Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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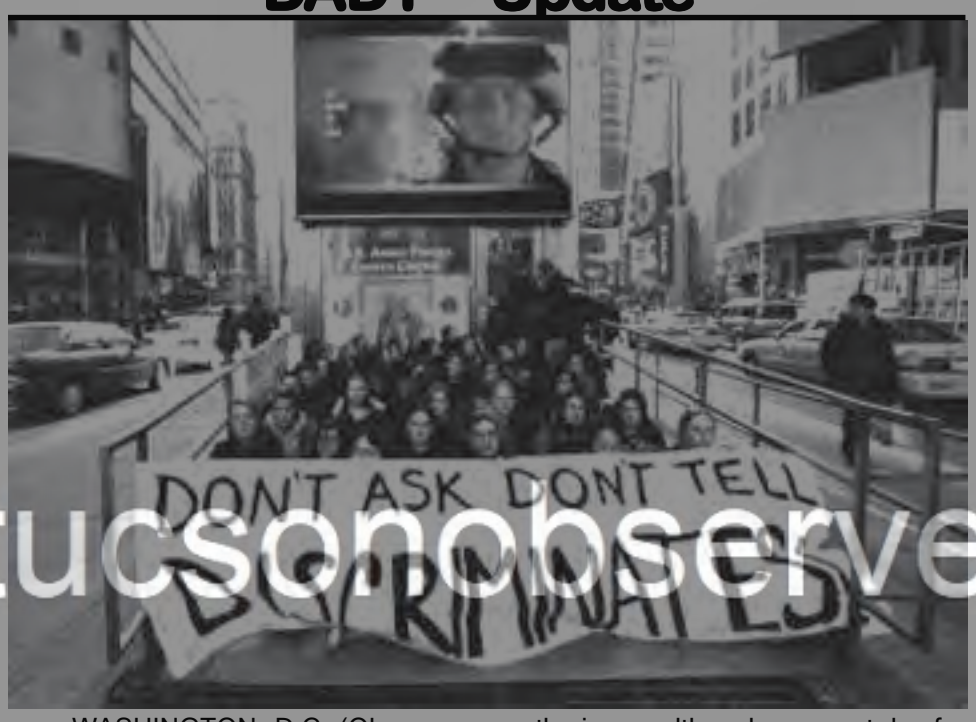
DADT Update



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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Associated Press is reporting it has obtained an internal memo in which lawyers are recommending holding off on an internal Pentagon effort which could lead to the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." The delay would push a decision by Congress to the middle of the next presidential election campaign, advocate.com reported.

Other advisers at the Pentagon have suggested lifting the ban sooner rather than later, saying it "would not cause unmanageable problems or divisions among the uniformed military."

Reads the article: '"Now is not the time,' the in-house legal counsel for Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote recently in a memorandum obtained by The Associated Press. 'The importance of winning the wars we are in, along with the stress on the force, our body of knowledge and the number of unknowns, demand that we act with deliberation.'"

Mullen received the conflicting advice this month about whether to move quickly to lift the 1993 ban, and it is not clear what he will recommend to President Barack Obama. Although allowing gays to serve openly in the military was one of Obama's campaign promises, the issue was put on the back burner during his first year in office. Some liberal supporters and several congressional Democrats are pushing for action.

In other news, both the top uniformed leader and top civilian leader at the Pentagon will testify at the end of this month before Congress on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," according to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Bryan Thomas, a committee spokesperson, said Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.) has made arrangements for Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of Joint of Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen to testify on the issue, although an exact day for the hearing hasn't been scheduled. "Sen. Levin said we have not yet set a date for the DADT hearing, but we are looking for a date that works in the last few days of January," Thomas said. "He also said the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be present."

What the officials will say on the 1993 law banning gays from serving openly in the U.S. military is unclear. Thomas said he doesn't know how Gates and Mullen will testify on the issue and deferred comment to the Pentagon. Cynthia Smith, a Defense Department spokesperson, said she was unaware of any commitment from Gates to testify on the issue.

"If what you're saying is true, he will ... give the testimony on the Hill at that time," she said. "I don't have any more information." A spokesperson for Mullen, Capt. John Kirby, said he "will not get out ahead of the Chairman's testimony to Congress." The Advocate first reported this week that Levin was working on plans to have hearings on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by the end of the month.

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Justice Department Intervenes In Gay Rights Suit For First Time In A Decade

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - For the first time in a decade, the Justice Department intervened in a gay rights suit. In August, an openly gay 14-year-old student named Jacob – with the help of the ACLU – sued the Mohawk Central School District in upstate New York because officials "did not appropriately respond to relentless harassment, physical abuse and threats of violence" that Jacob received because of his sexual orientation. NPR reported on some of the harassment to which Jacob alleges he was subjected:

Long before Jacob came out of the closet at age 14, he was harassed for being effeminate. According to court papers, kids threw food at him and told him to get a sex change. One student pulled out a knife and threatened to string Jacob up the flagpole. A teacher allegedly told Jacob to "hate himself every day until he changed."

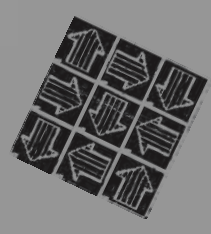
One day, Jacob came home from school limping. That evening, he called his father from a party and said he had sprained his ankle at the party.

Sullivan described taking his son to the hospital: "It was a really bad sprain. They put a cast on it, gave him crutches. And shortly after that, I found out that it didn't happen at the party. It happened at the school, because somebody had pushed him down the stairs."

Over two years, Sullivan went to his son's school three or four times a week to talk with the principal. According to court papers, officials did nothing.

The Justice Department is citing Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – which protects people against gender discrimination – in its Motion to Intervene. However, the Obama administration is relying on a "broad reading" of Title IX, arguing that "the law also covers discrimination based on gender stereotypes." In the Motion, the Justice Department argues that the Mohawk District officials also violated the Equal Protection Clause. On Jan. 7, the Assistant Attorney General authorized the federal government's invention "by certifying that this is a case of general public importance." Conservative lawyers are arguing against the Obama administration's approach, saying that it is "making up a legal violation where there hasn't been one."

Under Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, the Justice Department has had a dramatically different focus than it did during President Bush's terms. While the Bush Justice Department was focused on installing political cronies, going after mythical voter fraud cases, and the suppression of minority voters while looking out for the voter disenfranchisement of whites. The Obama Justice Department, by contrast, recently announced that it would also start aggressively going after "banks and mortgage brokers suspected of discriminating against minority applicants in lending."



DC Court Rejects Anti-Gay Marriage Initiative, Again

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The DC Superior Court upheld the decision of the DC Board of Elections and Ethics to reject a proposed ballot initiative that would have prohibited gay marriage in the District, reported On Top Magazine.

In June, a D.C. Superior Court judge rejected a similar lawsuit to force a public vote on legislation that, at the time, allowed D.C. to recognize marriages by same-sex couples performed in other jurisdictions.

From HRC: The lawsuit was brought by several national anti-gay activists and backed by 39 Republican members of Congress. The legislation extending marriage rights to same-sex couples in the District is set to become effective at the conclusion of the Congressional review period, likely in early March.

