Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER | MAY 12, 2010 | ISSUE 1346

Tucson Observer Archives

Elena Kagan Tapped For Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - President Barack Obama on Monday nominated Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court, declaring she would demonstrate the same independence, integrity and passion for the law exhibited by retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, reported the AP on Huffington Post.

If confirmed by the Senate, Kagan would become the third woman on the high court. At 50, she is relatively young for the lifetime post and could help shape the high court's decisions for decades. The former Harvard Law School dean "is widely regarded as one of the nation's foremost legal minds," Obama said. He introduced her in the White House East Room as "my friend."

Kagan said she was "honored and humbled by this nomination." She called it "the honor of a lifetime."

"I look forward to working with the Senate and thank you, Mr. President, for this honor of a lifetime."

Obama cited what he called Kagan's "openness to a broad array of viewpoints" and her "fair mindedness."

"Our constituents deserve a civil and thoughtful debate on this nomination, followed by an up-or-down vote," he said.

The Republican leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said his party would make sure there was a "thorough process, not a rush to judgment" on the nomination. "Judges must not be a rubber-stamp for any administration. Judges must not walk into court with a preconceived idea of who should win," he said, adding that Republicans would have a vigorous debate on that principle.

Obama began with high praise for the retiring Stevens, a leader of the court's liberals, calling him "a giant in the law," impartial and having respect for legal precedence. Kagan "embodies the same excellence, independence and passion for the law," Obama said.

"She's an acclaimed legal scholar with a rich understanding of constitutional law. She is a former White House aide, with a lifelong commitment to public service and a firm grasp of the nexus and boundaries between our three branches of government," Obama said. Kagan served in the Clinton White House.

Obama noted that neither Kagan's mother nor father "lived to see this day, but I think her mother would relish this moment. I think she would relish, as I do, the prospect of three women taking their seat on the nation's highest court for the first time in history ... a court that would be more inclusive, more representative, more reflective of us as a people than ever before."

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22nd Annual Tucson AIDS Candlelight Memorial May 16

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TUCSON (Observer Update) - The 22nd annual Tucson AIDS Candlelight Memorial will be held the Sunday, May 16, with lighting of candles at sunset at Himmel Park (First Street/ Tucson Blvd.), 5:30 - 9 p.m.

This year's theme is "Many Lights for Human Rights." Join communities around the world for the oldest tradition against HIV/AIDS.

The purpose is to honor all those affected by the AIDS pandemic, as well as to educate about HIV/AIDS, influence local and national policy makers, and create community dialogue about HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment.

For more information call (520) 624-1779.

EDITORIAL.....

Three Votes

On Tuesday, May 18, voters across Arizona will go to the polls to determine whether to codify for the next three years, an increase of one cent on the state sales tax, raising it from 5.6 cents to 6.6 cents.

Two-thirds of the monies raises would be appropriated for public primary and secondary education and one-third would be appropriated for health and human services and public safety purposes.

Proposition 100 is a temporary tax hike, not permanent and will go for the services designated.

This is the first of three important votes Arizonans will face this year. For the editorial staff of the Observer, it is a simple choice. Yes to save education, health and human services and for the Department of Public Safety. Nothing more and nothing less.

Then our work doesn't stop with this vote. On August 24, vote for solid, progressive-minded candidates in the primary election and on November 2, vote out the idiots who got Arizona into the mess with their ideological extremism.

At Equality Forum: Dan Choi Urges All To Engage In LGBT Rights

PHILADELPHIA (Observer Update) - At a special panel at Equality Forum, Lt. Dan Choi urged everyone to participate in the gay rights movement, reported On Top Magazine.

In answering a question about whether he would be interested in running for elected office, Choi, the nation's most visible opponent of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the 1993 law that forces gay troops to serve in secret, evaded the question, saying he's "already in politics," then added that participation in the equality movement came with few requirements.

"It doesn't require someone to be called representative or senator or councilmember, what have you," Choi said in response to Sirius XM OutQ News' Tim Curran. "I think every single one of us has a moral responsibility to step up."

Choi, 29, an Arab linguist, was discharged from the Army under "Don't Ask" last year after he announced he was gay on MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show. He is currently appealing the Army's decision.

Over the past month, activists have ratcheted up their demands for repeal as a narrow window of opportunity to repeal the law this year continues to shrink. Congress is preparing to vote out of committee next year's defense budget - believed to be the best bet for repeal - but the White House and the Pentagon appear united in urging lawmakers to kick repeal down the road a bit.

Choi, and at least 10 other gay activists, have handcuffed themselves to the White House gate during three separate demonstrations in protest of the military gay ban. Choi has been arrested twice.

Continued on Page Two

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.

EON Prom May 14

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Eon's Annual Prom is happening Friday, May 14, from 6:00 - 11:00 pm, in the Art Gallery on the northwest corner of Speedway and Stone. The theme is Famous Couples and Celebrities, so dress to impress as your favorite celebrity or famous couple!

There will be a drag show, raffle, food, and, of course, a DJ hosted dance party!

Eon's Prom Queen and King and Princess and Prince will also be revealed and crowned that night. Haven't voted for your Court Royalty candidate yet? Eon youth are welcome to come into the Lounge, 3:00 - 8:00 pm, Monday through Friday and cast your vote for Eon's next Prom Queen and King!

