Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER APRIL 14, 2010 ISSUE 1342

Tucson Observer Archives

Prop.8 Will Not Be Repealed At Ballot Box in '10

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SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - The effort to repeal California's Proposition 8 at the ballot box in November 2010 has come up short in its signature-gathering effort, meaning the antigay measure will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

The group Restore Equality 2010 said in a press release it will not reach its goal of 694,354 petition signatures for the Tuesday deadline; that number represents the required amount to get an initiative on the California ballot (which requires signatures from 8% of the voters in the last gubernatorial election).

Sean Bohac, state advisory panel chair for Restore Equality 2010, would not release the amount of signatures they gathered but said his group is looking forward to 2012. "We're definitely going to be working on a ballot initiative [in 2012] and we're going to be working on that with a cadre of supportive organizations," Bohac told The Advocate.

Signature gathering for the 2012 repeal effort will begin in the summer of 2011. Bohac said his group, which will change its name shortly, is also keeping an eye on the federal lawsuit against Prop. 8.

"I am not an expert, but the two courts that it will go through before the U.S. Supreme Court are likely to be supportive and rule in our favor," Bohac said. "But 98% of the country doesn't expect the U.S. Supreme Court, in its current makeup, to rule in our favor."

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Frank Talks ENDA, Disapointment In Obama

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Rep. Barney Frank talked with LGBT POV's Karen Ocamb before speaking at an economic summit in Los Angeles about his hopes for movement on a trans-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act this month and his feelings on the Obama administration's handling of "don't ask, don't tell."

Frank told Ocamb the most effective way for LGBT Americans and their allies to advocate for ENDA is to call or write members of Congress ... now.

"There's only one way to do it," Frank told Ocamb before speaking at the summit in Los Angeles. "It doesn't mean marching, it doesn't mean waving signs. It means calling up their representatives – the members of the House who represent them – and say, please vote for this bill and please oppose watering down the transgender provision ... Call people and say we want you to support the bill and don't water down the transgender provision – because that's the point of political trouble. And they should start calling now. I believe we'll get a vote sometime this month."

He also said while there's movement on "don't ask, don't tell," it isn't fast enough for his taste ... and the lack of leadership from Obama on getting a bill to repeal DADT this year is this main problem.

"His not being for it will give people an excuse to not vote for it. Thing is – we've done hate crimes. We do ENDA. It's a big agenda all at once. At this point – the president's refusal to call for repeal this year is a problem."

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®

Have You Heard Of Jell-OH! Wrestling?

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) will host its longest running fundraising event- the 23rd Annual Reno Gannon Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at Tucson Electric Park.

This event raises money on-line with the help of wrestlers who collect sponsorships and also with a live auction at the event. It's Tucson's zaniest event and a must-see for everyone (over the age of 21!). To purchase tickets, visit the website at www.jello-wrestling.org or visit one of the locations below. We recommend getting your tickets now before they are all sold out.

Event Details:

Event: 23rd Annual Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction
Date: Sunday, May 2, 2010
Location: Tucson Electric Park
Time: Doors open at 3:00pm; show begins at 4:00pm.
Event Cost: $20.00 (must be 21 to enter)
Contact: 520-628-7223
Tickets: Can be purchased at any of the locations below or online at www.jello-wrestling.org.

SAAF, 375 S Euclid Ave
Woody's, 3710 N Oracle Rd
IBT's, 616 N 4th Ave
Ain't Nobody's Bizness, 2900 E Broadway Blvd
Colors Food and Spirits, 5305 E Speedway Blvd
Coyote Moon Pub, 915 W Prince
Venture-N, 1239 N 6th Ave

Could Gay Issues Block Court Nod For Kagan?

Solicitor General Elena

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Conservatives preparing for the possibility that Solicitor General Elena Kagan could be President Obama's selection for the U.S. Supreme Court are zeroing in on her participation in a gay rights lawsuit when she was dean of Harvard Law School, The Wall Street Journal reports.

In 2005, Kagan was one of 40 Harvard law professors who signed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold an earlier ruling allowing law schools to limit military recruiters access to campus. Schools had historically barred recruiters in response to the military's discriminatory "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which bars openly gay people from military service, reported.

Although Kagan did not write the brief, she did send an e-mail to faculty and students calling the military policy "a profound wrong – a moral injustice of the first order." The Supreme Court ultimately reversed the lower court ruling.

Kagan's signature on the brief first became an during her confirmation hearing for solicitor general. "Ms. Kagan's extreme rhetoric makes it highly like that she also favors same-sex marriage, both as a matter of policy and as a supposed federal constitutional right," officials from the American Family Association, Focus on the Family,, and other far-right groups warned in a letter.

That letter may have prompted Sen. John Cornyn of Texas to send a written question to Kagan as follow-up to the confirmation hearing, asking if she believes the Constitution provides for gay marriage. "There is no federal constitutional right to same-sex marriage," she responded, adding that she didn't believe she'd ever expressed an opinion on whether there should be such a right.

UPDATE

Desert Voices Presents 'Sound In Bloom' April 17-18

TUCSOn (Observer Update) - Choral music..simply stated, it's the music written for a singing ensemble- the choir, chorus, or chorale. Ask audiences to describe the choral experience and the answers will include everything from evocative and dreamy to sweeping and swelling, from light and airy to robust and rousing. In honor of this beautiful musical art form, Desert Voices presents their final concert of the season, April 17-18, at the Pima Community College Center for the Arts, 2202 W. Anklam Road.

Under the artistic direction of Chris Tackett, the chorus will perform choice selections from Aaron Copland, Randall Thompson, William Billings and Orlando Gibbons, to name a few. Experience the vocal artistry of Diraiton, enjoy the melancholy finality of The Silver Swan, tap your foot to Jackson Berkey's Sacramento-Sis Joe, revel in the surprising vocal treatment of the William Tell Overture, and celebrate with Cy Coleman's Rhythm of Life. These are just a few of many beautiful pieces to be performed by the full chorus.

The program will also include some small ensemble works, and an instrumental treat presented by the incredible accompanist Alexander Tentser, who will be joined by a second pianist for some wondrous material for 'four hands.'

Tickets are one for $15.00 or two for $25.00. Special rates for members of choruses in area - call 520-791-9662 for rates (not available at door).

Ike And Ken's Colorful Life, April18

TUCSON (Observer Update) - You'll get a TWO for ONE Colorful Life presentation by a couple that has been together for 33 years and have had most colorful lives - both individually, and together!

Ike was born in Wyoming, beginning his life on a Montana homestead. He grew up in Seattle. He spent three years in Turkey, one year in France, four years in Holland, and seven years in Iran as a teacher. He met Ken when he moved to his company's corporate offices in Chicago in 1977. Ken was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Chicago. He worked in Human Relations and Administrative Areas.

