

## Diva Crowned Miss Gay Tucson America 2010



TUCSON - Around 300 people filled the grand ballroom of Hotel Arizona last Sunday to see the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miss Gay Tucson America Pageant. The annual affair was flawless in its production and, of course, the judges had a hard job in selecting who was the winner - And they decided it to be Diva who will reign as Miss Gay Tucson America for the coming year. Diva, above being crowned by her peers, was wildly applauded by the crowd - Congratulations to Diva and other contestants who entertained during the evening, as well as the many other royalty who came from all over the country. The event was also a benefit for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day 60 mile walk which raised over \$4,000! Great job Larry and Pat.

## Rethinking AIDS Meds

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - In the five years since he was infected with HIV, Larry Reigel has had a virtual systemic breakdown. Most recently hospitalized for epileptic attacks and severe neuropathy (nerve loss in extremities like hands and feet), he's been sluggish, had no sexual appetite, and feels dried out. He also suffers from diarrhea, hair loss, and chronic indigestion, reported advocate.com.

"It's all the effect of the AIDS medications," says Reigel, who lives in Philadelphia. But even unpleasant interactions are better than going without medicine. He adds, "My doctor said I went through the gamut of HIV meds, so I'm on my last reprieve."

Across the continent in San Francisco, Rob Rosen has been living with HIV for at least 24 years. Rosen is gay and a former drug user, and suffers from a double whammy of HIV and hepatitis C. Diagnosed in the 1980s, he was asymptomatic for years and only started taking meds in 2001. Since then, he's watched his T cells (the white blood cells that fight HIV, counted as a general indication of how sick a patient is) go down, although his viral load (the amount of the virus in a blood sample) remains low.

"I've been on the protease

cocktail since 2001," he says. "I've begun a new regimen with Isentress, a new class of drugs, integrase inhibitors. It's an alternative to doing protease inhibitors, which have a huge gastrointestinal effect. This is no picnic for me."

These two men have two entirely different stories, two wildly different experiences living with HIV. There are nearly as many responses to medications as there are people living with the virus, and therein lies the challenge. With no new meds coming down the pike, researchers are looking to existing drugs for new ways to fight a disease that has already claimed 25 million people.

Now, 14 years after the introduction of protease inhibitors - the first class of effective AIDS fighters - the emphasis has shifted, in the words of Rowena Johnston, Ph.D., vice president and director of research at amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, to "shifting drugs around to see what works best." Similarly, after years of despair, a recent large-scale clinical study in Thailand (more on that below) has shown that the same combination approach may bring a long-awaited vaccine to prevent HIV infection.

Like everyone else, amfAR is ultimately interested in a cure, but until then, the goal is to bring a patient's viral load down to undetectable

## Episcopalians Elect Open Lesbian Bishop

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - The Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles elected an openly lesbian bishop on Saturday (Dec. 5), reported On Top Magazine.

The Rev. Canon Mary D. Glasspool of Baltimore is the first openly gay bishop to be elected since the Episcopal Church lifted its moratorium on electing gay bishops in July.

Glasspool beat out four other candidates to become suffragan bishop, including a second openly gay candidate, John L. Kirkley of San Francisco, who withdrew his name after the second ballot. Suffragan bishops assist a diocese's primary bishop. On Friday, clergy and lay leaders chose the Rev. Canon Diane M. Jardine Bruce for a second bishop opening, marking the first time the diocese has elected a female to the post.

The selection of an openly gay bishop is certain to salt old wounds still tender from the election of Bishop V. Gene Robinson, an openly gay man, in 2003. The selection created a deep division between liberals and conservatives in the 77 million-member Anglican Communion - of which the Episcopal Church is the American branch - and led to a self-

imposed moratorium on the election of gay bishops.

But at its general convention in July the church reversed course, voting in favor of lifting the ban. A move that has accelerated defections among conservatives who formed the Anglican Church in North America, a rival version of the Episcopal Church. Several churches have rejected the church's policy on gay clergy but say they will remain, including the Diocese of Central Florida and Dallas.

Rowan Williams, the head of the Church of England and the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, told Episcopalians in July that a second gay bishop would be unacceptable, warning of isolation from the mainstream Anglican community for a diocese that takes such an action. In October, the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota became the first to include an openly gay candidate for bishop since the church reversed its policy on gay bishops. But after attracting few votes, the Rev. Bonnie Perry withdrew her name after the third ballot. Glasspool and Bruce must be confirmed by a majority of the Episcopal Church's representatives, which include bishops, clergy and lay persons.



## Tucson Gay Museum®

"There has been concern about the fact that the near-time pipeline for investigational medications is not very robust right now," says W. David Hardy, MD, chief of the infectious diseases division at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. But Hardy, who was treating patients before the advent in 1987 of the first AIDS drug, AZT, sees the new approach to fighting HIV as a cause of optimism.



# UPDATE

## Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats 2009 Holiday Party Dec. 17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us to see old friends and meet new ones, and enjoy some food, drink and great conversation at the Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats holiday party, December 17, 7 to 10 p.m., 2701 E. Allen Road.

Co-hosts: Paul Durham and Philippe Waterinckx, Sen. Paula Aboud and Terri Berg, Maurice Grossman, Representative Matt Heinz, Ivy Schwartz and Kathy Altman, Councilmember Karin Uhlich and Shannon Cain

There haven't been many opportunities for fellow SASD'ers to get together this past year. Let's reunite, make up for lost time, and close the year with gusto.

RSVP to paul@paulwdurham.com. Directions: From the intersection of Tucson Blvd. and Prince Road, go north on Tucson Blvd, to Allen Rd. Turn right here (impossible to turn left), to go east on Allen Rd. There are "dead end" signs on both sides of Tucson immediately north of Allen Rd., so when you see the twin "dead end" signs, turn right. Follow Allen Rd. to 2701 (number on the mailbox), on the left, or north side of Allen Rd. We'll highlight the mailbox with balloons, a light, or something noticeable. If you come to Cactus Blvd. (next intersection to the east, you've gone too far). The house is on a flag lot and sits well back from the road at the end of a gravel driveway. The driveway is easy to miss, and you can only see the front of the garage from the road. Tips: We're across the street and about 1/2 block east of Valley of the Moon, and the house was owned by George and Roslyn Miller until we bought it from them in late September of this year, so you might even have been here before!

## Watch Desert Voices On Television

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices, Tucson's LGBTQS chorus recently did a performance in November and can now be seen on the television on Tucson's Public Access channels.