The EON Prom is free, open only to ages 13-23, and is a safe and sober event. While this is a free event, but a canned food and additional donations at the door will benefit Eon's Homeless Youth Project. For more informaiton, contact Stephanie Arendt (520) 624-1779, eonyouth@wingspan.org.

Bowling For Tommy May 21

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Bowling for Tommy is a memorial event honoring the work and legacy of Tommy Gin, a SAAF Board Member and an active community member.

Register now for a fun evening of cosmic bowling in Tommy's memory on Friday, May 21, 2010 from 6-8pm at Camino Seco Bowl.

Join this event as an Individual Bowler or as a Corporate Sponsor Bowling Team. The cost is $30 per person for all ages. The evening includes: bowling shoes, unlimited cosmic bowling, 1 large pizza and a pitcher of soda per lane (6 people per lane).

Register Now at saaf.wufoo.com/forms/bowling-for-tommy/

HIV Testing Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - HIV Counseling and Testing is provided in collaboration with the Pima County Health Department.

Testing is available at SAAF, local bars, and at community events throughout the year. All tests are confidential. SAAF uses a Rapid HIV Test, with results available in approximately 15 minutes.

For more information on testing or to make an appointment, please call (520) 628-7223.

Border Action Network Entertainment Night May 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Join Border Action Network Saturday, May 15, 6:00 p.m., at Hotel Congress for a night of great entertainment and information regarding SB 1070.

Border Action Network has been on the front lines of the fight against SB 1070 since its introduction. We are having this event to raise funds for our comprehensive effort to fight this bill at a legal and community level. If you feel this is an unjust law, please join us Saturday night May 15th. At 6:00 pm we'll kick it off with a silent auction and art sale in the Plaza while we enjoy the mariachi border songs of Pablo, Sally and Bubba. The wonderful Mariachi Tesoro de Tucson follows and Poi Zen fire dancers will present two enlightening performances during the evening.

In the Club, Tucson favorites, The Last Call Girls play followed by the amazing Kevin Pakulis Band. The auction ends at 9:00 pm. Please note: some of our art and sculpture pieces were created especially for this event. We are also auctioning off two JMStar scooters! We promise you a wonderful Tucson evening with information, education and joyful music!

Suggested donation $10.00. For more information, contact Jill (520) 623-4944, jill@borderaction.org.

Lutheran Church In Atlanta Reinstates Gay Pastors

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - A Lutheran denomination is reinstating a gay Atlanta pastor and his partner to its clergy roster, reported 365Gay.com.

The Chicago-based Evangelical Lutheran Church in America said Tuesday the Rev. Bradley Schmeling and the Rev. Darin Easler have been approved for reinstatement. Schmeling, who served as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Atlanta, was removed from the church's clergy roster in 2007 for being in a same-gender relationship with Easler.

The church adopted revisions to ministry policy documents last month, making it possible for "eligible Lutherans in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships" to serve as clergy. Easler was removed from the clergy roster in 2006 after having been without a parish for three years.

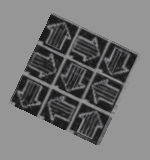
At Equality Forum:

Continued from Page One

"Would you have thought two years ago, my being an Army officer, closeted, Southern Baptist family, Korean-American, that I would be the voice for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' or that I would be a gay activist?"

"The fact of the matter is, there is no perfect resume for anybody to participate. All that is required from you is for you to stand up and reclaim your dignity," he added.

Equality Forum is the annual LGBT activist meet up in Philadelphia.



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

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Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Civil Unions Unequal To Marriage

TRENTON (Observer Update) - The American Civil Liberties Union submitted an amicus brief for a lawsuit in New Jersey, which argues that civil unions are not equal to marriages, reported advocate.com.

According to a statement from the ACLU of New Jersey, the courts have allowed legislatures to enact separate systems of rights for minorities, but the ACLU contends that judges have always struck down those systems when they are shown to perpetuate disparities.

Vice dean of Rutgers-Newark School of Law Ronald Chen authored the amicus brief on behalf of the ACLU-NJ and seven other notable minority rights and civil rights organizations.

"A separate system of rights for a particular minority group has once again failed to fulfill the actual promise of equality, as has been the case throughout history," he said in a press release.

The state began issuing civil unions in 2006, after a court decided that gay couples deserved equal treatment.

The other signatories to the brief submitted today are the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Asian-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Garden State Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, Legal Momentum, and the National Organization for Women of New Jersey.

Centrist Democrats Balking At ENDA Vote

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - As pressure for a vote on the Employment Non-discrimination Act this month increases, some moderate Democrats are concerned that a show of support for the transgender inclusive legislation could hurt their reelection prospects, reported advocate.com.

According to The Hill, "The bill scares centrist Democrats, who don't want to be forced to vote on a hot-button issue popular on the left as they approach November congressional elections in which heavy Democratic losses are expected."

In 2007, a version of ENDA without transgender protections won support from some centrists, and passed the House in a bipartisan vote of 235 to 184.