This unlikely couple with divergent backgrounds, bought their first home after they had known each other 6 weeks (and they said it wouldn't last). In 1984 Ike had an opportunity to go to Egypt, Ken joined him, and they were there for five years. Ken, who had never been overseas before, adopted quickly and learned much more about "Ike's world". In 1993, they settled in San Diego. They became involved with a group called "COUPLES", a social organization for gay and lesbian couples, and shortly became the Chaircouple. Three years later, they became National Chaircouple for affiliated groups throughout the country.

Ike and Ken moved to Tucson in February 2004, and look forward to sharing some of their adventures and treasures with you at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. First St., Saturday, April 18, 2:30 - 4:30 PM.

An Evening With David Sedaris, April 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Following the release of his New York Times #1 Bestselling book, "When You Are Engulfed in Flames," author David Sedaris is coming to Tucson for an evening of engaging recollections and readings at the TCC Music Hall, 260 S. Church.

With previous bestsellers "Naked, Me Talk Pretty One Day," and "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," and as a regular National Public Radio contributor, David Sedaris' sardonic humor and incisive social critique have made him one of NPR's most popular and humorous commentators. In 2001, he was named Humorist of the Year by Time magazine and received the Thurber Prize for American Humor.

Spend an evening with David Sedaris as he reads from his bestselling book. Tickets are $34.50 to $52.00 at TCC and ticketmaster ticket outlets, ticketmaster.com, and 800-745-3000.

Bike-Curious April 21

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The first part of a mini workshop series for youth, ages 13-23, held in the Eon Lounge, 430 E. 7th St.. 4:00 P.M.

Learn basic bicycle repair and maintenance from BICAS staff, learn about how to build your own bike through the BICAS free work-trade program, and help build bikes for Eon!

Please feel free to bring your own bicycle and try out some basic repair techniques.

Anti-Violence Programs Volunteer Advocate Training

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Want to lend a hand and volunteer for Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs? The Wingspan Anti-Violence Programs provides 24hr advocacy, crisis intervention, and referral sevices to LGBT survivors and their allies who are affected by violence and discrimination.

Come join us at Wingspan, 430 E. 7th, at our volunteer advocate training to gain advocacy skills and learn how to assist individuals and communities affected by violence.

This training will take place at Wingspan on Saturday and Sunday, April 24th and 25th 2010. Lunch and refreshments will be provided both days.

Call Kristi Smith, (520) 624-1779 Ext. 1, for more information.

LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project Poker Tournament April 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project invites you to a "Chai Roller" Poker Tournament, Sunday, April 25 at the Masonic Lodge.

Game times are 6pm and 9pm. Come and join us for fun, food, entertainment, and your chance to win prizes, including 3 days and 2 night stay in Santa Fe or Sedona, AND a weekend getaway in Rocky Point Mexico.

Tickets are available for a suggested donation of $36, seating is limited to the first 104 players per game. If you love poker, please join us! Let the cards fly. and don't forget to "go all in." To make your RSVP and donate, go to www.jewishtucson.org/poker.

The proceeds of this event benefit the LGBT Jewish Inclusion Project, Wingspan, and the UA Pride Alliance. Sponsored by: The Poker Pub of Tucson, (www.thepokerpub.com), and Congregation Ner Tamid, a spiritually vibrant and inclusive congregation, (www.nertamid.homestead.com).

Event Details: Apr 25, 6:00pm - 12:00am, The Masonic Lodge, 1944 E. Allen Rd. For more information, contact Marc Paley, Coordinator, 520-577-9393 X1.

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

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
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Informing the Community
The Observer

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UPDATE

Treasures For TIHAN May 22

TUCSON (Observer Update) - "Treasures for TIHAN," the signature fundraising benefit for the programs and services of TIHAN, celebrates its 13th anniversary with a spectacular event!

Join event co-chairs Tom Murray and Deb Van Sant for a sparkling evening of cocktails, great music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items.

Advance tickets for the event are $40 each or two for $70, and can be purchased online from our payment options page. Tickets purchased on the day of the event will be $50. The value of food and services received in return for each ticket purchase is $30.

$5 RAFFLE: Win $1,000 CASH! Raffle tickets only $5 each (or 5 tickets for $20, or 15 tickets for $50). Purchase your raffle tickets from our payment options page at tihan.org. (You do not need to be present at the auction to win the raffle.)

TIHAN, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization focused on mobilizing the resources of faith communities to respond compassionately to those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to promote awareness and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact TIHAN at (520) 299-6647 or scott@tihan.org.

2010 Rainbow Graduation

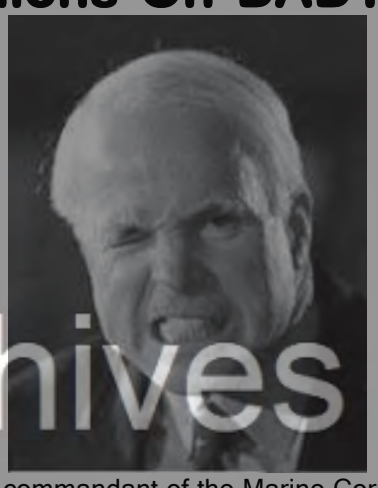
TUCSON (Observer Update) - This festive and intimate end-of-the-year celebration will provide personal recognition of graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ), and allied seniors, as well as graduating graduate school and professional school students at The University of Arizona.

Each graduate will receive a rainbow cord and certificate of honor at the ceremony emceed by Program Director of LGBTQ Affairs, Jennifer Hoefle with opening remarks by President Shelton and a keynote address by Peri Jude Radecic, former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and current Executive Director of the Arizona Center for Disability Law.

A reception with food and entertainment by Lucinda Holliday and Namoli Brennet will follow the ceremony! Free and open to the public.

Event Details: May 05, 6:00 - 9:00 pm, 1340 E 1st Street (at the corner of 1st Street and Highland), Tucson. For more information, Christian Bracamante, 520-696-1996.

McCain: Why Would I Ask Gay Soldiers Their Opinions On DADT?



TUCSON - "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is working "effectively" and there is "no" need to seek the opinions of gay servicemembers, says Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). The former Republican presidential nominee, who is in the middle of a hotly contested primary re-election battle, made the comments during a lengthy editorial meeting with the Arizona Daily Star. Excerpts were printed in the newspaper and its digital edition:

McCAIN: I make that determination by retention and recruitment is at an all-time high, the highest in the history of the all-volunteer force. I get that opinion because I visit with the troops all the time. I go to Iraq, I go to Afghanistan, I run into them everywhere. And of course I don't seek out someone who is gay. Why should I? These are all men and women who are serving. Why should I, that would be nuts. I go up to men and women and I say thanks for serving. I say thank you for serving, you are great Americans, God bless you.

