Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Barney Frank Speaks Out Against Protesters

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Massachusetts representative Barney Frank has blasted leaders of the Tea Party movement who called him a "fa**ot" and Rep. John Lewis a "ni**er" while protesting health care reform, saying Republicans should distance themselves from the grassroots movement, reported advocate.com.

According to Washington, D.C.,publication The Hill, Frank blamed Republicans for fanning the flames, singling out conservative congresswoman Michele Bachmann and calling her rhetoric "inflammatory as well as wholly baseless."

Bachmann has been accused of stirring up what many have called irrational fear over the idea of government "death panels" during the health care debate. Frank told The Hill that "any movement in which the intellectual leader is Michele Bachmann is obviously going to be problematic."

Speaking of the Washington protesters, at least one of whom called him a "homo communist," Frank suggested that his conservative colleagues denounce the groups actions. "If this was my cause, and I saw this angry group yelling and shouting and being so abusive to people, I would ask them to please stop it."

Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio denounced the Republican speakers at the rally and demanded an apology for the actions of some of the estimated 30,000 people who turned out to protest Sunday

Rep. Barney Frank

Disappointed by the verbal attacks on Democratic lawmakers, House minority leader John Boehner of Ohio told NBC's Meet the Press that while he condemned the "isolated incidents," they should not distract from the rational fear of millions of Americans over the health care reform bill.

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Rep. Tammy Baldwin: 'We Have The Votes For ENDA And DADT Repeal'

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Now that health care reform has been passed ...

"There are" enough votes in the House to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", Rep. Tammy Baldwin tells the San Diego Gay & Lesbian News, Rod 2.0 Beta reported.

" 'As someone who has actually counted the votes, I believe that there are,' Baldwin said. 'That's one of the things the LGBT Equality Caucus does is to [focus] attention to making sure we can tell [House] leadership, with accuracy, what the vote would be if they bring the measures up to the floor.' Baldwin and Rep. Barney Frank established the LGBT Equality Caucus in June 2008. It now includes nearly 90 members of Congress. President Barack Obama has recently met with both the Congressional Black and Congressional Hispanic caucuses, but not yet with the LGBT one. Baldwin says this is because 'we haven't put a spotlight on it of late.' She said the group 'probably' would press for a meeting with the president in the future. Pressure has grown dramatically in recent days for a spotlight on LGBT-related issues in Congress."

Lt. Dan Choi, Capt. Jim Pietrangelo and activist Robin McGehee were arrested during civil disobedience demonstrations to pressure the White House and Congress to act on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". That same day, activists were arrested in sit-ins in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco and Capitol Hill offices to pressure the Speaker to move ENDA to the floor for a vote.

There's also this in DC Agenda's report on last week's civil disobedience demonstrations. The newspaper interviewed the chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor (HELP) where ENDA has been stalled since September. "Moments after the arrested protesters were taken away, Rep. George Miller (D-CA) was seen walking along a nearby street. He chairs the House Education & Labor Committee, which is handling ENDA. Asked by DC Agenda when ENDA would advance to a markup, Miller replied, 'Right after health care.'"

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum (DC)

What Health Care Reforms Means To LGBTs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Health care reform was approved by the House Sunday, 219 to 212, providing more than 30 million Americans with access to coverage. But for LGBT Americans, crucial health care provisions will be excluded, advocate.com reported.

The bill prevents health care providers from denying Americans coverage because of preexisting conditions and expands coverage to nearly 95% of Americans. But the bill does not include LGBT-specific provisions, such as data inclusion, that were included when the House bill first passed last November.

Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin said that while the bill isn't perfect, it keeps the legislative door open to pass LGBT health care provisions in the future. "We will have many opportunities to deal with this legislation's imperfections," she said. "We don't vote on health care reform of this magnitude very often, but we regularly deal with all sorts of bills that relate to different programs in health. I hope to be able to advance the provisions that we lost with other bills."

Baldwin linked the loss of LGBT provisions to the special election in Massachusetts that swept Republican Scott Brown into the late senator Ted Kennedy's seat. The loss of the Senate supermajority forced the House to take up the Senate-passed bill, which did not contain concrete language regarding gay and lesbian health.

"Elections matter," Baldwin said. "Elections have consequences. Now we find ourselves with the House adopting the Senate-passed bill."

The only provision in the current legislation of special interest to LGBT people deals with costs accrued by AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. The measure prevents Medicare patients with HIV or AIDS who receive prescription medication assistance from being subject to other prescription drug costs.

This provision differs from The Early Treatment for HIV Act in the original health care bill, which would have provided Medicaid to low-income HIV-positive people. This measure, along with data inclusion, are not included in the final bill.

Data inclusion would provide information to doctors and researchers about gay health, information that currently isn't collected by federal health studies. It is unknown whether gay men have higher risks of heart disease of if lesbians are more susceptible to breast cancer. Of the data known about gay and lesbians, only limited statistics on depression, HIV rates and smoking are available.

M.V. Lee Badgett, research director of the Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, said in a January interview with The Advocate that LGBT data inclusion is not only essential for medical research but also makes for better public policy.

"We can't know if there are problems [for gay people] accessing health care systems unless we have data to make those comparisons," Badgett said. "We would be able to see if there are differences. We need data to understand why those differences exist."

Court Grants N.Y. Power To Annul Civil Union

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - In a groundbreaking ruling, the New York supreme court appellate division has held that the state has the power to annul a civil union established in another state, the Times Union reported.

"This is an important ruling," said Thomas W. Ude Jr., staff attorney for Lambda Legal, who filed a brief in support of plaintiff Audrey Juanita Dickerson. "A different ruling here would leave the persons legally entangled with each other and people have to move on with their life."

Two Schenectady county residents, Dickerson and Sonya Denise Thompson, traveled to Vermont in 2003 to enter into a civil union. Three years later, the couple separated and Dickerson went to Vermont to get the union annulled, only to be told she needed to live in the state for a year before she was eligible to apply, reported advocate.com.

Dickerson then asked for an annulment from the Schenectady County supreme court in 2008 and was denied because the state had no legal framework to recognize a legal relationship between same-sex partners or to dissolve the unions.