"The Democratic whip's office has circulated an e-mail asking members if they'd support a version of the non-discrimination act that includes the transgender protection and if they'd oppose an anticipated motion to recommit that would water down or strike that provision," reported The Hill.

Some Republicans who supported the bill in 2007 said they would not support the transgender inclusive bill this year, while dozens of Democrats who supported the 2007 bill have not signed on as cosponsors this year.

Congressman Barney Frank of Massachusetts, the bill's chief sponsor, remains confident that it will pass, although its fate in the senate remains uncertain. The senate did not vote on ENDA after it passed the House in 2007.

AROUND THE GAY GLOBE. . .

A violent attack marred Lithuania's first gay pride parade on Saturday (May 8), where about 400 people marched for equality in a sealed off area of downtown Vilnius. More than 1,000 protesters threw smoke bombs and tried to break through the barrier before being stopped by police firing tear gas, according to the Associated Press. Unable to pass the barrier, protesters then started throwing rocks and street signs at police. Two Lithuanian lawmakers were detained after trying to climb the barrier, and a Catholic mass was held at the nearby national cathedral to pray for the gays. Eight-hundred police officers were put on duty to secure the event. They detained 19 people.

Gay marriage is a big step closer to becoming law in Argentina. The House of Deputies approved same-sex marriage by an ample margin Wednesday and sent the legislation for consideration in the Senate. President Cristina Fernandez has promised not to veto the measure if it reaches her desk. Gay rights activist Esteban Paulon calls it historic – the first time a gay marriage initiative has been debated in a national legislature in Latin America. Five gay and lesbian couples already have been married by Argentine judges who say the country's constitution supports freedom of choice for couples. But other judges have overturned some of those marriages as illegal. The Roman Catholic Church strongly opposes the legislation.

A man who stabbed his husband to death in Manchester, England, was sentenced to life in prison. Michael Edwards, 32, will serve 13 years before he becomes eligible for parole in the U.K.'s first domestic violence murder case in a same-sex marriage. Edwards admitted in court to stabbing his husband, John Edwards, 35, after a night of drinking in the Manchester bar where they both worked. An argument over a heating bill became violent. Michael Edwards grabbed a knife and chased John Edwards, stabbing him in the chest. He died from the wounds the following day. Manchester Crown Court Judge Anthony Gee told the defendant, "You went through a civil ceremony together and in the main you lived happily together thereafter. I am prepared to accept that you now bitterly regret your actions and the loss you have caused," UPI reported.

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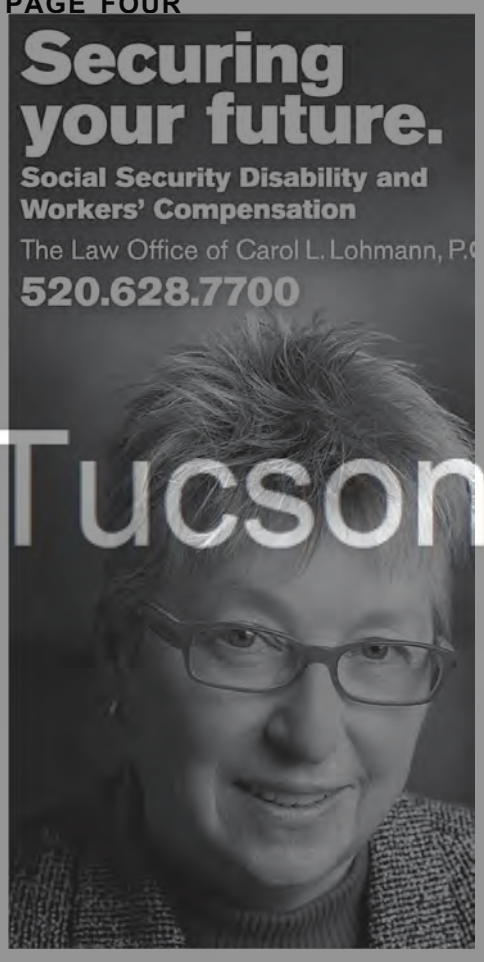

DADT Repeal In Jeopardy

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Capitol Hill insiders continue to assess the fallout on "don't ask, don't tell" following a potentially game-changing letter in which Secretary of Defense Robert Gates urged for a delay, reported advocate.com.

Armed Services Committee chair Ike Skelton of Missouri not to vote on repeal before the Pentagon completes its implementation study in December.

"Clearly the world changed dramatically with the Gates letter," said one Hill veteran who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Everyone is trying to figure out how to put Humpty Dumpty back together again."

The source said that prior to Gates's letter, Senator Carl Levin of Michigan who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee was just one to two votes shy of the 15 needed to attach a repeal measure to this year's Department of Defense authorization bill in committee. Folding repeal into the must-pass Defense funding bill in committee would place the onus on those who oppose repeal to find 51 votes to strip out the measure on the Senate floor.

Multiple sources worried that moderate Democrats such as Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia would now be nearly impossible to sway.

"When people are asked to vote against the recommendations of the Defense Secretary, that makes it a very heavy lift," said the source.

Another Hill insider said the question now is whether it's possible to usher through some alternative approach, such as taking a repeal vote this year but delaying implementation in accordance with the Pentagon's preferred timeline.