Wednesday 12/9, 3:30 p.m., Channel 74/99, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12. Monday 12/14, 8:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12,

Wednesday 12/16, 3:30 p.m., Channel 74/99, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12

Monday 12/21, 8:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12,

Wednesday 12/23, 3:30 p.m., Channel 74/99, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12, Monday 12/28, 8:00 p.m., Channel 73/98, Desert Voices Presents:Upstaged, Episode 12.

## Don't Miss Out! The Deadline Is Almost Here

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce will be holding their holiday party, Dec. 17, at the Fox Tucson Theatre, 17 W. Congress St., 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$25 and includes hors d'oeuvres and one drink, catered by Feast

"First the Party ..... Then the Show." Special Offer for Chamber Members and their Guests who Attend our Holiday Party! Half-Price Tickets (\$31.50) for After-Party Show. Broadway in Tucson Presents, The Ten Tenors

The internationally renowned Australian singing group THE TEN TENORS return to Tucson for the holidays, featuring songs from their latest album Nostalgica as well as holiday classics.

For more information and to RSVP, go online to [tucsonchamber.org](http://tucsonchamber.org)

## UCLA: Stem Cells Kill HIV

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, made a stunning announcement: Stem cells can be engineered to kill HIV, reported [advocate.com](http://advocate.com)

The results, published in the online journal PLoS ONE, demonstrate that human stem cells can be engineered into the equivalent of a genetic vaccine.

"We have demonstrated in this proof-of-principle study that this type of approach can be used to engineer the human immune system, particularly the T-cell response, to specifically target HIV-infected cells," lead investigator Scott Kitchen, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, said in a release.

"These studies lay the foundation for further therapeutic development that involves restoring damaged or defective immune responses toward a variety of viruses that cause chronic disease, or even different types of tumors."

## Mr. Phoenix Leather, January 9

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The Mr. Phoenix Leather Contest, a local preliminary to International Mr. Leather, will take place January 9, 2010 at Velocity Leather/Fetish bar, 2303 E Indian School Road.

The contest will be part of a weekend long leather event which will include a Cigar Social, a Meet and Greet, a Bar Crawl, a Happy Hour Social, and a Victory Party. The winner will represent the Phoenix area at IML 2010, in Chicago, in May.

Any male-identified leatherman who lives in Phoenix area at least 75% of the time, who wishes to compete, will be welcome. Instructions and applications can be found at: [mrphoenixleather.com](http://mrphoenixleather.com)

The contest will be judged by Bob Weber, Mr. Phoenix Leather 2009; Jeffery Payne, International Mr. Leather 2009; boy Justin, Southwest Leather boy 2009; Eli Edgin, Southwest Ms. Leather 2009; and Master Dennis, Patriarch of the Dragon Clan; and hosted by Daddy Kenneth, Mr. Cellblock Phoenix Leather 2008 and Hobbit; International Ms. Leather 2008. At the time of printing, the schedule of events and locations was still being finalized, for the most up to date information; please visit the Mr. Phoenix Leather Contest website at [mrphoenixleather.com](http://mrphoenixleather.com).

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## Movement Created Seeking To Ban Divorce

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - Til death do us part? The vow would really hold true in California if a Sacramento Web designer gets his way, 365Gay.com reported/

In a movement that seems ripped from the pages of Comedy Channel writers, John Marcotte wants to put a measure on the ballot next year to ban divorce in California. The effort is meant to be a satirical statement after California voters outlawed gay marriage in 2008, largely on the argument that a ban is needed to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage. If that's the case, then Marcotte reasons voters should have no problem banning divorce.

"Since California has decided to protect traditional marriage, I think it would be hypocritical of us not to sacrifice some of our own rights to protect traditional marriage even more," the 38-year-old married father of two said. Marcotte said he has collected dozens of signatures, including one from his wife of seven years. The initiative's Facebook fans have swelled to more than 11,000. Volunteers that include gay activists and members of a local comedy troupe have signed on to help.

Marcotte is looking into whether he can gather signatures online, as proponents are doing for another proposed 2010 initiative to repeal the gay marriage ban. But the odds are stacked against a campaign funded primarily by the sale of \$12 T-shirts featuring bride and groom stick figures chained at the wrists. Marcotte needs 694,354 valid signatures by March 22,

a high hurdle in a state where the typical petition drive costs millions of dollars. Even if his proposed constitutional amendment made next year's ballot, it's not clear how voters would react. Nationwide, about half of all marriages end in divorce.

Not surprisingly, Marcotte's campaign to make divorce in California illegal has divided those involved in last year's campaign for and against Proposition 8. As much as everyone would like to see fewer divorces, making it illegal would be "impractical," said Ron Prentice, the executive director of the California Family Council who led a coalition of religious and conservative groups to qualify Proposition 8.

No other state bans divorce, and only a few countries, including the Philippines and Malta, do. The Roman Catholic Church also prohibits divorce but allows annulments. The California proposal would amend the state constitution to eliminate the ability of married couples to get divorced while allowing married couples to seek an annulment.

Prentice said proponents of traditional marriage only seek to strengthen the one man-one woman union. "That's where our intention begins and ends," he said.

Jeffrey Taylor, a spokesman for Restore Equality 2010, a coalition of same-sex marriage activists seeking to repeal Proposition 8, said the coalition supports Marcotte's message but has no plans to join forces with him. "We find it quite hilarious,"

Taylor said of the initiative.

Marcotte, who runs the comedy site BadMouth.net in his spare time, said he has received support from across the political spectrum. In addition to encouragement from gay marriage advocates, he has been interviewed by American Family Association, a Mississippi-based organization that contributed to last year's Yes on 8 campaign.

He was mentioned by Keith Olbermann on MSNBC's "Countdown" during his "World's Best Persons" segment for giving supporters of Proposition 8 their "comeuppance in California."

Marcotte, who is Catholic and voted against Proposition 8, views himself as an accidental activist. A registered Democrat, he led a "ban divorce" rally recently at the state Capitol in Sacramento to launch his effort and was pleasantly surprised at the turnout. About 50 people showed up, some holding signs that read, "You too can vote to take away civil rights from someone."

Marcotte stopped dozens of people during another signature drive in downtown Sacramento. Among them was Ryan Platt, 32, who said he signed the petition in support of his lesbian sister, even though he thinks it would be overturned if voters approved it.

"Even if by some miracle this did pass, it would never stand up to the federal government," Platt said. "And if it did, there's something really wrong with America."

Other petition signers said they were motivated by a sincere interest to preserve marriages. One was Ervin Hulton, a 47-year-old dishwasher who said he believes in making it harder for couples to separate.

"The way I feel, why go out and spend all these tons of money for marriage, the photography and all that? And along down the line, it's going to shatter," said Hulton, who is single.