In her decision, Judge Macaluso determined that the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics ruled properly that the proposed initiative would violate the D.C. Human Rights Act. Under D.C. law, no ballot initiative may authorize discrimination under the Human Rights Act, which, among other things, prohibits the government from denying services or benefits based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Petitioners had argued that D.C.'s human rights protections dating back to 1979 were invalid; however, Judge Macaluso ruled that the D.C. Council acted within its legal authority when it adopted these vital anti-discrimination provisions.

"This second, back-to-back ruling by the D.C. Superior Court is an overwhelming victory for fairness, the rule of law and the protection of all D.C. residents against discrimination," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "D.C. has the right to govern itself and make its own laws without the interference of thirty-nine Republican members of Congress, more interested in scoring cheap political points than in the everyday lives of D.C. residents. As D.C. law justifiably recognizes, no initiative should be permitted to strip away any individual's civil rights. It is heartening that two different judges upheld the anti-discrimination protections wisely enacted by the Council more than thirty years ago. "

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UPDATE

Tucson LGBT Film Fest January 30-31

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Be sure that you mark your calendars!

The 2nd annual Fabulous Faygeleh LGBT Film Festival, presented by the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival, is coming to the Crossroads Cinema Saturday and Sunday, January 30 and 31.

We have chosen six fabulous films with universal LGBT themes that will appeal to everyone. And, we are especially thrilled that all of the screenings will be introduced and moderated by former Tucson resident and lesbian filmmaker, Brooke Sebold (Red Without Blue).

So, check out the details at tucsonjewishfilmfestival.org and mark your calendars for popcorn and some great and very unusual film.

TIHAN Volunteer Orientation Jan. 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come join us, at 1011 N. Craycroft, #301 Saturday, January 23rd from 1pm-5pm to learn more about TIHAN, our volunteer opportunities, HIV/AIDS and what you can do to make a difference in our community.

The cost of the orientation is $17.00 to cover materials and snacks. Scholarships are available.

To register or for more information, contact TIHAN's Volunteer Resources Coordinator, Katelyn McDonald at (520) 299-6647 or katelyn@tihan.org.

Desert Voices Concert Jan. 31

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Mark your calendars for January 31, 3:00 p.m. Desert Voices will bring its highly successful November 2009 performances of Upstaged! Divas and Mis(leading) Men to the Desert View Performing Arts Center, Saddlebrook.

Under the direction of Chris Sanders, the premier GLBTS Chorus, leads a gay romp through the best of Broadway and Hollywood with a few stops along the way. Join us as we share some of your favorite show tunes from classic shows and movies from the past through recent stage and screen hits. We'll also preview some selections from our February silent auction/cabaret show, Love Bites.

If you missed us in November, now's your chance to catch a great evening of wonderful, affordable, first rate entertainment. And if you joined us for Upstaged!... why not come to Saddlebrook and treat yourself to 'seconds.'

Tickets $20 per person (+ processing fee); $22 at the door (if available). Purchase tickets at the Mountain View Clubhouse - 520-825-2818 or on the Desert View website at dvpac.net ($3.25 online processing fee). Price includes all applicable taxes.

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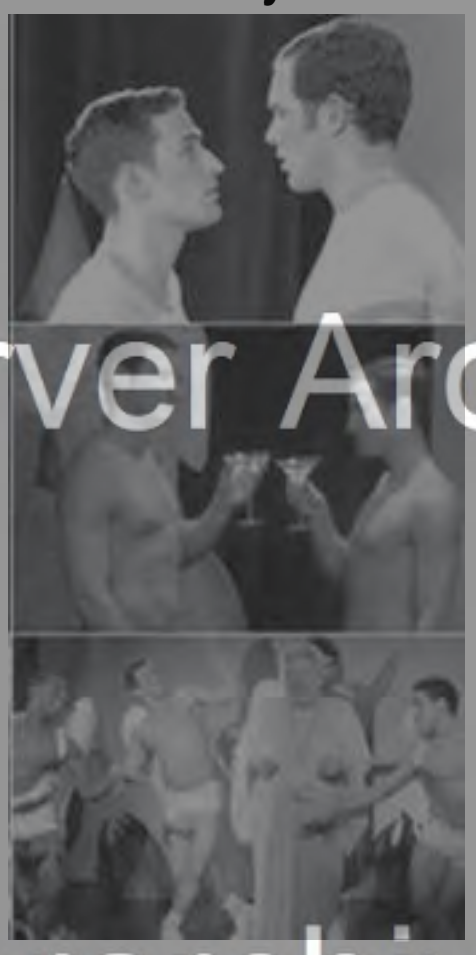
The Big Gay Musical January 28



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Arizona Premiere - One Show Only in Tucson, January 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway (regular admission price.)

Meet the film's star JOEY DUDDING in person at this special screening. From director Casper Andreas (SLUTTY SUMMER, A FOUR LETTER WORD) comes the hilarious, sexy and downright touching BIG GAY MUSICAL, set in the big bawdy world of New York theater.

Paul (Daniel Robinson) and Eddie (Joey Dudding, star of numerous Broadway musicals, including A CHORUS LINE, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES and GYPSY starring Bernadette Peters) have just begun previews for the new Off-Broadway musical "Adam and Steve : Just the Way God Made 'Em." Their lives strangely mirror the characters they are playing. Paul is looking for the perfect man and Eddie is dealing with how his sexuality and faith can mix. After yet another disastrous dating experience, Paul has an epiphany. He is done dating and just wants to be a slut like the sexy chorus boys that share his dressing room. Eddie has to tell his parents that he's gay and is starring in a show that calls the Bible the "Breeder's Informational Book of Living Examples". Eddie comes out to his family and Paul goes on Manhunt. Eddie's parents are destroyed by the news and Paul can't even have a good one-night stand.

But after musical numbers featuring half-naked dancing angels, a singing deity, a retelling of Genesis, a camp that attempts to turn gay kids straight, and songs such as "God Loves Gays" and "I Wanna Be a Slut", everyone realizes that life gets better once they accept who they really are. And they are just the way God made 'em. This is one movie that's sure to please. Or put another way...It's big. It's gay. It's a musical. And it has adult film star Brent Corrigan. How can you go wrong?

For more information call the Loft Cinema, (520) 795-0844 or go online to loftcinema.com/node/1352.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Rev, Irene Monroe

As we celebrated MLK Day 2010, we no longer have to hold King up to a God-like standard. All the hagiographies written about King immediately following his assassination in the previous century have come under scrutiny as we come to understand all of King – his greatness, as well as his flaws and human foibles. As I comb through numerous books and essays learning more about King's philandering, sexist attitude about women at home and in the movement, and his relationship with Bayard Rustin, I am wondering would King be a public advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer rights?

James Cone, father of Black Liberation Theology and author of a book and several articles on King, states that we must understand King within the historical context of the Black Church. In so doing, I find it ironic that the public King we witnessed on a national stage talked vociferously about social justice and civil rights for all people, yet his personal life did not reflect the same ethos concerning women and gays. Would the public King have spoken out on LGBTQ justice, risking his already waning popularity with the African American community and President L.B. Johnson?

