Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Tucson Observer Archives

Both Sides See Long Court BattleIn California's Gay Marriage Fight

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The New York Times reported that just hours after Judge Vaughn R. Walker banged the final gavel in the trial of Proposition 8 – California's same-sex marriage ban – the two top lawyers challenging the law, David Boies and Theodore Olson, were holding court again: this time at a small private dinner with donors in San Francisco.

The meal, with a handful of people who have given money to the group challenging the ban, could well be seen as the opening maneuver in the second act of the saga of Proposition 8, which both sides expect to wind its way up the federal judicial food chain, most likely all the way to the Supreme Court.

"We would immediately appeal," Andrew Pugno, a lawyer for the proponents of Proposition 8, said when asked if his side were to lose in Judge Walker's court.

The plaintiffs agree.

"This is in fact just the beginning," said Chad Griffin, a Los Angeles-based political consultant who is also the board president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which backed the Proposition 8 challenge.

Such legal wanderings, of course, are not cheap, and so it is that Mr. Griffin has already begun fund-raising for the next step. "It's going to take resources," said Mr. Griffin, who added that he intended to tap "major donors around the country, as well as grass roots and online."

And whether the case is argued in front of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit or the Supreme Court, one thing is also certain: What the next round of judges hears will be very similar to what Judge Walker did.

"We actually believe that the arguments have been as refined as they possibly can be," said Mr. Pugno, part of a defense that offered only two witnesses. "So you will hear largely the same arguments on appeal as you will in this court. It will just be a different forum."

Ditto for the plaintiffs.

"I rest with, frankly, confidence, regardless of how this turns out," Mr. Griffin said. "I don't think there's a single thing we would have done different."

What also seems certain is that the court case may take a while to settle. Judge Walker has no set timetable for issuing a decision. While that waiting game plays out, however, there is also the possibility of another ballot measure to overturn Proposition 8, which passed in 2008 with 52 percent of the vote. That could come as soon as 2012.

In the meantime, Mr. Griffin said his group had been signing up about 2,000 people a day to an e-mail list that will alert followers the moment Judge Walker's decision is filed. One of those signed up is Cynthia Laird, the editor of The Bay Area Reporter, a local gay newspaper, who said that the certainty of an appeal had subdued the sense of anticipation for some.

"While we're hopeful for a positive ruling from the judge, one that strikes down Prop 8, it won't be the last word," Ms. Laird said in an e-mail message.

Mr. Griffin himself is not so cool.

"I think I provide new meaning to CrackBerry," he said. "It would be fair to say my BlackBerry does not often leave my hand or bedside."

Mr. Pugno, who is running as a Republican for a seat representing several Sacramento-area communities in the California Legislature, seemed considerably more sanguine.

"Actually, there's a certain – oh, what's the word? – there's a certain calmness that comes with knowing you have the law on your side," Mr. Pugno said. "You sit back and you realize that the great weight of law is on our side, and no matter what happens here, we have confidence that the people's right to vote will ultimately prevail."

Mr. Pugno said that his defense of Proposition 8 rarely came up on the campaign trail in California, where unemployment is more than 12 percent and the budget has a $19 billion gap.

"People are most concerned with tackling two things: state spending and the jobs environment," Mr. Pugno said. "Voters are not focused on social issues."

But he did admit to being riveted as final arguments were heard June 16.

"I think the point came into focus when Charles Cooper," the lead defense lawyer, "said that to overturn this law, the court would have to essentially accuse seven million voters of ill intent," Mr. Pugno recalled. "That really stands out."

Continued on Page Two

Supreme Court: Law School Does Not Have To Recognize Christian Group

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court permitted a public law school to deny official recognition of a campus Christian group because the group prohibits the participation of gay students, reported 365Gay.com.

The non-discrimination policy at University of California's Hastings College of the Law includes sexual orientation as a protected class, and thus requires that officially recognized student groups permit the participation of all students, regardless of sexual orientation.

The Christian Legal Society is a nondenominational Christian group of lawyers and law students whose Statement of Faith includes a passage on moral sexual conduct. It suggests that members must adhere to the belief that premarital and homosexual sex is immoral. The group does not welcome gay members, because of its religious beliefs.

When the Christian Legal Society sought out official recognition, including funding from the public school, Hasting refused, saying that the group violated the school's non-discrimination policy.

The Christian Legal Society then sued the school, accusing the administration of denying the Society its first amendment rights to practice religion freely. Lower courts sided with the law school, as did the Supreme Court, who first heard the case in April.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote in the majority opinion, "In common with all other student organizations-to choose between welcoming all students and forgoing the benefits of official recognition, we hold, Hastings did not transgress constitutional limitations."

Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the dissent that the decision set a precedent for "no freedom for expression that offends prevailing standards of political correctness in our country's institutions of higher learning."

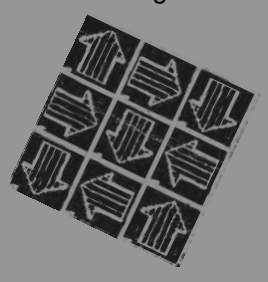
This decision does set a precedent that religiously affiliated groups, including sororities and fraternities, seeking recognition at public schools must adhere to the institution's anti-discrimination policy, even if the discrimination is based on religious beliefs.

Tying The Knot After Six Decades

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reported that after a 60-year romance, a gay couple in their 80s tied the knot in Washington, D.C., June 20.