The U.S. divorce rate is 47.9 percent, according to data provided by the National Center for Health Statistics reports. That figure, however, does not include California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana and Minnesota because those six states no longer report their divorce rates to the center. California stopped because of budget problems, said Ralph Montano, a spokesman for the California Department of Public Health.

While most people would not support banning divorce, it does make sense for couples to be educated about the financial and emotional commitments of marriage, said Dan Couvrette, chief executive and publisher of Toronto-based Divorce Magazine. The publication has a circulation of 140,000, including a regional edition in Southern California.

"It's a worthwhile conversation to have," said Couvrette, who started the magazine in 1996 after going through his own divorce. "I don't think it's just a frivolous thought."

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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

# COMMENTARY . . .

by Deb Price

## Arizona Undermines Gay And Lesbian Families

Imagine having family health care one day and having it yanked away the next. Your job hasn't changed. And other public employees in your state – the ones working beside you at a university library or in a highway patrol car – continue to get insurance coverage for their loved ones.

Sound unfair? You betcha. But that's exactly the prospect for gay state government workers in Arizona, where the legislature and Gov. Jan Brewer recently decided to revoke partner benefits. The state's heterosexual workers have the option of marrying to keep their family health care benefits. Arizona bans same-sex marriage, though.

So now, with the help of Lambda Legal, 10 gay state workers are suing in federal court to try to keep the state from stripping them of their family coverage. The "here today, gone tomorrow" attitude of Arizona's officials underscores how vulnerable those of us who're gay will remain until every state and the federal government recognize our right to marry.

Arizona's stinginess runs counter to positive developments elsewhere: New York's top court ruled Nov. 19 that state agencies can continue recognizing out-of-state gay marriages for purposes of extending family coverage to public employees. Meanwhile, two federal judges with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently stood up for their gay court employees, who've been told by Uncle Sam that they can't enroll their spouses in the federal benefits program.

Essentially, the judges said the executive branch can't simply wave the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and force the judiciary to discriminate against its gay married employees. Judge Stephen Reinhardt said a gay court employee should be reimbursed for what he has to pay for private health coverage for his husband, while Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, a Ronald Reagan appointee, said a woman judicial attorney at the court is entitled to enroll her wife in the federal employee benefits program.

But in Arizona, couples like University of Arizona librarian Joseph Diaz and his partner, Ruben Jimenez, are worried about how they'll come up with \$300 a month to pay for Jimenez's medicine and testing strips for high cholesterol and diabetes. The couple signed up for partner benefits created under Gov. Janet Napolitano in 2008, before she left to become secretary of Homeland Security.

About 800 state workers enrolled, at a cost of \$3.3 million. (The vast majority is believed to be heterosexual couples.) That's a tiny fraction of the \$650 million the state spent on employee health care. But the new budget signed into law this year deletes partner benefits. They are set to expire next Oct. 1. Unless a federal judge rules that canceling partner benefits would violate the constitutional rights of gay couples since they can't marry in Arizona, Leslie Kemp, a marketing coordinator at Northern Arizona University, and Jennifer Morris will see their finances thrown into disarray as they have their second child. And Judith McDaniel, a University of Arizona political science adjunct instructor, and Jan Schwartz, who continually needs eye exams, will be threatened with losing Schwartz's coverage as they are saving for retirement. They were told Schwartz's glaucoma would be a pre-existing condition and not covered under a private insurance plan, which would nevertheless have a \$2,600 deductible and cost \$335 a month. McDaniel's current, no-deductible family coverage costs just \$97.

Arizona Highway Patrol officer Tracy Collins would lose coverage for her partner, Diana Forrest, who has high blood pressure and whose job doesn't offer health benefits. "I put my life on the line every day for the people of Arizona just by going to work," says Collins. "Losing Diana's health coverage will put us in a desperate situation."

If the state of Arizona gets lucky, a judge will save it from mean-spiritedness. Otherwise, Arizona can expect that a great many dedicated gay cops, librarians, professors and other public servants will eventually move their talents – and their families – to friendlier states.

(Deb Price is a columnist for the Detroit News. This article was reprinted from truthout.org)

## Memphis Gay Newspaper Closes

MEMPHIS, TN (Observer Update) - The only LGBT newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee has ceased publication. Publishers of the Memphis Triangle Journal cited decreasing ad revenue and declining use of print media as the reasons for closing the publication, which operated since 1990, reported advocate.com.

Out & About Newspaper and InsideOut, both based in Nashville, remain as the state's only two LGBT publications. According to Out & About Newspaper, officials from the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, where volunteers produced the Memphis Triangle Journal, will continue to provide information online.

"The group has also suspended the online version of the newspaper pending the construction of a new MGLCC Web site expected to launch in late summer," reported Out & About Newspaper. "However, the group plans to continue providing a monthly e-newsletter to subscribers as well as news updates through Facebook and Twitter. MGLCC officials could not be reached for comment by press time."

News of the closure follows last month's announcement that Window Media had shuttered and abruptly closed its publications including the Washington Blade and the Southern Voice.

## Supreme Court Takes 'No Gays Allowed' Case



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal from a Christian student group in San Francisco that refused to admit gays and lesbians. The court will decide if the group's rights to religious liberty and freedom of association supersedes a state university's ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported advocate.com.

tion of the Statement of Faith," reports the Los Angeles Times.

As a result of continuing to violate the university's policy that protects students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the Hastings chapter lost its recognition as an official student group.

Lawyers for the group filed suit, arguing that it was unconstitutional for a state-funded law school to deny official recognition to a religious group because of its values. As precedent, lawyers cited the Boy Scouts of America v. Dale decision, which in 2000 led to a Supreme Court decision that it was constitutional for the organization to prohibit gays from being Scout leaders. The case, to be heard next year, could set new rules about excluding individuals from student groups.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

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# Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

## Theatre Review

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' is the Thomas (Fats) Waller musical show now playing at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave. The revue serves as a tribute to the black musicians of the 1920s and '30s who were part of the Harlem Renaissance, an era of growing creativity, cultural awareness, and ethnic pride. It was a time when Manhattan nightclubs like the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom were the playgrounds of high society and Lenox Avenue dives were filled with piano players banging out the new beat known as swing. Five performers present an evening of rowdy, raunchy, and humorous songs that encapsulate the various moods of the era and reflect Waller's view of life as a journey meant for pleasure and play.

Featuring such tunes as: AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' "No one to talk with, all by myself, no one to walk with, but I'm happy on the shelf Ain't misbehavin', I'm savin' my love for you." ;"I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," "Two Sleepy People," "I've Got My Fingers crossed," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," and "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie."