"But that would require the White House weighing in and changing the dynamic and I'm not confident they will do it," said the source, who also agreed to speak on the condition of anonymity.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs appeared to be unfamiliar with such a delayed implementation strategy during Wednesday's press briefing but said he would check into it.

The source said there were likely two schools of thought in the White House on the matter.

"Some are probably saying, 'We made deal with Gates and we just need to stick with that.' Others might be saying, 'The community is kicking the crap out of us right now and we need to come up with a Plan B.'"

The "deal" the source referred to was the probable understanding that the Pentagon would be allowed to steward the implementation process according its own timeline. The source added that finding a "Plan B" would require the White House to reengage Secretary Gates on the matter of repeal in order to find common ground.

Both sources said it was difficult to know where the votes stood now in the Senate Armed Services Committee, but that things should become clearer in another two to three weeks.

They both agreed that Rep. Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, chief sponsor of the House repeal bill (H.R. 1283), had the 216 votes to pass the measure as either a stand-alone bill or an attachment to the Defense authorization bill on the House floor.

"The question is, does the House want to take a vote on something that might go nowhere in the Senate?" said the second source. The House has already passed more than 300 bills this Congressional session on which the Senate has yet to act, and as the midterm elections loom, some members worry that every new vote is a potential liability that could be turned against them. The House is likely to consider the Defense funding bill on the House floor the week of May 24 – the same week that the Senate Armed Services Committee is scheduled to vote on the legislation. Repeal advocates have been concerned that simultaneous consideration in both chambers could hamper efforts to attach a repeal measure; they generally believe the best-case scenario would be for the Senate Armed Services Committee to address the issue first.

Another alternative to full repeal might the fallback of putting a moratorium on discharges.

The second source said suspending discharges might gain traction even though advocates have been reluctant to settle for anything less than full repeal.

"If you buy into the idea that the Pentagon study is not about if but when, it makes perfect sense."

Though Pentagon officials have consistently opposed suspending discharges, some Democratic leaders on the Hill continue to support it, suggesting that it may be a potential alternative to voting on full repeal this year. Sen. Levin has been floating the concept publicly for several months, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on the administration to "immediately place a moratorium on dismissals" in her response to the letter from Secretary Gates.

Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts has strongly advocated for full repeal but in an interview prior to the Gates letter said a moratorium could certainly be better than nothing.

"If it was a moratorium that was only going to be for six months and then ['don't ask, don't tell'] would go back into effect, that would be a problem," he said. "But a moratorium that would be the first step to abolition is almost as good as abolition right away."

Elton John Banned From Egypt Concert

CAIRO (Observer Update) - Elton John will not be performing a private concert in Egypt this month, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Egypt's Music Union, which controls what foreign stars perform in Egypt, banned John from the planned May 18 performance, reported 365Gay.com. The foreign news agency DPA reported Mounir al-Wasimi, head of the Music Union, said he could not sanction an event from "a homosexual who wants to ban religions, claimed that the prophet Issa (Jesus) was gay and calls for Middle Eastern countries to allow gays to have sexual freedom."

Al-Wasimi was referring to controversial comments John made during an interview with Parade magazine several months ago. "I think Jesus was a compassionate, super-intelligent gay man who understood human problems," he told Parade in February. "On the cross, he forgave the people who crucified him. Jesus wanted us to be loving and forgiving. I don't know what makes people so cruel. Try being a gay woman in the Middle East – you're as good as dead."

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BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ

130-Year-Old Cross-Dressing Ban Repealed

OAKLAND (Observer Update) - After more than 130 years of being banned, it is now legal to cross-dress in Oakland, California, reported 365Gay.com.

City Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan proposed a repeal of the century-old law saying such laws are frequently used to oppress the LGBT community. The council voted unanimously Tuesday to remove the ban. A second vote is necessary to complete the repeal process. That vote is set for May 18.

The law, adopted in 1879, bans people from dressing "in the attire of a person of the opposite sex," the Associated Press reported. Officials said the law was never enforced.

Calif. Asssembly Passes Bill Eliminating Barriers To Dissolve Marriages, Domestic Partnerships For Same-Sex Couples

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - The California State Assembly passed the Separation Equity Act (AB 2700) in a 44-21 vote. The bill, introduced by Assemblymember Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco) and co-sponsored by Equality California and the Conference of California Bar Associations, would create a consolidated form and procedure to dissolve both a civil marriage and domestic partnership.

"Currently, couples must navigate a confusing system that is especially daunting for those who lack legal representation," said Geoff Kors, Equality California executive director. "Since the State of California treats the relationships of same-sex couples differently, we need this legislation to prevent couples from having to jump through bureaucratic hoops until we restore a system of fairness and equality."

AB 2700 would amend the state's family code, allowing for couples who first registered as domestic partners and who legally married thereafter, to dissolve both contracts through a single, uniform procedure. The current system forces couples to go through a separate process for each. "AB 2700 brings us a step closer towards marriage equality by recognizing that ALL marriages are treated alike, even when it comes to dissolving marriages," Assemblymember Ma said.