In the public address I gave at the Gill Foundation's National Outgiving Conference in 2007, I said, "If Dr. Martin Luther King were standing up for LGBTQ rights today, the Black community would drop him, too." King understood the interconnectedness of struggles. An example of that understanding is when Dr. King said, "The revolution for human rights is opening up unhealthy areas in American life and permitting a new and wholesome healing to take place. Eventually the civil rights movement will have contributed infinitely more to the nation than the eradication of racial justice."

This statement clearly includes LGBTQ justice, but would King have spoken on that subject at that time and even now? Yes, according to King's now deceased wife. In 1998, Coretta Scott King addressed the LGBT group Lambda Legal in Chicago. In her speech, she said queer rights and civil rights were the same. "I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King's dream to make room at the table of brother and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people," she said.

Sadly, Bayard Rustin, the gay man who was chief organizer and strategist for the 1963 March on Washington that further catapulted Martin Luther King onto the world stage, was not the beneficiary of King's dream. In the Civil Rights movement, Bayard Rustin was always the man behind the scenes, and a large part of

Would The Public King Have Spoken Out On LGBTQ Justice?

(The Rev. Irene Monroe is a contributor to Bay Windows, New England's LGBT newsweekly, from which this is reprinted)

that had to due with the fact that he was gay. Because of their own homophobia, many African American ministers involved in the Civil Right movement would have nothing to do with Rustin, and they intentionally rumored throughout the movement that King was gay because of his close friendship with Rustin.

In a spring 1987 interview with Rustin in Open Hands, a resource for ministries affirming the diversity of human sexuality, Rustin recalls that difficult period quite vividly. Rustin said, "Martin Luther King, with whom I worked very closely, became very distressed when a number of the ministers working for him wanted him to dismiss me from his staff because of my homosexuality. Martin set up a committee to discover what he should do. They said that, despite the fact that I had contributed tremendously to the organization ... they thought I should separate myself from Dr. King. This was the time when [Rev. Adam Clayton] Powell threatened to expose my so-called homosexual relationship with Dr. King."

When Rustin pushes him on the issue to speak up on his behalf, King did not. In John D'Emilo's book Lost Prophet: The Life and times of Bayard Rustin, he wrote the following on the matter: "Rustin offered to resign in the hope that his would force the issue. Much to his chagrin, King did not reject the offer. At the time, King was also involved in a major challenge to the conservative leadership of the National Baptist convention, and one of his ministerial lieutenants in the fight was also gay.

'Basically King said I can't take on two queers at on time,' one of Rustin's associated recollected later." When Rustin was asked about MLK's views on gays in a March 1987 interview with Redvers Jean Marie he stated, "It is difficult for me to know what Dr. King felt about gayness."

MLK's popularity was waning prior to his assassination. For example, many observers argued that the plight of black America was not improving with King's theopolitical ideology of integration. The rising Black Power movement thus challenged his movement of nonviolent direct action. Followers of King felt he gave more attention to loving the enemy than doing something about the suffering of black people. Young urban black males in particular felt alienated from the civil rights leadership of King because his nonviolent ideology relied too heavily on the largesse of the white establishment, concentrated too much on eliminating segregation and winning the right to vote in the South, and ignored the economic problems of blacks in the northern urban ghettos. And King's interpretation of Black Power as "a nihilistic philosophy born out of the conviction that the Negro can't win," lost him these urban black males as followers when race riots broke out across the country in 128 cities during the period of 1963 to 1968. Disaffected observers identified the causes for the riots as high unemployment, poor schools, inferior living conditions, the disproportionate drafting of black men for the Vietnam War, and the assassination of civil rights activists, none of which they saw addressed by King's theopolitical ideology of nonviolent direct action.

And given MLK's waning popularity, I am beginning to ponder now if MLK would have really raised his voice on our behalf.

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FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR & KARAOKE

5PM-9PM

*$2.00 WELL COCKTAILS
*$2.00 DOMESTIC BEERS

FOLLOWED BY

"I'M A *SEXY BITCH* NIGHT"

