Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

# OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

## Openly Lesbian Mayor Elected In Houston

HOUSTON, TX (Observer Update) - Annise Parker has an unbeatable lead over Gene Locke in Houston's hotly contested mayoral election, meaning she will become the city's first openly gay mayor.

The Harris County elections Web site says 53.62 percent of voters who turned out Saturday chose Parker. Her rival, former city attorney Gene Locke, was pitching to become the city's second black mayor.

The election battle leading up to the balloting was marked by fierce campaigning and anti-gay rhetoric. Parker is a lesbian who has never made a secret or issue of her sexual orientation. If she wins, Houston will become the largest U.S. city to ever have an openly gay mayor.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund put out a press release calling this "a watershed moment in American politics." Full press release below:

Lesbian elected mayor of Houston, Texas

Washington, D.C.–Houston, Texas has become the largest city in the United States to elect an openly gay mayor after City Controller Annise Parker was declared the winner of a runoff election tonight. Social conservatives fought her election, funding a campaign aimed at turning out likeminded voters to support her opponent, former city attorney Gene Locke. But Parker's endorsements from labor, police, women's, gay rights and other groups were echoed by the Houston Chronicle, the area's major daily newspaper, and her campaign ran a superior get-out-the-vote effort.

Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which endorsed Parker, said her victory holds tremendous significance for the gay community. "This is a watershed moment in American politics. Annise was elected by fair-minded people from across the city because of her experience and competence, and we're glad Houston soundly rejected the politics of division. This victory sends a clear signal that gays and lesbians are an integral part of American civic life, that we're willing to lead, and that voters will respond to candidates who are open and honest about their lives," Wolfe said.

Parker praised the support of the Victory Fund and its donors, who raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help fund her campaign. "I am so grateful to the Victory Fund and its supporters for believing in this campaign from the beginning. This race was about the future of Houston, and whether we will face that future proud to be an open, welcoming, and fair-minded city. Tonight Houstonians said yes to a future like that, and I am glad the Victory Fund helped make that happen," Parker said.

Parker's election was the Victory Fund's top political priority in 2009, a year that saw 54 of its 79 endorsed openly gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender (LGBT) candidates elected to public office.

## Court Tosses Proposition 8 Ruling On Strategy Papers

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Observer Update) - A federal appeals court in San Francisco has reversed a judge's order that backers of Proposition 8, the state initiative that banned same-sex marriage, give their campaign strategy documents to opponents trying to overturn the measure.

In a unanimous ruling, the Ninth U.S. Circuit of Appeals tossed out the order that Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker issued in October against backers of Prop. 8, which state voters approved in November 2008.

Walker had said lawyers for two same-sex couples and a gay-rights group were entitled to see internal memos and e-mails between Yes on 8 strategists to look for evidence that the campaign had exploited prejudice against gays and lesbians.

The plaintiffs are trying to show that the measure was discriminatory and thus unconstitutional.

Prop. 8 sponsors argued that their discussions were constitutionally protected and that Walker's order would discourage candid communications in political campaigns. The three-judge appeals court panel unanimously agreed.

"The freedom to associate with others for the common advancement of political beliefs and ideas lies at the heart of the First Amendment," Judge Raymond Fisher wrote for the court. Prop. 8 proponents, he said, had shown that turning over the documents "would likely have a chilling effect on political association and the formulation of political expression."

The court had suspended Walker's order and signaled that it intended to reverse it.

The trial over the lawsuit is still scheduled to begin Jan. 11 in San Francisco.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

## Feldblum Nomination Passes Senate Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The nomination of openly lesbian Chai Feldblum to serve on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has been approved by the Senate HELP committee, Metro Weekly reports.

Although anti-gay organizations had promised "Armageddon" over the nomination, no controversy flared beyond some mild prodding in committee hearings. Feldblum's nomination will now go to the Senate floor for full confirmation where, according to Metro Weekly, things could get a little more interesting:

Clearing the committee vote, while important, does not guarantee Feldblum's nomination clear sailing on the Senate floor. Republicans have, in fact, held up action on a number of Obama nominees this year by using a Senate rule that allows any senator to delay a vote on any nomination for any reason.

Senators can create these delays anonymously and, given the ferocity of the right-wing organizational opposition to Feldblum's nomination, that prospect might be an attractive political move for any conservative senator.

Already, Republicans have put holds on President Obama's nominees for Director of the Census, Surgeon General, and for Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernecke's second term, among many others.

Should a senator place a hold on a nomination, the Senate will have to muster 60 votes in order to force the nomination to the floor.

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## Congressmen Call For Repeal Of Blood Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Ten Congress members signed a letter demanding that the Food and Drug Administration reexamine its policy barring gay men from donating blood.

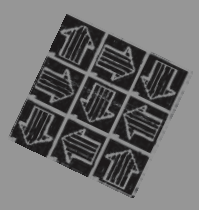
The ban, which began in 1985, prohibits any man who has had sex with another man since 1977 from donating blood, for fear of HIV contamination.

The signers cite the fact that several other countries have changed their policies recently, including Italy Sweden, Argentina, and Japan.

The group of representatives also agrees with the American Medical Association's proposal to change the lifetime deferral policy to a five-year deferral policy. They also mention that America's Blood Centers, the American Red Cross, and the AABB suggested a deferral period for gay and bisexual men to be 12 months back in March 2006.

"For many individuals this permanent ban is seen as unfair, discriminatory and serving to simply perpetuate the negative stereotype that all men who have sex with men are HIV positive," they wrote.

The letter was signed by representatives Mike Quigley (Ill.), Jared Polis (Colo.), Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.), Diane E. Watson (Calif.), Barbara Lee (Calif.), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Fla.), Sam Farr (Calif.), Tammy Baldwin (Wis.), Michael M. Honda (Calif.), and Raul M. Grijalva (Ariz.).



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## Vallejo Mayor Apologizes For Remarks About Gays

VALLEJO, CA (Observer Update) - Vallejo's mayor is apologizing for comments he made to The New York Times that gays and lesbians will not go to heaven, reported the AP. Mayor Osby Davis' remarks were published Nov. 27 in an article about the divide between the city's gay and evangelical Christian residents.

Davis issued a prepared statement saying he seeks to represent all city residents, not just a faction.The mayor, an evangelical, told the newspaper that gays are "committing sin and that sin will keep them out of heaven."

In his statement, Davis says the remarks were taken out of context and that he won't use his position to espouse his personal beliefs. Davis defeated an openly gay candidate for mayor by two votes in the 2007 election.

# UPDATE

## Wingspan Golf Classic A Big Success

MARANA (Observer Update) - The first annual Wingspan Classic Charity Golf Tournament swung into action on a gorgeous, 79 degree, slightly breezy day and raised nearly $13,000.00 for Wingspan.

The tournament was held at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club at Dove Mountain on November 20, 2009. The Saguaro and Tortolita courses, where Tiger and PGA pros played, were in fabulous condition.

The Winners: From the 120 players, Donna Marden, Dee Dee McCabe, Sue Basso and Patrick Randles scored 55 to win First Place in a scorecard playoff and were awarded specially designed Philabaum glass art trophies. Phil Mooberry, David Mooberry, Joel Mesik and Brian Colwill won Second Place with a 55, while Kay Starkey, Amy Powell, Paula Medler and Anne Elliott ended in Third Place with a 57.

Prizes: Players competed in a variety of on-course games. Unfortunately, no one sunk a hole-in-one to win a Lexus from Lexus of Tucson.

Phyllis Maloney won the grand raffle prize of an Olivia cruise for two to the Western Caribbean ($5,000 value), and Deb and Sal Risinger won an eight-day stay at a Cancun Resort donated by Dr. Tax ($4,000 value).

Over 50 prizes were given away in the raffle including an electric guitar, boom boxes, jewelry, art, golf equipment, restaurant gift certificates, golf foursomes, spa packages, gift baskets and more.

Golfers and other Wingspans supporters enjoyed a wonderful barbecue dinner on the patio after tournament play.

## Make A Difference Make A Donation

TUCSON (Observer Update) - You can make a difference in Southern Arizona's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community with a gift to Wingspan. Your donation supports our youth program, domestic violence services, health and wellness and senior services, support for transgender and questioning people, community information and referrals, lending library, computer center, and all our other services for Southern Arizona's LGBT community.

As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all gifts to Wingspan are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by the IRS. To send a check, make your check payable to: Wingspan

430 East Seventh Street, Tucson, Arizona 85705. To donate by credit card, call (520) 624-1779. To donate online, go to wingspan.org/content/donations.php

Wish List - Are you able to donate office supplies or other goods? Wingspan is seeking the following goods. All donations are tax-deductible.