McCain continues to parse the testimony given by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mullen to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Mullen was speaking personally he said DADT should end, McCain says. The service chiefs opposed to repealing "Don't Ask Don'T Tell" were "speaking professionally."

McCAIN: [Mullen] said it was his personal opinion.

STAR: Well, he did. But he also appeared in uniform. And it's a little hard to parse when the joint chiefs appear in front of the United States Senate committee and says "It's my personal opinion that."

McCAIN: What about when the commandant of the Marine Corps said he is opposed to it? What about when the chief of staff of the Army said we've got to go slow on this? What about when the chief of staff of the Air Force said I'm very worried about an abrupt change in policy and that we have to have a thorough review? What about all of those people?

STAR: Well maybe that was just their personal opinion.

McCAIN: No, no. It wasn't their personal opinion. It was their professional opinion. It was Admiral Mullen's personal opinion. All these other guys I just mentioned, that was their professional opinion.

McCain isn't the only one who think it's unnecessary to ask gay soldiers their opinions on "Don't Ask Don't Tell". At least the Administration and Democrats are working toward repeal. In John McCain's world, DADT is working as effectively as the vetting process for Sarah Palin.

McCain also recycles Gen. Colin Powell's 17-year-old statements on gay troops, rod2.0 beta reported. Powell has since changed his position and supports repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

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11PM*DJ HURRICANE INSIDE

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Protest Demands Equal Social Security Benefits

By Michelle Garcia

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - At a rally, Rep. Linda Sanchez officially announced to a crowd of 700 that she would introduce a bill to equalize Social Security benefits for same-sex couples, advocate.com reported.

"We now have quality, affordable health care coming to all," Sanchez said at the Rock for Equality rally in Los Angeles. "What good is the quality of our health care in America if Americans are not treated equally under all of our laws? I look at this country–which is great but could be made better–and I see that there is still discrimination … I don't think it's right that Americans should be treated differently by the country they love because of who they love."

Sanchez told The Advocate last week that she intended to introduce the bill at the event.

Also in attendance was fellow Southern California Rep. Judy Chu, who vowed to sign onto Sanchez's bill. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, who is waging a reelection campaign for this fall, said that she would sponsor or co-sponsor the Senate version of the bill. Boxer said that her alliance with LGBT rights will continue if reelected, as she was one of 11 Senators who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.

The crowd of 700 who gathered at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood then walked a mile to the Social Security Administration office on Vine St. near Santa Monica Blvd., blocking off traffic and grabbing the attention of onlookers in churches and stores along the route. At the building, a swarm of protesters of all ages gathered to watch older activists rock in a lineup of rocking chairs, telling stories of how the Social Security Administration had failed them in their time of need. Alice Herman, spoke about being denied benefits after her wife Sylvia died after 42 years together.

"At the time I was burying Sylvia and grieving her loss, I had to look for a place to live as fast I as could," says Herman. She said that because Sylvia was the breadwinner, she was left "a heartbeat away" from living in her car because she could no longer afford to live in the home they shared.

According to Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, LGBT families are excluded from collecting approximately $2 billion in the past decade because same-sex couples cannot share their benefits, even if they are married. Research from the University of California, Los Angeles shows that ineligibility for Social Security benefits costs the surviving partners of same-sex couples an average of $5,700 per year.

Atlanta's Gay Weekly 'Southern Voice' Returns

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - Atlanta's gay weekly Southern Voice will resume publishing on April 14, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported.

The newspaper, which operated for more than two decades, shuttered suddenly last November along with six other gay-related publications owned by Window Media, including the iconic Washington Blade. Former Blade employees launched DC Agenda to serve the DC gay and lesbian community, reported On Top Magazine.

After Window Media's collapse, its Atlanta-based assets - Southern Voice and David, a weekly focused on Atlanta's gay nightlife - were sold to Gaydar Magazine, LLC. "We are looking forward to serving the community once again and are working hard to produce a quality publication," publisher Matt Neumann told the paper. "The public response has been amazing and many people are awaiting our return."

David returned to publication on March 10. Neumann said initial plans call for a 10,000 print run - less than half of Southern Voice's previous circulation of 25,000.

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View From Washington: Justice?

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - If President Obama hoped the Department of Justice brief that surfaced earlier this week defending "don't ask, don't tell" was an April fool's joke, he was probably sorely disappointed, reported Kerry Eleveld for advocate.com.

When I saw the DOJ brief, the first thing that sprang to mind was the lead of a New York Times article written just after the State of the Union suggesting that Obama decided to end the gay ban specifically so he wouldn't have to defend it in court.

"President Obama and top Pentagon officials met repeatedly over the past year about repealing 'don't ask, don't tell,' the law that bans openly gay members of the military," read the January 31 piece. "But it was in Oval Office strategy sessions to review court cases challenging the ban – ones that could reach the Supreme Court – that Mr. Obama faced the fact that if he did not change the policy, his administration would be forced to defend publicly the constitutionality of a law he had long opposed."

Given this week's developments, it's a particularly fascinating account, which made me wonder if the president was as blindsided by this latest Justice installment as he reportedly was by the infamous DOMA brief from last year.

Since I'm not a lawyer, I consulted several to see what they thought of the DOJ defense in this case, Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S.A. And while it's true that Justice does not absolutely have to defend the constitutionality of a law, it's also true that not doing so is extremely rare. Although Obama has said DADT is bad policy and should be repealed, to my knowledge, he has never proclaimed it unconstitutional. So instead of examining whether DOJ should be defending the law, I was more interested in how the department defended it.

Some legal scholars like Dale Carpenter, the Earl R. Larson professor of civil rights and civil liberties law at the University of Minnesota, found the brief less deleterious than last year's initial DOMA defense in the Smelt case.

"As compared to the DOJ's truly offensive brief defending DOMA last summer, which really did go out of its way to insult gays and lesbians and to come up with new rationales for discrimination, this DADT brief is almost as constrained rhetorically and substantively as it could have been consistent with a constitutional defense of the policy," said Carpenter.

While many activists have taken issue with the DOJ attorneys' use of Colin Powell's 17-year-old testimony to make their point, Carpenter thought it was perfectly reasonable given that they were making a "rational basis" case for the law.

"As my old law professor liked to say, the rational basis test means that a law is constitutional as long as some fool can come up with a bad reason for a stupid policy," Carpenter said. "Under this test, it really does not matter that General Powell (or anybody else) has abandoned his earlier views on DADT."

But Diane Mazur, co-legal director at the Palm Center, a think tank on sexual minorities in the military, found the brief extremely troubling on several levels, even calling it borderline unethical because it misrepresented the deposition of two Palm Center witnesses.