Henry Schalizki and Bob Davis exchanged their vows at the J. W. Marriott in Washington in front of 60 friends and family members, according to The Washington Post. The couple reveals that while Schalizki immediately set his sights on a wedding after the District of Columbia enacted marriage equality, Davis was not as enthusiastic.

"We're accepted as two human beings, always as a couple. I said, 'I don't see any reason for it,'" Davis said. "Besides that, Vera Wang will never make a gown for me to wear."



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UPDATE

TIHAN To Host Fundraising Baseball Game

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will host TIHAN night at the Tucson Toros game July 7 at Hi Corbett Field at Reid Park, 900 S. Randolph Way.

Tickets for the baseball game against the Chico Outlaws will cost $5, with the organization receiving half the proceeds from its ticket sales. To buy tickets, call 299-6647 or stop by the TIHAN offices at 1011 N. Craycroft Road, Suite 301, during business hours.

TIHAN's hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday.

SAGA 4th of July Picnic And Pool Party

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The annual SAGA July 4th Independence Day Celebration will be held at the home of Kevin Maxey, 4716 E. Third St., starting at 3 p.m.. Kevin's house is the second one east of Swan on the south side of Third Street. The nearest major cross streets are Speedway to the north and Fifth Street to the south.

SAGA members and friends are invited to bring themselves, swimwear and a towel (if a swim is desired), and deviled eggs or some other food to share. Kosher hot dogs and the trimmings and perhaps BBQ chicken, as well as soft drinks, water, ice and eating utensils will be provided. Foods to bring for sharing include chips and dips, salads, veggies, desserts and the host's favorite - deviled eggs.

If you prefer meatless dogs or something else, the grill will be hot and ready for you to fix your choice. Extra lawn chairs are always welcome. Kevin has many chairs but never enough. But the most important ingredient of this celebration is YOU!

Plan to come so that together we may celebrate both our personal and our country's independence. See you July 4! For more information, contact Alison Davison, 520-624-1779 x1.

Meet The Bears Of The Old Pueblo

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Do you know that the Bears of the Old Pueblo, a social group for big men with big hearts, raises funds for local charitable groups and causes? This year, they are aiding the vital programs for homeless LGBT youth at Wingspan's EON Youth Center and Open Inn.

Every fourth Saturday from 3 to 7 p.m., the Bears gather at the Venture-N, 1239 N. Sixth Ave., for their monthly Beer Bust and Chili Feed. For the price of a $1 draft or a $2.50 bowl of chili, you can have a great afternoon on the patio, mix and mingle with the Bears and their buddies and help out a really worthy cause. The Venture-N, the birthplace of the club, offers the proceeds of all beer and soda sales to BOP's charity of choice. Find more information on this event click here.

Over the years, the Bears of the Old Pueblo have contributed more than $30,000 to local charities and causes. Past beneficiaries have included SAAF, TIHAN, Wingspan, the Tucson LGBT Festival and Habitat for Humanity.

So what's a Bear? The group's favorite guideline is "a cuddly demeanor often coupled with a cuddly body." While that often means that Bears are bigger, more robust and hairier, their admirers are considered Bears, too. The local membership of about 90 includes a broad range of ages, ethnicities, professions and backgrounds. They strive to create a fun, engaging, member-driven club.

Formed in 1992, the local club is among the oldest Bear organizations in the United States. BOP sponsors the world-famous La Fiesta de los Osos Bear weekend. It has hosted more than 2,800 visitors from all over the globe.

Folks wishing to know more about the organization and its many upcoming social events can surf their website at: www.botop.com or drop the club an email at: bop@botop.com.

About PFLAG Of Tucson

TUCSON (Observer Update) - PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identify, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

If you need help, please call our hotline at (520) 360-3795 or e-mail us at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org. We will connect you with a PFLAG member who has been where you are and who understands.

PFLAG support meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening (July 7) of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Ward VI City Council Offices at 3202 E. 1st Street. Click here for more detailed directions and a location map. For our schedule, see below. Please call our help line (360-3795) or send us an e-mail message (pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org) if you want or need immediate support.

Gay Marriage Fight

Continued from Page One

Once again, the plaintiffs agree that the closing arguments were exciting, just not who was exciting.

"I thought that the last 30 minutes of Ted's rebuttal was the best 30 minutes I've seen in five decades of practicing law," Mr. Boies said of Mr. Olson, his opponent in Bush v. Gore, the 2000 Supreme Court battle over the presidency.

He also admitted to being moved by testimony by his clients, two gay couples seeking to invalidate Proposition 8.