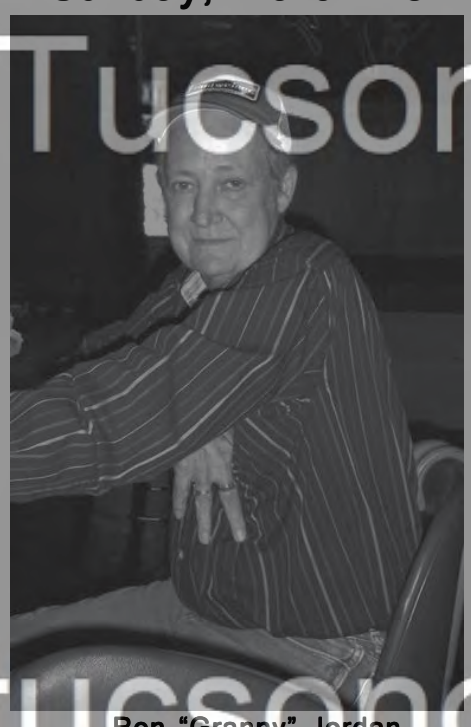
The ruling is a result of an appeal by Dickerson.

"Today, the public policy of our state protects same-sex couples in a myriad of ways,'' justices wrote in their decision. ''Two provisions of the Public Health Law define a domestic partner to include one who is 'formally a party in a domestic partnership or similar relationship with the other person, entered into pursuant to the laws of the United States or of any state, local or foreign jurisdiction."

UPDATE

In Memoriam

'Going Away Party' For Ron Jordan Sunday, March 28



Ron "Granny" Jordan
8-25-35 - 3-1-10

As many of you know, one of Tucson's favorite personalities passed away on March first. Ron Jordan was a most interesting and loveable person. One thing that he did not want was a memorial service. He wrote his own obituary:"It's been a pretty interesting trip, but I got over it. So will you. Bye everybody."

This Sunday, March 28, at IBT's, 616 N. 4th Avenue, a 'Going Away Party', will take place beginning at 3:00 p.m. on the patio. We won't call it a memorial service but rather a "Going Away Party", which Granny would ok, and give his many friends a chance to say 'Bye' also.

Hannah Free At The Loft

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan is pleased to announce a benefit premiere of the acclaimed film, Hannah Free, at the Loft, 3233 E. Speedway, on March 30, 2010. The $10.00 admission ticket will go directly to Wingspan. Patio reception at 6:30 p.m., the film will show at 7:30.

Advance tickets are available for sale at Antigone, Casa Video, and The Loft. Hannah Free is an independent feature film about a lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home. Sharon Gless stars in the title role. Hannah and Rachel grew up as little girls in the same small Midwest town, where traditional gender expectations eventually challenge their deep love for one another. Hannah becomes an adventurous, unapologetic lesbian and Rachel a strong but quiet homemaker. Weaving back and forth between past and present, the film reveals how the women maintained their love affair despite a marriage, a world war, infidelities, and family denial.

Executive Producers Tracy Baim and Sharon Zurek, director Wendy Jo Carlton and screenwriter Claudia Allen bring a wealth of talent to create this beautiful and realistic love story beginning in an era when being gay was simply not allowed in society and ending in contemporary times where we see romance lives beyond middle age. Reviewers are raving about the film, the acting, the narrative and the score. On Sharon Gless: "Her broad, hammy portrayal of a free-spirited butch lesbian bridling against authority conveys the same punchy heartiness she brought to Debbie Novotny, the mother of a gay son in "Queer as Folk." - Stephen Holden, The New York Times. "Gless, glammed-down and butched-up, delivers a dignified yet vulnerable, heart-tugging performance – and it's a reminder why we're demanding full federal marriage rights now." - Instinct Magazine. "Cagney lives, and she's as cranky as ever." - LA Weekly

For more information, call 520-319-0679.

2010 PFLAG Scholarships

TUCSON (Observer Update) - This coming year PFLAG Tucson will again award at least three or four Gene Moore Memorial LGBT Scholarships. Although we have little money in our scholarship fund at the moment, we hope to raise more in the coming months.

Our scholarships thus may be $500 rather than $1000 this year so that we can benefit more students. TucsonLGBT.com is establishing a $250 School Books Scholarship this year specifically for a Tucson low-income gay male high school senior who plans to attend Pima College.

They will award this through the PFLAG Tucson application process. For more information and application forms, go online to pflagtucson.org/scholarships/index2010.htm. Awards will be made at our support meeting on Wednesday, May 5.

Write-A-Will Workshop March 26

TUCSON- Less that 1/3 of people who die in the U.S. each year have a will, and many of those wills are defective. Find out how a will can benefit you and the people you care about!

The public is invited to attend a FREE Write A Will Workshop at the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). The workshop will address the importance of writing a will, the legal aspects of a will, and the charitable giving opportunities available through wills. The workshop will be led by attorney Doug Newman, P.C. of Douglas J. Newman, P.C. Attorneys at Law and is hosted by the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

Write-A-Will Workshop - Saturday, March 27, 2010 - 10:00am-11:30am - 375 S. Euclid Ave

RSVP's are required. To register, contact Michele Bart at 520-628-7223.

Who should come? Anyone interested in a "hands on" session about making or updating a will, how to protect even the most modest estate, and how to ensure that your wishes are known and respected.

Workshop format: The workshop is a 60-90 minute interactive session that includes a question and answer component and a complementary workbook, "A Guide to Planning Your Will or Trust" for recording important information regarding the preparation of your will. Light refreshments will be provided.

Each year SAAF provides services to nearly 1,200 people and delivers targeted prevention outreach and education programs to over 20,000 people who are at risk for infection. For more information about the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) or to schedule a tour of SAAF, please visit www.saaf.org or call (520) 628-7223.

SAAF's mission is to create and sustain a healthier community through a compassionate, comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS.

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.org
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
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Contributing Columnists
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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Gay Groups Must Surrender Documents In Gay Marriage Trial

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - A federal judge has ordered gay advocacy groups to surrender documents related to Proposition 8, the gay marriage ban narrowly approved by California voters in 2008.

The AP is reporting that Chief US District Judge Vaughn Walker has upheld a magistrate judge's ruling requiring pro-gay marriage groups to hand over Proposition 8 campaign materials to defendants in the high-profile trial considering the ban's constitutionality. Walker made a similar ruling before the January start of the trial, ordering defendants to turn over some documents related to the campaign.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Equality California, the state's largest gay advocate and the lead group behind the campaign against the gay marriage ban, had argued that the documents are confidential internal communications protected by the First Amendment as political speech.

In his 24-page ruling, Walker disagreed and gave the groups until April 12 to comply.

"To the extent the ACLU and Equality California argue the magistrate's order imposes an undue burden on them, they have failed to substantiate the burden," Walker wrote.

The ACLU has suggested it would appeal the ruling to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, a move likely to delay closing arguments in the trial, which Walker has yet to schedule.