*DJ HURRICANE SPINNING INSIDE

*DJ MIKE LOPEZ' PARTY ON THE PATIO

SUNDAY KARAOKE

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

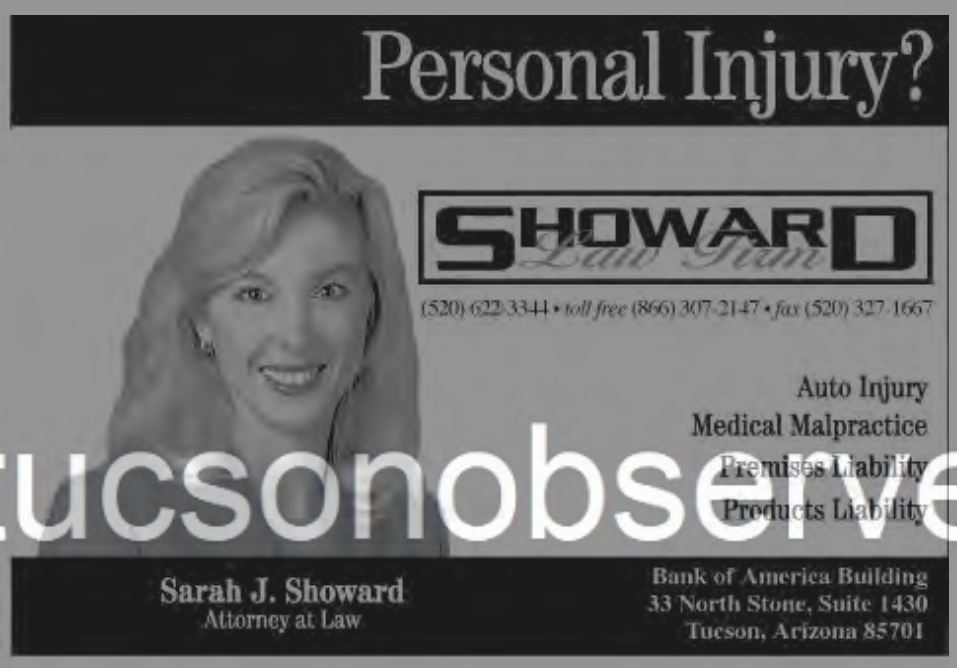
**HAPPY HOUR TILL 8PM*

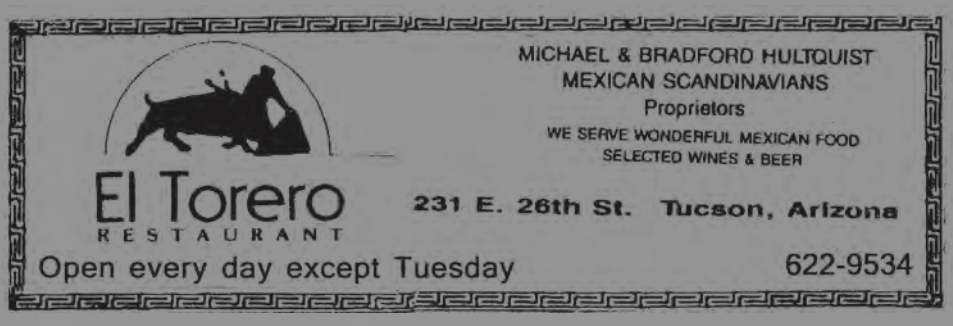
9PM-CLOSE-*KARAOKE INSIDE*

*CHEAP ASS DRINK NIGHT

*$1.50 WELL COCKTAILS
*$1.50 DOMESTIC BEER
*$2.50 CALL COCKTAILS
*$2.50 PREMIUM BEERS

*SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY





Abuse Of Power

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The Cheesecake Factory is known for its oversize portions, delectable desserts, and family-friendly atmosphere. The restaurant is also accused of creating nothing but disturbing memories for a few of its employees. In 2008 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed suit after six Cheesecake Factory staffers claimed they were subjected to repeated sexual harassment at the chain's Chandler Mall location in Phoenix, including allegations of sexual fondling, simulated rape, and even being physically dragged into the restaurant's refrigerator. The Cheesecake Factory denies the charges; in November the company settled the dispute by paying $340,000 to the victims, Newsweek magazine reported.

Surprisingly, it wasn't a group of female workers who were compensated by the popular eatery: it was a group of male employees who claim they were sexually harassed by other men in the workplace. And, as new EEOC filings show, this situation is not unusual. Between 1992 and 2008, the percentage of sexual-harassment charges filed by men with the EEOC doubled from 8 percent to 16 percent. "While some people may think sexual harassment of male employees is a joke, the issue is real," says David Grinberg, spokesperson for the EEOC. "We are seeing more of it, and such conduct has serious legal consequences for employers."

There are instances when women sexually harass men, but the increase is due mainly to reports of men harassing other men, also called same-sex sexual harassment, Grinberg says. The EEOC tracks the number of men and women who file claims with the agency, but doesn't always keep track of the gender of the harasser. However, Grinberg confirms that the EEOC has recognized a growing trend in the number of men alleging same-sex sexual harassment.

"The classic image of sexual harassment is Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill; it's not two men or even two women," says Dr. Liza H. Gold, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University who serves as an expert in sexual-harassment suits. And yet the experience of men harassed by men may help to illustrate the realities of all such cases. When women are the victims, they may face assumptions that the abuse is the result of an affair gone wrong, hurt feelings, or mixed signals. In truth, sexual harassment of both genders has more to do with issues of control and abuses of power for the purpose of humiliation than with sexual attraction.

By exposing the men to taunts about their genitalia, sexually suggestive simulations, and lewd comments, the men perpetrating the harassment are seeking to embarrass and target the male victims–not sexually stimulate or "flirt" with them. "Sexual harassment is about using power in a way to hurt somebody," says Marcia McCormick, associate professor at Saint Louis University School of Law, who specializes in employment law and gender issues. In the Cheesecake Factory suit there were no allegations that supervisors were attracted to the other men–the sexual harassment was a form of intimidation, McCormick says.

Same-sex harassment has been recognized by the courts for only a little more than 20 years. In 1998 the U.S. Supreme Court held in Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services that an individual can bring a claim for workplace harassment when the harasser and the harassed employee are the same sex. Joseph Oncale was working on an oil platform when he was sexually assaulted by three co-workers, one being a supervisor. What started as humiliating verbal attacks soon grew to physical violence, and on one occasion, Oncale was sodomized with a bar of soap. He quit soon after. Oncale may have been targeted because of his small stature–he was the shortest guy on the rig, and therefore an easy target–but those perpetrating sexual harassment can have a variety of motivations or triggers. "It's really hard to say what motivates someone to harass except a desire to humiliate the person being harassed," McCormick says.

Tough economic times have also been known to foster an environment of increased sexual harassment, says human-resources consultant Michele Paludi. Harassment escalates when those in power feel threatened, either by an influx of women workers or a challenge to the traditional gender expectations. It's possible that in an economic recession, more men feel powerless and fear for their job security, causing them to lash out at anyone perceived as a threat. "By creating a hostile work environment co-workers might miss deadlines or get negative performance reviews. The harasser might just be thinking, 'Better them than me,' " she says. The lack of financial resources could also mean that fewer supervisors or managers are trained to resolve sexual-harassment issues at work. "When there are hard times, there are certain programs in the workplace that are cut. We often see the training programs on sexual harassment are cut completely or not offered once a year like they should be," Paludi adds.

I

t's also possible that same-sex harassment is not on the rise, but that male victims feel more empowered about reporting abuse. "People feel they can stand up and say, 'Hey you've violated my civil rights,' " Gold says. "They feel freer to pursue what 20 years ago would be considered a gender boundary."

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HaBanot Nechama Concert / Awareness Expo, Sat. Jan 23

TUCSON - The Israel Center's Heartbeat of Israel cultural series, Temple Emanu-El and the LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project are coordinating a Habanot Nechama concert and LGBT Awareness Expo at 8 pm, Saturday, January 23rd at Temple Emanu-El, located at 225 N. Country Club Rd. Nicknamed the "Israeli Indigo Girls", Habanot Nechama blends vocal harmonies with a soul-folk flavor and reggae influences. Literally translated as "the comfort girls", the Israeli folk band is a trio of singers: Karolina, Dana Adini and Yael Decelbaum.

The name Habanot Nechama refers to the comfort they have given each other by working together as a band. Their music blends both Hebrew and English. Individually, the singers have performed with well-known acts including The Black-Eyed Peas and Erykah Badu. Their first album, self-titled, went gold only three weeks after its release in August, 2007.

Members of the band have been active in LGBT awareness issues, both in Israel and the United States. Various agencies will provide information at an Awareness Expo to raise awareness about LGBT issues. There will also be information available on the Israel Gay Youth Organization (IGY) which is the largest LGBT support group in Israel.

Awards will be given during the pre-show VIP Reception to activists and community leaders who have made a difference in the LGBT community. Desert Voices, Tucson's GLTBS choir, will perform an a capella set during the reception. Awards will be presented to Ivy Schwartz, Michael Mandel, Jennifer Hoefle and Scott Blades.

Youth choirs from Temple Emanu-El and Tucson Hebrew Academy will lead Havdallah and sing at the beginning of the concert, under the direction of Rabbi Samuel M. Cohon. Students from the Kurn Religious School will also read their winning essays from the "Why Is Israel Important" essay contest Concluding the show, Temple Emanu-El's Teen Choir will sing Hatikvah, under the direction of Cantorial Soloist Marjorie Hochberg and Temple Choir Director, Chris Tackett.

Tickets are available at the Israel Center, located at 3822 E. River Rd. or at Temple Emanu-El. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.jewishtucson.org. Call 577-9393 for more information. Ticket prices are $18 for adults, $10 for students and children. VIP Tickets, which include reserved seating and a pre-show VIP reception are $36 for adults and $20 for students and children. Doors open at 7:15. The concert begins at 8:00 pm. The pre-show VIP reception is at 6:30 pm.