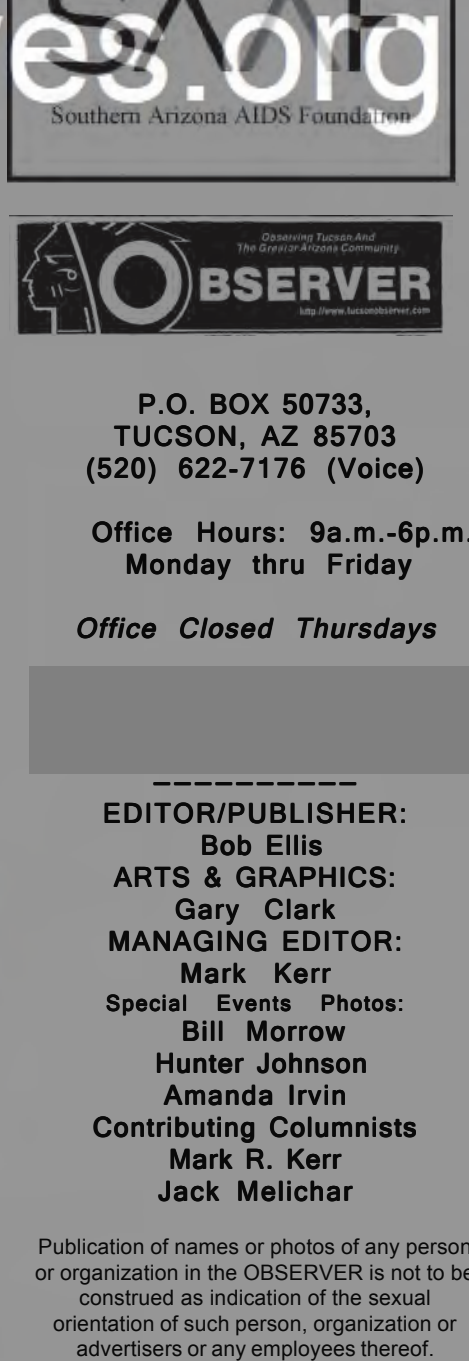
"I think when they were asked 'Why do you want to get married?' I think even the defense was affected by that," he said. "I still get emotional remembering those answers."

Mr. Cooper, who declined to answer questions after his closing argument, did not respond to an e-mail request for his recollections of the trial, which began in January.

As for the plaintiffs' lawyers, Mr. Olson and Mr. Boies were apparently happy with their performance; after the private dinner, they "went out and had some drinks and more food, which we really didn't need," Mr. Boies said.

Joining them, he said, were some lawyers from their team, who had worked for a year on the case. No lawyers from the defense were there, though Mr. Boies said that after such a hard-fought battle, Mr. Cooper and his team would have been welcome.

"Clearly," Mr. Boies said, "we would have invited him."



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

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
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EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
ARTS & GRAPHICS:
Gary Clark
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
Bill Morrow
Hunter Johnson
Amanda Irvin
Contributing Columnists
Mark R. Kerr
Jack Melichar

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Gay Workers To Get Family Leave

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - 365Gay.com reports that the Labor Department intends to issue regulations this week ordering businesses to give gay employees equal treatment under a law permitting workers unpaid time off to care for newborns or loved ones.

Labor Secretary Hilda Solis announced that the government would require employers to extend the option that has been available to heterosexual workers for almost two decades, two officials briefed on the plan said Monday. Neither was authorized to speak publicly ahead of the announcement.

The move, coming less than five months before November's congressional elections, seemed likely to incite conservatives and Republicans who stood in lockstep against the Obama administration's earlier efforts to repeal a ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. It also appeared likely to be popular with loyal Democrats and organized labor.

The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave each year to take care of loved ones or themselves. The 1993 law, which also allows employees to take time off for adoptions, has previously only been applied to heterosexual couples.

The Labor Department planned to extend those rights based on a new interpretation of the law, the officials said. There was no plan to ask Congress to change the law, which means future presidents could reverse the decision.

President Barack Obama and his administration have slowly rolled out policies to help gays and lesbians, who supported his candidacy but have soured on what they consider his slow pace in making incremental instead of wholesale changes. He planned to meet with gay activists Tuesday at the White House, the second time such a reception has been held at the executive mansion.

Last year, Obama gave federal workers' same-sex partners a first round of benefits including visitation and dependent-care rights. He also authorized child-care services and subsidies; more flexibility to use family leave to attend to the needs of domestic partners and their children; relocation benefits; giving domestic partners the same status as family members when federal appointments are made; and access to credit union and other memberships when those are provided to federal workers.

Homeless Youth Disproportionately LGBT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - 365Gay.comr reports that the Center for American Progress estimates in a new study that gay and transgender youth account for 20-40 percent of homeless youth in the US, while only about 5-10 percent of the general youth population is LGBT.

The report comes just before the Obama administration is scheduled to release the first-ever national strategy to prevent and end homelessness.

The federal government's budget for homeless-assistance programs is $4.2 billion, plus the $1.5 billion that President Obama included in the stimulus package last year. Out of that initial budget, only $195 million is allocated to address youth homelessness, and an even smaller percentage of that goes specifically toward homeless youth who are on the streets without parents or other guardians.

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty estimates that approximately 3.5 million people experience homelessness each year in the US, about half of them being youth.

The Center for American Progress study examines not only the numbers of youth that are on the streets or in shelters each night, but also what that means for these individuals. The report offers statistics about how domestic abuse and violence leads to homelessness and how homelessness can lead to involvement in drug and alcohol abuse and sex work for survival.

The report also suggests that there is a disproportionate number of homeless LGBT youth because families are banishing their gay and transgender children as they come out younger and younger. In New York, the report finds, the average age that a gay or lesbian youth becomes homeless is 14.4 years old.

The White House has not indicated whether the new national strategy to end homelessness will address the disproportionate number of LGBT homeless youth.