Plaintiffs argued in January that Proposition 8 violates their constitutional rights. It is the first federal case to consider the constitutionality of a gay marriage ban and is expected to reach the Supreme Court.

Mississippi Ends Segregation Of HIV Prisoners

JACKSON (Observer Update) - The Mississippi Department of Corrections has agreed to stop segregating prisoners with HIV, ending a practice that ostracized inmates and prevented them from accessing resources available to other prisoners, advocate.com reported.

According to a joint news release from the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch, which advocated for the change, corrections commissioner Christopher Epps made the decision. The move leaves Alabama and South Carolina as the only states that continue to segregate prisoners with HIV, a practice more common during the early days of the HIV epidemic.

"Public and correctional health experts agree that there is no medical basis for segregating HIV-positive prisoners within correctional facilities or for limiting access to jobs, vocational training and educational programs available to others," said the news release, which came out Wednesday. "Since 1987, however, MDOC has performed mandatory HIV tests on all prisoners entering the state prison system, and has permanently housed all male prisoners who test positive in a segregated unit at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, the state's highest security prison. As a result, prisoners with HIV have been faced with unjustified isolation, exclusion and marginalization, and low-custody prisoners have been forced unnecessarily to serve their sentences in more violent, more expensive prisons."

The change means that HIV-positive prisoners now can participate in training programs and jobs like kitchen work, and avoid public disclosure of HIV status that results from being housed in a separate unit. A desegregation policy will be phased in for prisoners currently in the separate HIV unit, and new prisoners will be incorporated into the general population immediately. A forthcoming report from the ACLU and Human Rights Watch will analyze the impact of segregation policies in prisons in Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina.

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4-8:30PM-KARAOKE ON THE PATIO
9PM-DJ HILL ON THE PATIO
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9PM-2AM-KARAOKE INSIDE

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Patricia Neff

Gay News Through The Looking Glass

Perhaps you've heard of the new fad at churches, fight nights – heavyweight bouts intended to bring more young people into the house of the Lord.

But have you heard of porn night at a church?

In mid-February, Uganda pastor Martin Ssempa hosted a porn show at a church service in Kampala to rally support for a bill that elevates homosexuality to a capital offense punishable, in some cases, by death.

Several hundred people watched Ssempa's pornographic slideshow about gay sex. The Guardian newspaper quoted Ssempa as saying that he wanted people to know "about what homosexuals do" because "in Africa, what you do in your bedroom affects our clan, it affects our tribe, it affects our nation."

Porn at church.

I began waiting for word that at a subsequent Bible study class Ssempa led the men in the group in a circle jerk to prove some point. As I scanned headlines for notice of such a news report, I came across a few other stories – closer to home – of interest:

• The Washington Post ombudsman Andrew Alexander reported that the newspaper received a flood of complaints, including some subscription cancelations, after publishing a page one photograph of two men kissing the day the District of Columbia first issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

One reader wrote The Post an e-mail: "That kind of stuff makes normal people want to throw up. People have kids who are being exposed to this crap. I will be glad when your rag goes out of business. Real men marry women."

• Florida state Rep. Stephen Precourt recently introduced legislation to provide tax incentives to lure filmmakers to the Sunshine State.

Precourt, however, wants to apply a restriction – the incentives would only go for entertainment industry projects with "family friendly" themes that do not contain sex, nudity, smoking, profanity or LGBT characters.

Precourt said he wanted Florida to be known for making "Disney movies for kids and all that stuff."

• The school board in Itawamba County, Miss., canceled a high school senior prom rather than allow a lesbian couple to attend.

The board's statement said the April 2 dance was canceled "due to the distractions to the educational process caused by recent events."

The local mayor said, "I think the community as a whole is probably in support of the school district."

Wouldn't you like to give some folks a shove through the looking-glass into a wonderland where everyone gets mushy over the lesbian kiss, gets hot over the gay-sex scene and goes "yuck" and "ick" when a man and woman embrace?

In that wonderland, 99.9 percent of romance stories on TV, in film and on the bookshelves would be about LGBT people and Janis Joplin wouldn't have pretended the Bobbie McGee she was singing about was a dude.

Down with straight supremacy.

Down with this attitude that everyone, gay and straight, wants to sit through 120-minutes of Hollywood dribble about the boy who romances the girl or the girl who tricks the boy, but only gays find gay-themed movies relevant or entertaining.

Down with this attitude that gay and lesbian youth must sit in the bleachers and cheer on their hetero peers as they dance away their senior prom.

Down with this attitude that a same-sex kiss is acceptable only when it's played for comedy, and that we all should swoon over the deeply romantic gesture of a man and a woman exchanging tongue.

And down with this ridiculous attitude that gay porn proves a case for sentencing gays to death. I mean really, what would a presumably straight congregation think about watching "Deep Throat" during a church service?

At one point during his pornographic slide presentation, Ssempa pointed out to his church audience, "This one is eating another man's anus."

I'm pretty sure that if I looked hard enough, I could find an image of a man and a woman engaged in this act.

In fact, before I go on, I'll search Google to see....

I'm back, yes, I can find such images – no shortage of them.

You know what? I didn't enjoy looking at those images – probably even straight supremacists would say "ick" or "yuck" at the photos. I wouldn't want to see those images during a church service, but an act worthy of a death sentence?

Porn at church.

We don't need to tumble through the looking-glass or into wonderland to encounter a mad hatter.

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

Choi To HRC: 'I Feel So Betrayed'

Lieutenant Dan Choi

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Lt. Dan Choi is profiled in the week's copy of Newsweek, recounting what really happened to him after he was arrested at the White House gates and spent the night in jail, reported advocate.com.