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Navy Condemns Leaders For Faulty Hazing Probe

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Naval leaders are being criticized for their lack of efforts to investigate hazing allegations against a gay sailor who was stationed in a K9 unit in Bahrain, advocate.com reported.

Petty Officer Joseph Rocha said that he was forced out of the military in June 2007 after high levels of hazing based on his sexual orientation. A letter to retired Vice Adm. Robert T. Conway, who was the final endorser of Rocha's case, criticized him for an incomplete investigation, according to the Associated Press.

"More should have been done to determine what officers in the chain of command knew about allegations of hazing and what actions they took to address those allegations," the letter from the Chief of Navy Operations read.

Rocha was discharged from the Navy because in reporting his abuse, he also admitted to being gay, therefore violating the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"It started with normal stuff, and it escalated to being hosed down in uniform to being forced to act out scenarios, homosexual scenarios on tape with military attack dogs, to being hog-tied or tied to a chair and left in a dog kennel with feces," Rocha told Advocate.com in October.

In addition to Rocha's case, the Navy reviewed 93 hazings between 2004 and 2006 in his unit. The former unit leader, Michael Toussaint is scheduled to appear before a retirement grade determination board in Norfolk, Va., on Feb. 4, said Navy spokeswoman Cmdr. Elissa Smith.

Rocha said that Toussaint specifically led the hazing against him, but instead of being court-martialed, he was promoted.

"Toussaint is the one who ordered most of all the abuse and he is the one that indoctrinated the sailors in my unit as to my being a homosexual," Rocha said. "He literally told them, 'This kid is gay.'"

Fourteen From Haiti AIDS Group Among Dead

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti (Observer Update) - Fourteen men who worked for or were aided by SEROvie, Haiti's largest organization serving gay and transgender people with HIV, were among those killed during the earthquake, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. Only two people from the group survived, reported advocate.com.

The message of the men's tragic death came from an email SEROvie's leader Steve La Guerre managed to send to the IGLHRC asking for help. "We were having our usual support group meeting on a quiet Tuesday afternoon when the worst happened." La Guerre wrote. "The sound is unforgettable. I can't even describe the horror as the ceiling and the wall of the conference room started to fall and the chaos started.

"It is now more than ever that SEROvie and ACCV (Civic Action Against HIV) are needed to provide the quality services we provide to our beneficiaries: food, clothes, and any type of help," La Guerre continued. "Light a candle for these souls and for Haiti. Lord help us."

IGLHRC executive director Cary Alan Johnson says that his group has sent funds directly to SEROvie to allow their services and supplies to continue to reach their clients. The group is also sending funds to Colectiva Mujer y Salud, a feminist Dominican organization that has crossed the border into Haiti to assist with direct relief to the LGBT community there. IGLHRC has provided a donation page (salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1870/t/10454/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=5868), where Johnson said 100 percent of the funds collected "will go directly to our friends and colleagues in Haiti."

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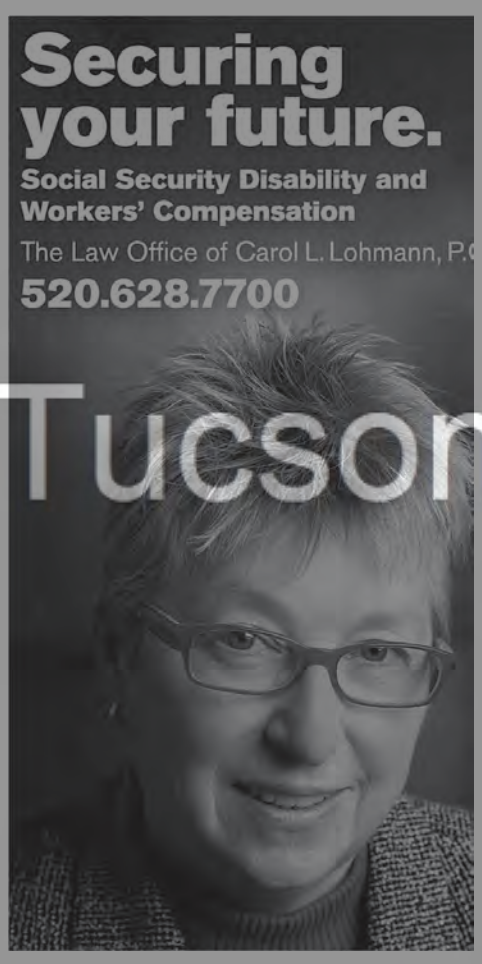

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Supreme Court ToDecide D.C. G/L Rights Ballot Measure

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Supreme Court announced it will consider whether Washington state officials can release the names of signers of a ballot measure that sought to repeal a gay rights law, the AP reported in On Top Magazine.

It is the second time in a week that the court has become involved in the issue of privacy as it relates to opponents of gay rights. Protect Marriage Washington appealed to the Supreme Court after the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the release of nearly 138,000 signatures that put Referendum 71 on last fall's ballot.

Referendum 71 put a domestic partnership law that gives gay couples all the rights of marriage to a vote. The law was approved by legislators and signed by the governor. Voters, however, agreed with lawmakers and approved Referendum 71. Opponents say releasing the names would put signers at risk of harassment, reprisals and boycotts of their businesses, amounting to an unconstitutional infringement of free speech rights.

Protect Marriage Washington, the sponsor of Referendum 71, is being represented by the Christian-based legal group Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). The ADF earlier set up a Referendum 71 webpage to collect data from people who "have been threatened or suffered retaliation after signing an R-71 petition" or were prevented from signing a petition.

In their filing before the court, opponents argued that gay groups want the information to "encourage harassment and intimidation." No citizen should ever worry that they will be threatened or injured because they have exercised their right to engage in the political process," James Bopp, Jr., a lawyer for Protect Marriage Washington, told the news agency.

The gay rights group WhoSigned.org says it wants to publish the names on the Internet to foster a dialogue on gay rights. "We can't let discrimination be perpetuated and sit back and say, 'That's OK,'" Brian Murphy of WhoSigned.org told the Seattle Times last fall. Under Washington state law, names of people who sign petitions become public record after the Secretary of State verifies a petition. State officials argue that the names should be released because signers are acting in place of lawmakers, who do not approve laws in secret.

Justices also moved to block a plan to broadcast the first federal case to challenge the constitutionality of a gay marriage ban taking place in San Francisco. In that case, gay rights opponents have also said that they fear reprisals if their views are made public.

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Notre Dame Editor Resigns

SOUTH BEND, IN (Observer Update) - Kara King, the assistant managing editor of The University of Notre Dame's Observer newspaper, resigned after publishing an antigay cartoon in the newspaper, WSBT TV reports. The cartoon strip has been canceled as well, reported advocate.com.

King resigned in a letter published in the paper. In the letter, she wrote: "A miscommunication between another editor and myself led to the comic running without me first reading and approving the material. Regardless, no excuse can justify the comic even being considered for publication, and the duty to censor it fell to me. I failed to do so, and am solely responsible for providing a forum for this message of hate."

The offending antigay editorial cartoon called a baseball bat the "quickest way to turn a fruit into a vegetable."