The songs range from cruel (but in a humorous way) when Ken tells his girlfriend, "Your Feets too Big - "From your ankles up, I'd say you sure look sweet from there down there's just too much feet, yes, your feets too big, don't want ya, cause ya feets too big, can't use ya, cause ya feets too big, I really hate ya, cause ya feets too big."

But underneath all the joking, dancing, partying and romancing, heartache still lingers. In no selection is it more evident than in "Black and Blue" - "My heart is torn, why was I born? What did I do to be so black and blue?"

Once again, The Arizona Theatre Company has provided us with an evening of memorable theatre. Rebecca Covington, Angela Grovey, Christopher Morgan, Ken Robinson, and Aurelia Williams are superb, singing and dancing their way through this revue.

Special thanks also need to go to Byron Easley (Musical Staging/Choreographer), Emily Beck (Scenic Designer), Darryl Ivey (Musical Director/Conductor) and Kent Gash (Director). Space constraints will not permit me to mention the other members of the Creative Team, but thanks to you as well. We know this show would not have been possible without your efforts. Great job.

The revue will be playing at the Temple of Music and Art through December 19. Performance times vary, and tickets range from \$31 to \$54. For more information, call 520-622-2823.

## U.S. To Host AIDS Summit After Lifting Of Travel Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - After 22 years, the biennial International AIDS Conference will return to the United States in 2012, reported On Top Magazine.

The six-day summit has drawn in recent years about 25,000 HIV/AIDS researchers, medical professionals, activists and policy makers. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the decision to bring the conference to Washington in 2012 during a White House event on the eve of World AIDS Day. During the event, Clinton's condemnation of laws that criminalize being gay drew applause.

"We have to stand against any efforts to marginalize and criminalize and penalize members of the LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender] community worldwide. It is an unacceptable step backwards on behalf of human rights, but it is also a step that undermines the effectiveness of efforts to fight the disease worldwide," she said. "Hosting the International AIDS Conference in the United States is an important opportunity for the United States," Ambassador Eric Goosby, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, said Monday in a post at the White House blog.

"Welcoming conference attendees to our nation's capital will allow America to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to ending the HIV

pandemic both in the United States and around the world. Given that the conference is fundamentally a research conference, holding this event in such close proximity to the National Institutes of Health and other U.S. Government research facilities will also, hopefully, expand the level of scientific disclosure between our scientists and researchers from around the world," he added.

Hosting the conference inside the United States was previously unrealistic due to the U.S. restriction on visits by HIV-positive foreigners. The Obama administration, however, has lifted the HIV travel ban. The new rule goes into effect on January 4.

Immigration Equality, a group that advocates on behalf of LGBT immigrants, said the ban took a heavy toll on the U.S. "The United States has paid a heavy price, in terms of its reputation in the scientific community, because of its antiquated policies on HIV-positive immigrants and visitors," Steve Ralls, director of communications for the group, told On Top Magazine in an email.

Secretary Clinton's "remarks show how quickly the end of a prejudicial policy can bring about progress, and how swiftly our country can right immigration wrongs," he added.

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# Mormon G/L Marriage Involvement Film Gets Sundance Okay

SUNDANCE, UT (Observer Update) - Director Reed Cowan's controversial documentary on the Mormon Church's involvement in banning gay marriage will premiere next month at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, reported On Top Magazine. The church's preoccupation with the issue predates the high-profile position it took with Proposition 8, California's 2008 voter-approved gay marriage ban.

"[Cowan] goes very deep, into the Mormon Church and its relationship to the anti-gay-marriage-movement, all the way back almost before it really started, all the way back to the '90s," festival director John Cooper told the Salt Lake Tribune. Playing the role of the villain is Utah state Senator Chris Butters, who Cowan called "the new Anita Bryant." "We smoked a bully out of his hole, and we've got him on the run," Cowan said. "Butters is the new Anita Bryant, and the world press will see that, crystal clear."

Talking with Cowan has already cost the West Jordan Republican his chair of the powerful Judicial Committee after an audio clip of an interview where he calls the gay rights

movement "probably the greatest threat to America" and gay folks "mean" was leaked to the media in February. "It's just like the Muslims," he also said. "Muslims are good people and their religion is anti-war. But it's been taken over by the radical side."

Not surprisingly, Cowan's trailer for his film, 8: The Mormon Proposition, begins with a tight close up of the senator. Fred Karger, the founder of Californians Against Hate and possibly the sharpest thorn in the side of the Mormon Church on the issue of its bankrolling of Proposition 8, told On Top Magazine in an email that the film will be a "PR nightmare for the Mormon Church when it premieres in Utah next month." He also congratulated Cowan on having his film accepted at Sundance: "Reed Cowan has sacrificed so much to make this film. It is only through all his hard work and determination that it has come about." "I will be at Sundance, for sure," he added. The film is expected to reveal the Mormon Church's involvement in banning gay marriage since Utah became the first state to approve such a law in 1995, and how church officials attempted to conceal their deep involvement on the issue.

## BUZZ FLASHES

The effort to repeal last year's voter-approved gay marriage ban in California that began on November 16 is looking less likely to reach the ballot box in 2010 after the state's largest grassroots organization withdrew its support. Rick Jacobs, founder of the 70,000-member Courage Campaign, called for more time to "change hearts and minds before returning to the ballot to restore marriage for gay and lesbian couples." "We are taking the lessons learned from last year's Prop. 8 campaign, the campaigns in Maine and other states to understand the fundamental work that must be done before moving forward in California," Jacobs said in a statement. ...

Stanford football coach Jim Harbaugh said Thursday that he did not utter an antigay slur at a referee who made a penalty call against his team. Harbaugh came under fire when a YouTube video - which has since been made private - reportedly caught him shouting that the referee was a "f\*\*king a\*\*\*\*le faggot." The video, which did not have audio, came from ABC's broadcast of the game against Notre Dame on November 28. Ted Rybka, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's director of sports media, reached out to Harbaugh about the outburst. The

coach said that he used the curse words, but not the slur. "It did not come out of my mouth," he said, according to GLAAD. "It would not come out of my mouth. It's not in my heart to ever say that." Stanford University is slated to release a statement on the video. Stanford won the game, 45-38. ...

Mitrice Richardson, a brilliant and beautiful 24-year-old lesbian from Los Angeles, has been missing for two and a half months. Now, her family is seeking a federal investigation into her disappearance, reports the Los Angeles Times. Richardson - employed, college-educated, and partnered - began acting strange at a Malibu restaurant on September 16. Police were alerted to the scene after Richardson was not able to pay her bill; the cops later found a small amount of marijuana in her car and she was arrested. The young woman was released from the station without her car, purse, or cell phone at 1:25 a.m., when no public transit was available for Richardson to get home. She's been missing ever since. Many in Los Angeles's gay community have pointed the finger at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for releasing Richardson without a psychological examination.