"Usually, in a summary judgment brief you are trying to explain to the court that the parties agree about all of the facts, and the only question at hand is what is the legal significance of those facts," explained Mazur, a law professor at the University of Florida. "If you start playing around with what the facts are at that point, there's a serious problem."

According to Nathaniel Frank, one of the Palm Center witnesses and a pro-repeal advocate, DOJ lawyers twisted his testimony to make it appear as if he agreed with the facts being presented by the government.

In the brief, for instance, DOJ lawyers argued that Frank said the privacy concerns of soldiers provide a legitimate rational basis for the DADT policy.

But Frank said that although he was not willing to categorize a person's individual privacy concerns as irrational, "nowhere do I say that those feelings constitute a rational basis to discriminate against gay people."

Mazur viewed the misrepresentation as egregious. There are certainly points in a case, she said, when it's appropriate for attorneys to interpret the testimony of people through more of an advocacy lens. But the summary judgment stage is the wrong platform for that.

"It is outrageous in that setting for a lawyer to try to get a motion of summary judgment granted by shading or misrepresenting testimony," she said.

Beyond the ethical considerations, Mazur felt the brief was a definite step backward for LGBT equality by virtue of the fact that it minimizes the findings of landmark LGBT cases such as Lawrence v. Texas, which overturned sodomy laws nationwide.

"In taking that approach, the administration is going on record saying that Lawrence v. Texas isn't really saying much about the civil rights of gay people," she said.

Ultimately, the Log Cabin suit may not be the case LGBT advocates want to go before the Supreme Court, she said, "but the way the Obama administration is trying to make it go away is causing a lot of trouble."

No matter which way you slice it, the Log Cabin brief is a significant retreat from the advances made in Witt v. U.S. Dept. of the Air Force, in which DOJ let stand a ruling that shifted the burden of proof to the government on whether gay soldiers actually compromise unit cohesion.

"If you were taking the Obama administration at its word that they are moving toward repeal, Witt is actually a perfect intermediate step toward getting there," said Mazur. "The government can no longer rely on this blanket assumption that the presence of gay people is disruptive. It really exposes the inaccuracy of the original assumption."

The difference between DOJ's approach to Witt and the brief filed this week feels borderline schizophrenic, and what exactly motivated the deviation mystifies me. Even though the Civil Division of DOJ is responsible for defending legal challenges to the U.S. Constitution, it does raise the question, What exactly is the department's Civil Rights Division doing? Did Thomas Perez, head of the Civil Rights Division, have the opportunity to weigh in with the head of the Civil Division, Tony West, who was lead attorney listed on both the DOMA and Log Cabin brief?

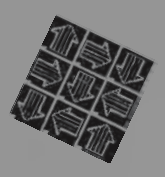
During a DOJ briefing last December, I asked Perez whether he interfaces with West on civil rights cases important to LGBT people, such as DOMA and DADT.

"The meeting I had just before this was with Tony West," he said. "We have regular coordination meetings with the Civil Division to ensure that we are frequently discussing matters of mutual interest between the Civil Division and the Civil Rights Division. So the Civil Division plays the lead role in the defense of those cases, but we certainly have conversations with them."

Perez added that the Civil Division had been "excellent at being inclusive in terms of ensuring that everybody's viewpoint" is heard within the department. I wonder if his answer would be the same this week.

One thing is clear: Obama's Justice Department is still vigorously defending a law that he, Defense secretary Gates, and Joint Chiefs chair Adm. Mullen have all said must go, while the White House doesn't seem to be in much of a hurry to overturn it based on remarks from Robert Gibbs this week.

As Richard Socarides, former LGBT adviser to President Bill Clinton, noted, "I think it's an outrage that they've got the best and brightest lawyers in Washington working overtime to defend the law when nobody at the White House has an actual legislative plan to repeal it this year."



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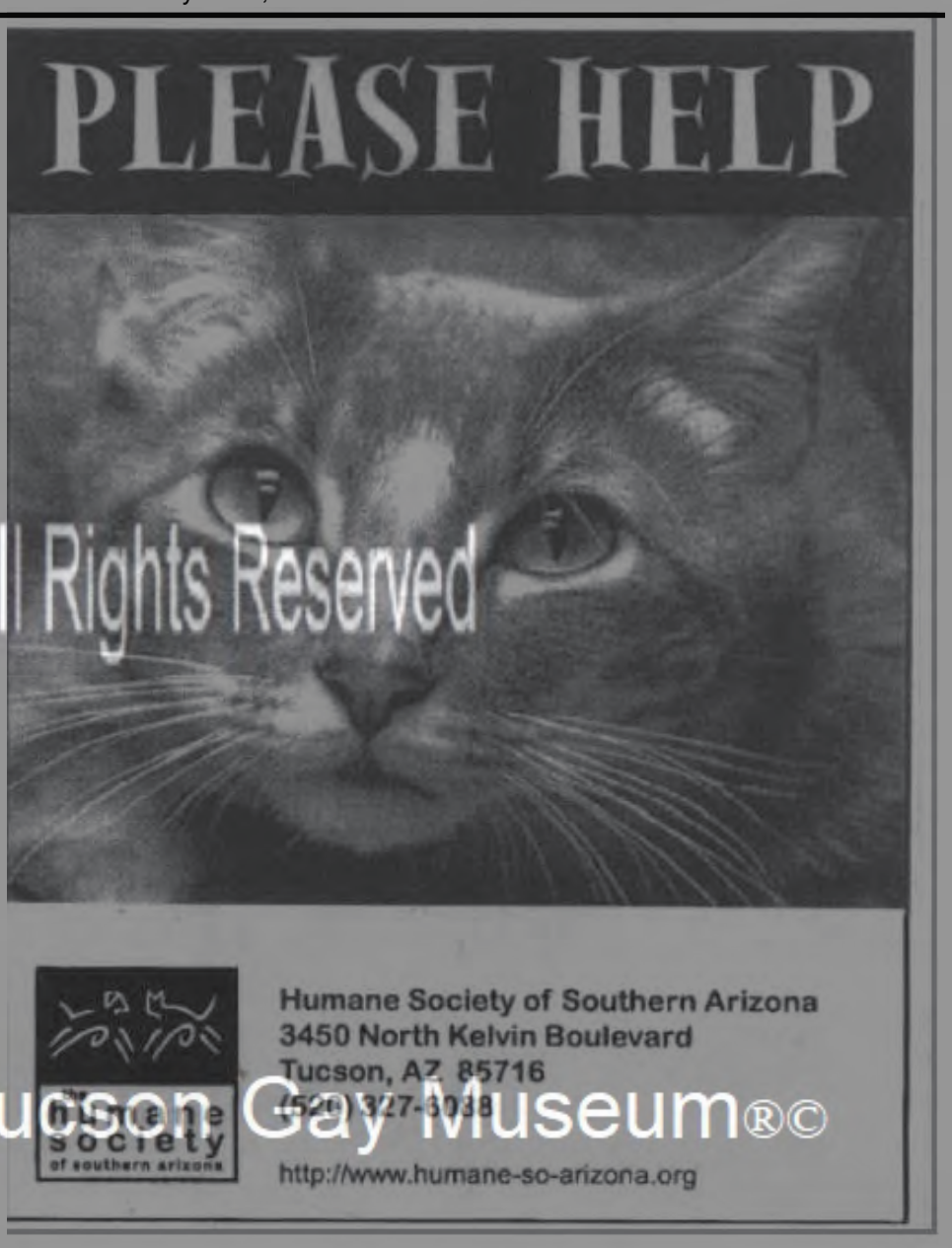