ROTC Student Must Return $80,000 Scholarship After Coming Out

CHAPEL HILL (Observer Update) - The costly military ban, Don't Ask, Don't Tell, is adding up to almost $80,000 in debt for one University of North Carolina student, reported 365Gay.com. Sara Isaacson was offered an ROTC scholarship that financed her UNC education. But the values the ROTC instilled in her left her with a conundrum: Should she come out to her commander?

"What it came down to for me is that I felt I needed to come out to my commander because of integrity," Isaacson told Campus Politics. "Integrity is one of the seven Army values and is something that they train us to live by every day, every second, whether someone's watching or not. … Without realizing it, the policy really asks people to lie, to lie about who they are, to tell small lies about what they did or didn't do. It's something that I wasn't willing to do because if I don't have my values to fall back on, I have nothing."

As a result, her battalion is recommending she repay her scholarships: The bill now stands at $79,265.14. "I really don't know how I'm going to make it happen. I don't have $80,000 in my back pocket to just give to the Army," she said.

Marquette Accused Of Re-scinding Job Offer To Lesbian

Jodi O'Brien

MILWAUKEE (Observer Update) - A Seattle University professor is accusing Marquette University of offering her a job and rescinding the offer when they learned she is a lesbian, 365Gay.com reported.

Jodi O'Brien told WISN 12 News she accepted a post as Dean of Marquette's College of Arts and Sciences, but the university's president stepped in before it was made public. "I'm stunned and disappointed," she said. "The College of Arts and Sciences at Marquette is strong and vibrant, and I was looking forward to working with the students and faculty there."

Hundreds of students protested the decision, chanting and carrying signs outside the annual faculty dinner. Students and professors told WISN the school was scared off after they discovered O'Brien's academic writings about gay marriage and sex. "This is not about sexual orientation," Marquette spokesperson Brigid O'Brien Miller told WISN. "This is about looking through the prism of a major leadership position and someone's total academic writings and public work."

G/L Parents Win Rights In New York

ALBANY (Observer Update) - New York State's highest court affirmed two cases on parental rights for non-biological parents, reported 365Gay.com. In the first case, the court voted 4-3 to allow a woman to seek child support from her former partner, even if the ex is not the biologically related.

In the other case, which experts cited as the more important of the two, the court ruled the non-biological parent can seek visitation rights on a child that she helped raise.

"In many ways this is a real breakthrough in New York," Susan Sommer, senior counsel and director of constitutional litigation for Lambda Legal told the New York Times.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

End The Gay Ban

Ex-President Harry S. Truman and Family

("Stories from the Frontlines: Letters to President Barack Obama" is a new media campaign launched to underscore the urgent need for congressional action and presidential leadership at this critical point in the fight to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). Every weekday morning as we approach the markup of the Defense Authorization bill in the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, SLDN and a coalition of voices supporting repeal, will share an open letter to the President from a person impacted by this discriminatory law. We are urging the President to include repeal in the Administration's defense budget recommendations, but also to voice his support as we work to muster the 15 critical votes needed on the Senate Armed Services Committee to include repeal. The Defense Authorization bill represents the best legislative vehicle to bring repeal to the president's desk. It also was the same vehicle used to pass DADT in 1993. By working together, we can help build momentum to get the votes! We ask that you forward and post these personal stories.)

May 7, 2010

President Barack H. Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Tomorrow, my family and I will mark the 126th anniversary of my grandfather President Harry Truman's birthday. There are many reasons we celebrate his life and contributions to our nation, but in particular we are proud of his decision to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces in July 1948, which paved the way for future civil rights advancements.

It was not easy. He faced fierce opposition from inside and outside the military. Many, including Army Chief of Staff Gen. Omar Bradley, argued that mixing black and white soldiers would destroy the Army.

My grandfather, however, was appalled that African-American service members had been beaten and lynched upon their return home from fighting in World War II. They had risked their lives to defend our nation, but were denied the full rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. Implementation of his order to desegregate wasn't easy, but it made our military stronger and our nation a brighter beacon of democracy.

There are strong parallels between the desegregation of the military and the debate over "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law that mandates the firing of a service member based solely on his or her sexual orientation. Opponents argue that allowing openly gay and lesbian service members to serve alongside their heterosexual comrades will endanger discipline and morale.

While I have no idea where my grandfather would stand on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," I do know that he admired service and sacrifice. An estimated 66,000 gay and lesbian Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Coastguardsmen are willingly risking their lives to defend our nation, despite being treated as second class citizens.

I would hope that my grandfather would want his openly gay great-granddaughter and others like her to have the opportunity to serve the country they love with dignity and integrity.

Mr. President, as you have said many times, including in your State of the Union Address earlier this year, ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is the right thing to do. This year is the right time to do it.

I commend you for your commitment and hope the example of my grandfather, Harry Truman, will help you lead with the same courage and conviction to ensure the "equality of treatment and opportunity for all who serve our nation's defense."

Respectfully,
Clifton Truman Daniel

Judge Hears Arguments On Federal Marriage Law

BOSTON (Observer Update) - An attorney for married gay couples has argued that the federal Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional because it treats same-sex married couples differently than heterosexual couples, 365Gay.com reported.

Mary Bonauto, an attorney with Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, said in federal court in Boston that the law denies gay couples an array of federal benefits, including the financial advantages of filing joint tax returns.