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Jerry Falwell's University Leaves CPAC Because Of GoProud

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Liberty University Law School has withdrawn as a co-sponsor of next month's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington because a Republican homosexual activist group is being allowed to co-sponsor the event.

Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell, Jr. and Liberty Law School Dean Mat Staver had penned a letter to CPAC organizer David Keene last month, requesting that he disallow the homosexual group GOProud from co-sponsoring the conference. The letter was also signed by other evangelical Christian leaders, including Gary Bauer.

GOProud supports, among other things, same-sex marriage and repealing the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. Staver reports that he never received a formal response to his complaint, so Liberty University is dropping its co-sponsorship. Liberty Counsel, however, will still have a booth at CPAC.

"Obviously as an exhibitor or participant, you don't necessarily have to think that everyone agrees with you, and some people might even work against you," Staver notes. "But as a co-sponsor, even though not everybody would have the same mission, not everyone would agree with the same tactics, and some would actually focus on economics whereas others might focus on social issues and others might focus on national defense - the fact is they're all conservative in nature. You wouldn't expect, however, a co-sponsor to actively work to undermine another co-sponsor, and that is in fact what GOProud does."

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Civil Unions May Get Quick Vote At Hawaii Capitol

HONOLULU - When Hawaii legislators reconvene, all eyes will be focused not on teacher furloughs that resulted in the nation's shortest school year or the state's $1 billion budget deficit, but legislation that would allow same-sex couples to form civil unions, reported

The measure would grant gay couples the rights and benefits the state provides to married couples and is among a handful of similar proposals that could pop up in several other states. At the same time, a federal judge in San Francisco is considering the constitutionality of California's same-sex marriage ban.

"This bill has already been voted on, so there isn't as much convincing to do anymore," said Alan Spector of Equality Hawaii, a leading supporter of the bill. "I think (legislators) get the substance of the bill and the need for the bill."

Last year, the proposal easily won preliminary passage in the Legislature, but stalled in May after opponents lobbied and held a state Capitol rally attended by several thousand protesters.

Opponents, noting that this is an election year, cast doubt on claims that passage is at hand. Critics, including the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu and scores of evangelical Protestant churches, hope another rally, this one planned for Sunday, will be large enough to convince wavering lawmakers to kill the measure.

"It's up to the people who oppose civil unions to remind the legislators that they work for the people," said Garret Hashimoto, chairman of the Hawaii Christian Coalition. "There's no ifs, ands or buts that the majority of the people in Hawaii oppose civil unions and gay marriage."

No independent polls or surveys have been conducted on the issue, so it's difficult to measure public sentiment. The last time voters directly weighed in on a related issue was in 1998 when 70 percent approved a constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to reserve marriage for opposite sex couples.

Republican Gov. Linda Lingle has refused to say what she would do if the measure lands on her desk, though she recently urged lawmakers to shelve it, in favor of economic and budget matters.

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Anti-Gay Group Buys Super Bowl Ad

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The antigay group Focus on the Family will air a TV ad during the Super Bowl on Feb. 7, the Denver Post reports. The 30-second spot, which features University of Florida quarterback and 2007 Heisman Trophy-winner Tim Tebow and his mother, is supposed to be "life- and family-affirming," a group spokesman said. In addition to his success on the football field, Tebow is known for his strong Christian beliefs and for wearing Bible verse citations inscribed on his game-day eye black, reported advocate.com.

Focus wouldn't reveal the exact content of the ad, but spokesman Gary Schneeberger said the Tebows would be sharing one of their many positive personal stories. The Post suggests that story might be Pam Tebow's decision to carry her son despite a life-threatening pregnancy.

Founded by James Dobson, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based Focus on the Family is one of the most outspoken groups in opposition to equal rights for gay and lesbian people. It's also a strong proponent of reparative therapy, which suggests that homosexuality can be "cured."

Given that the organization has had to eliminate more than 275 jobs over the past few years because of declining donations, some may surprised that it can afford a Super Bowl spot, estimated to cost as much as $2.8 million. But Schneeberger says money for the ad isn't coming out of the group's general fund.

"Every cent for this ad was paid for by generous donors who specifically gave for this project because they are excited about this opportunity to show who we are and what we do."

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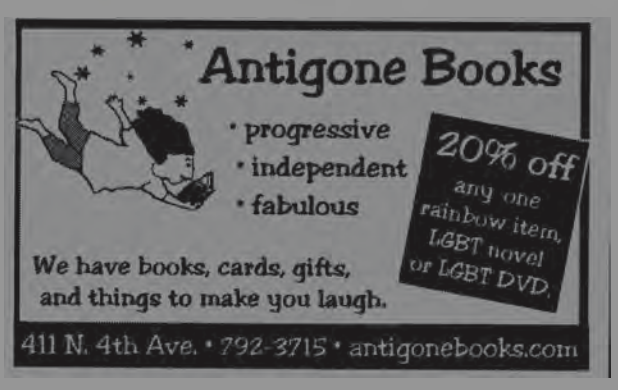

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Lisa Neff

Prognosis Not Good For LGBT Health Reforms

I'm in sunny Florida, but I'm coughing and sneezing and I have the watery, bleary, weary eyes of so many other sufferers in the cold-and-flu season. My health is on my mind. But your health is on my mind too. And our healthcare and U.S. healthcare reform has been on my mind for the better part of a year.

I went into the winter holidays knowing that the public option component of healthcare reform had coded, and it was not on an order to resuscitate. Before I checked out for some Christmas merry-making, I listened to the proponents of the U.S. Senate and I told myself to be thankful that the proposed legislation – despite major compromises on public option and abortion – would do some good, perhaps great good.

I also told myself to keep in mind that after New Year's lawmakers would be moving into the conference process, in which they would bargain and negotiate and re-craft one piece of legislation from the best components of the bills from both chambers. The House bill, remember, contains a number of positive amendments for the LGBT community:

The bill would designate LGBT people as a health disparities population, opening up health data collection and grant programs focused on health disparities related to sexual orientation and gender identity. With collection of data and funding of research, the specific health issues facing LGBT people can be better addressed.

The bill would end the unfair taxation of employer-provided domestic partner health benefits so that more same-sex couples could afford employer-provided coverage for their families.

The bill would incorporate the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which allows states to cover early HIV treatment under their Medicaid programs, instead of withholding treatment for Medicaid recipients until they develop full-blown AIDS.

The bill would prohibit consideration of personal characteristics unrelated to the provision of healthcare.

The Human Rights Campaign called the House's inclusion of these provisions "a tremendous advance for the health needs of LGBT people." But now, it seems, the prognosis is not good for those provisions.

The Hill newspaper reported that President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Harry Reid met in early January to discuss a course of action. The leadership apparently agreed to proceed without a bicameral conference and instead to negotiate tweaks to the Senate bill. A vote may come as early as this month.

The Senate bill lacks the public option, which I think is akin to bottling a multi-vitamin that lacks vitamin c.

And the Senate bill lacks the pro-LGBT provisions.