Clothing: Gently Used Mens Clothing (all sizes, especially clothing suitable for job interviews). Gently Used Womens Clothing (all sizes, especially clothing suitable for job interviews). New/Unused womens undergarments & socks (petite - young adult sizes). New/Unused mens undergarments & socks (medium - XXL sizes). New/Unused Health and

Hygiene Items: Toothpaste. Toothbrushes. Dental Floss. Hair Brushes. Combs. Deodorant (mens/womens/unscented). Razors (mens and womens). Shampoo. Conditioner.

Non-Perishable Food Items: Canned Soups. Canned Vegetables. Canned Chili (Regular & Vegetarian). Boxed Pasta (Mac & Cheese, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, etc.). Cereal/Granola Bars

Miscellaneous: Copier/Multi-purpose paper - white bond. We are

## TIHAN Opdate

Greetings! On behalf of all of us at TIHAN, I send blessings to you during this special season, a time when many of the world's great religions celebrate "light." Our Jewish friends are celebrating the miracle of Chanukkah, the festival of lights. Christians friends are preparing to celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ, who brought light to the world. Zoroastrians celebrate the festival of Sada, lighting huge bonfires at sunset, the blaze of fire representing victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Buddhists celebrate Rohatsu, or Bodhi Day, signifying the point when the Buddha achieved enlightenment. Native tribes looked forward to the December winter solstice, as it heralded the ending of a dark winter as they saw the sun rising and strengthening once more. This is the season of light, and this is an opportunity for all of us to bring more light into the world. Below are a few announcements and opportunities to do just that! - Scott Blades, Executive Director

You may have heard our very exciting announcement: if you make a contribution to TIHAN before the end of December, your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of your gift! Please take a moment now and write a check to TIHAN, 1011 N. Craycroft #301, Tucson, AZ 85701 (or click here to make a gift through our secure online donation site at tihan.org) to offer your gift in support of those living with HIV/AIDS, and the amount of your gift will be matched and DOUBLED. How is this miracle happening that your gift is matched? It is because a special group of TIHAN donors, volunteers, and staff are putting forth extra funds because they believe so strongly in the mission and programs of TIHAN, and want to encourage you to give as generously as you can!

As the economy continues to impact those we serve, TIHAN's care packages continue to be of great importance. It can be difficult to fit some critical items into an already-stretched budget; things like toothpaste, toilet paper, soap, razors, and lotion. With your generous donations of these items (which our CarePartners cannot purchase with food stamps), we are able to create care packages to give to our CarePartners to help them through the month. Please drop off your donated toiletry items at the TIHAN office. We especially need items before our next Poz Cafe (Thursday, December 17), as our pantry is currently empty. Thanks for all of your support!

Little things make a big difference here at TIHAN. This holiday season, why not add us to your list (don't forget to check it twice) and give us the gift of some much-needed office and cooking supplies? Here's what we're hoping to find in our stockings: Cuisinart food processer, warm coats and blankets for our CarePartners during these cold nights, large Post-it style easel pads, 2-inch, white, 3-ring binders, 44¢ stamps, greeting cards, especially thank you cards and sympathy cards.

MORE LOCAL UPDATES NEXT PAGE

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.

If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org

SAAF

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

OBSERVER

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Informing the Community
The Observer

Coyote Moon Pub
sports pub & dance club
Happy Holidays
we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.
Christmas open 5pm - 2am
New Year's Eve open at 3pm
$5 cover starts at 8pm
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Country DJ starts at 9pm
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# UPDATE

## PFLAG Update

2010 PFLAG SCHOLARSHIPS - This coming year PFLAG Tucson hopes to award at least two Gene Moore Memorial LGBT Scholarships. We have very little money in our scholarship fund, so we must reduce both their number and amount. Our scholarships will probably be $500 rather than $1000 this year so that we can benefit more students. TucsonLGBT.com will be establishing a $250 scholarship specifically for graduating high school seniors that they will award through PFLAG Tucson. We must yet confirm whether Men's Social Network will have any funds to present a Jerry Curl scholarship. More information will be posted here as we learn more and decide what to do. [top]

DONATE TO PFLAG TUCSON ON-LINE - PFLAG Tucson is now registered with Network for Good so that we can receive donations on-line. You can specify a specific purpose for your gift, such as our Scholarship Fund, general expenses, etc. Go online to pflagtucson.org, and click the link or more information and instructions.

SUPPORT MEETINGS - Wednesday, January 6, 2010. PFLAG Support Meeting, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at the Ward VI City Council Offices at 3202 E 1st. Street, one block east of Country Club Road and one block south of Speedway Boulevard. We have no program scheduled for this meeting.

For more information, go online to pflagtucson.org. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740. Cell Phone: (520) 360-3795 (Tucson number). E-mail Address: pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org.

## 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!

## 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.

## Gender-Free Contra Dance, January 9

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Be part of Arizona's first Gender Free Contra Dance hosted by Tucson Friends of Traditional Music, Jan. 9, 2010, First United Methodist Church, 915 E. 4th.

Join the Tucson Friends of Traditional Music for an evening of Gender Free Contra Dancing. Gender Free, or Gender-Role Free Contra, is meant for everyone who loves this style of American traditional folk dancing, but with a fun twist. In Gender Free, which originated in New England about 20 years ago, dancers can dance either role.

For those unfamiliar with the style, Contra is like Square Dancing, but done in long lines and with simplified calls. Any beginner can easily master the basics in one lesson on the night of the dance.

Free Dance Lesson at 7:30 pm. Dance 8:00 - 11:00 pm. First United Methodist Church, 915 4th Street (near Park Ave.). $6 student, $7 TFTM member, $8 general public. For more information, call (520) 408-6181.

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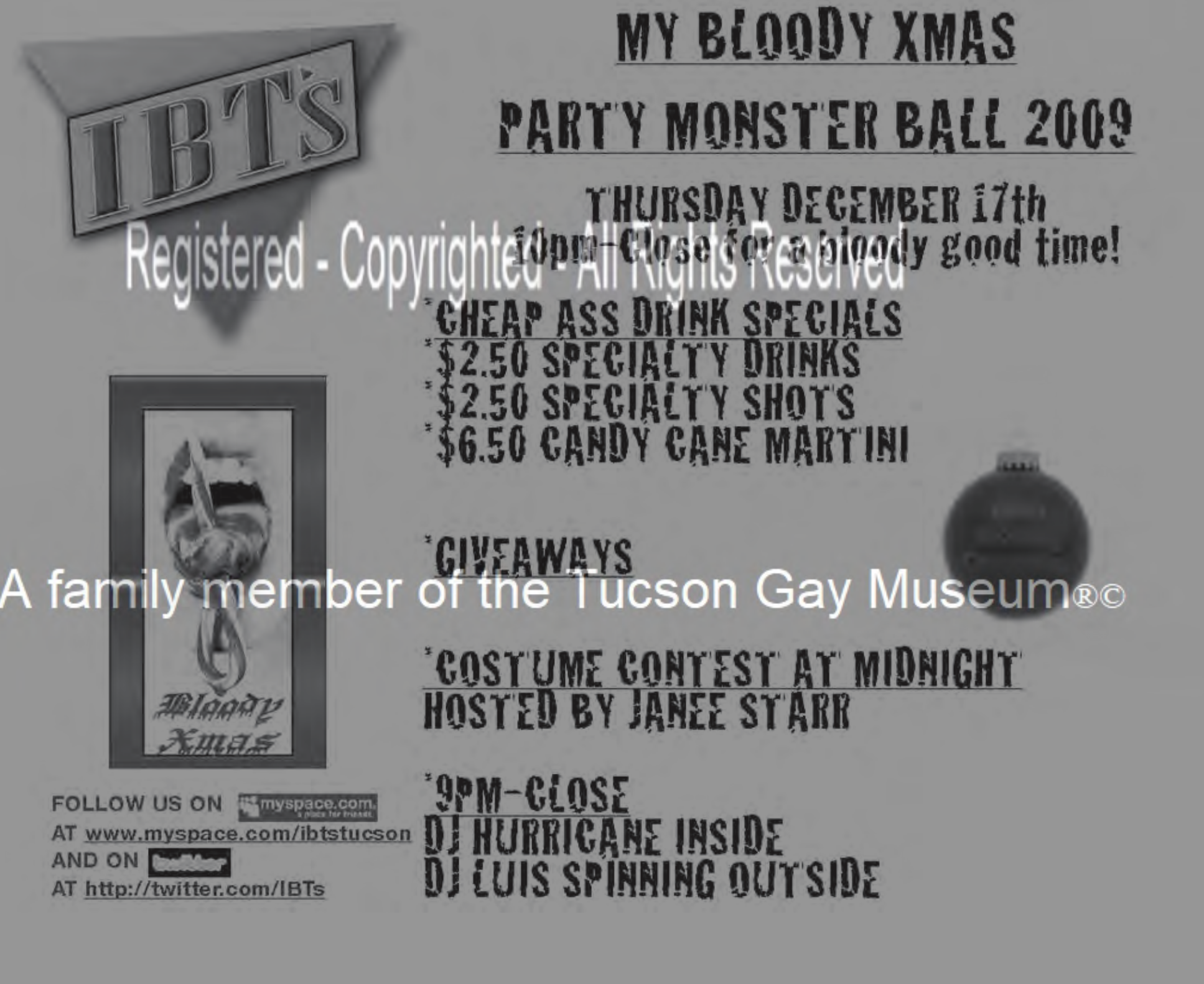