U.S. District Court Judge Joseph Tauro heard arguments on the government's request to dismiss the lawsuit, and on a request from the gay couples to find the law unconstitutional.

A Justice Department lawyer says the Obama administration wants the act repealed, but that the department is obliged to defend the constitutionality of laws passed by Congress.

IN A LIGHTER VEIN . . . . . .

Gay Adoption Play 'The Kid' Opens Off Broadway

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - An Off Broadway production of "The Kid," based on sex columnist Dan Savage's gay adoption memoir of the same name, opened Monday, May 10, reported 365Gay.com.

The musical looks at what happens when Savage and his partner, Terry, decide to start a family."We also wanted to create a musical that was true to the experiences of Dan Savage and his partner, Terry, capture the essence of who they were, without just imposing our own plot and music on their lives," the author of the musical, Michael Zam, told the New York Times. "But it was also thrilling to create a show around a person who is not your standard role-model character, who is insightful about his foibles and admits to them and who has all these powerful emotions that we knew – somehow – could be turned into powerful songs."

Savage said watching a recent performance was "a surreal experience."

Tony Award Nominations Announced

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The Tony Award nominations announced Tuesday include a host of gay stars and storylines, reported 365Gay.com. Leading the pack with 11 nominations is a tie between "Fela!" and "La Cage aux Folles."

Among the Tony nods:

Out actor Robin De Jesus earned a nomination for best featured actor in "La Cage aux Folles." He earned a nod in 2008 for "In the Heights," but did not win.

Sean Hayes of "Will & Grace" fame got nominated as best actor in a leading role in his Broadway debut role in "Promises, Promises."

Levi Kreis, the out vocalist, made his first appearance on Broadway as Jerry lee Lewis in "Million Dollar Quartet," and earned a best featured actor nod.

"In the Next Room," also called the vibrator play, won three Tony nods including best play.

"Next Fall" also won a nod for best play. It was also nominated in the best direction category.

Anti-Gay Movement Leader Spotted In Airport With Rent-Boy

MIAMI (Observer Update) - George Alan Rekers, a co-founder of the Family Research Council, was caught on camera returning to a Miami airport after a 10-day holiday. His escort through the airport, according to a Miami New Times investigation, is truly an escort. He advertises his services on male escort directory rentboy.com.

According to the New Times report, Rekers payed for a 10-day trip to Europe with a rentboy who was referred to as a "travel assistant."

Rekers is a rabid Christian with vehemently antigay values. He's published numerous articles and books including "Growing Up Straight: What Families Should Know About Homosexuality." He's advised U.S. government leaders and his testimony in Florida helped cement the state's gay adoption ban.

"While he keeps a low public profile, his fingerprints are on almost every anti-gay effort to demean and dehumanize LGBT people," Wayne Besen, a gay rights advocate in New York City and executive director of Truth Wins Out told New Times. "His work is ubiquitously cited by lobby groups that work to deny equality to LGBT Americans. Rekers has caused a great deal of harm to gay and lesbian individuals."

George Alan Rekers

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Organizations

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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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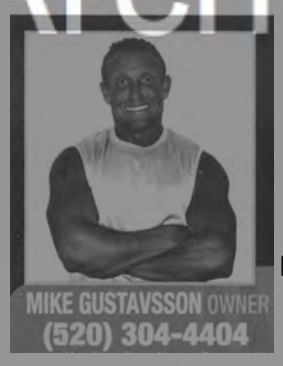

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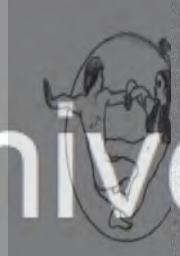

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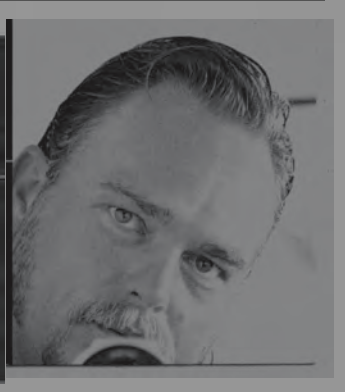

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, pleases contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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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

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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

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.

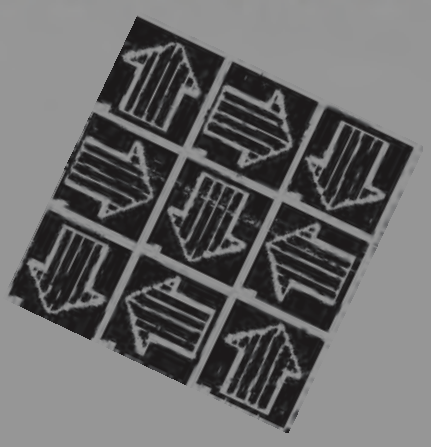
MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but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

BP (British Petroleum) BLUES
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Don't put no oil in the frying pan
BP took care of that,
Slide the fish in the frying pan
Ain't no need for fat.
Boats don't need no gasoline
Just pump the ocean dry,
While fish filets in the frying pan
Fill their tanks, then die.