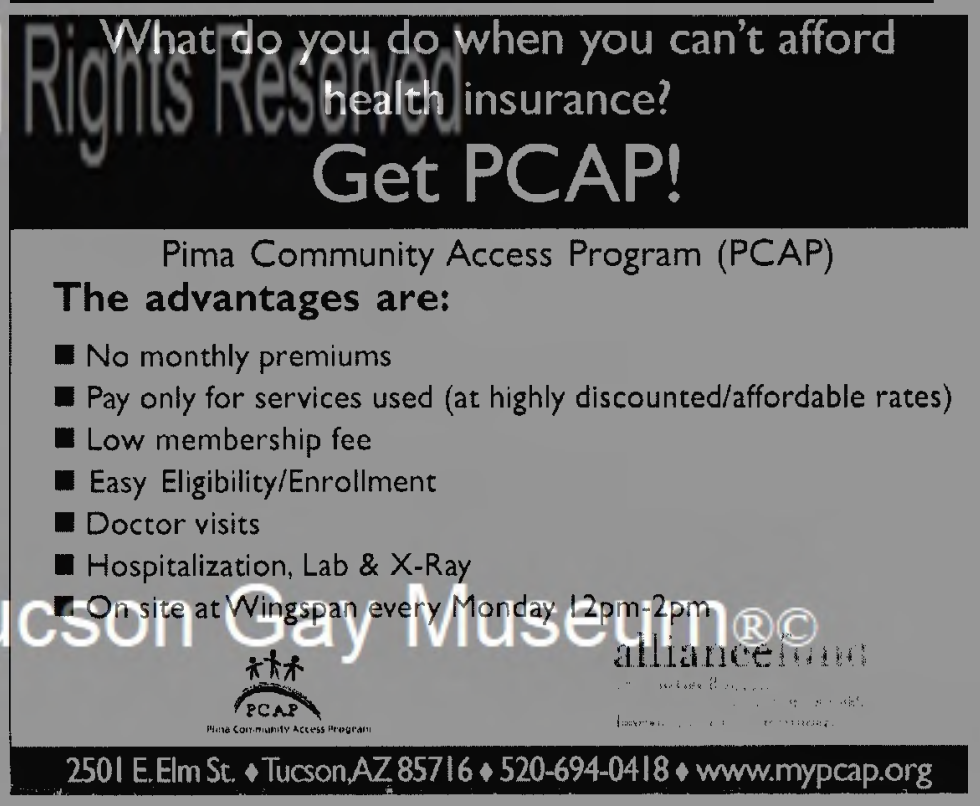
Choi tells the magazine he was denied a phone call and at numerous points throughout the interview, slams the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

Some highlights:

"Within the gay community so many leaders want acceptance from polite society. I think there's been a betrayal of what is down inside of us in order to achieve what looks popular, what looks enviable. The movement seems to be centered around how to become an elite. There is a deep schism [in the gay-rights movement], everyone knows this. But this shouldn't be about which group has better branding. There is a tremor right now in every gay and transgender youth that these groups are not grasping. I would say to them–you do not represent us if all you are looking for is a ladder in to elite society."

"Ghandi (sic) did not need three-course dinners and a cocktail party to get his message out."

"When I heard Kathy Griffin was going to be a spokeswoman for Don't Ask, Don't Tell, I wondered about that. I have great respect for her as an advocate. But if [the Human Rights Campaign] thinks that having a rally at Freedom Plaza with a comedienne is the right approach, I have to wonder. Don't Ask, Don't Tell is not a joking matter to me. To be at Freedom Plaza and not at the White House or Congress? Who are they trying to influence? I felt like they were just trying to speak to themselves. If that's the best the lobbying groups and HRC can do, then I don't know how these powerful groups are supposed to represent our community. Kathy Griffin and [HRC president] Jay (sic) Solmonese said they would march with me to the White House but didn't. I feel so betrayed by them."



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Caifornia College: Teacher Violated Gay Bias Policy

FRESNO (Observer Update) - A Fresno City College science instructor violated a campus anti-discrimination policy when he told students that homosexuality is a mental disorder that should be treated with psychotherapy, campus administrators have concluded.

Christopher Villa, vice president of student services, reported the findings last week in a letter to three students who had lodged complaints against health sciences instructor Bradley Lopez. The campus' student newspaper published Villa's letter. "Dr. Lopez engaged in conduct that could result in the creation of a hostile learning environment by unreasonably interfering with students' learning by making insulting comments directed at homosexuals," Villa wrote.

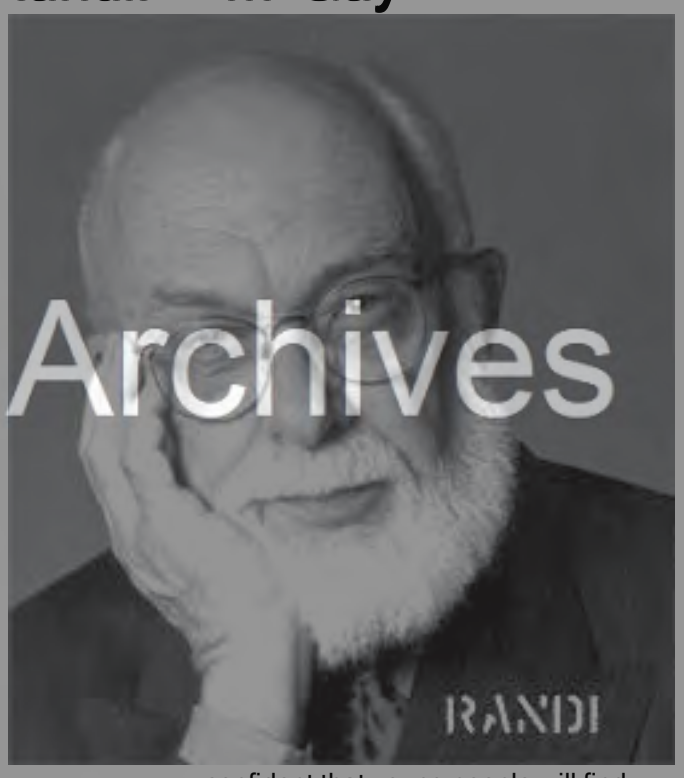
He added that while instructors are free to offer opinions that may offend students or be at odds with other professionals, Lopez crossed the line by making statements "unrelated to any legitimate course objective." Lopez's lawyer, Charles Magill, said that only one of the three complaining students was enrolled in Lopez' class and she had misinterpreted his remarks.

"It has been blown out of proportion dramatically," Magill said. "Academic freedom means professors say things that are offensive sometimes, and critical thinking means you say things to kids that are challenging sometimes." In his letter to the students, Villa said Lopez also ran afoul of campus regulations prohibiting religious indoctrination "by assigning readings from the Bible, reading the Bible in class, and otherwise relying on the Bible as an authority in the assigned subject matter."

The finding came in response to student allegations that Lopez last semester quoted the Bible as proof that human life begins at conception, assigned his class to research the Bible for Jesus' genetic makeup, and discussed apocalyptic Christian prophesies during a lesson on climate change. "Instructors are not required to hide their own religious belief or non-belief, but they may not engage in religious indoctrination as Dr. Lopez did here" because Fresno City College is a public school, Villa said. Villa wrote that the college "will take appropriate action" to address the violations but did not elaborate.