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# No DOMA Repeal Next Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Rep. Jerrold Nadler said the Respect for Marriage Act, which would overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, won't pass next year, reported dcagenda.com

The sponsor of a bill that would overturn the Defense of Marriage Act said repeal won't happen in this Congress and that efforts next year will instead be focused on building support on the issue.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) said in an interview with DC Agenda that lawmakers will work on passing other pro-LGBT bills next year, and could take up legislation to repeal DOMA – known as the Respect for Marriage Act – at the end of the two-year session starting in 2011.

"The Respect for Marriage Act is a bill that we can't pass right now; we know we can't pass it right now," he said.

Nadler said Congress won't take up the DOMA repeal next year because other LGBT-related bills, including the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, legislation providing partner benefits for LGBT federal workers and a repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," are taking precedence. Supporters hope to pass those measures by the end of 2010.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

# Murder Suspect Deemed Mentally Ill

SAN JUAN, P.R. (Observer Update) - After a mental evaluation was ordered for murder suspect Juan Martínez Matos, a court-appointed psychiatrist has determined that the 26-year-old is not fit to stand trial, reported advocate.com.

Martínez Matos is charged with first-degree murder in the brutal killing of 19-year-old Jorge Steven López Mercado in Puerto Rico. He has also been charged with other counts, including weapons violations.

Psychiatrist Rafael Cabrera said the suspect should be kept in a forensic psychiatric hospital, according to the website Caribbean Business. Cabrera admitted, though, that the suspect may be faking or exaggerating his symptoms.

Judge Camila Jusino ordered Martínez Matos to undergo another evaluation on January 7 and set a new hearing on his fitness to face criminal proceedings for January 13.

According to police reports, López Mercado was dressed as a woman when Martínez Matos picked him up on a street known for prostitution in the town of Cayey. He claimed he didn't know López Mercado was a man and that he killed him in self-defense. López Mercado's body was found decapitated and partially burned alongside a road in central Puerto Rico November 13.

# State Can't Force National G/L Marriage, Feds Say In Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - States that allow Gay marriage can't force the federal government to provide benefits to those couples, the Obama administration argued in court papers in a lawsuit by Massachusetts, reported the AP on pageoneq.com. The Justice Department is at odds with Massachusetts - the first state to allow Gay marriage - over a 1996 federal law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Massachusetts sued in July, saying that law is discriminatory and deprives Gay couples in the state of some federal spousal benefits.

The Obama administration agrees the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, is discriminatory and wants it repealed, but says it has an obligation to defend laws enacted by Congress while they are on the books and can be reasonably defended. The law "does not prohibit Gay and lesbian couples from marrying, nor does it prohibit the states from acknowledging same-sex marriages," according to the court filing by Assistant Attorney General Tony West.

Massachusetts, the filing continues, is trying to claim individuals have a right to federal benefits based on marital status. "There is, however, no fundamental right to marriage-based federal benefits," according to the 36-page filing. The 1996 law denies federal recognition of Gay marriage and gives states the right to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Massachusetts is the first state to sue the government over the DOMA law. Some Gay couples have filed their own lawsuits challenging the law, but this case is unique in pitting a state against the federal government over the issue.

Justice Dept. spokeswoman Tracy Schmaler said any state "can allow Gay and lesbian citizens to marry and can make its own decisions about how to treat married couples when it comes to state benefits." "Massachusetts is not being denied the right to provide benefits to same-sex couples and, in fact, has enacted a law to provide equal health benefits to same-sex spouses," she said. In earlier filings, the government has sought to dismiss the DOMA lawsuits brought by individuals.

The Massachusetts case could also have implications for Democratic Party politics. The Massachusetts Attorney General, Martha Coakley, is trying to win the Senate seat of the late Edward Kennedy, at the same time her office is leading the lawsuit against the Democratic administration on the issue of Gay rights. The lawsuit brought by Massachusetts says the approximately 16,000 same-sex couples who have married since the state allowed it in 2004 are being unfairly denied federal benefits given to heterosexual couples. Those benefits include federal income tax credits, employment benefits, retirement benefits, health insurance coverage and Social Security payments, the lawsuit says. The lawsuit also argues that the federal law requires the state to violate the constitutional rights of its citizens by treating married heterosexual couples and married same-sex couples differently when determining eligibility for Medicaid benefits and when determining whether the spouse of a veteran can be buried in a Massachusetts veterans' cemetery.

Besides Massachusetts, five other states - Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Iowa - have legalized Gay marriage.

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# McDonald's Fires Anti-Trans Manager

ORLANDO, FL (Observer Update) - Zikerria Bellamy filed a complaint against McDonald's for refusing to hire her because she is transgender. One of the managers left a detailed voice mail message on Bellamy's phone in July, saying "It doesn't matter how many times you go down there, you will not get hired. We do not hire faggots. You lied to me." That manager has been fired.

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A spokeswoman for McDonald's told the Orlando Sentinel that the person who left the voice message for Bellamy with antigay slurs was let go. She said that the employee "acted outside the scope of his authority and was not responsible," adding "[McDonald's] has a zero tolerance policy prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the restaurant."

Bellamy, 17, who has been living as a woman for six years, said that on two separate occasions in July, she tried to get an interview at the Orlando McDonald's. Two separate

managers refused to hire her.

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF) then filed the complaint with the Florida Commission on Human Relations on Bellamy's behalf.

Although one of the managers has been fired as a result of the derogatory statements made in the recording, McDonald's did not indicate what happened to the second manager.

# James Franco Plays Gay ..... Again

James Franco with Aaron T. Veit

SUNDANCE, UT (Observer Update) - James Franco's portrayal of Allen Ginsberg in the film Howl will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah next month, reported On Top Magazine.

While Ginsberg is best known as the quintessential beat generation poet, he was also a pioneering gay rights advocate. Ginsberg often discussed being gay and advocated for the freedoms of sexual minorities. He went so far as to list his lover, the poet Peter Orlovsky, as his spouse in his Who's Who entry. Howl, however, is not a love story, but a look at Ginsberg's most famous poem, Howl. The poem, published in 1955 by City Lights, a San Francisco-based bookstore, became the subject of a landmark obscenity trial that tested the boundaries of the First Amendment.

How much of Ginsberg's personal life is included in the movie remains to be seen. But directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman did cast Aaron Tveit to play Peter Orlovsky, Ginsberg's self-identified spouse. Last year, Franco played Harvey Milk's gay lover, Scott Smith, in the feature film Milk. The highly-acclaimed movie about the San Francisco politician murdered on the steps of City Hall was directed by Gus Van Sant. Van Sant executive produced Howl.

# True Blood Casts Gay Vampire

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - True Blood has cast two new characters, including the boyfriend of vampire king Russell Edgington, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Hollywood newcomer Theo Alexander will join the cast as Talbot, an "intensely beautiful" vampire who loves to cook.

Greece-born Alexander will be sharing the screen with actor Denis O'Hare, who plays his love interest, Russell, reported advocate.com.

Also announced, Grant Bowler will play Coot, a werewolf ringleader of a biker gang. Bowler has recently appeared on 13 episodes of Ugly Betty as Vanessa Williams's love interest. True Blood's third season began production has commenced.

# Elton And Judy Voted Top Gay Icons

LONDON, UK (Observer Update) - Elton John and Judy Garland were voted the greatest gay icons of all time in a poll, reported advocate.com.

Market research company One Poll conducted a survey of 5,000 gay men and lesbians, according to London's Daily Mirror.

According to those surveyed, the top 10 male gay icons are Elton John, Freddie Mercury, Stephen Fry, George Michael, Oscar Wilde, Will Young, Alan Carr, Paul O'Grady, Boy George, and David Beckham.