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Army Mulling Anonymous Suggestions To Soldiers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Army Secretary John McHugh announced authorities are considering a system to allow soldiers to anonymously submit their views on gays serving openly in the military.

"We're trying to do this in the quietest way possible, and by that, I simply mean not to sensationalize it, to try to really assess the soldiers' opinions," McHugh said at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks, according to the Associated Press. "Anonymity, of course, is an important aspect."

The Defense Department's recommendation on implementing the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" is expected to be delivered by December 1. Due to the current law, soldiers cannot speak candidly about their sexual orientation without facing the risk of discharge.

McHugh made the announcement with Lt. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, who expressed his support of the ban on gay troops in a March 8 letter to Stars and Stripesnewspaper.

"I suspect many service members, their families, veterans, and citizens are wondering what to do to stop this ill-advised repeal of policy that has achieved a balance between a citizen's desire to serve and acceptable conduct," Mixon wrote. He reportedly did not say anything at Friday's announcement.

tucsonobservetarchives.org

Army Secretary John McHugh

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

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. Hair of dog special $1.50 well bloody mary, screwdriver,,Cape Cod, salty dog or margarita.

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. Girlz Nite .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic drafts 6-8pm. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m. Y-Not Karaoke with Anna at 8pm. - Drink specials during karaoke $1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light.

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.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.75 Skyy cocktails, $3.00 Domestics and Well. ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Boyz Night - .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic draft beer for men 6-8pm. Karaoke with Anna at 8pm drink specials during karaoke $1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light..

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. Latin Thursday: Latin music 8pm to close. $2,50 well margaritas. $3 Mexican beers, $3.50 Jose Cuervo.

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 Cosmos.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, $1.00 PBR Longnecks, $2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 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. Shots shot specials 8-close.. Dance lessons with Lawrence 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 cheeseburger & fries. $3.00 Cuervo and $4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio $1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

Bar Specials

FRIDAY, MAY 14

WOODY'S- A special Meow Mix featuring "God-Eess and She' In concert 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

COYOTE MOON - TMI is here playing classic rock, blues, and ooriginal music. 9pm. $5 cover.

WOODY'S - "Cap and Gown Graduation Party 9:00 to closing. Hot dance, drink specials for Grads and Alum's.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

COYOTE MOON - T-Dance. All your favorite dance music 4-8 pm - no cover

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

COYOTE MOON - MCC - Water of Life Church benefit show 8pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

COYOTE MOON - Dragstar Troupe is here with another mind-blowing show. 10pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

COYOTE MOON - Vivika D'Angelo and Friends drag show. 10pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

COYOTE MOON - Extxended girlz night special hours 6-10pm for Pride Week.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 23

COYOTE MOON - Extended Bouz night special hours 6-10 pm for Pride Week.

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

COYOTE MOON - Tea Dance. All your favorite dance music. 4-8pm no cover

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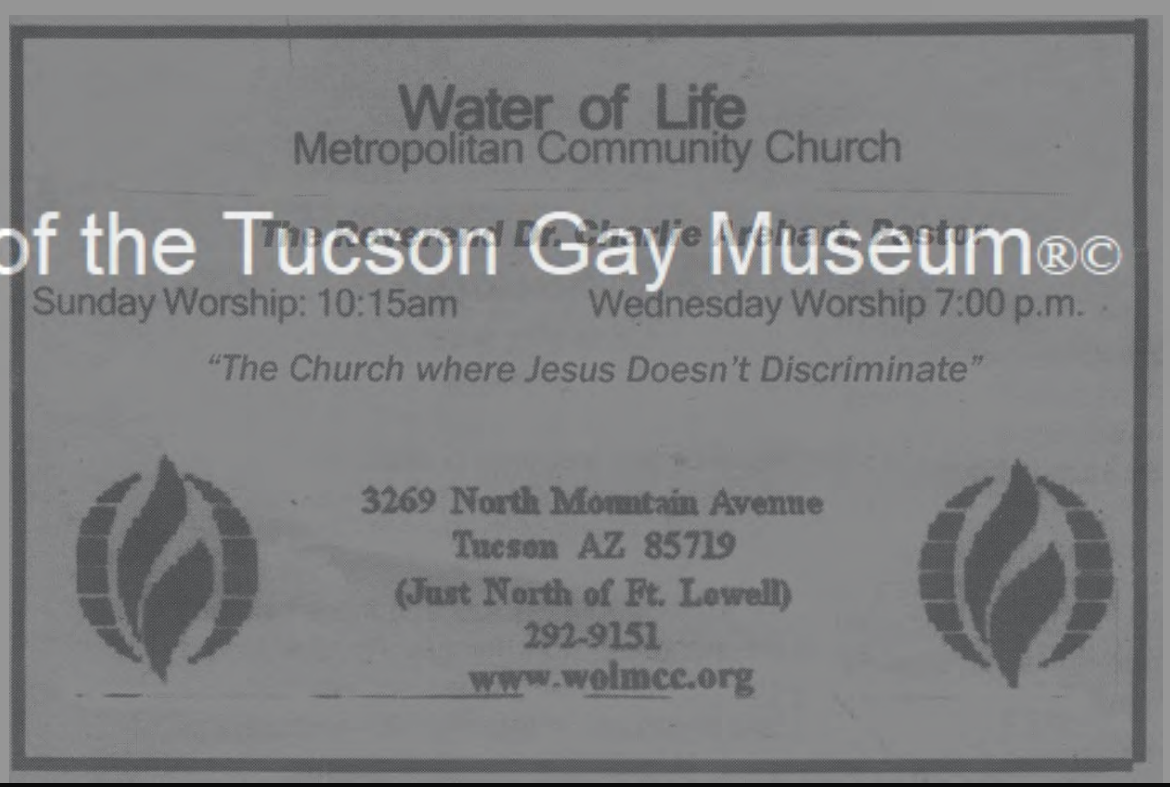