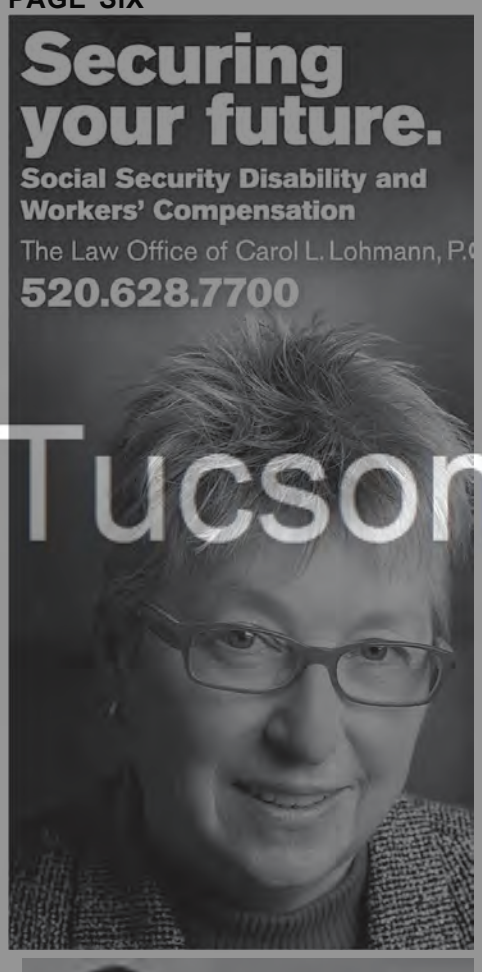

No Formal Reprimand For General Who Pushed Gay Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A high-ranking Army general won't be formally reprimanded after urging troops to lobby to keep the ban on openly gay military service, reported advocate.com.

President Barack Obama supports lifting the ban, and an active attempt to keep it in place could be considered insubordination.

But Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon's civilian boss says the three-star Army general won't receive a letter of reprimand or be forced to step down. Army Secretary John McHugh told reporters Wednesday that Mixon has been told by Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey that what he did was inappropriate.

"The chief and I believe that he is now prepared to lead in the very distinguished manner in which he has led in the past and that brought him to a very, very high level three-star position," McHugh said.

"So we will consider the matter closed as of today," he added.

Mixon's case underscores the difficulty facing Obama as he presses ahead to repeal the 1993 law known as "don't ask, don't tell." Pentagon officials say they want to hear the opinions of the troops so they can address their concerns.

McHugh said he has talked with some gay soldiers already about the policy. He said the troops wouldn't be discharged for revealing their sexual orientation in those discussions, even though doing so technically violates the law.

"What I'm trying to do is tell the troops that's it's OK to talk about this, no matter what their view is," he said.

But unsolicited pushback - particularly by senior uniformed officers - could help to mobilize resistance within the ranks that would make it difficult to change personnel policies without dividing military units and hurting troop readiness.

Mixon urged troops to speak up in support of the ban in a letter published in a military newspaper.

McHugh said he didn't think Mixon deserved harsher treatment because he now "recognizes it is inappropriate for him to become an advocate and try to shape the opinion of the force, rather than reach out and ascertain the opinion of the force."

Obama says that everyone, gay or straight, should be able to serve their country, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates has ordered a yearlong review of how to make that happen.

Some military officials, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Adm. Mike Mullen, say they agree it's time to reverse the law. But other uniformed officers - also with impressive service records, including Marine Corps Commandant James Conway - have said the law is helping to keep order and discipline and that lifting the ban during a time of two wars could be too disruptive.

In an interview this week with Congressional Quarterly, the Army's Casey said he doesn't think the majority of troops support a repeal, even though he would support the study ordered by Gates to determine if that was true. In a separate interview with Military.com, Conway pointed to logistical hurdles in repealing the ban

Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon

and said he wouldn't force Marines to share rooms with gay service members on base.

Mixon's comments were considered particularly defiant. Whereas the service chiefs reserved their most pointed criticism for congressional testimony - they are required by law to give Congress their personal opinions when asked - Mixon sent an unsolicited letter to the newspaper "Stars and Stripes" calling his troops to action.

"Now is the time," Mixon said, "to write your elected officials and chain of command and express your views. If those of us who are in favor of retaining the current policy do not speak up, there is no chance to retain the current policy."

His letter received a rare public admonishment from Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen for using his rank to advocate a political position and challenge the president.

"The answer is not advocacy. It is, in fact, to vote with your feet," Mullen said at the Pentagon.

