in Virginia.

Mallory Country Club members recently voted on whether to accept or reject the family's membership application, and while a majority of voters sided with the women, it wasn't enough to approve their application, according to the Virginian-Pilot. Roughly 180 votes out of 311 were cast to support family memberships for same-sex couples with children, the Virginian-Pilot reported. But a two-thirds majority – or 207 votes – was required to put the measure through.

Bowman, Daas, and another same-sex couple launched their membership effort this year when they wanted to take their 8-year-old daughter to the club's pool.

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Hate Crime Suspect's Bud: Blame The Victim

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - A friend of one of the suspects in last weekend's brutal hate crime in Queens, N.Y., says that the assault was not a hate crime, and that the victim, an openly Gay man, deserved the "beat down." The friend proudly displays a tattoo of the Leviticus passage often used to condemn Gay people, reported advocate.com.

Daniel Rodriguez and Daniel Aleman are charged with a hate crime in the assault of Jack Price. The 49-year-old Price remained in a medically induced coma for days after the attack outside a deli, which was captured on video. ABC 7 News spoke with Marcel Gelmi, a friend of Rodriguez, who said that Price had propositioned men in the neighborhood and blown his assailants a kiss, which justified what he called a "beat down."

Gelmi also showed off a shoulder tattoo with the passage from Leviticus 18:22 that says, "Thou shall not lie with a male as one does with a woman. It is an abomination." According to Gelmi, the victim should not have complained. "I mean, I don't want no man blowing me a kiss either. I mean, things happen," he said. "I've been beat up like that too, but you don't see me on the news and my family crying and this and that. Wounds heal."

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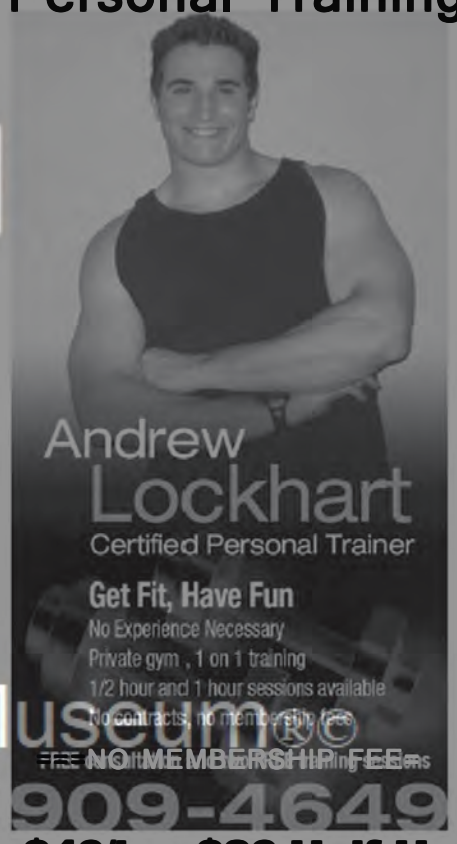

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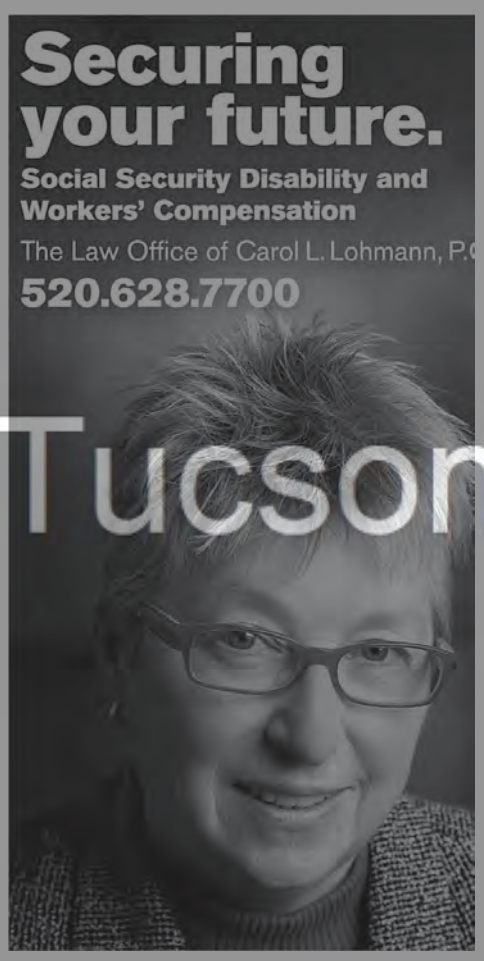