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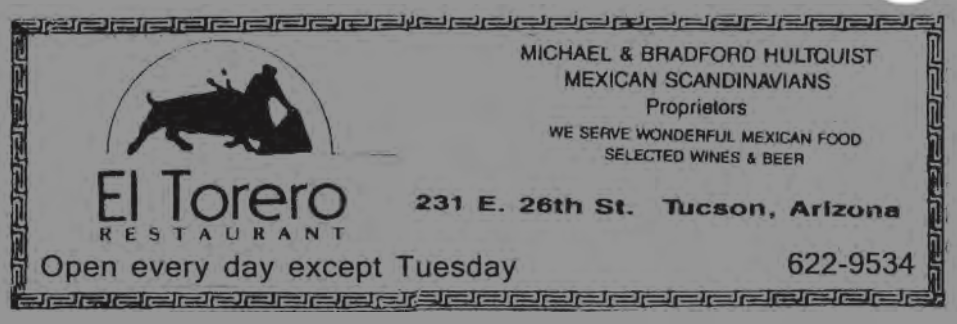

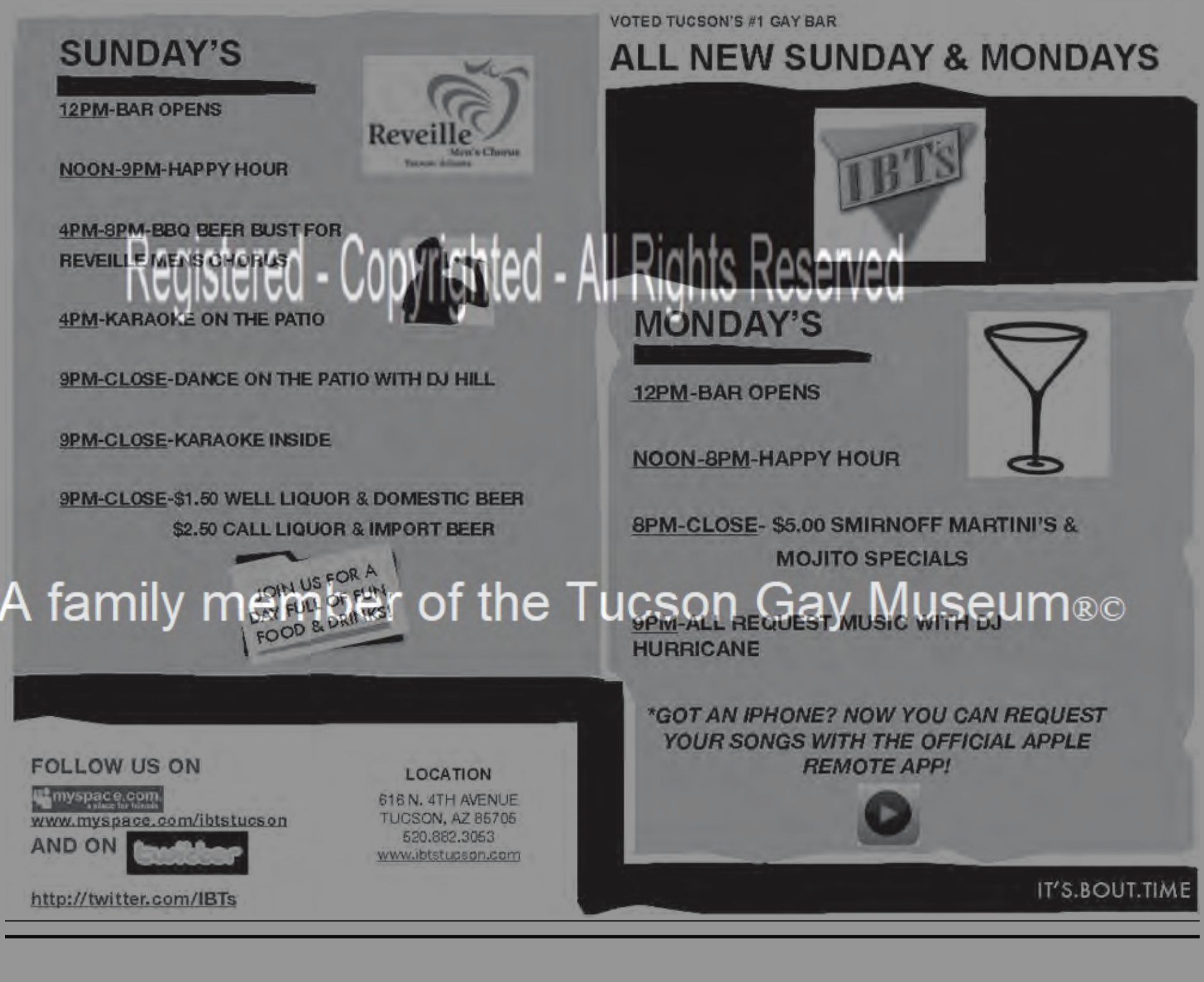

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Celebrate The Life Of Gary Clark Sunday, July 11

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Mark Kerr

"As We See It"

On Sunday, August 22, 1993 the Tucson Community held a "As We See It" community Roast of Mr. Gary Clark. It was day before his birthday. Because the evening's special guests read like a who's who, in Tucson, many of you reading this will not recognize them, but remember this was in 1993 some years ago and many of our readers are certain to recognize many of them, so, reading from the evening's program guide we list the Roast Mistress: Mr. Dani Reid and special guests Gilda Fatale, Nancy Norman, Rusty Lovell, Patrick Tobin, Bill Deeter, Rhett Butler Gable, Emma Keller, Ricky Staats, Barry Conyers, Lucinda Holliday, Dave Huff & Frank Shepis, Rodger Sweet, Candas, Jack Stocklslager, Monte Jon Gilmer, Miss Brenda Starr, Chris Jones and Tish Tanner

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Among the list of those helping to set up the evenings festivities were Natalie Perry, Ricky and Scott, Michael Bennett, Peter Sittig and Mama Bennett, Willie Gradillas and Rebecca Perry, Bruce Lundquist, Mario Magana and Bobbie Harris, Dave Shafer and Deb Whalen. Others included Madame X (Miss Gay Tucson), Martin Russell, Michael Sewell, Terry Moore and Gary Hart.