Judy Garland topped the list of female gay icons, followed by Kylie Minogue, Madonna, Cher, Liza Minnelli, Marilyn Monroe, Shirley Bassey, Lily Savage, Dusty Springfield, and Barbra Streisand.

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# Around The Gay Globe

The Irish Supreme Court ruled that a gay man who donated his sperm to a lesbian couple should be permitted to see his 3-year-old son regularly – in part because Ireland's constitution doesn't recognize the lesbians as a valid family unit. The ruling was a legal first in Ireland, where homosexuality was outlawed until 1993 and gay couples are denied many rights given to married couples. Critics contend the case highlights how Ireland's conservative Catholic 1937 constitution conflicts with contemporary European norms and fails to address the reality that hundreds of gay couples in Ireland have children. In their unanimous decision, the five judges of Ireland's ultimate constitutional authority said a lower court erred by trying to apply the European Convention on Human Rights in favor of the lesbian couple. The Supreme Court concluded that when the two are in conflict, the Irish constitution is superior to European human rights law.

Austria's parliament passed legislation allowing homosexual couples to enter into civil unions, a move hailed by proponents as a historic win for gay rights in the country. The bill, slated to become law Jan. 1., will give same-sex couples a series of rights enjoyed by their heterosexual counterparts, including access to a pension if one partner dies and alimony in the event of a split. It bans the adoption of children or artificial insemination. "We are living in the 21st century and I'm very glad this step is being taken today," Justice Minister Claudia Bandion-Ortner said during parliamentary debate leading up to the vote. Christian Hoegl, co-president of the Homosexual Initiative Vienna, Austria's oldest group of gays and lesbians, agreed. "It's a relief, a big success and a reward for two decades of lobbying," Hoegl said.

The death penalty has not and will not be dropped from the proposed antigay Uganda bill despite a report to the contrary last week by Bloomberg News, The Guardian is reporting. The Guardian spoke with the "kill the gays" bill's main sponsor, David Bahati. Reads the article: "Bahati has just presented his anti-homosexuality bill 2009 to Uganda's parliament. The bill, which will be debated within a fortnight and is expected to become law by February, will allow homosexuality to be punishable by death. ... He denied reports that international pressure might result in parts of the bill being toned down. 'We are not going to yield to any international pressure – we cannot allow people to play with the future of our children and put aid into the game. We are not in the trade of values. We need mutual respect.'"

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# Church Wants Out Of Anti-Gay Group

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (Observer Update) - A Lutheran church in Minnesota wants off a list of those wanting to join a new Lutheran body with less tolerant views on homosexuality, saying it never wished to be part of the group, advocate.com reported.

The Urland Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls had been counted among those seeking to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which earlier this year decided to allow partnered gays and lesbians to be ordained as clergy, and join a new, more conservative group called Lutheran CORE. Lutheran CORE officials say the Urland congregation has to take a vote to leave that group, but Urland pastor Arthur Sharot says that's unnecessary.

"We are sending a letter requesting our removal," Sharot told The Minnesota Independent. "We have no reason or necessity to have a vote to have our name removed from an organization we never asked to be a part of." Urland members learned their church was listed as part of Lutheran CORE only by seeing it on the group's website.

However, Lutheran CORE director Mark Chavez told the paper that Urland had joined an earlier group, Lutheran Churches of the Common Confession, which was founded in 2005 and folded into Lutheran CORE about a year ago.

The Common Confession document states, among other things, that "sexual activity belongs exclusively within the biblical boundaries of a faithful marriage between one man and one woman."

Sharot says his congregation voted to join the Common Confession group sometime before he became pastor in 2006, but not all members share that view of sexuality.

Also, Lutheran CORE's views may be even more antigay than they first appeared. The Independent reports that Chavez was once director and remains vice president of WordAlone, a group that believes sexual orientation can be changed and that adoption by gays puts children at risk.

# Study: Accurate Gaydar Is Nearly Instant

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - A new study by Tufts University shows that people can identify others' sexual orientation after looking at them for just seconds, advocate.com reported. According to ScienceBlogs.com, researchers Nalini Ambady and Nick Rule used college students in a test to accurately identify gay men based on 90 photos from dating websites. None of the men in the photos – half of whom were seeking male partners, the other half seeking females – had facial hair, jewelry, glasses, or other accessories.

Each photo was shown to 90 student volunteers for either 33 milliseconds, 50 milliseconds, 100 milliseconds, 6.5 seconds, or 10 seconds. With each snapshot, the students were able to identify a subject's sexual orientation with at least 50% accuracy, depending on the amount of time given. The most accurate time sequence was 50 milliseconds, with 62% projecting correctly. However, when students took their own amount of time to weigh the photos, the accuracy rate rose to 70%.

In an adjacent study, the researchers pulled photos from Facebook profiles of 133 men that were posted from friends or family, therefore being of a more neutral nature. In that trial, the accuracy rate was 54%, at 50 millisecond intervals.

The study's authors said the reason people may have keen gaydar is so heterosexual women can find a suitable mate and so that men can easily identify their competition.

# Calif. Picks 1st Openly Gay Assembly Speaker

SACRAMENTO, CA (Observer Update) - The California Assembly has picked its first openly gay speaker, reported the AP on advocate.com. Assembly Democrats unanimously backed John Perez, the chairman of the Assembly Democratic Caucus, to be its next speaker.

Perez will hold one of the most powerful positions in state government. A cousin of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Perez was elected to the Assembly last year.

He was challenged in the speakership race by Democratic Assemblyman Kevin De Leon, a fellow Hispanic lawmaker. The nomination now goes before the full Assembly, but the candidate with the most Democratic support usually wins because Democrats hold a majority of seats in the 80-member chamber.

He will take over the position from Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, who was elected by her colleagues in February 2008.

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# Christian Leaders Scapegoat Gays And Lesbians On Marriage

**COMMENTARY. . . .**
**Nathaniel Frank**

By Nathaniel Frank

The most significant thing about the new, anti-Gay "Manhattan Declaration" is not that scores of Christians are against Gay rights. It's that, recognizing they're on the wrong side of history, they tie themselves in knots insisting they're not anti-Gay. And in doing so, they reveal the intellectual and moral bankruptcy of their obsessive persecution of Gay people. The Declaration, released last week and signed by over 150 Christian leaders and social conservatives, identifies abortion, Gay marriage, and religious liberty as the three most important issues facing modern Christians, and pleads with both believers and non-believers to stand up against the first two and in defense of the third.

Christians, says the Declaration's preamble, were the ones who rescued abandoned babies in trash heaps in ancient Rome, tended to the sick during the plagues, ended slavery in the West, uplifted the poor, created the conditions for democracy, and ushered in women's suffrage. Their bizarre self-righteousness in claiming the mantle of all the great things that have happened in history makes you wonder if these modern moral crusaders have a pathological need to feel that they are good people, which is usually the first sign that they have reason to worry they are not. (Sure enough, one of the three drafters of the document is Nixon's former special counsel, Chuck Colson, convicted of obstructing justice surrounding the Watergate scandal.)

Claiming the rather quaint authority not only of Holy Scripture but of "natural human reason" and "the very nature of the human person," the signatories proclaim themselves vigilantes called to protect "marriage as a conjugal union of man and woman, ordained by God from the creation, and historically understood by believers and non-believers alike, to be the most basic institution in society."

The drafters seem to go out of their way to present themselves not as garden-variety right-wing hate-mongers but as highly educated Christian rationalists who have mastered the art of hating the sin and loving the sinner. They seem braced for the smarter folks they sometimes encounter in their daily lives to say, "WTF are you talking about – why are you spending your energy rationalizing your homophobia instead of putting that behind you so you can focus on resolving the far more legitimate concerns you may have about the moral state of modern society?" They insist preemptively that "it is out of love (not 'animus') and prudent concern for the common good (not 'prejudice'), that we pledge to labor ceaselessly to preserve the legal definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman." And they claim they have no choice: "How could we, as Christians, do otherwise? The Bible teaches us that marriage is a central part of God's creation covenant." Funny – the Bible also teaches that divorce is absolutely prohibited, but there is no movement to take the right to divorce away (just to make it a tad harder). And where's the battle to pass a law requiring that adulterers get stoned to death?

Support for Gay marriage, say the signatories, "reflects a loss of understanding of the meaning of marriage," which apparently only Christian conservatives truly know. It would "lock into place the false and destructive belief that marriage is all about romance and other adult satisfactions, and not, in any intrinsic way, about procreation and the unique character and value of acts and relationships whose meaning is shaped by their aptness for the generation, promotion and protection of life."