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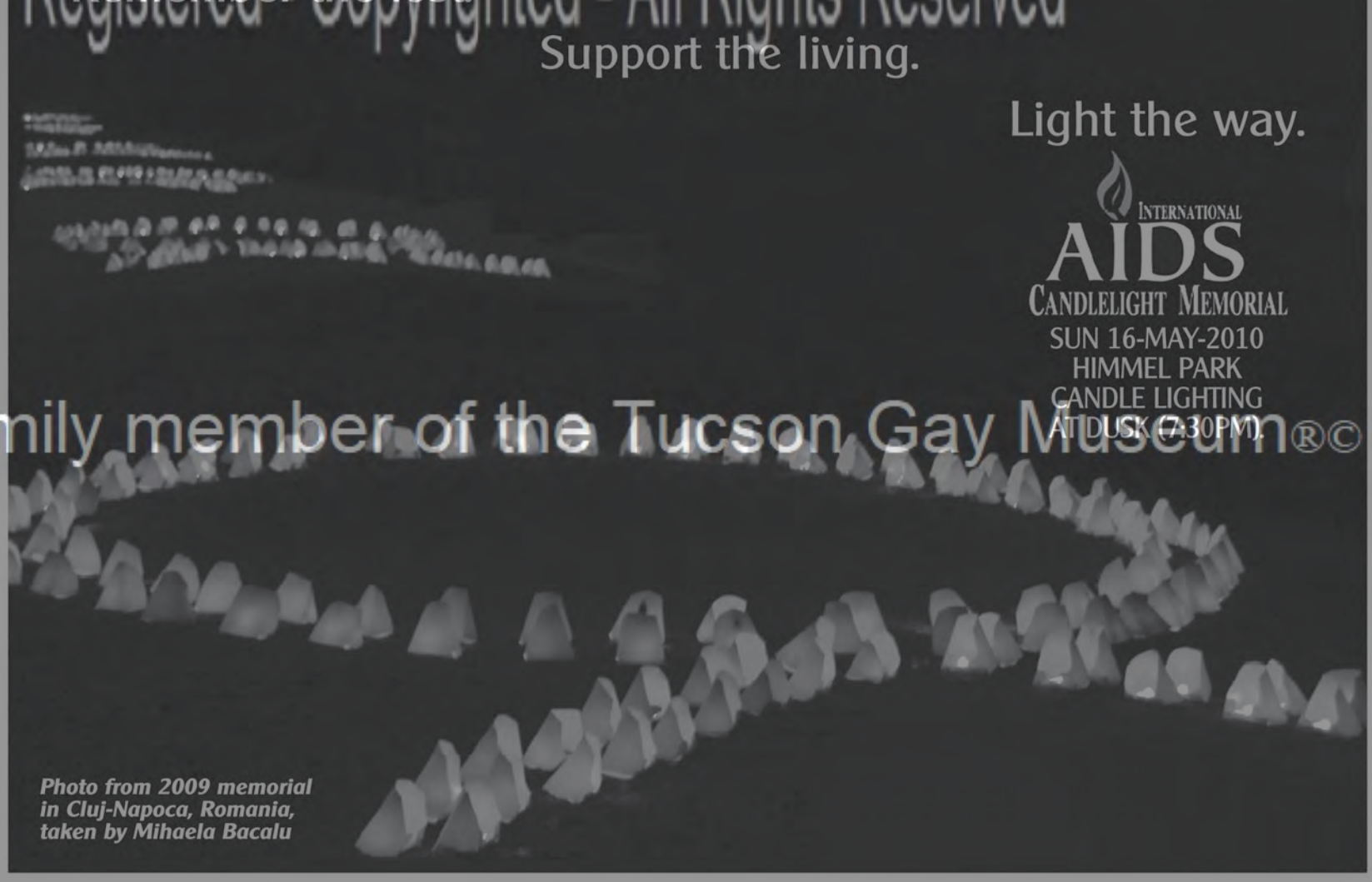

Photo from 2009 memorial in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, taken by Mihaela Bacalu

EON Is Happening

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Eon has been serving the LGBTQ and straight-allied youth community in one form or another for 22 years. But over the past few months, Eon has blossomed. "We've taken great strides to rejuvenate our programs, our delivery, and – yes – our style," says Khara Ellasante, Youth and Family Programs Manager.

Their work has paid off! Since January, participation jumped 30% from the previous quarter to an average of 92 unduplicated youth per month using the Lounge for groups, social events, and hanging out. In addition to an expanded online presence, Eon has increased its efforts to reach out to other non-profit organizations, youth programs, and schools. "We just finished a two-week long bicycle building workshop with BICAS and will have a 'Day of Silence' event with Catalina High this week," reports Stephanie Arendt, Youth Outreach Specialist.

"Over the past few months Eon as a whole has flourished," proclaims Youth Outreach Specialist, Zami Callahan, "Our dedicated staff has a broad array of skills. We've been able to widen our outreach efforts and attract even more fabulous, empowered youth. By hosting trainings for a variety of service providers and health professionals, we can create long-lasting change for LGBTQ youth in the broader community."

In March, Eon youth and staff, along with representatives from Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF) and the University of Arizona Pride Alliance, held a panel for over 40 TUSD school nurses. Participants indicated the panel gave them a greater understanding of the unique struggles LGBTQ youth face, of how to help LGBTQ students in their schools, and of how to create a safer environment for youth in the years to come.

While making waves in the community, Eon is making a splash online. Last month they launched a new webpage specifically dedicated to Eon events (www.wingspan.org/eon). "We have resurrected our Facebook and Myspace pages which now feature photos from our latest happenings and information on upcoming events. Since the page started in January, Eon on Facebook has gathered over 225 fans and followers. Our Myspace and Causes page membership continue to grow," notes Arendt.

A significant number of youth coming to Eon for the first time read about The Lounge and Eon's programs online. Family and friends of LGBTQ youth frequently use Eon's sites for information, support, and resources.

"I talked to a college student a few weeks ago whose best friend is gay and was on the verge of committing suicide," said Arendt. "She told me she's trying to be a strong ally and to help him accept himself, but she didn't know how. She went online and found Eon. And I was able to assist her in getting help for her friend." Arendt beamed.

The success of Eon depends not just on what they do online or in the community, but on the youth that they serve. Dale (name has been changed) has been coming to Eon since he was 15, and Eon staff have shared in his struggles and successes for over five years. He is one of the 47 youth who accessed Eon's Homeless Youth Project (HYP) in March, receiving food, bus passes and hygiene items to help him make ends meet. In a given month, as many as two-thirds of Eon's youth access HYP resources. By providing basic needs services, HYP supports the efforts of homeless youth to gain