The program gave this short version Gary Clark's biography: "Gary Clark was born in the fifties, in the height of summer in Chicago, two blocks from Clark Street, site of the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre. His was briskly taken at a very tender age to the land of billboards and burritos, Los Angeles, which he remembers as a place dominated by price wars and civil strife.

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"Clark remembers sitting in front of the family Magnavox longing to create his own visual stimulus. Deciding to redecorate his parents home in a crayon motif, he concentrated on a muralist approach, much to the chagrin of his family. To encourage his creative panacea, his mother wisely provided him with a cornucopia of colors to assist, plus a yellow bucket and box of Spic and Span (a popular detergent of the period) just in case he needed to do restoration work (clean up!)

"His childhood was uneventful. He entered the United States Navy Long before "Don't Ask - Don't Tell". War calls for rough times and tough men. He wasn't a WAVE, but he was no corpsman either! Realizing that his talents were wasted in the military, he was given time off for good behavior.

"Having been released from service a little sooner than expected, Europe and travel lay at his feet. His goals were clear - art and culture, and this Immense desire to be Emersed in foreign tongues.

"After a year or so, the motherland beckoned, returning him to the hilly, chilly winds of Seattle where he joined the parade as a social worker and political acltivist - including, along with four friends, designing and crafting a newspaper, ":The Seattle Gay News," Which is still being printed to this day.

"Bereft with red tape and publishing deadlines, a rest was clearly indicated. At the suggestion of a friend that Tucson might be good, he packed up and wended his way southwest toward the desert lands where Guaymas shirts and kosher delis abound."

ED. NOTE: From here on the biography is brought up to date by Observer Managing Editor:

Gary joined Bob Ellis in 1977 who was publishing the Arizona Gay News (AGN). The name was changed to the Observer and history moved forward. His intent was to be here for six months but that has lasted for more than thirty years thanks to his partner Bob and a thankful LGBT Community.

Gary was one of the co-founders of this publication, in the wake of the Richard Heakin murder and the effort to deal with that tragedy and the work for civil rights and passage of the City's Anti-Discrimination ordinance in 1977.

His intent was to be here for only six months, but that lasted for more than thirty years, thanks to his partner Bob Ellis and a thankful LGBT community.

Over time, through his artwork and his cartoon in the Observer, "As I See It," Gary chronicled the foibles, follies and frivolities of Tucson's LGBT community, reminding people about HIV/AIDS and commenting from his perspective, a visual one.

But Gary's work and commitment for the Tucson LGBT community wasn't just through pen and paper alone.

Gary was part of the first LGBT Pride Committee, known as the Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance when the event was celebrated in Himmel Park in June, through the effort and donations of the community.

He helped the then AIDS Service Organizations: Tucson AIDS Project, Shanti Foundation and the People With AIDS Coalition for Tucson (PACT for Life), in their efforts to help those with HIV and AIDS when it was known as the Gay Cancer and would get no help from the government or the general population.

The formation of a LGBT center, the creation of a new group for LGBT Tucsonans, the opening of an art show or gallery and gracing an LGBT nightclub or restaurant, Gary was always present with Bob, giving support, encouragement and publicity through the Observer.

Gary helped those in need, those wanting to learn, inspiring others, encouraging young LGBT people to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. This writer is part of that too when I approached Bob and Gary at the Joshua Tree Bar in June of 1988 asking to write for the paper.

When there was a rally, protest, a monument to be built and the funds raised, an event to help a group or individual out, he was always present because he cared about Tucson's LGBT community.

Is this a complete picture of Gary? Not by any means, since Gary the artist creatively inspired many. This is one small perspective of a brilliant individual as I saw him.

Gary may not be present physically, since he's now having cocktails with Dorothy Parker, Talullah Bankhead, Marilyn Monroe and Andy Warhol, but he will always be with the Tucson's LGBT

Sunday, July 11, a celebration of Gary's wonderful life will take place at IBT's. More details to be announced.

Goodbye my friend. I will miss you so much.

Celebrate The Life Of Gary Clark With His Many Friends Sunday, July 11th At IBT's from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. There Will Be Music, Dancing, Food, Videos, etc. etc.etc.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS NEXT WEEK. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

Billie Jean King Appointed To President's Council On Fitness, Sports and Nutrition

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - 365Gay.com reported that First Lady Michelle Obama welcomed lesbian tennis star Billie Jean King to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. Mrs. Obama launched the newly revamped Council on Monday afternoon and introduced this year's appointed members.

Formerly known as the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the Council has expanded its mission to include healthy eating and lifestyle choices. President Obama issued an Executive Order outlining the Council's new goals.

"The Council will play an important role in our effort to help combat childhood obesity in this country," Mrs. Obama said. "I am grateful to the athletes, chefs, doctors and nutrition experts who are volunteering their time on the Council to help make a difference."

The President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition consists of a committee of volunteer advisors who, through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, recommend ways to develop fitness, sports and nutrition programs for citizens across the nation. The Council also actively endorses the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards, a project that encourages citizens to be physical active on a daily basis.

Billie Jean King is a former professional tennis player and devoted advocate for gender equality in sports community. In 2009, she was appointed the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the nation.