For decades now, religious moralizers have cast marital heterosexual intercourse as the zenith of virtuous self-sacrifice because it sometimes results in the nifty creation of another human life. I admit this is pretty cool, and I sometimes wish I could do it too. But sexual intercourse is also the epitome of self-indulgence, the embrace of one of the most intense experiences of carnal pleasure of which humans are capable. This pleasure, and the fraught relation we have to it in the Western world, is of course the very reason we've created a purifying religious narrative of redemption – to tell ourselves that the act that many find dirty, messy, and guilt-inducing is really the highest, noblest, most selfless act there is – so long as something greater than the sum of its parts comes out of it, something to balance out its highly selfish component. While homosexuals and their allegedly exotic acts of sexual pleasure are cast as the epitome of narcissism, what could be more narcissistic than reproducing yourself – the only kind of sex that conservative Christians endorse?

So social conservatives hang the privileging of heterosexuality on the assertion that an act which might produce a life can't be all that bad, no matter how fun it might be; and a really fun act which can't produce a life must be either outright bad (Gay sex) or merely tolerated (infertile heterosexual sex). Bracing for the retort that any reasoning that allows marriage for infertile straights must also allow marriage for Gay couples, the signers of the Declaration are ready with prose that is more horrendous and meaningless than the worst translation of Hegelian philosophy. It deserves to be quoted in its entirety:

Marriage is made possible by the sexual complementarity of man and woman, and the comprehensive, multi-level sharing of life that marriage is includes bodily unity of the sort that unites husband and wife biologically as a reproductive unit. This is because the body is no mere extrinsic instrument of the human person, but truly part of the personal reality of the human being. Human beings are not merely centers of consciousness or emotion, or minds, or spirits, inhabiting non-personal bodies. The human person is a dynamic unity of body, mind, and spirit. Marriage is what one man and one woman establish when, forsaking all others and pledging lifelong commitment, they found a sharing of life at every level of being - the biological, the emotional, the dispositional, the rational, the spiritual - on a commitment that is sealed, completed and actualized by loving sexual intercourse in which the spouses become one flesh, not in some merely metaphorical sense, but by fulfilling together the behavioral conditions of procreation. That is why in the Christian tradition, and historically in Western law, consummated marriages are not dissoluble or annullable on the ground of infertility, even though the nature of the marital relationship is shaped and structured by its intrinsic orientation to the great good of procreation.

The first thing to say about this blather is that it doesn't make any sense. I don't mean it's something that secular rationalists simply don't have the capacity to understand; it's actual nonsense. It doesn't take a pomo-studies major from Brown to point out that the exclusive "complementarity of man and woman" is not an empirical fact but a subjective predilection of those who find satisfaction in male-female intimacy. The fact that the bond can form a procreative unit doesn't make it any more sexually complementary than a same-sex pairing, a fact which society already recognizes by granting marital rights to infertile, post-menopausal, and willingly childless couples. And while we're at it: spouses don't actually become one flesh in intercourse–they can get pretty damned close, but they don't literally meld together. And the idea that straights deserve special rights because they alone fulfill the "behavioral conditions of procreation" is nothing more than a failed attempt to justify heterosexual privilege. It says that, so long as a couple's behavior mimics that which sometimes leads to procreation, i.e. so long as they are straight, they can join the club, even if their actual union is utterly devoid of the procreative result that supposedly justifies any marriage in the first place.

The second thing to say is that what the signers are most likely trying to say here – that marriage is society's way of honoring and encouraging comprehensive, life-sharing unions that involve spiritual, emotional, sexual, and yes biological complementarity (two lives whose pairing makes life better) – applies to Gay unions too. Indeed, the signatories have utterly failed to explain to rational thinkers why Gay marriage should be blocked.

Continued on Page Eight

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# Christian Leaders Scapegoat Gays And Lesbians On Marriage

Continued from Page Seven

## COMMENTARY. . .

Continued from Page Seven

So they slip from holy rhetoric to the purely pragmatic. "Vast human experience," they write, "confirms that marriage is the original and most important institution for sustaining the health, education, and welfare of all persons in a society." Huh? If marriage were the "original and most important" institution for sustaining human beings, we wouldn't be here (what did we do before marriage?). Christianity didn't even declare marriage a sacrament until 1215, largely ignoring it for its first millennium of existence. The Western, nuclear family structure simply is not the only arrangement that ever succeeded at nurturing prosperous human societies, as the rampant polygamy in the bible and throughout much of the world today reminds us.

Finally, there's the circular reasoning of the signers' lame attempt to show "genuine social harm" that allegedly results from any alternatives to straight-only marriage. Alternatives to traditional marriage harm religious freedom by upsetting those whose religion, well, opposes alternatives to traditional marriage; they "abuse the rights of parents" because they lead to teaching things that some parents don't want taught; and they undercut civil society by allowing the law's "pedagogical function" to become a tool for eroding the traditional understanding of marriage on which civil society rests. They could just as well have said that female suffrage – which the signers boasted of supporting a century ago – is bad for society because it will lead to teaching that female suffrage is good for society; or racial integration is bad because it will prompt people to say it is good. If this is the best you've got, you'd be wise to stick to "the Bible tells me so."

The bankruptcy of the anti-Gay marriage crowd's arguments is best revealed by their use of the old slippery slope chimera, echoed this week by Mike Huckabee: Once you change the meaning of marriage to include Gays, why not groups, siblings, children, and maybe sheep? Any alternative to heterosexual marriage, says the Declaration, "could be asserted with equal validity for polyamorous partnerships, polygamous households, even adult brothers, sisters, or brothers and sisters living in incestuous relationships. Should these, as a matter of equality or civil rights, be recognized as lawful marriages?"

Here's what's going on here: Religious opponents of Gay marriage don't have a good understanding of why a modern state should recognize civil marriage in the first place; they view marriage primarily as a religious tradition that has made their lives satisfying and secure and so they are most comfortable justifying it in terms of what's been – this is one of the roles of a religious narrative. If they thought honestly and rigorously about the civil, rather than just religious, reasons why the state recognizes marriage today, they'd see that Gay unions fit into those reasons in the modern world. But, vaguely to ardently anti-Gay, they can only view Gay rights as a symbol of "anything goes" hedonism. Some purposely deploy the "slippery slope" tactic to try to win the argument. But many others are simply not willing or able to think that maybe there are actual reasons why Gay marriage makes rational sense while group and incestuous marriages don't. So to paraphrase a recent presidential candidate, they cling to Gays and God to defend a way of life that's familiar.

Only if you don't have a good reason for defending the existence of marriage would you be this insecure about sharing it. When your only defense of the status quo is to suggest it's always been this way and any change will ruin it, you know you're out of reasons to defend the status quo.

So let me give the defense-of-marriage crowd a few good reasons to defend marriage that don't rely on sectarianism: it can provide a stable place to raise kids, if you have them; it channels the boisterous, undirected energy of young singles into unthreatening domestic bonds; it encourages individuals to take care of each other so the state won't have to; and it helps society recognize and enforce the caretaking commitments people have made to one another. All these functions Gay couples can share in.

Says the Declaration: "Just as Christ was willing, out of love, to give Himself up for the church in a complete sacrifice, we are willing, lovingly, to make whatever sacrifices are required of us for the sake of the inestimable treasure that is marriage." This is great news. If you're really interested in sacrificing for marriage, stop opposing the righteous tide of history, speak out for the honest reasons that marriage matters for all of us, and quit leaning on the superficial gratification of heterosexual privilege to make yourself feel more Godly.

(Nathaniel Frank is author of the forthcoming book, "Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America," to be published by St. Martin's Press in March. He is senior research fellow at the Palm Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and teaches history on the adjunct faculty at New York University's Gallatin School. He is also a contributing writer for the Huffington Post, from which this is reprinted.)

# Brown Sentenced To Life For Murdering Ryan Skipper

TAMPA, FL (Observer Update) - A man was sentenced to two life sentences Tuesday for killing a gay student in 2007, advocate.com reported. William Brown, 23, was first convicted to first-degree murder and robbery in the death of 25-year-old Ryan Skipper, who was reportedly stabbed 19 times on the side of a road in Polk County, Fla. Prosecutors alleged that Brown targeted Skipper because he was gay.

According to News Channel 8 in Tampa, Brown showed no remorse at his sentencing, as he even laughed while being fingerprinted. Skipper's mother and stepfather say they are dismayed by Brown's reaction to the sentencing, but they are focused on continuing their advocacy work.