Family Q Offers Support For LGBTQ Parents

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - "The technical aspects of making a family is just the small part," says Dr. Miriam Colbert Ehrenberg, executive director of the Institute for Human Identity (IHI), a New York City-based psychotherapy and training institute.

"Even though it's difficult and society puts lots of obstacles in your way, your work really starts once you have the kids." IHI, which specializes in affirmative mental health services for the LGBTQ community and other stigmatized groups, has just begun its second year of "Family Q" workshops for LGBTQ parents and prospective parents. The organization received a five-year grant from the New York State Department of Health to offer the program at no charge, including free follow-up counseling if desired. They hope attendees will come away better able to handle the emotional part of being LGBTQ parents.

Dr. Ehrenberg says many LGBTQ parents and prospective parents "don't have enough questions" about parenting. They ask about practical issues such as how to conceive, find a surrogate, or adopt, she explains, "but they don't stop to consider the emotional ramifications." Similarly, many seminars elsewhere for LGBTQ parents focus on the mechanics and legal issues rather than the psychological aspects of parenthood. Dr. Ehrenberg feels IHI is in an ideal position to address the psychological side. The organization has trained hundreds of psychotherapists about LGBTQ issues. Its founder, Dr. Charles Silverstein, helped lead the charge in 1973 to have the American Psychiatric Association remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. He established IHI as a not-for-profit therapy center soon thereafter.

"We have tried to construct workshops based on our own experiences and those of our clients who come to us for therapy," Dr. Ehrenberg explains, "and our knowledge of general issues of child and adolescent development." The workshops, which will run on the third Wednesday of every month from October 2009 through May 2010, will address topics such as answering children's queries about sperm donors or birth parents, coming out of the closet after having children, and how to talk about sex when children begin to ask the inevitable questions.

Most straight parents, Dr. Ehrenberg observes, either don't have to deal with these questions or can refer to any number of books that explain to children where they came from. Family Q sessions will also cover some of the negative situations LGBTQ parents may encounter, including harassment at school, rejection by neighbors or relatives, and breaking up when parents don't have equal legal or biological claims to the children.

The presenters are all mental health professionals with extensive clinical backgrounds. They are also, importantly, all LGBTQ parents who have lived through many of the above experiences themselves. Developmental psychologist Dr. Elizabeth O'Connor says her March workshop, "What Will the Neighbors Think?" will explore what she feels is the most common concern Gay and Lesbian parents have when they're thinking about raising children: are the kids going to get harassed or ostracized because of their parents?

She says there is no guarantee this won't happen, but adds, "There's no guarantee they won't get teased about wearing glasses or losing the baseball game or anything else." Also, she says, research has shown that even though children of LGBTQ parents may hear some unkind remarks, "generally speaking, kids [of LGBTQ parents] report they don't get teased any more than other kids do, that it's not this huge problem for most of our kids. That's kind of a relief for parents to hear."

O'Connor and her partner, Dr. Suzanne M. Johnson, another developmental psychologist and Family Q presenter, are the authors of For Lesbian Parents: Your Guide to Helping Your Family Grow Up Happy, Healthy and Proud and The Gay Baby Boom: The Psychology of Gay Parenthood. O'Connor says, however, that workshop attendees will get something they cannot get from reading books. "I think it's very helpful just to sit in a room with other people who are going through the same thing that you are," she explains. "Even if you don't see these people again, just knowing that they're out there, that you're part of a community, I think is a real benefit to parents."