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I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone who helped me with this years Miss Gay Tucson America Pageant. I could have never imagined this pageant to be a bigger success than it was and I absolutely could not have done it without the support of so many people. The Sponsors, judges, contestants, performers and volunteers are all responsible for the evening being so much fun and entertaining.

Every year when I am registering my team to do the the 60 mile walk with Susan G Komen, I tell myself 'no way can I do this again' but every year I get out there and walk. It's because of the support group I have with all my friends in this community that I am able to complete the whole 60 miles every year. I am so grateful for each and every one of you.

Thank you so so much for all your hard work. Hope you all of you have a wonderful Holiday season.

Pat Clark, Promoter, MGTA

## New York Senate Rejects Gay Marriage After Passionate Debate

ALBANY, NY (Observer Update) - A long-anticipated gay marriage vote in the New York Senate has ended in disappointment for advocates of gay marriage. The debate, which came after months of inaction, was passionate, but senators voted down the bill 24 to 38. Few opponents of the bill approached the podium, reported On Top Magazine.

Openly gay Senator Tom Duane, the bill's sponsor, was the first to speak. He told senators that the measure would "make me equal in every way to everyone else in this chamber." Duane spoke up a second time, before voting began. In a rambling speech he said, "There is never a good time for civil rights, it's never the right time for civil rights, I know. But the paradox is it's always a good time to be on the right side of history."

The Senate's most outspoken critic of gay marriage, Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. of the Bronx, called the debate "treason" and invited Republicans to vote with him against the measure. Senator Eric Schneiderman, a Democrat, urged for passage of the bill, saying, "You can't legislate morality, but you can legislate justice."

Senators Kevin S. Parker and Eric Adams, two African-American lawmakers, cast the debate in terms of civil rights. Parker said his support for

gay couples stemmed from racial discrimination. Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson revealed publicly for the first time that her late brother was gay. A previously undecided senator, Hassell-Thompson announced for the first time she favored the bill, saying voters in her district did not elect her to legislate morality.

Despite the high emotions and passionate speeches, senators easily defeated the bill. The defeat will likely also affect nearby New Jersey, where senators considering a similar measure are certain to take notice.



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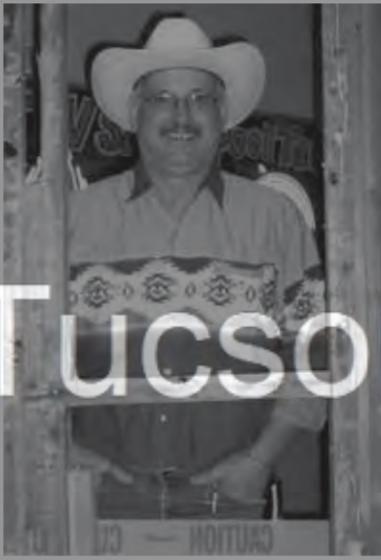
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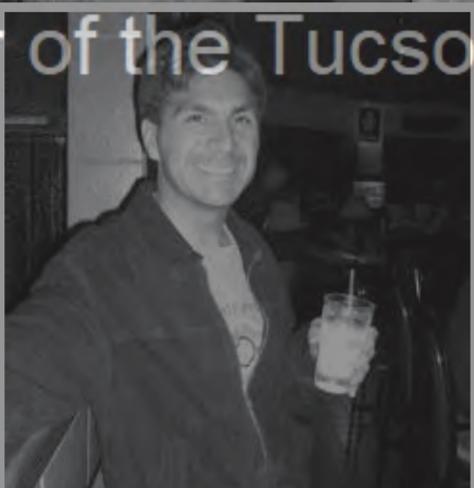
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## Georgia Elects Black Lesbian Lawmaker



Simone Bell

Alex Wan

ATLANTA, GA (Observer Update) - Georgia voters made history Tuesday night by electing the first openly lesbian African-American state legislator in U.S. history, reported [advocate.com](http://advocate.com). Simone Bell, who won a runoff election to represent district 58 in the Atlanta area, will become the second openly LGBT member of the Georgia State Assembly, following Representative Karla Drenner, also from Atlanta.

"The historical aspect of this was never my goal. In fact, someone only brought that to my attention midway through the campaign," Bell told *The Advocate* of the milestone. "But it does mean a lot to the communities, and it's humbling that I stand on the shoulders of greatness." Bell's win in a conservative state that passed a constitutional ban on gay marriage in 2006 has not gone unnoticed by national gay groups. "This is a tremendous victory for LGBT Georgians. Simone is a long-time leader in her community, and she will be a huge asset in the Georgia State House," said president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian

Victory Fund, which supported Bell's campaign.

Despite the state's conservative leanings, Bells said she saw no organized opposition or smear campaigns on her candidacy centered on her sexual orientation. "Our district is very diverse and progressive in a lot of different ways, so attacking an LGBT candidate in this way wouldn't have run well in this particular district," she said. As a state legislator, Bell said she would be focused on fighting further cuts in education and transportation in the state budget. Regarding LGBT issues, "We don't have a lot of votes in the state legislature to do any progressive work, but in terms of being on the offense, I plan to work with the movable middle to work on making Georgia a better place" she said. "And I will fight hard against any legislation to take rights away from us on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Also, Atlanta voters elected the city's first gay man, and first Asian American, to the city council on Tuesday. Alex Wan, who was endorsed by the Victory Fund, will represent city council district 6.

## POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

### A Letter To Gracie

Dear Gracie:

campaign for equal rights.

When you read this letter, your humble servant will have commenced a new chapter in his professional working career, Aide to Tucson Councilmember Richard Fimbres, Ward 5.

Previous to the penning of this, yours truly had worked part-time in the Ward 5 Council office as a Research Aide but with the subsequent election of Mr. Fimbres, for which I had the honor of being his volunteer campaign manager, helping to get the most votes cast in the recent, Tucson election, my work and life have now changed, drastically.

Instead of drafting, or depending upon one's opinion, "mailing it in," a weekly item about the political affairs and on issues of concern to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community, this information will be continuing after this edition but in another form, editorials and commentaries by *The Observer* newspaper, thanks to the cooperation of two dear individuals, for whom I "Owe the Moon," too: Mr. Bob Ellis and Mr. Gary Clark.

This column has been in existence for more than 21 years and it has been a pleasure and sometimes, a royal pain, to compose, as well as editing the copy for Tucson, Southern Arizona's and frankly with the way things are going with the recent folding of *Window Media* (*Washington Blade*, *Southern Voice* and the *Houston Voice* to name three), as well as many other print publications.