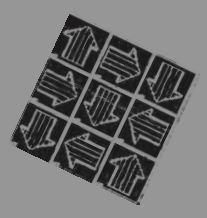
"I hope we never have to sit in another courtroom again the rest of my life," Pat Mulder, Skipper's mother, said in the report. She added, "I feel that there are other Ryans out there, so we need to speak up for them." Another defendant, Joseph Bearden, is serving a life sentence after being found guilty of second-degree murder.

# DC Council Approves Gay Marriage Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The initial vote to approve a gay marriage bill in the District of Columbia came with few surprises. As expected, the legislation was approved on a 11 to 2 vote, with Council members Yvette Alexander and Marion Barry dissenting, reported On Top Magazine.

Openly gay Council member David Catania, who authored the bill, called passage an "important victory." "Gays and lesbians bear every burden of citizenship and are entitled to every benefit and protection that the law allows," he said in a statement. A final vote on the legislation is expected to take place on December 15. Barring action from Congress, which has final say on laws approved by the city, the soonest gay marriage could become legal is January 15.

Barry told the council that he is a strong supporter of gay rights on every issue but gay marriage. "I stand here to declare, in no uncertain terms, my strong commitment to the gay and lesbian, transgender, and bisexual community on almost every issue but this one," he said. Opponents of the law say they're prepared to continue their fight in the courts and take it to Congress.



# Akron Enacts LGBT Equality Ordinance

AKRON, OH (Observer Update) - After 11 years of false starts, Akron has passed an ordinance banning discrimination by sexual orientation or gender identity, reported the Gay People's Chronicle.

The updated version, enacted November 30 after two weeks of delay, caps off a string of attempts dating back to 1998 when Council President Marco Sommerville and Stonewall Akron first tried to pass the measure.

Earlier tries got off to bad starts and did not have wide backing. As support broadened, other events distracted city officials and delayed action. These included an attempted recall of Mayor Don Plusquellic and an incident where Sommerville was caught with a firearm at the Akron Canton Airport.

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# Seen At The 2009 Winter 4th Avenue Street Fair

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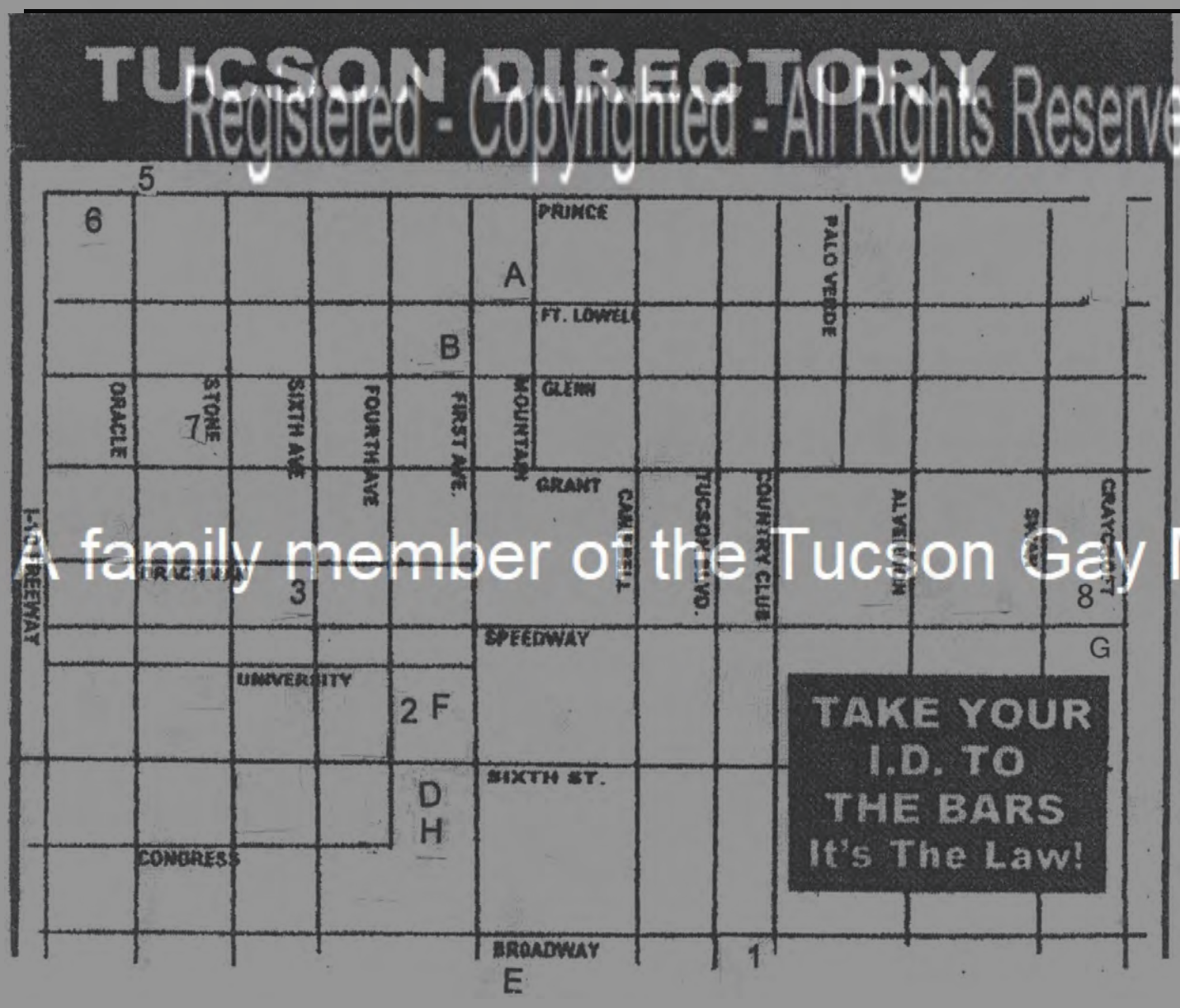
PHOTOS byBill Morrow

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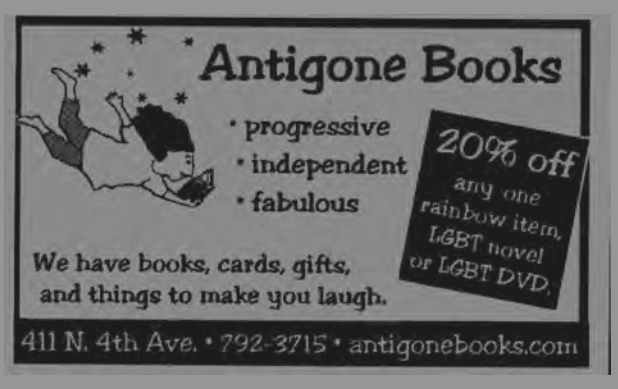

# Will Feds Get Involved In Mitrice Case?

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - 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, reported advocate.com.

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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# Kalamazoo Battle Cost $458,000

KALAMAZOO, MI (Observer Update) - The opposing sides in the fight over the nondiscrimination ordinance approved by voters in Kalamazoo, Mich., last month used about $458,000 in cash and in-kind contributions, representing a record-breaking effort in which LGBT rights opponents were vastly outspent, reported advocate.com.

Proponents of the ordinance, which passed by a vote of 7,671 to 4,731, raised $402,035, compared to $55,209 raised by opponents, according to campaign finance records reported by the Kalamazoo Gazette. The largest single contributor to One Kalamazoo, the group that sought to pass the ordinance, which protects LGBT people against discrimination, was philanthropist Jon Stryker, who gave $112,800. His contributions represented about $1 of every $3 raised in cash by One Kalamazoo.

The campaigns together set a spending record for a single ballot proposition in a Kalamazoo County election, according to the Gazette.

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# Anti-Gay Bullying Curriculum Dropped

ALAMEDA, CA (Observer Update) - The Alameda, Calif., board of education voted to abandon an elementary school curriculum it had previously adopted for the purpose of preventing anti gay bullying.

Pressure of lawsuits and threats of recall prompted the Bay Area school district to reverse its decision from May, according to the Associated Press.

"The so-called Lesson 9, which had become an opposition centerpiece in a national anti-gay marriage campaign, will be replaced by a more generic anti-bullying message," the AP reported.

Parents opposed to their children learning about gay and lesbian issues in school reacted angrily to the prospect of Lesson 9, which was to be taught once a year in each grade beginning with kindergarten. Opponents raised arguments about religious liberty, prompting the school superintendent to offer a compromise.

"The new anti-bullying lessons approved by the board, at the recommendation of School Superintendent Kirsten Vital, will be supplemented by children's books that explicitly address six specific forms of bias, including against gays," reported the AP.