Practicing psychologist Dr. Adam Benson, who will be conducting the December workshop, "Heather Has Two Daddies" with his partner Graham Parker, wants to reach out to the community of Gay fathers. He says many Gay dads still struggle with gender stereotypes about what it means to be a father. "In one of the

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OLD TOP seeks young bottom, preferably college student. All aspects of the relationship negotiable. write to 3938 E. Grant, #141, Tucson, AZ 85712-2559 1324

LOOKING FOR VINCENT MARTINEZ, JR. Last known address in Tucson. Sought by niece Tara Jeanne Martinez. Please contact: Tarajm1234@hotmail.com 1328

MASSAGE

RELAXING FULL BODY MASSAGE. Swedish, Deep Tissue also feather-touch sensual hands. Private. Open minded. Also back by popular demand group massage once a month. Benson area. Twenty-five minutes East of Kolb Road. Call Victor Victoria (520)971-5884 1321

QUALITY TERRIFIC MASSAGE & very Sensual TANTRIC SESSIONS! My sensitive touch gives you a dynamic experience! Creating a sacred space, for 28 years. Call Marc - 881-4582 (8 AM - 8 PM) Touching Tucson men since 1983. Professionally trained.. 1323

ROOMMATE

ROOMMATE WANTED. Furnished room with private bath. Southwest location. $450 per month, utilities included except phone. No pets, nonsmoker, $300 deposit. For info call Ray at (520)578-9045. 1325

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS & AND REPAIRS Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1320

Family Q Offers Support

Continued from Page Twelve

studies that I completed," he says, the Gay fathers that had children (through an opposite-sex marriage} would often say that they allowed their spouse to have full custody simply because they thought that the best place for a child is with their mother.

In his workshop, he hopes to challenge the idea that an involved male parent issimply playing "Mr. Mom,"which still implies that the female parenting role is the trouchstone. "Very often, if we're not aware how the gender stereotypes play a role in what we say or how we act with our children," he explains, "we're less likely to be as present as we can with them." Michael, a dad who attended several of last year's workshops, says he plans to return. Last year, he was just coming out to his then-wife and two children. (He asked that his last name not be used so that his teens may control when to come out about their father to friends). He sys he appreciated not only the guidance from professsionals, but also the help from other participants, many of whom were already out but not yet to parents.

"It's not the parenting part for me," he told them, "it's the Gay stuff." He gfave others advice on parenting issues, and in turn learnedd from them about coming out and being Gay. "It was a positive experience for me as a Gay man and a parent," he reflects. "I feel like going back and reporting on how it went." Dr. Ehrenberg says she would like even more parents and prospective parents to have the chance to benefit from Family Q. She hopes to continue the program even beyond the five-year grant, and perhaps expand it nationwide, starting with other cities such as Boston and San Francisco.

She expects it will evolve to include additional topics as well, and as the ideas come out, and as we're strimulated to do so." SFor a complete list of Family Q workshops or to make a reservatiton for any workshop, visit theIHI Website or contact them at ihi-lgbt@juno.com or 212-23-2830.

Court: Names of Donors To Referendum 71 Can Be Made Public

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The DC Agenda, the new iteration of the shuttered Washington Blade, launched its website and distributed its first print edition Friday morning, Nov. 20.

The DC Agenda website posts the content available in the newspaper, including a letter from editor Kevin Naff. He quickly reviews the indignities experienced by staff members when parent company Window Media abruptly closed the publication due to financial problems, but he stresses staff members' intention to move ahead with the new project.