For this writer though, it isn't the "byline" or self-aggrandizement, it was and still is, the word, action, issue and

If the writing got someone to think, get angry, get to the polling place or most importantly involved in the cause, then the task was a success, something held dear to this writer's heart, all 62% of it that functions but the need for information is even more paramount.

Cases in point - the recent article on the attempt by Florida Congressman Alcee Hastings to get a law passed to protect G/L servicemembers, allowing them to testify before Congress with immunity, despite the fact that it is within the purview of Congress to grant such immunity.

Next is the fact of the national LGBT rights groups sending a letter to Congress urging them to pass ENDA (the Employment Non-Discrimination Act), despite the fact it needs to go through the legislative process (committee's, floor vote, action in the other legislative chamber), for which every LGBT and supportive citizen should be urged to get involved by letting their Member of Congress (House and Senate) about H.R. 3017 and S. 1584, not just a bunch of signatures on one piece of paper with a lot of fancy labels on it.

So the work continues, the cause endures but the need for information, news and "calls to action," will never die. News, information, updates will be in another form but the efforts of this writer continue and my appreciation grows.

Forever your humble servant.

### Around The Gay Globe

Argentina's top court announced it would decide on a controversial gay marriage ruling that has halted Latin America's first same-sex wedding from taking place, the *Buenos Aires Herald* reported. Supreme Court Justice Carlos Fayt said the court would take up the issue. The marriage of Alejandro Freyre, 39, and Jose Maria Di Bello, 41, was scheduled to take place on Tuesday after Judge Gabriela Seijas ruled the government's ban on gay marriage unconstitutional on November 20. Her order only affects the progressive city of Buenos Aires, where gay couples won the right to enter civil unions in 2002. City officials said they would not appeal the court's decision, opening the door to gay marriage for the first time in Latin America.

But at the last minute, a national judge, Marta Alsina, ordered a halt to the ceremony, saying Seijas had no power to overturn the nation's ban on gay marriage. Who petitioned the court to intervene remains unclear. The two men, who are both HIV-positive, wanted to marry on December 1 to mark World AIDS Day. The couple has vowed to lead a protest if they are denied the right to marry. Lawmakers in the Argentine Congress are currently debating a gay marriage bill. If approved, Argentina would become the first Latin American country to legalize gay marriage and only the second country in the Americas, after Canada. The Roman Catholic Church is adamantly opposed to legal recognition of gay unions. Justice Fayt told reporters that the country's Supreme Court "will rule on the issue."...

A prominent priest and member of the Ugandan Anglican Church has compared an "antihomosexuality bill" current before the country's parliament to genocide. "I believe that this bill will be state-legislated genocide against a specific community of Ugandans," Canon Gideon Byamugisha told *The Guardian*. The bill, proposed by David Bahati, a Ugandan politician and member of the Christian fundamentalist movement known as the Family, calls for death sentences for "repeat offenders" engaging in gay sex. Nongovernmental organizations working in the country could be forced to leave for the "promotion" of homosexuality, while individuals who do not report gays to the police could face prison sentences. "They [politicians] are exploiting the traditional and cultural abhorrence to same-sex relationships to their advantage," Byamugisha continued. "They know that if they criminalize homosexuals, homosexual tendencies and homosexual acts, they stand a better chance of winning votes from the majority of religious followers and leaders."

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# Briefly Q

In Houston, Texas, a bus driver has been fired in connection with an openly gay student getting beaten up because of his sexuality, KPRC Local 2 reported. JayRon Martin, 16, said when his bus stopped in his Cy-Fair neighborhood two weeks ago, nine students chased him into a neighbor's open garage. He said a 16-year-old boy "tried to beat the gayness out of him" using a metal pipe. Langham Creek High School officials acknowledged that the day of the beating, Martin asked school leaders and his bus driver for help and protection.

A Cy Fair ISD spokeswoman said an assistant principal at Langham Creek is still under review. At question – did the assistant principal respond appropriately when an openly gay student asked for help before he was beaten by another student. The district said the school bus driver has been fired. As for the assistant principal, a district spokeswoman said more details have come to light on how he responded, but those details are not being released now. "The review is not completed. Thus far, his actions have not merited putting him on administrative leave. Included in the review of what happened that day are details that cannot be shared publicly because of federal law," said Kelli Durham, Cy-Fair ISD's spokeswoman. ...

In Fort Worth, Texas, the city wants to protect the identities of witnesses present during a June 28 bar inspection at the Rainbow Lounge, arguing that their disclosure in a report would be an invasion of privacy. Because the club caters to the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, identifying patrons "may cause some readers to speculate about that individual's sexual orientation," according to a letter from city attorneys to the Texas attorney general.

The letter says that any allusion to a person's sexual activities could be "substantially embarrassing." "The city values the diversity of its citizenry and takes pride in all of the communities represented, including the LGBT community," the letter states. "However, the city must acknowledge that this attitude is not necessarily shared by all members of the general public." The city is seeking the attorney general's opinion in response to open-records requests by the Star-Telegram and other media outlets for the final investigative report on the incident. ...

In Washington D.C., members of the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the nomination Thursday of Minneapolis Assistant Police Chief Sharon Lubinski to be Minnesota's next U.S. marshal. The vote was announced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., a member of the committee who had recommended Lubinski for the post. Lubinski's nomination, made by President Obama in October, must now be confirmed by the full Senate. Already one of the nation's highest-ranked female law-enforcement officers, Lubinski would become the state's first female U.S. marshal and one of only two women in the nation currently serving in the post.

Lubinski, who is lesbian, has risen through the Minneapolis police ranks since joining the force in 1987 and was a finalist for the Minneapolis police chief job in 2004. If confirmed, she would be the first openly gay U.S. marshal in the country. ...

Los Angeles Democratic Assemblyman John Pérez appears to be in line to become the next speaker of the state Assembly - and the body's first openly gay chief. Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Baldwin Hills (Los Angeles County), said Wednesday that Pérez has secured support of a majority of the Assembly's Democratic Caucus - including herself - and will have enough votes (41 are needed) to become speaker. It may not be that easy, however: Two other Latino Los Angeles Democrats - Kevin de Leon and Felipe Fuentes - had been vying for the leadership position. Fuentes ultimately threw his support behind Pérez, but de Leon, who secured the support of the Assembly's Latino Caucus, "is still a candidate for speaker," said his chief of staff, Daniel Reeves.

Bass said she is confident Pérez will win the seat. The speaker, who had made clear her intention to step down by early 2010, didn't lay out an exact time frame for a transition. But she said the Democratic Caucus will vote next week, and because that party controls a majority of the Assembly, the caucus' choice is expected to stand. She said she expects Pérez will take over after a transition period - much like the one between her and former Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez - during which she will gradually hand over responsibilities.