King is one of 15 newly appointed members to the Council. For a more information on the President's Council on Fitness Sports and Nutrition, please visit www.fitness.gov.

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WOODY'S BAR

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30TH:
"A MIDNIGHTS SUMMER'S DREAM" WITH YOUR FAVORITE BARTENDER SCOTTY -FEATURING JASMINE WHITE 10PM
DRESS AS A FAIRY, NYMPH, OR IN SEXY DREAM WEAR

SATURDAY JULY 3RD:
TIME TO GET LEID AT WOODY'S LUAU
WOODY'S IN THE TROPICS 8 - CLOSE
HOT DANCE ON PATIO WITH DJ MICHAEL LOPEZ

SUNDAY JULY 4TH:
COME CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY
BREAKFAST AND BLOODY MARY BUFFET 11AM-1:30PM
BURGER BBQ AND BEER BUST 2-7PM
BEAT THE HEAT WITH SUNDAY'S WET/WILD PARTY 2PM - 8PM
KARAOKE AND DANCE WITH DJ MICHAEL LOPEZ 9PM - CLOSE

SATURDAY JULY 17TH:
THE "WETT PARTY" RETURNS 9PM TIL CLOSE
STARRING ADULT ENTERTAINER STEVEN DAIGLE OF BIG BROTHER
LIVE PERFORMANCES AT 10:30PM AND 12:30AM
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Leo Hasn't Had Dress Fitting For Hoover Film

NEW YORK (Observe Update) - Advocate.com reports that Leonardo DiCaprio, who is in talks to play notorious FBI director (and rumored secret gay man and cross-dresser) J. Edgar Hoover in a film biography, hasn't yet had his dress fitting, according to website PopEater.com.

Asked if the film, to be directed by Clint Eastwood with a screenplay by Dustin Lance Black, will portray the secret life of Hoover, DiCaprio says, "Will I wear a dress? Not as of yet. We haven't done the fittings for that.

"The film is all "about the secret life of J. Edgar Hoover," DiCaprio says, adding that it would "cover his personal life, definitely."

Will Phillips' Role In Arkansas Gay Pride Called 'Child Abuse'

FAYETTEVILLE (Observer Update) - On Top Magazine reports that the decision to have eleven-year-old Will Phillips serve as grand marshal of the Fayetteville, Arkansas gay pride parade has been labeled "child abuse" by social conservatives.

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Phillips attracted the attention of the national media last year when he refused to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance at school, saying gay people don't enjoy "liberty and justice."

"I looked at the end [of the Pledge of Allegiance], and it said 'liberty and justice for all,' and there really isn't liberty and justice for all. Gays and lesbians can't marry," he told CNN in an interview.

Social conservatives have railed against the unanimous decision to honor the boy.

Bryan Fischer, director of analysis at the American Family Association, said Phillips was being exploited by adults for "dark political purposes."

"There is nothing about homosexual conduct to be proud of and much to be ashamed of," he told Fox News.

AFA President Tim Wildmon called Phillips' inclusion a "form of child abuse." "He's obviously just parroting the nonsense he's been told by manipulative adults," Wildmon said in a statement. "For gay activists to trot out this child and make him the poster child for promoting unnatural sexual expression is a form of child abuse."

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Gay Specific Advertising Rises To Record Levels

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - On Top Magazine reports that Gay-specific adverting in the gay press hit a record high last year, according to the 2009 Gay Press Report, an annual survey on advertising in the gay media.

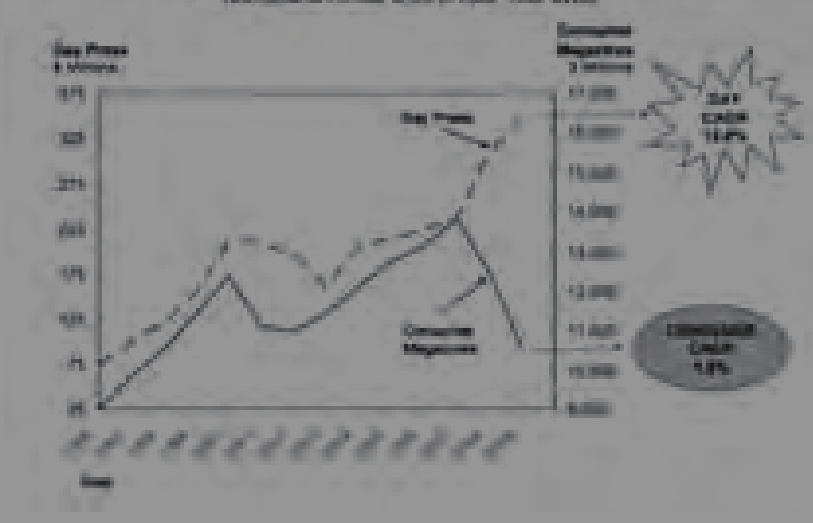
Advertising that directly portrays gay and lesbian consumers and their lives in LGBT publications hit an all-time high of 61.9%, the survey reported. In 2002, only 9.9% of all ads were gay-specific. "We continue to find that gay-specific advertising is by far the most effective with this audience, producing the biggest return on investment," said Howard Buford, CEO and founder of Prime Access, the New York-based advertising firm, which, along with media firm Rivendell Media, has produced the report since 1999.

The report also found that spending in the gay press also jumped to an all-time high of $349.6 million last year. Up from $307.7 million in 2008.

Revenues have grown 377% since 1996.