Continued on Page Ten

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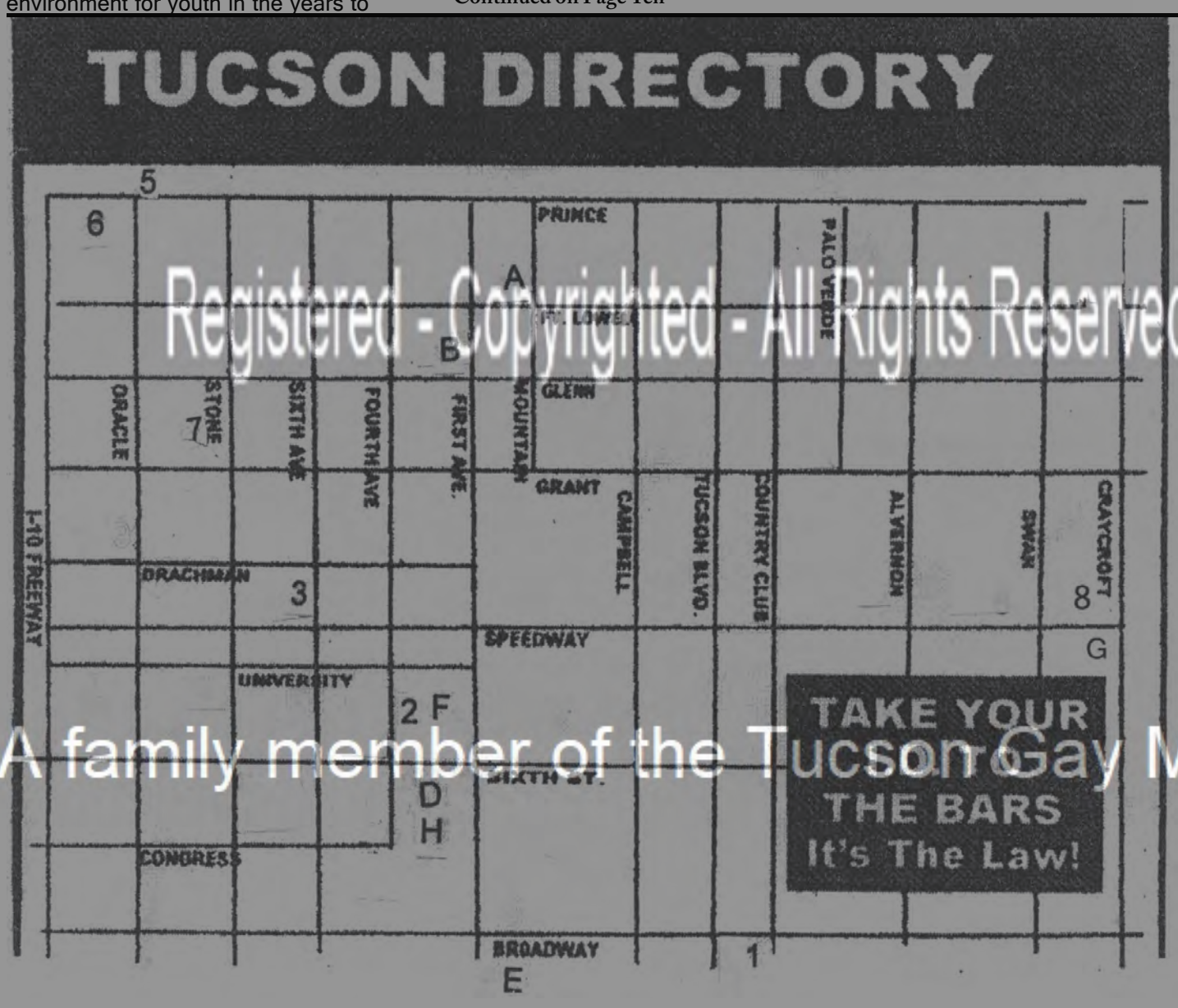

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Community Bars

1. **THE BIZ** 2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. **IBT'S** 616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
3. **VENTURE-N** 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. **WOODY'S** 3710 N. Oracle Rd, 292-6702
6. **COYOTE MOON PUB** 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
8. **COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS** 5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

Organizations

A. **MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH** 3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151

B. **CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP** 2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626

D. **WINGSPAN** 430 E. 7th Street -624-1779

E. **S.A.A.F.** - 375 S. Euclid 628-7223

G. **TIHAN** - Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network - 1101 N. Craycroft Suite 301 - 299-6647

H. **EON YOUTH CENTER** 620-6245

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For help with LGBT domestic violence, sexual violence, hate crime, harassment, and discrimination issues call the
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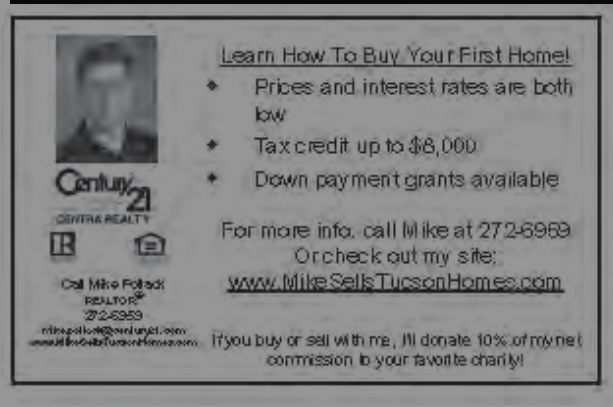

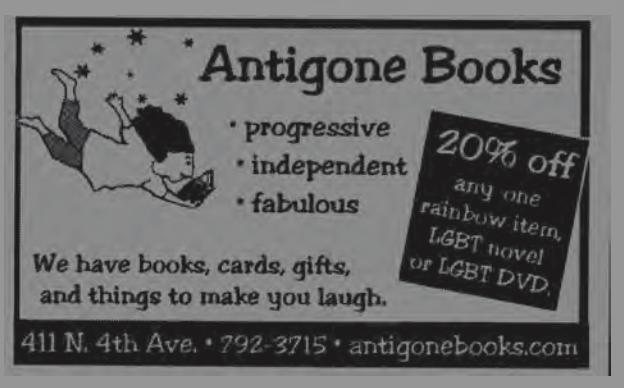

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, pleases contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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

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

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

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

INNER WISDOM _ Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579_9020

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

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

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

T-Squares, Tucson's Gay & Lesbian square dance club, dances Tuesdays 6:30_9 pm at the Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo Ave (Northwest of 1st Ave & Glenn St). No experience needed, no partner required! For more information contact Barb at 886-0716, or visit www.azgaydance.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self_help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838_3975.

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.

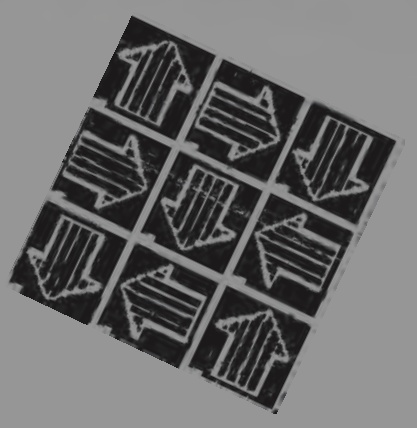
MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but 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

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



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Poet's Corner

THE G.O.P.
Grumpy Old Pirates
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Pirates roam the seven seas
Boarding ships, dumping teas
Right full rudder, firmly set
Preaching Demo's caused the debt.
Pirates with their Wall Street ties
Distort the facts, telling lies
Barach with one great mighty shout
Says, "Turn our mighty ship about"
And sink this circling grumpy crew
Palin led, they have no clue
To Davey Jones, their boat must go
With all their grumpy crew below

EON Is Happening

Continued from Page Seven

stabilized housing and independence.

"HYP's collaboration with local providers such as the 'OutShine' LGBT transitional living program and the 'iTEAM' project provides critical housing and supportive care for these young people who would not access traditional providers out of fear of rejection," adds Kevin Jackson, HYP Coordinator.