## Coach Wins Title IX Retaliation Suit

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - The former head coach of a women's college basketball team was awarded \$28,000 – a year's salary – for her school's violation of Title IX.

Lorri Sulpizio filed a complaint against San Diego Mesa College, alleging that the school engaged in gender inequities, violating the statute that prohibits discrimination based on gender in federally funded educational programs or activities, including sports. The lawsuit alleged that Sulpizio was fired after making re-

peated complaints about female athletes, coaches, and programs receiving unequal treatment. A California state court jury ruled Thursday that the San Diego Community College District had retaliated against Sulpizio, and the jury therefore awarded her the damages.

According to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Sulpizio served as head coach of the Mesa women's basketball team for six years, from 2001 to 2007, after spending three years as an assistant coach. She led the team to championship

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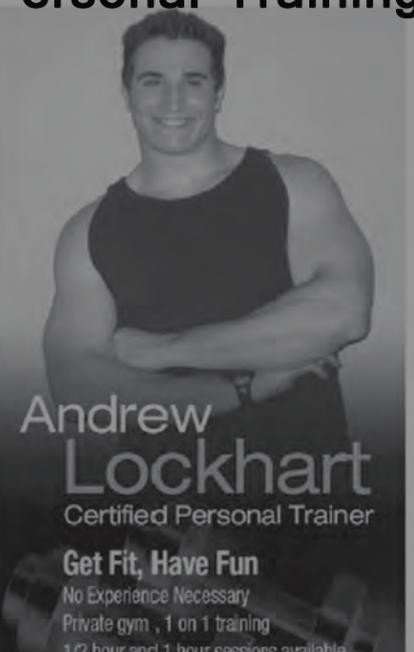
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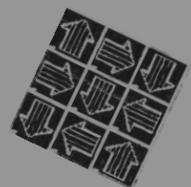


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# COMMENTARY . . .

from Gawker.com

## How Many Press Releases Does It Take For GLAAD To Condemn Gay Defamation?

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation was trying to say "ABC sucks for banning Adam Lambert." They are so mealy-mouthed and non-committal that it took them three, yes three, press releases to say just that. Get a grip, GLAAD.

It's like ABC is GLAAD's boyfriend and they asked, "Do I look fat in these jeans?" and GLAAD said, "No, but I like these other jeans better." And their boyfriend said, "Oh, so you think I'm fat." And then GLAAD said, "We did not say you're fat. We just like these jeans." And then boyfriend responded, "It's us or the jeans!" GLAAD answered, "Can't we just have you both?" The short answer, is no, but here is how it went down.

The first release, which was carried on TMZ at 8:30 yesterday (and which you read about here), said that ABC didn't cancel Adam Lambert's performances on Jimmy Kimmel and New Year's Rockin' Eve because he's gay but because he can't stick to a script and they didn't want to be "caught off-guard." The corporate-loving non-profit thought that was OK.

When everyone was up in arms, they sent an update at 9:30 this morning, saying that they aren't condoning ABC's behavior, but asking for it to clarify its position on the terms "caught off guard."

GLAAD's discussions with ABC focused on confirming that his sexual orientation was not a factor in their decisions. ABC confirmed this is not about a same-sex kiss or his sexual orientation but about being "caught off guard." GLAAD asked ABC and calls on them for clarification on "caught off guard" so that the community knows why Lambert is being denied the opportunity to perform on the network.

So, they'll support ABC if the "caught off-guard" part is not gay-related, but they'll hate them if it was? And isn't it up for them to decide, not to just pass along ABC's party line?

They had some 'splainin' to do, and it came in the form of another update, this time from Jarrett Barrios, President of the group.

We appreciate ABC's commitment to gay and transgender inclusion in other programming. However, let us be clear that GLAAD remains steadfast in our assertion that Adam Lambert is being subjected to a double standard by ABC as an openly gay performer. We do not support ABC canceling Adam Lambert's past and future performances. We urge the community to reach out to ABC and express their concerns that Adam Lambert is being subjected to a double standard.

"caught off-guard" part, and it means that they were mad because Adam was making out with a guard, and he was male. Now they are upset, and you should be too! They even provided email addresses and phone numbers so the outraged gays could call and email ABC about how upset they are. Why not provide Barrios' email and phone number so we can call him and express how disappointed we are in GLAAD for bungling this. At this point, Jeffrey Dahmer is as good for gay visibility as GLAAD is.

Here is the press release they should have sent out: "Dear ABC, Thanks for Ugly Betty and Modern Family, but for canceling Adam Lambert, you totally suck. If you don't fix this, all the gays are going to hate you and GLAAD is going to stop taking your money and giving you our pointless awards. Also, there might be protests, and you know that no one makes a sign or comes up with a clever chant like the gays. Don't mess with us. Give Adam his job back. Love, GLAAD."

Instead they tried to please both their gay constituents and their corporate masters. Guess what, guys, you're never going to do both, so it's time to pick a side and stick to it. It will save you a lot of updates in the future.

Looks like the cleared up that

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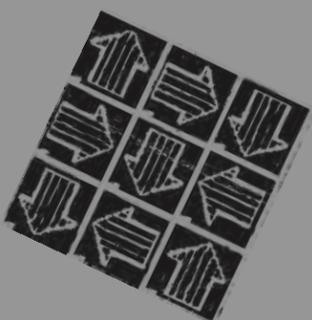
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CHILL, discrete, nice. fun, stable local w/ m, 57, total bottom, 180lbs, 5'10", mixed hair, seeks Latino Top boyfriend, email: 42405@live.com 1335

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

**FOR SALE**

**ECLECTIC FLEA - ARTSY, USED off-beat retro and uncommon finds. Fun, thoughtful gifts, soulful decor y mas. 265 S. Park (Lost Barrio Warehouse District) East of Euclid/ South of Broadway. 12-4 p.m. eclecticflea.com 1328**

**MASSAGE**

**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

**PLEASE HELP**



**tucsonobserver.com Archives**



**Humane Society of Southern Arizona**  
3450 North Kelvin Boulevard  
Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520) 327-6088  
<http://www.humane-so-arizona.org>

**Actress Meredith Baxter Reveals She Is A Lesbian**

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Meredith Baxter, the actress who played Elyse Keaton on the '80s TV series "Family Ties," has revealed that she is a lesbian.

The 62-year-old actress says that she had a "later-in-life recognition" and has been in a relationship with her girlfriend, a general contractor, for four years. Baxter has been married three times and is the mother of five children.

She said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show that she is "extraordinarily happy" and that the support from her family and friends was immediate and unqualified.