Magill said he expects the school to put a letter of reprimand in Lopez's personnel file, a move Lopez would challenge through an administrative appeal. During a hearing last month, Lopez "denied that he did anything wrong, he denied that he was teaching from the Bible," Magill said. The three students brought formal complaints against Lopez in December, but their concerns became public after the American Civil Liberties Union contacted Fresno City College's president demanding a response.

Magician James 'The Amazing Randi: I'm Gay



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Magician James Randi, known as 'The Amazing Randi' to magic lovers and a frequent guest on the old Tonight Show with Johnny Carson, came out of the closet yesterday in a statement on his website:

"Well, here goes. I really resent the term, but I use it because it's recognized and accepted. I'm gay. From some seventy years of personal experience, I can tell you that there's not much "gay" about being homosexual. For the first twenty years of my life, I had to live in the shadows, in a culture that was – at least outwardly – totally hostile to any hint of that variation of life-style. At no time did I choose to adopt any protective coloration, though; my cultivation of an abundant beard was not at all a deception, but part of my costume as a conjuror. Gradually, the general attitude that I'd perceived around me began to change, and presently I find that there has emerged a distinctly healthy acceptance of different social styles of living – except, of course, in cultures that live in constant and abject fear of divine retribution for infractions found in the various Holy Books... In another two decades, I'm confident that young people will find themselves in a vastly improved atmosphere of acceptance."

Randi was prompted to come out after seeing the film Milk:

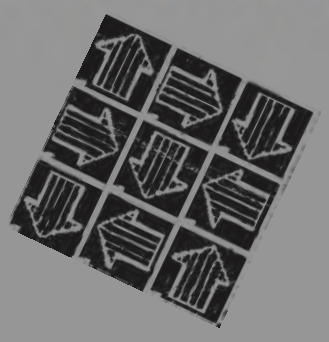
"This declaration of mine was prompted just last week by seeing an excellent film – starring Sean Penn – that told the story of politician Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. I'm in excellent company: Barney Frank, Oscar Wilde, Stephen Fry, Ellen DeGeneres, Rachel Maddow, are just a few of those who were in my thoughts as I pressed the key that placed this on Swift and before the whole world..."

AROUND THE GAY GLOBE. . .

A Dutch political strategist has launched the Pink Army movement and is looking for gay soldiers to sue retired general John Sheehan, who last week blamed the Netherlands' inclusion of gays in the military for massive deaths during the war in Bosnia. Peter Schouten put out the call for gay soldiers on the website PinkArmy.nl. He said he wants Sheehan to publish a full-page apology in the international press – and attend a course in "sensitivity training." Dutch prime minister Jan Peter Balkenende condemned Sheehan's comments, calling them "outrageous, wrong, and beneath contempt." ...

Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza, the gay Malawi couple that expected to hear the verdict against them for holding an engagement ceremony in December, instead heard they would receive a full trial in April. According to the BBC, in a courtroom packed for the hearing, a judge in Malawi told the men they will be allowed to call defense witnesses. Chimbalanga and Monjeza face a maximum of 14 years in prison for charges of "gross indecency" in what is considered a test case for gay rights in Malawi. They have already spent three months in jail since being arrested. ...

New censorship guidelines for the Malaysian film industry relax a strict ban on showing homosexuality – as long as the gay characters change their ways by the end of the story. Malaysian Film Producers' Association president Ahmad Puad Onah explained the new rules to Agence France-Presse. "We are now allowed to show these scenes," he said. "As long as we portray good triumphing over evil and there is a lesson learnt in the film, such as from a gay [character] who turns into a [straight] man. Previously we are not allowed to show these at all." In the conservative majority-Muslim country of Malaysia, books and films are routinely banned or edited in order to delete portions believed to threaten moral and religious values. Under the new rules, according to AFP, kissing, undressing, and obscenities will still be banned. The rules apply to other subjects deemed detrimental to morality, not just homosexuality.



RSVP To Celebrate 25th Anniversary Of Gay Cruising

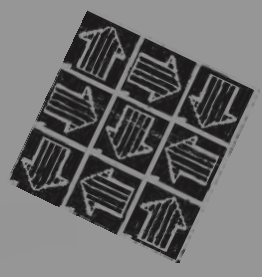
HONOLULU (Observer Update) - The company that created the gay and lesbian cruise concept is commemorating its 25th birthday with a Silver Anniversary Cruise in Hawaii, reported 365Gay.com.

RSVP Vacation said that it will be the company's first cruise in the islands.

The seven-day cruise aboard NCL's Pride of America departs Honolulu Oct. 30. It makes calls at Maui, Kauai and the Big Island before returning to Honolulu Nov. 6.

Hawaii Tourism Authority's vice president of marketing, David Uchiyama, says Hawaii is honored that RSVP selected the state for its Silver Anniversary Cruise.

The Minneapolis-based company hosted its first all-gay cruise in 1986. Since then, RSVP says more than 80,000 men and women have participated in its ship and riverboat cruises, land tours and resort vacations. over the campaign documents could push back the closing arguments.



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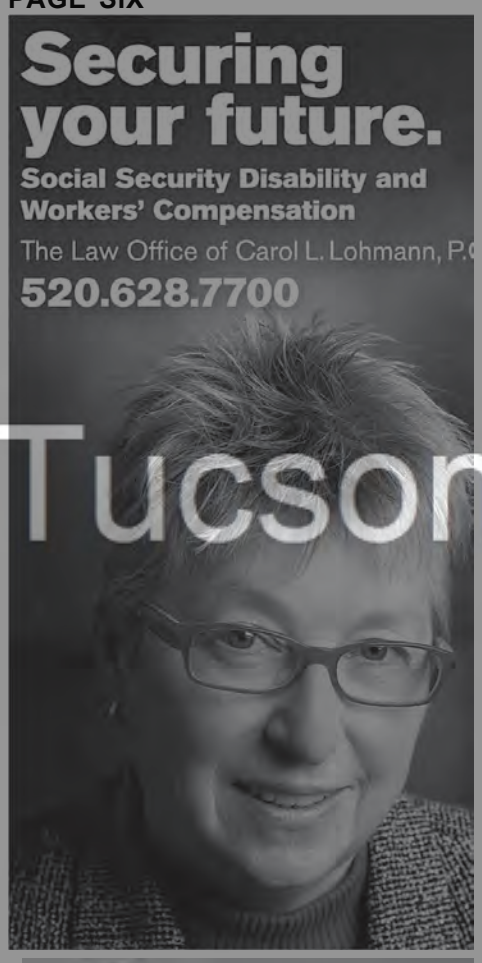


Massa Had 'Pattern' Of Meeting Gay Men

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A scheduled lunch date with a young male staffer from the office of Congressman Barney Frank prompted former Congressman Eric Massa's chief of staff to report his boss to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in October, the Washington Post reports.