During three years early in the decade - 2001 to 2003 - spending in the gay press contracted, with the largest decreased coming in 2003 which saw a 17.8% drop. Growth failed to reach double digits from 2005 to 2007.

Last year's growth comes as the media industry faced one of its toughest years, with revenues for consumer magazines down 15.6% over the same time period - its lowest point since 1998. "The numbers do not lie, and even I was surprised at how gay media held its own in such a tough market," Todd Evans, president and CEO Rivendell Media, said. "Gay media sales have always doubled in past recessions as companies focus their media on their best customers. While we didn't see that kind of increase this year, the numbers are still significant."



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Executives Backtrack On Letter

HONOLULU (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that the Hawaii Business Roundtable says it does not have an official stance on the pending civil unions bill despite its executive board's June 4 letter to the governor asking her to veto the bill.

Business Roundtable executive director Gary K. Kai communicated to Gov. Linda Lingle that the initial letter was only to express concerns about administrative challenges that could come with civil unions, according to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

"Unfortunately, the use of the word veto has become equivalent to some as a position against civil unions," he wrote, the newspaper reports.

Kai told The Advocate earlier that the letter did not reflect the concerns of all of the Roundtable's members and that it was sent only from the executive board. "Each member has to make their own decision as to what their stance is on the bill," he said. "They're perfectly free to do so."

The statement came as many individuals and businesses affiliated with the Hawaii Business Roundtable were making public statements to distance themselves from the executive board's letter, including Time Warner Cable and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide.

19-Year-Old Killed At San Francisco 'Pink Saturday'

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - 365Gay.com reports that San Francisco's prelude to Pride, "Pink Saturday," ended in gunfire when three people were shot during the celebration in the city's Castro district. The shooting took place at 11:24 p.m. in front of the Pottery Barn on Market and Castro streets.

Stephen Powell, 19, was critically injured with a gun shot wound to the abdomen. He died early Sunday morning, according to authorities. The two other victims both sustained injuries to the leg, a 19-year-old woman and 29-year-old man, neither were the intended targets. They are expected to recover fully.

Police say a 19-year-old man, whose identity has not yet been released, opened fire into the crowded streets. He was arrested minutes after the shooting. The Police also recovered a handgun thought to be used in the shooting, and have since arrested a second suspect.

The incident is still being investigated, but Officer Phil Gordon of the SFPD told the San Francisco Chronicle that it was not believed to be a hate crime. This is the first shooting to take place at the city's usually calm, 40-year-old Pride event.

The suspects are allegedly connected to gang activity in the city's Bayview district. There is currently no known motive for the shooting; however, the suspects are facing murder charges.

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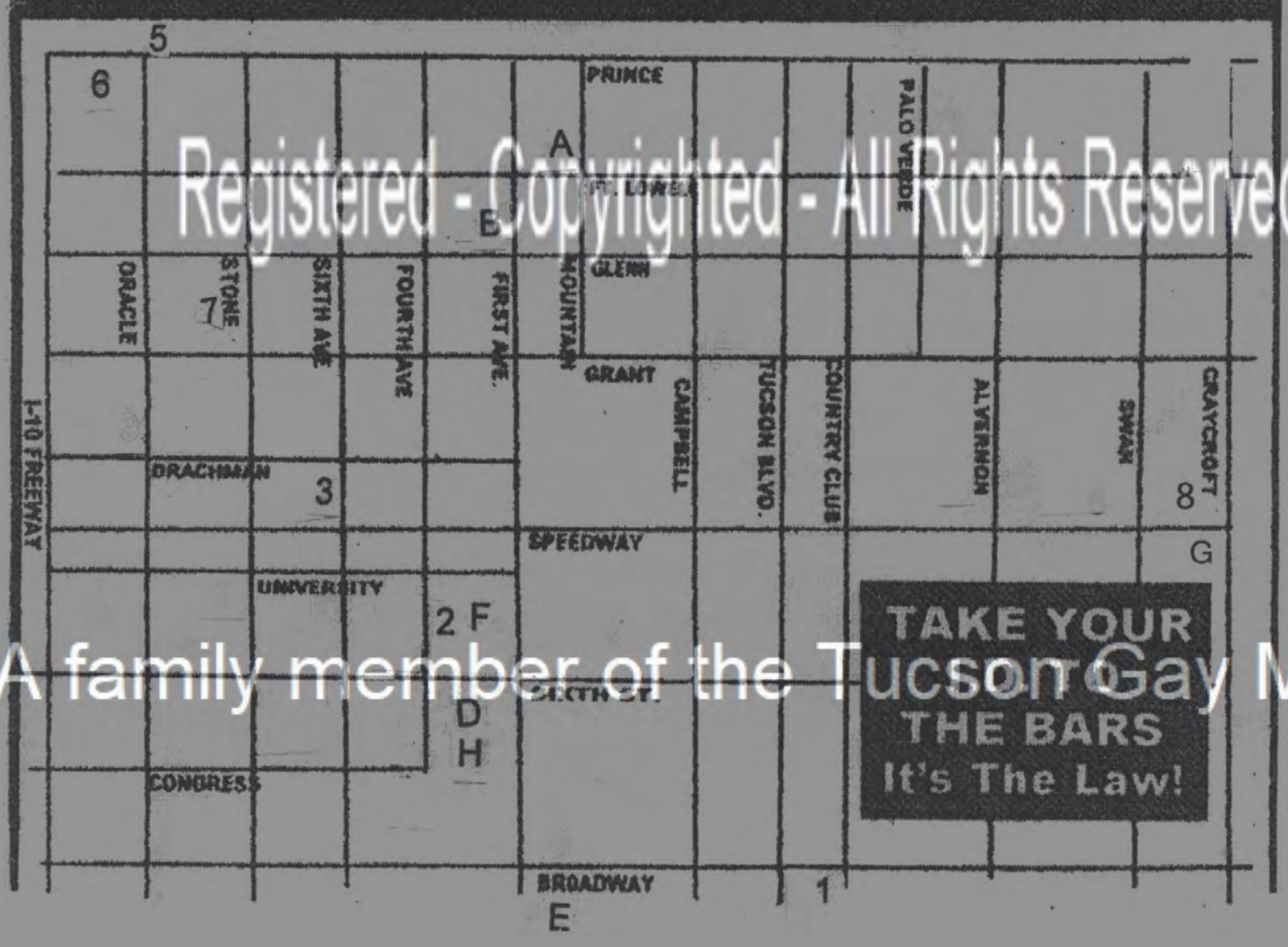