**Milk Inducted Into Calif. Hall Of Fame**

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - ay rights activist Harvey Milk was inducted into the California Hall of Fame in Sacramento Tuesday, along with 12 other influential individuals, advocate.com reported.

who continue to struggle for full equality," said state senator Mark Leno of San Francisco, a gay man who has introduced numerous pieces of pro-LGBT legislation, reports CBS 5.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and first lady Maria Shriver hosted the evening that featured honorees including filmmaker George Lucas, actress Carol Burnett, author Danielle Steel, and football icon John Madden.

Profiles of each person will be displayed for the next year at the California Museum in Sacramento, alongside memorabilia reflecting their achievements. Others who were honored include athlete and philanthropist Rafer Johnson, philanthropist Joan B. Kroc, artist Fritz Scholder, body builder Joe Weider, and Air Force test pilot Gen. Chuck Yeager.

"Harvey gave his life for what he believed in, and in doing so gave hope to generations of LGBT Californians

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

# NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, please contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or [bcassey@umcaz.edu](mailto: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.saaaf.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](http://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 (GPGGCC)** P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: [webmaster@gpggcc.org](mailto:webmaster@gpggcc.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](mailto: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 or visit our website at [www.botop.com](http://www.botop.com) All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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 TEAMARIZONA at their website: [teamarizona.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

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

**MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP** (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at [www.desertdominion.org](http://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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.azgaycamping.com)

Membership Beer and Wine Bar. Annual Member \$15.00  
Bar Hours:  
\*Open Fridays, 5-10 p.m. or until last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$100 off.  
\*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m. or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.  
\*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

## DAILY BAR CALENDAR

### SUNDAY

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

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m. 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's Day" - \$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 Domestic and Well. ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Karaoke with Ynot Entertainment at 9pm.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Full Menu 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 Clint 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 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers 4-6pm. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials...

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

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

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 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! "Guys & Dolls" comedy drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Dance lessons at 7pm \$5 per person, Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Domestic and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Dinner served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. \$5.00 cheeseburger & fries. \$3.00 Cuervo and \$4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday 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 open 11am-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, December 11

IBT's - It's time for the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

COYOTE MOON - Vivika D'Angelo and guests in a benefit show for Toys For Tots. 9:00p.m.

IBT's - 4<sup>th</sup> 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 - 4<sup>th</sup> 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'!

Thursday, Decmber 17

BIZ - They're having their annual Holiday Party . Call for times and events.

IBT's - My Bloody Xmas Party Monster Ball 10 p.m. to close. See their ad for details

Friday, December 18

THE BIZ - They're having a new and improved Grand Opening tonight. Better service and drink prices. Check it out!

WHAT'S  
BLACK  
&  
WHITE  
&  
READ  
ALL  
OVER?



### 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.



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A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®

# Unanimous Transgender Vote Surprises Cleveland Activists

CLEVELAND, OH (Observer Update) - The unanimous approval of a transgender protections law in Cleveland was an unexpected victory for LGBT activists working for its passage, reported On Top Magazine. The law bans discrimination in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of gender identity. Cleveland's anti-discrimination law already includes sexual orientation, age, race and religion. A last-minute amendment excludes shared showers, locker rooms and restrooms.

September. As lawmakers considered a gay-inclusive domestic partnership registry in the spring, several council members were targeted by opponents of gay rights. A group of mostly Black ministers rallied against the bill, saying it resembled gay marriage, and threatened to unseat members who favored it. The bill eventually cleared the chamber and Mayor Frank Jackson signed it into law, but the chamber split mostly along racial lines, with only 2 out of 10 African-American members voting in favor of passage.

Fears that the legislation was about to fail were proven unfounded when the entire slate of 21 council members voted in favor of the legislation. David Caldwell, spokesman for the Cleveland-based gay rights group Ask Cleveland, told On Top Magazine last month that he believed the bill still faced an uphill battle. "We're working hard to earn the votes necessary to ensure victory," he said. Going into the vote, activists said they expected the bill to be approved narrowly, but remained uncertain.

Gay activists lobbied dissenters of the gay partnership bill; Ask Cleveland delivered more than 2,500 postcards urging council members to approve the bill and join 6 other Ohio cities that have enacted such protections. But the fear that Monday's vote would once again fracture mostly along racial lines remained. "It's ... in the African-American community, where our work had the biggest impact," said Caldwell. "We spoke with over a thousand supportive African-American voters, who helped us dispel the myth that African-Americans don't support equal rights for the LGBT community - and helped us win the votes of their representatives." Caldwell called the vote a "game changer" for gay rights in the city.

The legislation was sponsored by outgoing Council member Joe Santiago, who introduced the bill in August. Santiago, who is openly gay, lost his bid for a second term in

## Young Gay Man Voted Mayor In California

CAMPBELL, CA (Observer Update) - City council member Evan Low became mayor of his city Tuesday night. The council promoted Low, who was the city's 26-year-old vice mayor, to become one of the few openly gay mayors in the country as well as one of the youngest Asian-American mayors, advocate.com reported.

Chronicle. "This is not work for me. This is something I enjoy."



Low works full-time as the senior district representative for state Assemblyman Paul Fong. He is also working on his master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University. His term as Mayor ends in 2010.

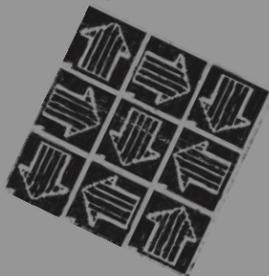
"I'm passionate and energetic about all things I do," he said, according to the San Francisco

## Lesbian Athlete On Going To Church And Butch Players

PHILADELPHIA, PA (Observer Update) - College junior Laren Robinson, religious student-athlete, talked about being openly gay at a Catholic university, and playing basketball, reported advocate.com. Robinson, who grew up in a family of Baptists and Catholics, said she never felt accepted at home, despite her own continued spirituality.

She also addressed stereotypes about female athletes, specifically basketball players, being butch. "It's a bunch of bulls\*\*t, that's what it is," Robinson said. "I mean, for lack of a better term. There are really not that many gay people on basketball teams. I'd like to say that it's because of the stereotypes we have about what's masculine, what's feminine. There are girls who are really big and really strong. That's just part of the life that we live. When you play on a basketball team it's because you're good at that sport. How sexuality comes into play, I don't even know."

"It's hard to go to Mass and sit there sometimes and listen to people talk about the founding principles of Catholicism and talk about homosexuality," Robinson said in The Hawk, the student newspaper of St. Joseph University in Philadelphia. "But also talk about diversity and trying to be inclusive. At the same time [they] continue to use the Bible and say that you're still sinning. For me it's been more of a personal thing in terms of accepting how I feel about God, and realizing that God loves everybody if He made everyone."



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