Congressional sources told the Post that the chief of staff Joe Racalto was concerned that Massa, a Democrat from New York, showed a "pattern" of meeting with young gay men.

According to a person briefed on the call, Racalto was concerned that the lunch followed a pattern by Massa - who is married and has two children - of trying to spend time alone with young gay men with no ostensible work purpose. Racalto, according to this person, also alerted Frank's chief of staff. The sources spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the political sensitivity of the matter."

The revelations suggest that Democratic leadership was aware of complaints about Massa longer than previously acknowledged. Although Massa resigned, Republicans want to press the inquiry about his behavior, as Democrats did with former Congressman Mark Foley in 2006. "GOP leaders cited as precedent the committee's 2006 decision to investigate claims that Mark Foley, a Florida Republican, sent sexually explicit messages to former male pages. The committee's decision came after Foley stepped down from Congress," the Post reported. "That inquiry also examined how some House leaders ignored claims about Foley's conduct while others tried to shield his behavior from public disclosure.

Report Questions Excluding Gays From Some Studies

BOSTON (Observer Update) - A small but significant portion of medical studies exclude gays from participating, sometimes without an apparent scientific reason, several cancer researchers say, reported 365Gay.com.

In a letter in the New England Journal of Medicine, three scientists from the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia cite several dozen studies requiring a participant to be "in a reciprocal relationship with a person of the opposite sex." There are legitimate scientific reasons for excluding gays from certain studies. Scientists would want only heterosexuals if they were studying how HIV spreads during male-female sex, for example.

But the Fox Chase folks found cases where the reason for excluding gays is not clear: tests of a drug for attention-deficit disorder, a treatment for erection problems after prostate cancer surgery, and studies on sexual function related to diabetes, depression and benign enlargement of the prostate as men age.

Brian Egleston, a biostatistician at Fox Chase, made the observation while overseeing enrollment of patients into clinical trials at the cancer center.

"When I first saw this, I thought it was a fluke. The second time, I thought I'd dig deeper," he said.

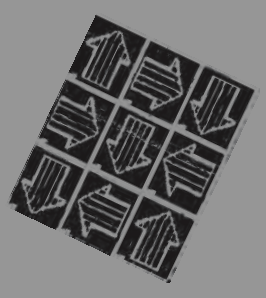
Egleston and Roland Dunbrack Jr., a biologist, and Dr. Michael J. Hall, a medical oncologist, did a spot check of a government database of thousands of studies and turned up more examples, most of them private-industry trials.

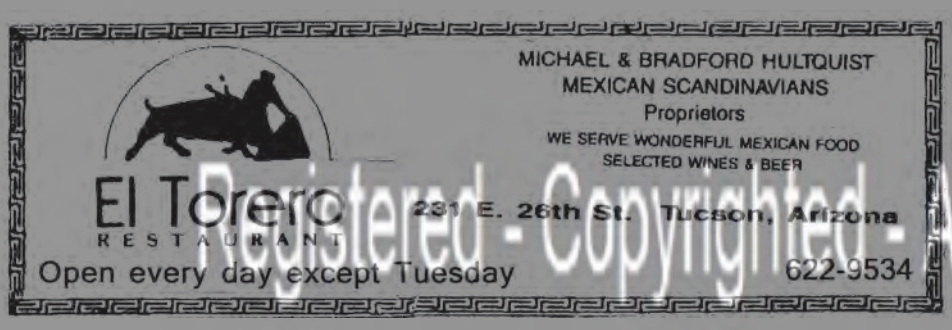
Researchers seeking federal money for their work must explain why a study excludes a group based on gender, race or ethnicity, but no explanation is needed for exclusion based on sexual orientation, Egleston said.

Exclusion can become self-perpetuating: Researchers designing a study often "cut and paste" participation criteria from earlier trials on a similar subject.

"It becomes the way it's done," and any bias gets repeated, Egleston said.

Estimates of how much of the U.S. population is gay or bisexual vary widely; some polls have put it around 4 percent.





Florida Tax Incentives For Filmmakers Exclude Gays

TALLAHASSEE (Observer Update) - Florida lawmakers are considering incentives for films to be made in the state - as long as they follow "family friendly" guidelines. The fine print for these incentives, aimed at attracting the entertainment industry effectively excludes any film that might have gay characters, reported 365Gylcom.

"Think of it as like Mayberry," state Rep. Stephen Precourt told the Palm Beach Post referring to "The Andy Griffin Show." That's when I grew up - in the '60s. That's what life was like. I want Florida to be known for making those kinds of movies: Disney movies for kids and all that stuff. Like it used to be. You know?"

Asked if gay characters could get the tax incentives offered in the $75 incentive package Republicans are pushing through the state House of Representatives, he told the Post, "That would not be the kind of thing I'd say that we want to invest public dollars in." But gay rights groups point out that era of family values doesn't work today.

"Instituting 1950s-style movie censorship does nothing to support real-life families or help Florida's struggling economy," Ted Howard, executive director for Organizations United Together, a Florida statewide federation of LGBT commuity groups, told the Post.

Jason Wu's Dress Going To Smithsonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Out designer Jason Wu's white chiffon gown worn by first lady Michelle Obama to the inaugural balls will soon be on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Wu joined Mrs. Obama when the first lady donated the gown, covered in fabric petals and dotted with beads. A new gallery for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History first ladies' exhibit will open Wednesday, showcasing clothing representing first ladies from Mamie Eisenhower to Mrs. Obama, including ten inaugural gowns.

The full first ladies' collection consists of 24 dresses, including 12 inaugural gowns. The Smithsonian has asked each first lady since 1912 to give the collection something that represents her. While donating the inaugural ball gown has become tradition, it is not required..

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A family album of the Tucson Gay Museum

Mississippi School: Numerous Issues Led To Canceling Of Prom

Constance McMillen

JACKSON (Observer Update) - Mississippi school officials defended their decision to cancel a prom after a lesbian student asked to attend with another girl, saying it wasn't just the request by Constance McMillen (pictured) that led to the decision, but many factors, reported advocate.com.

Itawamba County school superintendent Teresa McNeece and school board chairman Eddie Hood told a U.S. district court judge that there were liability issues concerning safety and alcohol abuse that made them consider canceling the prom. McNeece and Hood also said classroom disruptions involving McMillen's request led to their ultimate decision, though they didn't cite specific examples of disruption.