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by John Corvino

Rekers' Rentboy

So, we have a new line to add to the file labeled "Seriously?!?"–alongside Reverend Ted Haggard's "I bought the meth but didn't use it," ex-gay leader John Paulk's "I had to use the bathroom and had no idea it was a gay bar," Rep. Eric Massa's "I'm just a salty old sailor," and Senator Larry Craig's "I have a wide stance."

Now add Reverend George Rekers' "I hired him to lift my luggage." As a co-founder of the conservative Family Research Council, a board member of the National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), and an author of numerous anti-gay works, Dr. Rekers is a major right-wing figure.

And so he did what any straight, family-oriented Baptist minister would do when looking for someone to carry his luggage on a ten-day European excursion. He went to rentboy.com and hired a prostitute.

I can't make this stuff up.

The Miami New Times broke the story this week, complete with details from 20-year-old blond Puerto Rican rentboy "Lucien's" profile: his "smooth, sweet, tight ass," his "perfectly built 8 inch cock (uncut)" and the fact that he'll "do anything you say as long as you ask." These are important attributes for travel assistants, no doubt.

A blogger at Unzipped.net quickly uncovered the rentboy's profile, which identifies him as Boynextdoor/Geo and was purged of some of the earlier sexual content; the profile has since been removed from the site altogether to protect the young man's privacy.

(Incidentally, we SHOULD protect the young man's privacy. 20-year-olds don't typically go into prostitution because it's the best among many excellent job opportunities.)

Lucien/Geo is the same age as a son that Rekers adopted four years ago, which might not be relevant were it not for Rekers' vigorous opposition to adoption by gays. Rekers testified in favor of nasty homosexual adoption bans in both Arkansas and Florida. Indeed, on the blog page where he repeats his lame luggage excuse, there's a link labeled "Should homosexuals be allowed to adopt children?" This leads to a page full of outright falsehoods, including:

"Large research studies consistently report that a majority of homosexually-behaving adults have a life-time incidence of one or more psychiatric disorders, while a majority of heterosexually-behaving adults do not suffer a psychiatric disorder.... So my professional conclusion that homosexually-behaving adults should not be allowed to adopt children is based on research and logic."

And perhaps personal experience.

This is not funny. It is not even sad. It's disgusting. And I'm tired of feeling sorry for these people.

As the Gay Moralist, I like to give all people the benefit of the doubt. It's not a strategy so much as a matter of empathy. I was once a closeted homosexual conservative myself, and I came close to entering the Catholic priesthood. I often wonder whether, had my life gone slightly differently–different influences, different opportunities, different choices–I'd be missing truths that seem obvious to me now.

I even wonder whether I might have acted out sexually in inappropriate ways–hiring male prostitutes privately while railing against homosexuality publicly, or hitting on college seminary students (not children) in my priestly care. While I'm no longer a believer, the phrase "There but for the grace of God" still resonates with me.

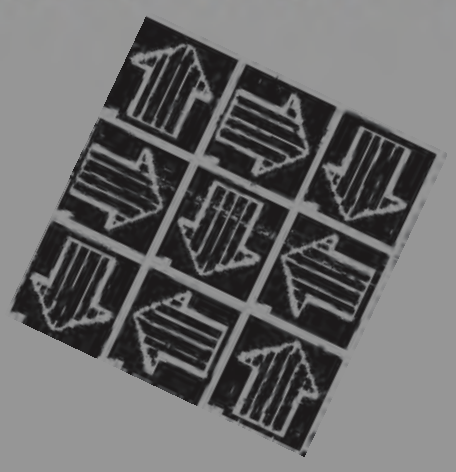
I am not denying that we're responsible for our choices and actions. I'm simply saying that there are often mitigating factors beyond observers' ken. I don't know Rekers personally, and I can only make an educated guess at what demons he wrestles with.

But I know from hard experience that the best way to tame demons is to start being honest with yourself and others. That, instead of using self-respecting gays as a proxy for whatever internal foes you're fighting.

Unsurprisingly, not even Rekers' religious right buddies are buying his "lift my luggage" line, or his more recent claim (in a message to blogger Joe.My.God) that he spent time with the youth in order to share the Gospel: "Like John the Baptist and Jesus, I have a loving Christian ministry to homosexuals and prostitutes in which I share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them."

Lift his luggage? Share the Good News? These lines make great double-entendres for late-night comedians ("Is that what the kids are calling it these days?") but they don't get Rekers a whit closer to addressing his real baggage.

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralist" appears 365gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)



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