"The former staff of the Washington Blade remains united and DC Agenda represents our effort at continuing the important mission and work of the Blade," writes Naff. "It will grow and evolve to include a much larger and more diverse group of voices. But the core of the Washington Blade's work remains unchanged. We will cover Congress, the White House, the LGBT rights movement, the D.C. marriage fight, local hate crimes and other political issues important to the LGBT residents of the city."

Poet's Corner

MY MICKI

by Ron Rose, Tucson

Someone slipped me a Micki
I swooned, then I fell
Fifty years later, I'm married as Hell.
My darling sweet Micki, she brings me such joy
She's really vivacious, and not really coy.
When I'm really down, Micki gives me a lift
My darling, sweet Micki, what a great gift.
Our kids and our grandkids, believe it or not
Think we're just crazy, yet crazy we're not
We just like to party, and have lotsa fun
My Micki, sweet Micki, Together as one.

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

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

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 426 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED -- Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit www.lctucson.org or write: Lutherans Concerned/Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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..

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.

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.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, November 27

THE BIZ - This Friday and every Friday it's "GoGo Friday" with 2-4-1's until Midnight. Ladies only. DJ Shorty, with Celene and Meco, GoGo Dancer on the bar top

Saturday, November 28

COYOTE MOON - Tea Dance 4 to 8 p.m.

Friday, December 11

IBT's - It's time for the 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair and its Karaoke at IBT's fro 5to 9 p.m. and a Drag Show starting at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday December 12

IBT's - 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair continues. IBT's will open at 10:00 a.m. Drag Show at 2p.m. and Karaoke at 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 13

IBT's - 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair winds up today. IBT's opens at 10:00 a.m. 2 p.m. Drag Show, 5-9 p.m. Karaoke on sthe Patio and at 9p.m. Karaoke inside and 'Cheap Ass Drink Night'!

Support Those Who Support You!

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS TRY IT!

COLORS
Sunday Brunch Buffet 10-2
All You Can Eat $10 including a Mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver
REGULAR BRUNCH MENU ALWAYS AVAILABLE
GUYS & DOLLS w/ LUCINDA HOLLIDAY EVERY FRIDAY @ 10
Mon. - Thur. & Sat. 4pm - 10pm
NOW OPEN MONDAYS!
Fri. 4pm - CLOSE
Sun.10am - 10pm
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UT Students Rally For DP Benefits

AUSTIN, TX (Observer Update) - Students at the University of Texas at Austin rallied to call for domestic-partner benefits for faculty and staff members, advocate.com reported.

The students say the university is moving too slowly to provide benefits for the same-sex partners of professors and other UT employees. Staff member Karen Landolt told Austin's News 8 that the lack of partner benefits "hurts the university's credibility" and "ability to recruit the brightest and the best, and to retain staff as well."

In April, Deborah Vargas, a UT assistant professor whose partner has health problems, cited the benefits policy as a reason for her resignation to take a job at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Calling All Closeted Service Members

PORTLAND, OR (Observer Update) - Photographer Jeff Sheng is looking for as many participants as possible for a new photo project on closeted men and women in the U.S. military, reported advocate.com.

The casting call reads, "'Jess, Bend, Oregon, 2009' is part of my newest photography project, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' a series of photographs of closeted men and women in the United States military. For each image, I have asked the individual to wear their uniform, while staging the photoshoot in the bedroom or local hotel room where that person is currently stationed. The reason for this is that I am most interested in the intersections between public and private space, and the government's policing of our private spaces – the bedroom being the most representative space of this. I have purposely shot each image in a way that obscures to some degree the identity of the individuals, and the final image that is released to the public is first approved by the subject, and is in many ways, their expression of their closeted-ness and lack of identity. The name and location is also fictional: I have asked the subject to give me a first name and a location that is significant to them, but does not actually refer to the true name and location of who is in the photograph. My aim in this project is to use photography to create a visual record of the numerous individuals currently serving our country that are unjustly forced to hide an integral part of who they are."

You can contact Sheng through his website, jeffsheng.com.

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