Do you feel like I do? That we are among the first to lose when the bargaining begins? That we are the first constituency the Democrats ask to make concessions? Can you hear an aide counseling, "We lifted the HIV travel ban, that should count for something"?

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., went on the record last week saying that he was optimistic some of the LGBT provisions could be preserved in a final bill.

We can count on Frank and openly gay Reps. Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis to champion our cause in Congress.

But we've got to engage too, in what should be our first federal feud of 2010. After the long months of debate and discussion, let's not let a bad deal be brokered behind closed doors, even if it's a deal among our friends. We must fight for Congress to deliver Obama a better bill than the flawed measure the Senate passed on Christmas Eve, even if that's the legislation that the president wants.

(Lisa Neff is a columnist for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted.)

Did GLAAD Snub Outrage? Can GLAAD Still Criticize?

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Why did Outrage, the acclaimed film from Kirby Dick about closeted gay politicians, fail to receive a GLAAD Media Award nomination? Because, the org says, the awards are for films that lift gay people up, not films about those who run from who they are, advocate.com reported.

The announcement of the GLAAD Media Award nomineesy presented a glaring omission for some gay activists and cinephiles in the blogosphere. Where, they wondered, was the nomination for Outrage, the acclaimed documentary by Kirby Dick that exposes the antigay voting records of closeted politicians?

Michelangelo Signorile, who reconsiders GLAAD in a new article for The Advocate(GLAAD president Jarrett Barrios responded the following day), tweeted Friday morning: "HBO submitted Kirby Dick's Outrage, for sure most important LGBT film this year, and @glaad snubbed it."

HBO, which acquired the broadcast rights for Outrage last fall, could not be reached immediately for comment. But activist Signorile was not alone in his observation. Seth Abramovitch, editor at Movieline, wrote, "Now comes a snub from the GLAAD Media Awards, who ignored Outrage in the Outstanding Documentary category in favor of films like Be Like Others, about enforced sex-changes in Iran, and Ask Not, about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy." Even lesbian yodeling sister act The Topp Twins got a nod," wrote Abramovitch. "So why not Outrage, a film brave enough to call out the same Conservative establishment swatting down gay marriage legislation over and over again across the country?"

Outrage, directed by the Academy Award-nominated Dick, delivers an 86-minute indictment of politicians, nearly all Republicans, who vote against LGBT interests although they privately engage in gay sex. The behavior of some politicians who are alleged to be gay, such as former U.S. senator Larry Craig of Idaho, is well known to Americans thanks to headline-grabbing scandals. Others, such as Florida governor Charlie Crist, remain under most constituents' radar, the subject of insiders' chatter. The film, which earned a slight $287,198 at the box office in the spring, became noteworthy not only for its content, but also for the way that mainstream media chose to handle the material. In one high-profile incident, National Public Radio censored its review of the film on the grounds of protecting politicians' privacy.

Now, some are asking whether GLAAD snubbed Outrage for similar reasons. GLAAD issued the following statement. "The GLAAD Media Awards are about elevating and promoting the fair, accurate and inclusive stories of LGBT issues, people and allies that have increased awareness, understanding and respect for our lives and our pursuit of equality.

Outrage is a fine movie and an important one that focused attention on anti-LGBT politicians whose efforts put our community and our families in harm's way. But the GLAAD Media Awards aren't the Academy Awards, they are about highlighting media that move America by telling the stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people - not those who run from who they are. The decision to come out as LGBT is an extremely personal one that benefits the individual and the people who know them. While there is certainly an argument that is made for speculating on the sexual orientation of anti-LGBT politicians in an effort to hold them accountable for the harms they inflict on our community, that sort of speculation doesn't promote awareness, understanding and respect for our lives and thus does not fit the criteria for the GLAAD Media Awards."

Listening to GLAAD chief Jarrett Barrios defend himself from criticism – that accepting money from the very entertainment media companies it's policing is a conflict of interest – is like listening to credit ratings agencies like Standard & Poor's defend themselves from criticism over auditing financial products from the very Wall Street banks that are paying them to do so.

It's as simple as this: If you take money from a group of people that you've charged yourself with independently critquing, reported queerty.com.

Sure, GLAAD can still criticize ABC and Fox, despite them giving you money, as Barrios reminds everyone GLAAD does. It's the same way a credit ratings agency can still rate a mortgage-backed security somewhat negatively. But it doesn't make Moody's the best candidate.

And it certainly doesn't make GLAAD. In the world of consumer products, why do you think Consumer Reports is more trusted than Good Housekeeping? Because at CR, there's no such thing as corporate influence over the reviews. You can never be truly honest when there is an obvious conflict of interest, as there is with GLAAD, as this website most recently pointed out in its horrifically bungled attempt at handling the Adam Lambert/AMA saga.

Or, more importantly, the mere appearance of a conflict of interest is damaging enough. Because GLAAD answers not to a corporate overseer, but its supporters and the LGBT community. It must work extra hard to convince us that taking money from the same companies it policies is not such a big deal. And if, as Barrios says, it actually isn't a big deal, he has a larger problem on his hands: How else to explain GLAAD's terribly unimpressive record? If the organiza-

Continued on Page Eleven

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BUZZ FLASHES

Golden Girl Recovers From Stroke

Golden Girl Rue McClanahan

LOS ANGELES, CA (Observer Update) - Rue McClanahan is now recovering from a stroke that followed her November heart bypass surgery, reported advocate.com.

The former Golden Girl suffered the stroke soon after the surgery, though doctors were able to remove the blood clot that caused the stroke. The 75-year-old actress is not home yet: she spent two weeks in the ICU and is now in a nursing facility for rehabilitation.

According to her husband, Matthew Wilson, her voice and movement have been affected. “She’s going to require a lot more physical and speech therapy – but at least it’s not like I stay awake at nights anymore thinking that Rue is going to die.”

Beijing Gay Pageant Closed By Authorities

BEIJING, CHINA - Police shut down what would have been China’s first gay pageant last Friday, Jan 15, an hour before it was set to begin, highlighting the enduring sensitivity surrounding homosexuality and the struggle by gays to find mainstream acceptance.

Organizers said they were not surprised when eight police officers turned up at the upscale club in central Beijing where the pageant, featuring a fashion show and a host in drag, was set to take place.

“They said the content, meaning homosexuality, there’s nothing wrong with that, but you did not do things according to procedures,” Ben Zhang said. Police told him he needed official approval for events that included performances, in this case a stage show.

Caster Semenya To Return To Competition

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Observer Update) - Despite the media frenzy about her transgender testing, Caster Semenya is free to compete in upcoming International competitions. As previously reported, Semenya underwent gender testing by the IAAF to determine if she was truly born a woman after unexpectedly winning an 800-meter competition, reported On Top Magazine.

Although the results were thought complete and being kept quiet, the IAAF maintains that the testing is still “ongoing.” Despite that, the sprinter form Johannesburg is free to run again.

She was also allowed to keep her 800-meter gold medal from the IAAF World Championships where she dusted her competition at a time of 1 minute 55 seconds. Semenya will race in local competitions before making her International return.