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# GLAAD's Barrios Admits He Screwed Up Lambert vs. ABC

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) – GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios sat down with Sirius XM host Michelangelo Signorile and accepted responsibility for the group's handling of the Adam Lambert-ABC controversy and criticism that the group aligned itself with the network in a joint statement that excused ABC for removing him from an appearance on Good Morning America following his controversial American Music Awards performance.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation released statement after statement in an attempt to distance itself from the original joint statement, which appeared to give ABC a free pass: "It would appear that the kiss between Adam Lambert and his keyboardist did not factor into ABC's decision."

Now Barrios admits the situation was handled poorly and tells Signorile that the original statement was "problematic." But he goes on to take credit for a partial victory the following day – news that Lambert would appear in a pretaped segment on The View and Barbara Walters's 10 Most Fascinating People of 2009 special.

Signorile says it's a good start, but it's not enough, and that "GLAAD has a long way to go in explaining what happened here and also its larger mission."

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# Murder Suspect On Trial After 38 Years

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - A jury is hearing the case of a man charged with murdering a gay man in 1971, reported advocate.com.

Gerald Dean Metcalf, 62, is accused of stabbing Gerald Jackson, who was 27, at least 61 times in the victim's apartment after Jackson picked him up in a cruising area in downtown San Diego, according to the Gay and Lesbian Times.

"Fingerprints and DNA evidence from discarded cigarette butts were saved in the apartment of Gerald Jackson, 27, and they led San Diego Police to arrest Gerald Dean Metcalf in August, 2008, in his home in Chandler, Texas, where he lived with his wife. Metcalf was 24 years old at the time of the slaying," reported the Gay and Lesbian Times.

The attorney for Metcalf maintains that the accused was diagnosed with schizophrenia years ago, and suggests that his client panicked with Jackson because he had experienced unwanted propositions from gay men previously. Metcalf remains in custody.

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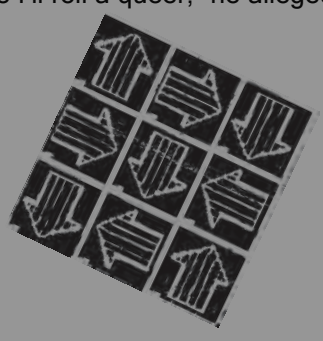
According to the Gay and Lesbian Times, a new witness has emerged with evidence that a down-on-his-luck Metcalf needed money around the time of the murder in 1971. "Maybe I'll roll a queer," he allegedly said.



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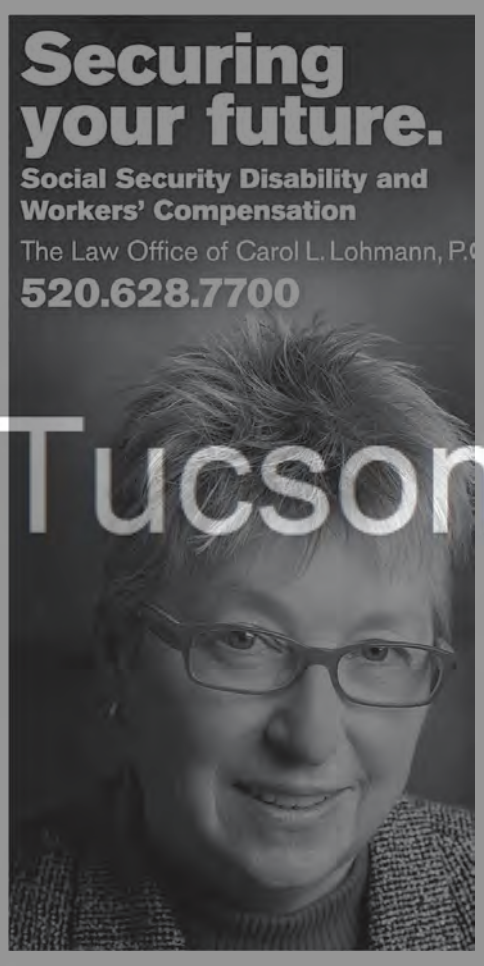

## Greg Grunberg Sorry For Chaz Bono Jokes

NEW YORK, NY (Observer Update) - Heroes star Greg Grunberg is sorry for a pair of tweets he posted earlier this month making fun of Chaz Bono, reported advocate.com. The actor was called out by trans author Kate Bornstein and bloggers for The Bilerico Project for a tweet in which he suggested that Bono should play his character in the Heroes movie.

Later, he tweeted that "she let himself go." Eventually, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation got involved and posted a story on its blog saying people should directly e-mail Grunberg and request an apology.

Grunberg posted the following tweet: "For the 2nd & final time, sorry 2 Chaz & my Trans-fans. Nice 2 see a community stand together. I meant NO disrespect."

## Chamblee, GA. Protects Gays

CHAMBLEE, GA (Observer Update) - The city council in Chamblee, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, has voted to prohibit discrimination against gay and lesbian municipal workers, advocate.com reported.

"If you're gay or lesbian, you shouldn't be fired if you put up a picture of your partner," said councilman Mark Wedge, who sponsored the resolution, reports TheAtlanta Journal-Constitution. "That shouldn't happen to anybody."

While the city council voted unanimously to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, there was not enough support to extend similar protections for transgender employees.

The ordinance passed in November, but it was not widely reported. There was no public support or opposition to the bill. The city council decided to vote on the measure with the hopes of attracting gay individuals to the area in order to bolster the economy.

Currently, Atlanta, Clarkston, Decatur, and Doraville are the only other cities in Georgia to protect their gay employees, and only Atlanta, Decatur, and Doraville ban employment discrimination based on gender identity.

## Protections Expected To Pass In Utah County

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (Observer Update) - Following the recent passage of two nondiscrimination ordinances in Salt Lake City, the Salt Lake County council is expected to pass two similar laws following debates, advocate.com reported.

The new provisions would protect individuals from being fired or being turned away from housing on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Democratic council chairman Joe Hatch says the ordinance will likely pass unanimously. Even Republican council members have been voicing their support.

"I don't have any problem with an ordinance that protects people from discrimination in work or in housing just because they happen to have a particular, you know, way of life," said Republican council member David Wilde, reports KCPW. "I mean, I think that's probably going a little too far to say, 'Gee, I think that person is gay, so gee I'm not going to even let them have a job or even let them rent from me.'"

The county already has an ordinance that protects its government employees from employment discrimination, but the new provision would extend that to the 170,000 residents living in unincorporated Salt Lake County. According to The Salt Lake Tribune, Park City, Utah, is also considering antidiscrimination ordinances, which the city council is expected to adopt.

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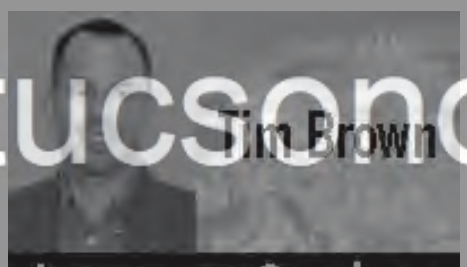


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A real classic car. Chrysler Town And Country Ltd. in showroom condition. It's a 2000 model but they don't make them like this baby anymore. Low mileage (110,000) and too many extras to list here. You name it - it's got it, including heated seats for those who hate sitting on cold leather in the middle of winter. Asking BELOW BLUE BOOK $8,000. Call 622-7176 and leave message.

## Personal Training

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## FOR RENT

**VERY LARGE 2BD.** Mountain and Ft. Lowell. Bike path to UA. 1st month free with year's lease. No dogs. $695. 682-7877. Best to call after 5:00 pm 1327

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## PERSONALS

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

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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 & REPAIRS** Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson. 1330

# Precious, Glee Lead Gay Globe Noms

HOLLYWOOD, CA (Observer Update) - Nominations for the 67th annual Golden Globe Awards were announced Tuesday morning, with Precious receiving a nomination for best dramatic film and Colin Firth garnering a nomination for best actor in a drama for his role in A Single Man.

Precious, a tale of life in 1980s Harlem, directed by the openly gay Lee Daniels, will compete in the best drama category with Avatar, The Hurt Locker, and Inglorious Bastards, according to the Los Angeles Times blog, The Envelope.

Firth, who stars in A Single Man, the directorial debut of fashion designer Tom Ford, will compete for best actor in a drama with George Clooney for Up in the Air, Jeff Bridges for Crazy Heart, Morgan Freeman for Invictus and Tobey Maguire for Brothers.

In television, Glee took home multiple nominations, including Best Comedy Series, Best Actor for Matthew Morrison, Best Actress for Lea Michelle and Best Supporting Actress for Jane Lynch. In the comedy series category, Glee will face off against another very gay breakout hit, Modern Family, 30 Rock, Entourage and The Office.