"We were being hounded every day. Our students were being hounded," McNeece said. "We were having a tough time of any bell-to-bell instruction."

The American Civil Liberties Union, which is arguing for McMillen and her right to attend the prom wearing a tuxedo and with a female student on her arm, said the chaos didn't begin until after the school canceled the prom.

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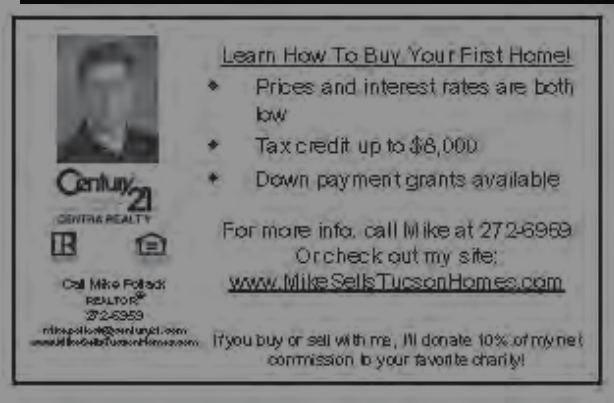

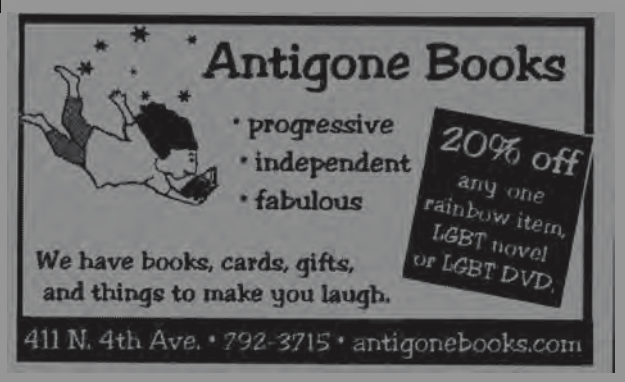

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SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

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.

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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 520-743-9514 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

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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.

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. meets on the second Wednesday at Braun P.C. located at 6125 E. Grant Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride produces the following events each year: Pride Week; Pride In The Desert and Pride On Parade. For more information please call 622-3200 or visit their website at www.tucsonpride.org

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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.

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.

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site http://www.desertdominion.org or call (520)792-6424

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, 425 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!! Call 304-1758 for more info.

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 toSAGE-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.
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.: 406-0740

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

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

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Sponsored by TMC Hospice and Valor Hospice Care. 1st & 3rd Thursdays 4:30-6:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson. Located one quarter mile east of Swan on 22nd St. For more information please contact Steve Ross- Valor Hospice 615-3996; Karla Brockie - TMC Hospice 269-9573 or karla.brockie@tmcaz.com

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NPH And Jodie Foster Top List Of Child Stars Who Made It

Jodie Foster Neil Patrick Harris

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Stars including Neil Patrick Harris and Jodie Foster are on Entertainment Weekly's list of 13 Child Stars Who Made It, advocate.com reported.

The magazine claims Harris showed promise when he starred with Whoopi Goldberg in the 1988 film Clara's Heart. His starring turn in the '90s comedy series Doogie Howser, M.D., in which he played a teenage doctor, cemented his professionalism. He's since become a fixture on Broadway, television, film, and awards shows.

Foster, meanwhile, parlayed a shocking turn as a 13-year-old prostitute in Taxi Driver into an illustrious career that includes two Oscars – for her roles in The Accused and The Silence of the Lambs.

Other stars include Natalie Portman and Ron Howard.

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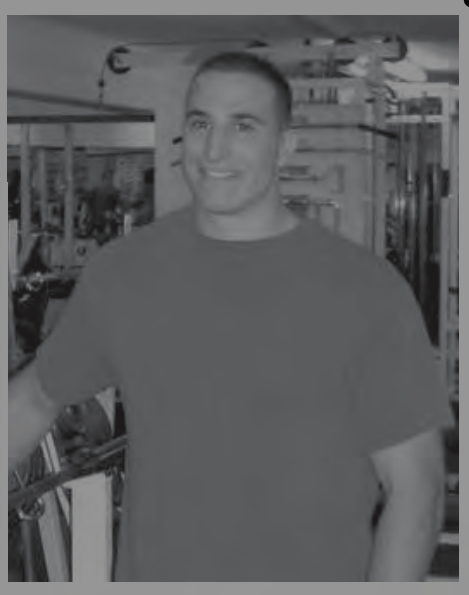

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Bar Calendar Special Events

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

WOODY'S - Amateur 'Strip Off' Contest begins tonight. Weekly prizes for the winner and a final Grand Prize for the winner May 5th. It's your chanc e to show it off!!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

COYOTE MOON - Tea Dance 4-8 pm with free dance lessons from 4-5pm. Food and drink specials, wide mix of music.

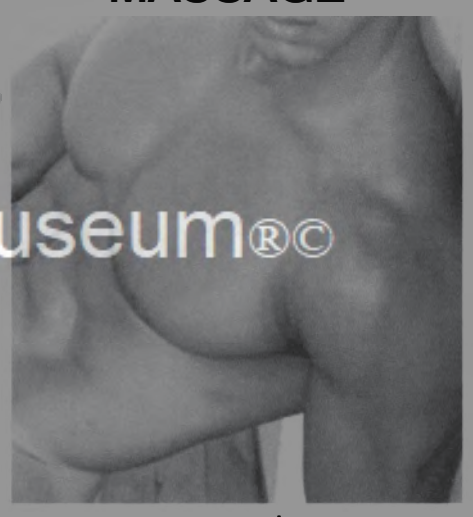
SATURDAY, MARCH 27

COYOTE MOON - They're back! Dragstar is here with guest cabret performers. Show starts at 10pm. Sliding scale cover. Don't miss them!

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

WOODY'S - Join the gang for the Easter Sunday, special brunch and traditional Easter Egg Hunt. (1 egg per person) - Easter "Basket" and Bonnet Contest. Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m.

CHILL WITH A SUMMER MASSAGE



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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am It's Latin Sunday like the good ol' days. Catch DJ Dmenace spinning the best Cumbias. Get your Bucket of Beer ... 5 Bud Bottles for $5!

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 - Closed for employee training.

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 and Game Night all night long. Play Wii, beer pong and pool with the staff.

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 8pm

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.

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. Happy Hour 5-8pm. Wild Wednesday 18+ Party with DJ White Shadow spinning the hottest Hip Hop, R&B and top 40 remix dance of today. 21+ NO COVER. 18+ $8 Cover.