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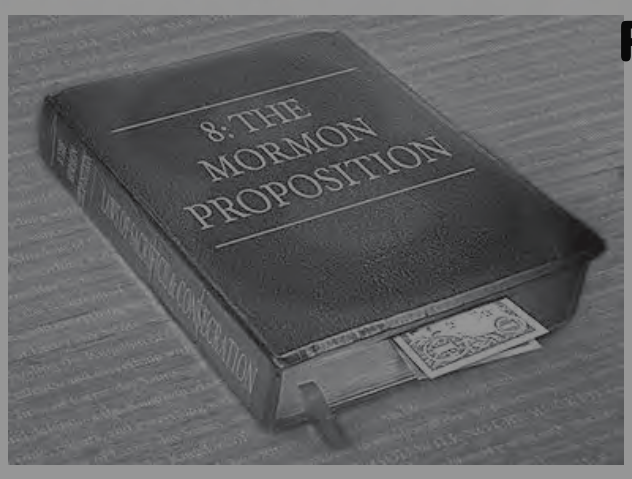
Proposition 8 Documentary Sold Out At Sundance



SUNDANCE, UT (Observer Update) - Screenings for a film chronicling the Mormon Church’s role in Prop. 8, California’s gay marriage ban, have sold out at the upcoming Sundance Film Festival, reported advocate.com.

8: The Mormon Proposition was the first documentary to completely sell out in this year’s slate of films, according to The Herald Journal newspaper in Utah. Director Reed Cowan’s 80-minute documentary will have its world premiere January 24 at the festival.

“We plan on opening up a dialogue during the festival and hope that dialogue will continue on a national level for years to come,” Cowan told The Herald Journal. “The film is important and premiering in Utah makes it even more important. ... Bringing an examination of the wrongdoing to the scene of the crimes, so to speak, is historic.”

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.

Did GLAAD Snub Outrage?

Continued from Page Nine

tion admitted it kowtows to corporate overseers, at least they'd have an excuse for being mostly ineffective.

Barrios closes his poor defense by explaining why GLAAD gets criticized:

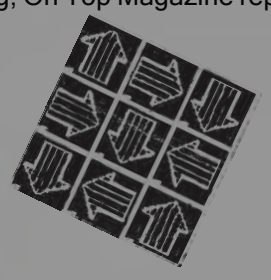
It seems like Signorile, and many who criticize GLAAD's work, do so because we don't always see eye to eye. Because we don't respond to the things they want us to respond to in exactly the way they want us to respond – or, sometimes, because we do respond to certain things and they think we shouldn't (and it's worth noting that these voices of criticism can and often do end up disagreeing with each other about what they think GLAAD ought to be doing). Well, yes. But we also criticize GLAAD because GLAAD deserves criticizing. This isn't for sport. It isn't (truly) for pageviews. It's because GLAAD actively solicits money from the LGBT community, which it so often fails. And Barrios' defense here – while required – is just another example of GLAAD's downward spiral.

Bozeman Adopts Anti-Discrimination Policy

BOZEMAN, MT (Observer Update) - The Bozeman City Commission has voted to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the categories of employees protected under the city's anti-discrimination policy.

The commission voted 3-0 to move forward with plans to protect homosexual and transgendered city employees from discrimination and to provide same-sex partners with the same benefits as opposite-sex couples. Commissioners Sean Becker and Eric Bryson did not attend the meeting.

Commissioners also supported spelling out same-sex partners' equal right to health care insurance and other benefits in the city's employee handbook. Mayor Jeff Krauss says the city already follows that practice, but the commission decided to put it in writing, On Top Magazine reported.



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Police Seek Thief Targeting Gay Men

SAN DIEGO, CA (Observer Update) - Police are asking for the public's help to identify a thief who appears to be targeting gay men at a Hillcrest bar, reported Sign On San Diego.

The suspect, who has identified himself as "Paul" or "John," has picked up at least two men on separate occasions Dec. 2 and 18 at Urban Mo's on University Avenue near Third Avenue, San Diego police said.

The victims, who were in their 30s, ended up inviting the suspect back to their homes in North Park and Bankers Hill. When they woke up, they discovered that items such as laptops, cash, credit cards and Chargers gear had been stolen.

Investigators believe the suspect may have slipped drugs into his victims' drinks to knock them out. The thief is described as black, in his 20s, between 6 feet 1 inch to 6 feet 3 inches tall, about 170 pounds, bald, with a thin build and a gold earring in his left ear. Anyone with information can call police at (619) 744-9500 or leave an anonymous tip with Crime Stoppers.

Malawai Government Defends Gay Couple's Prosecution

BLANTYRE, MALAWI - Malawi's government said Monday that it is unmoved by international criticism of the trial of a gay couple charged with unnatural acts and gross indecency, felonies for which they could be imprisoned for up to 14 years.

In a statement, Malawi's Information Minister Leckford Mwanza Thoto made no apology for the laws that criminalize homosexual acts. He said Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga were "clearly breaking the laws of Malawi."

"As government we cannot interfere in the court process," Thoto said. "We depend on our Western friends, yes, but we are a sovereign country."

Forty percent of Malawi's budget is funded by international donors.

Monjeza, 26, and Chimbalanga, 20, have been jailed since their arrest Dec. 27, the day they celebrated their engagement with a party that drew crowds of curious onlookers in this conservative southern African country. Hearings in the trial also have attracted crowds. A verdict is expected next month.

Clayton Sacks Teacher Over Alleged Gay Threat

ATLANTA, GA (Observer Update) - Randolph Forde's teaching career in Clayton County has ended, three months after he was arrested for allegedly putting a hit on a student he thought was gay, reported On Top Magazine. The nine-member school board upheld the earlier recommendation of a tribunal to dump Forde, who was a teacher at Mundy's Mill High School, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"We ratified the tribunal's decision," Chairwoman Alieka Anderson said. The student's attorney, Terrence Madden, said the school didn't do enough early enough to address the situation between his client and Forde. "My client is having a hard time. He's under psychological care. He had to change schools, and he is still being teased, called a tattletale," Madden said. "He has no place teaching young, developing minds," Madden said of Forde. "Even if he was kidding, it's still egregious."

Forde still faces criminal prosecution on charges that he allegedly pulled the 16-year-old student out of class and asked him if he was gay when he was seen dancing with another male student. In an altercation the next day, the teacher threatened "to hit him in his fucking mouth," according to police reports. A few days later, Forde asked another student to "put a hit" on the teenager, the police report states.

Iowa Republicans Strike At G/L Marriage

DES MOINES, IA (Observer Update) - Iowa senate Republicans introduced a resolution for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as union between a man and woman, but the proposal appears unlikely to gain traction this session.

According to the Associated Press , some 18 senate Republicans introduced the amendment in order to overturn the state supreme court decision that legalized same-sex marriage in April. Senator Marlin Bartz, a sponsor, said the amendment would present the issue to voters for consideration.

"But Bartz conceded senate joint resolution 2001 faces nearly insurmountable odds in being debated during the 2010 session given the steadfast opposition from senate majority Leader Mike Gronstal, a Council Bluffs Democrat," reported the AP.

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