While Dale waits to be accepted in transitional housing and looks for stable employment, he's coming to the Eon Lounge almost every day for on-going peer and staff support and, of course, a little couch-surfing. Like many of the Eon youth, he's taking an active role in planning Queer Prom, one of Eon's next big social events. And Dale is working on a story to share during the AIDS Candlelight Memorial next month.

Youth like Dale, a committed team of staff and volunteers, and support from the community make Eon Southern Arizona's comprehensive program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and straight-allied youth.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLE TTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLET

Hey there:

For some of you, it has been a long time since you have heard from me, I apologize for that. For others, you got this message on facebook already, and I apologize for that, and thanks you for your support and patience. So here goes...

I am finally doing it. Two years ago, after my partner of 8 years Jim died, I attended my first Jello wrestling event to benefit a local organization, SAAF. Jim and I had been involved in SAAF's "Naked Truth" AIDS awareness campaign and he used their client services program.

Anyways, I decided that day that I wanted to get involved and this year, I am doing it. At 47 years old, I am wrestling...you all know how athletic I am...(short pause to allow for laughter and cocktail pouring). Justin, my boyfriend, who is very fit and 33, (longer pause for more cocktail sipping and laughter), and I will be participating in this event on May 2nd at Tucson Electric Park. We will be one of the teams jumping into a vat of cold jello, whipped cream and fruit cocktail to raise money for SAAF. I am attaching a link to the SAAF Jello Wrestling website so you can see what this is all about. I am also asking for your support in sponsoring us by clicking on the support a wrestler link and donating any amount you can to this great cause. We would love to see you at the event, you can purchase tickets at this site also.

Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated and it is tax deductable, thanks and look out Tucson, Team Fruit of the Loom is coming, get ready to pick some Fruit.

By the way, the photo posted on the donation page may be a bit risque for some, but hey, this is a fundraiser and we are pulling out all the stops...lol, I am not that young anymore...haha

Click below to go to this fun website

http://www.jello-wrestling.org

Click on this site to take you to my fundraising page: www.firstgiving.com/davefredricks1

Thanks again for your time and support, for those of you that cant make it, I will be getting a video and pix of our competition and sending it out after the event...that alone is worth a couple bucks lol.

Dave Fredricks

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Soulforce Announces New Executive Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Soulforce, which advocates for the end of anti-LGBT discrimination through the use of nonviolent resistance, has named Dr. Cindi Love its new executive director. Love, who most recently led the University Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, will start her new position on April 22, reported On Top Magazine.

According to a news release from Soulforce, Love served as executive director of MCC from 2005 to 2009. Previously, she served as senior executive of the Toro Company and CEO and founder of several award-winning corporations. Love created the Would Jesus Discriminate? campaign and authored a book of the same name. She was named one of the "Top 50 Entrepreneurs" in North America by Inc. Magazine, the Young Entrepreneur's Organization, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990.

As executive director, Love will lead an organization that uses the nonviolent resistance and direct action principals of Mohandas Gandhi and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King to end political and religious oppression of LGBT people. Currently, Soulforce Equality Riders are on a 16-city American tour to colleges with oppressive policies against LGBT students.

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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 piano & vocal sounds of Susan Artemis 6-9 p.m.;

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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Holocaust Remembrance Honors Gay VIctims

GAINSVILLE (Observer Update) - On Sunday (April 11), which marked the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day, a program of events in Gainesville, Fla. honored gay victims of Nazi persecution.

Coordinators at B'nai Israel Jewish Center honored gay Holocaust victims as a reminder of the sinister forces that underlie all hate, including recent crimes in the community, according to The Gainesville Sun.

"Recent homophobic events in the city and the efforts to introduce bigotry and intolerance into the mayor's race showed us that this was a poignant time for us to introduce this topic," Holocaust Memorial Program committee member Phillip Schwartz told the Sun.

According to the Sun, keynote Speaker Geoffrey Giles, a history professor at the University of Florida, planned to contrast the parallel Nazi depictions of Jews and homosexuals, and their experiences in the Holocaust.

"The Holocaust is something that really concerns us all in terms of the relative ease with which hate groups can really gain support," said Giles. "And how easily that can spiral out of control."

Estimates vary widely as to the number of gay victims of the Holocaust. Some figures number in the hundreds of thousands.

Syndicated Broadcaster Urges Gay Youth To Seek 'Cure'

Dawson McAllister

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Undercover phone calls reveal that when young gay people call into the nationally syndicated radio show Dawson McAllister Live to discuss their problems, representatives who believe homosexuality is comparable to "adultery, theft or murder" counsel callers to seek a "cure" through God and direct them to "ex-gay" groups, reported advocate.com.

Greg Kimball at KnowThyNeighbor.org wanted to investigate how the show, geared toward teenagers on Top 40 radio stations nationwide, would handle a youth caller questioning his sexuality. According to his own account, the 24-year-old pretended to be a 16-year-old boy this past Sunday and spoke with a representative for 20 minutes.

"The first thing he told me (which he told me several times throughout our conversation) is that they get a ton of calls like this," said Kimball. "He then asked if I had been raised religiously. I told him no, and that is where things began to explode. He told me that it is common for 'children raised with no God to question their sexuality.' He went on to say that 'if I embraced God, I could be cured.' He continued, comparing homosexuality to 'alcoholism or pornography or drug addiction.' He said that 'homosexuality was not natural.' He then quoted several Bible verses, saying that homosexuality was just as bad as 'adultery, theft, or murder.'"

In a follow up call, Kimball, still posing as a 16-year-old boy, spoke with a different representative, who directed him to "ex-gay" groups like Exodus International and Live Hope Ministries.

$2 Million Helps Gay Music Students

BALTIMORE (Observer Update) - A former student of the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University has bequeathed $2 million to the music institution to help students who are marginalized and lack support because they are gay or lesbian.

According to The Baltimore Sun, "The bequest, among the largest future commitments made to Peabody, will create the Tristan W. Rhodes Scholarship Fund 'for the benefit of students who are gay or lesbian and have been disenfranchised by their families and therefore have lost support for education expenses,' the agreement reads."

The bequest will take effect after Rhodes, 62, dies. A choir director, pianist, and organist, he attended the school but left before he could graduate in 1962. He told the Sun that the gift was inspired by a friend whose potential literary career suffered after she came out to her conservative family.

"She was a fellow New Yorker," said Rhodes. "She could have had a brilliant literary career, but when she came out to her parents, they kicked her out. They were a very conservative Jewish family. She was dealing drugs to survive and she ended up a hairdresser. Her parents just threw her away. I don't want that to happen to anyone with a gift, particularly a gift in my field."

The bequest will also permit scholarships to be awarded to gay and lesbian students who have the support of their families, but need financial help.

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