True Blood, Dexter, Mad Men, House and Big Love will compete for Best Drama Series.

# Poet's Corner

## SPACE JOURNEY

**by Ron Rose - Tucson**

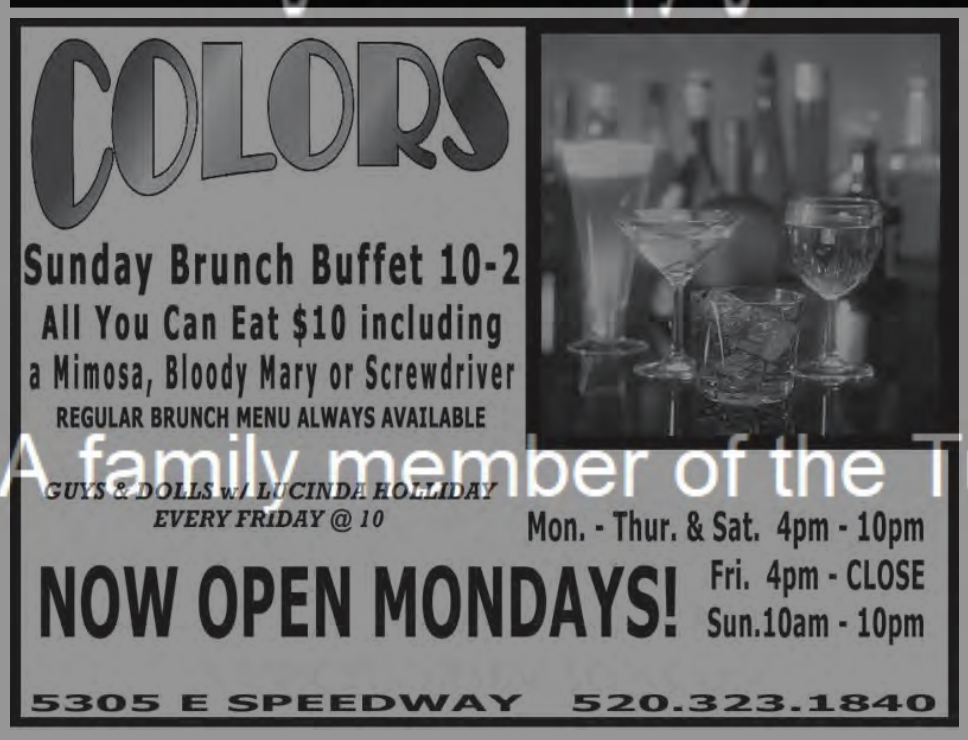
**Are we there yet, are we there yet**
**What's on the other side?**
**Roller coastering through the planets**
**What an exhilarating ride.**
**Will we finally find Nirvana?**
**Is there nothing else to fear**
**Is it peaceful, is it noisy?**
**Do we see and do we hear?**
**We're sailing through the cosmos**
**Just like a falling star.**
**We're at peace now, life will cease now**
**Viewing planets from afar.**

## 2-P

**by Ron Rose - Tucson**

**To pee, or not to pee**
**That is the Question.**

**The time is 2:22**
**Have to pee, you can see I'm on cue**
**Three numbers the same, not just two,**
**For this nocturnal wandering Jew.**

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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

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. Cheap drinks, give-aways, costume contest at midnight. DJ insisde and outside 9pm to close.

Friday, December 18

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

Saturday, December 19

WOODY'S - Annual "Snow Ball" and show begins at 10pm. hosted by Afeelya Bunz with special guests.

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

COYOTE MOON - Open today 5pm to 2am

Thursday, Dec. 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

COYOTE MOON - Open today at 3pm. $5 cover at 8pm. Free dessert & Coffee Bar. Country DJ 9pm. Champagne Toast at midnight.

WOODY'S - Gala here starring Niki Haris (the voice behind Madonna for 18 years) live in concert. Complimentary light Buffet, party favors, massive belloon drop, champagne toast. Tickets $25 call 292-6702. Check out their special safe night out offer. See their ad this issue.

Friday, January 1 NEW YEARS DAY

WOODY'S - Annual "Rehab Party" starts at 8am food special drinks at specal rices til 5pm

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**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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# COMMENTARY. . . .

## Anti-Gay Laws Lead To Depression

by Jack Drescher, MD

Last week, my patient Christopher (not his real name) came in for his regular weekly psychotherapy session.

"Did you hear about the vote?" he asked. I didn't need to ask for clarification. I knew he was referring to the New York State Senate's vote, 38-24, against same sex marriage that very day. "I'm really upset," Christopher said, although it didn't take a psychiatrist to see he was distraught. Over the next few days, Christopher was not the only gay patient in my practice to bring up the Senate vote as a distressing bit of news.

I had previously seen patients in my practice react as Christopher did. I saw many of my patients who were upset in 2004, after the Presidential election, when eleven states passed constitutional amendments banning marriage equality. Then again in the 2006 election when another nine states passed similar constitutional amendments. Then once more in 2008 when Californians voted in favor of Proposition 8 to overturn court-ordered marriage equality. More recently, this past November, Maine's citizens voted to repeal their legislature's recent passage of same sex marriage and the gay patients in my practice were markedly depressed by the news that another state's majority of voters opposed equal rights.

In recent years, both the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association have gone on record as supporting marriage equality. In their statements of support, the two APAs emphasize the health and mental health benefits of marriage. However an emerging phenomenon of the last decade's debates about the social status of gay marriage is the adverse psychological impact anti-gay marriage political campaigns have on gay people.

This is borne out by a study published earlier this year in the American Psychological Association's Journal of Counseling Psychology. The study, "Marriage Amendments and Psychological Distress in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) Adults," was an online survey of more than 1500 lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) adults. The researchers were looking for signs of psychological distress in this population following the 2006 general election.

They found that LGB people living in the nine states that passed an exclusionary marriage amendment reported higher levels of psychological distress and depressive symptoms when compared to people living in the other states. Among the factors that increased the experience of stress were antigay media messages repeatedly broadcast during the electoral campaigns. The researchers call this "minority stress," and define it as the "chronic social stress that individuals with stigmatized identities experience as a direct result of prejudice and discrimination over and above the stresses of daily living."

It is not unusual to hear opponents of gay marriage say they have nothing against gay people, and that they are only voting to preserve "traditional marriage." I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of their beliefs. However, as this study and my own clinical experience with patients like Christopher show, the psychological effects of their actions may contradict their words
ourgap.org/

(Jack Drescher, MD is a member of the LGBT Committee of the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry. This article is reprinted from advocate.com.)

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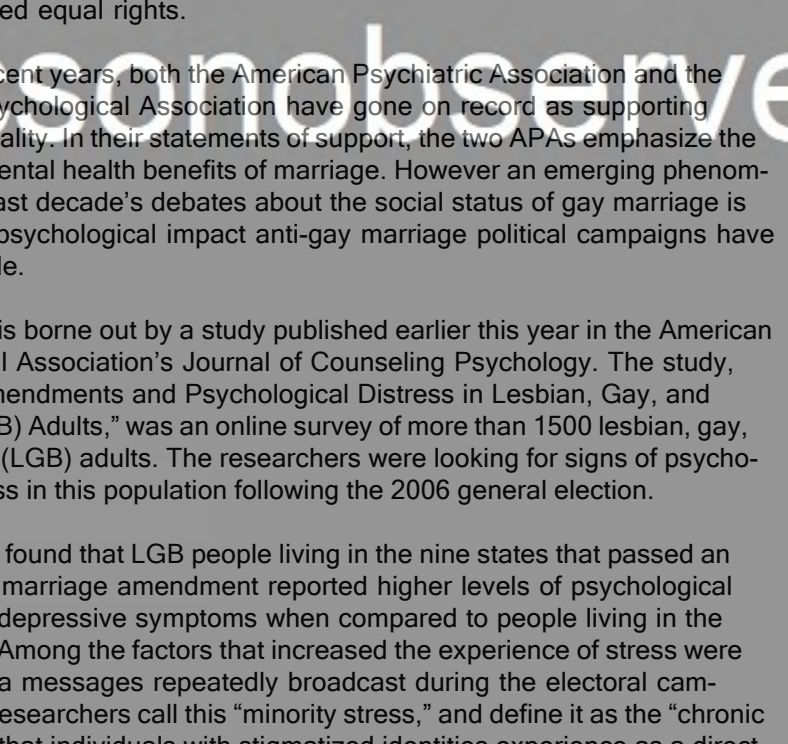

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