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 Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8pm. Y-NOT Karaoke 9pm-2am with Meco pouring the best drinks in town. Come out and play.

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 Skyy Cape Cods and $4 Skyy Cosos.

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. Happy Hour 5-8 pm. GoGo Fridays with 2-4-1 drinks for the ladies til midnight. Catch Shorty spinning the hottest Hip Hop, R&B and Top 40 remix dance of today.

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. Latin night with Latin Drag Show the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month. DJ Dmenace spinnin' the best Cumbias, Salsa & Merengue. $3 pitchers and $2 Tequila shotz all night long!

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 cheese-burger & 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.

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"No" Party Tonight

by Ron Rose - Tucson

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The stone-faced party of "No"
I think you deserve a warning
Before you plan to go.
With hosts like Eric Cantor, Johnny Bohner, John Kyl
Don't expect much humor.
Their words won't make you smile
Have your questions ready while you have them in tow
My psychic has the answer
The answer, dear, is "NO"

FACEBOOK

by Ron Rose - Tucson

Facebook has me out of the loop
Out of touch, like a vaudeville troupe.
I still love to hear the lilt of a voice
A ring on my phone, I'm quick to rejoice
Emotions found Facebook buried for good.
All human conditions, now made of wood.
So please ring by telly, speak often and loud
While those folk on Facebook, blend in with the crowd.
I'll just be content in my world with low tech
Facebook is driving me crazy, I'm just a wreck

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New HIV Infections Increasing Among International U.S. Gays

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - New HIV infections are increasing among gays, drug users and prostitutes who don't seek help because of laws that criminalize them, the head of the U.N. AIDS agency said, 365Gay.com reported.

Michel Sidibe, the head of UNAIDS, said "it is unacceptable" that 85 countries still have laws criminalizing same-sex relations among adults, including seven that impose the death penalty for homosexual practices. He called a proposed Ugandan law that would impose the death penalty for some gays "very unfortunate" and expressed hope it will never be approved.

At a time when UNAIDS is scaling up its program and seeking universal access to HIV treatment, Sidibe said he was "very scared" because bad laws are being introduced by countries making it impossible for these at risk groups to have access to services. "You have also a growing conservatism which is making me very scared," Sidibe added. "We must insist that the rights of the minorities are upheld. If we don't do that ... I think the epidemic will grow again," he warned. "We cannot accept the tyranny of the majority."

Sidibe told a group of journalists at a luncheon hosted by the United Nations Foundation that in countries from China to Kenya and Malawi, about 33 percent of new HIV infections are in men having sex with men, a significant increase. By contrast, he said that in the Caribbean where most countries don't have repressive laws, only between 3 and 6 percent of HIV infections are in male homosexuals.

Even in the United States, where laws are not restrictive and the gay community was the first to tackle AIDS, Sidibe said it is "shocking" that more than 50 percent of new HIV infections last year occurred among homosexuals. And he said in the 19-25 age bracket the infection rate was even higher.

"It seems like we have come full circle" in the United States, he said. "After almost no cases a few years ago we are seeing again this new peak among people who are not having access to all the information, the protection that is needed."

In addition to failing to adequately deliver the right messages about AIDS prevention, Sidibe blamed complacency in a new generation that has access to treatment. He added that this was not just a problem in the U.S. but in Europe and in Africa as well. Sidibe said drug users are also getting the HIV virus that causes AIDS in high numbers.

"You have 70 percent of new infections occurring in Eastern Europe and Central Asia among drug users, but they are criminalized," he said. "They don't have access to services. They have to hide themselves and go underground."

Of the 16 million people in the world who are injecting drugs, almost 3 million are HIV positive, and among them less than 4 percent have access to treatment and less than 8 percent have access to services, Sidibe said. "It's the same for men having sex with men," he said.

In Nigeria, where there are 1,000 new HIV infections every day, over 30 percent are in vulnerable groups - drug users, sex workers and homosexuals, he said. Sidibe called for "a prevention revolution" including a campaign in major cities around the world like the anti-smoking campaigns launched in recent years.

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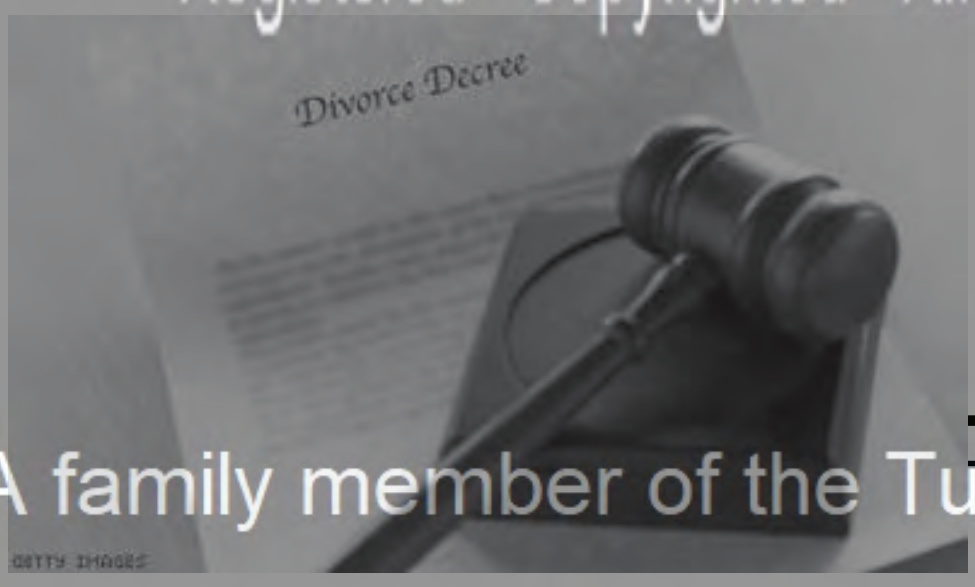
NJ Gay Marriage Battle Back In Court



TRENTON (Observer Update) - Gay couples who sued New Jersey for the right to marry once before are taking their case back to court.

Six couples plus the surviving partner from a seventh filed a motion Thursday claiming the state continues to discriminate against them even though it offers civil unions to same-sex couples.

The original suit, filed in 2002, resulted in a 2006 New Jersey Supreme Court decision that came one vote short of requiring the state to legalize gay matrimony. After an effort to get lawmakers to legalize gay marriage, the effort fizzled out.

Opponents say that there's no constitutional right for gay couples to wed and that civil unions are working. Gay marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

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