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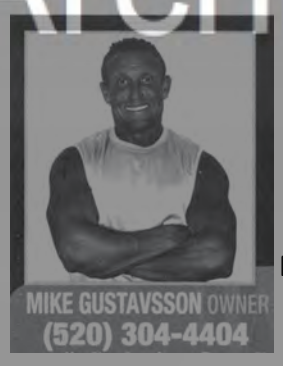
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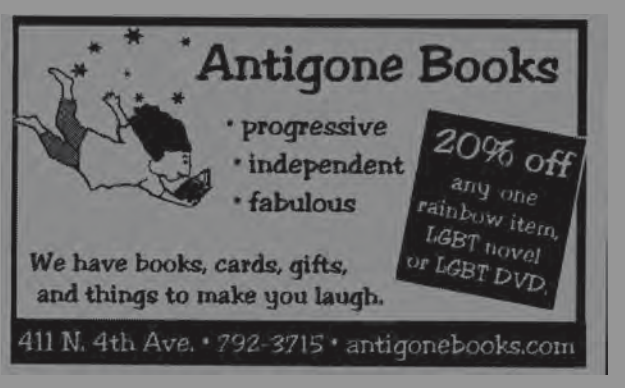
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President Obama's Remarks At Gay Pride Celebration

Following are President Barack Obama's remarks to LGBT leaders at the White House Pride celebration.

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, hello, hello! (Applause.) Hello, everybody! (Applause.) I was going to say welcome to the White House – but you guys seem like you feel right at home. (Laughter.) You don't need me to tell you – it's the people's house.

A couple of acknowledgments that I want to make very quickly – first of all, our Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who has just done an extraordinary job across the government – give John Berry a big round of applause. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: All right, John!

THE PRESIDENT: All right, John! (Laughter.)

Our chair of the Export/Import Bank, helping to bring jobs here to the United States of America – Fred Hochberg. (Applause.) Our chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, doing outstanding work each and every day – Nancy Sutley. Where is she? (Applause.) Nancy is a little vertically challenged, but I see her over there. (Laughter.)

We've got here a trailblazer for federal appointees – we are so proud of her – Ms. Roberta Achtenberg is here. Give Roberta a big round of applause. (Applause.) And then I understand we've got a terrific country singer – Chely Wright is in the house. (Applause.)

In addition – I know they had to leave because they had votes, but you guys obviously don't have just fiercer warriors on your behalf than a couple of our openly gay and lesbian members of Congress – Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis. (Applause.) They are openly terrific. (Laughter.) They do great work.

And it is also great to have so many activists and organizers from around the country – folks who fight every day for the rights of parents and children and partners and citizens to be treated equally under the law. And so we are very proud of all of you. (Applause.)

Oh, and by the way, the guy standing next to me – this is Joe Biden. (Applause.) Just because he's a Phillies fan – he's from Delaware. (Laughter.)

Now, look, the fact that we've got activists here is important because it's a reminder that change never comes – or at least never begins in Washington. It begins with acts of compassion -- and sometimes defiance -- across America. It begins when ordinary people -- out of love for a mother or a father, son or daughter, or husband or wife -- speak out against injustices that have been accepted for too long. And it begins when these impositions of conscience start opening hearts that had been closed, and when we finally see each other's humanity, whatever our differences.

Now, this struggle is as old as America itself. It's never been easy. But standing here, I am hopeful. One year ago, in this room, we marked the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall protests. (Applause.) Some of you were here, and you may remember that I pledged then that even at a time when we faced enormous challenges both on the economy and in our foreign policy, that we would not put aside matters of basic equality. And we haven't.

We've got a lot of hard work that we still have to do, but we can already point to extraordinary progress that we've made over the past year on behalf of Americans who are gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender.

Just stay with me here for a second. Last year, I met with Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mom, and I promised her that after a decade's-long struggle, we would pass inclusive hate crimes

legislation. I promised that in the name of her son we would ensure that the full might of the law is brought down on those who would attack somebody just because they are gay. And less than six months later, with Judy by my side, we marked the enactment of the Matthew Shepard Act. It's now the law of the land. (Applause.)

Just a few moments ago, I met with Janice Langbehn and her children. Where did Janice go? There they are right there. And when Janice's partner of 18 years, Lisa, suddenly collapsed because of an aneurysm, Janice and the couple's three kids were denied the chance to comfort their partner and their mom – barred from Lisa's bedside. It was wrong. It was cruel. And in part because of their story, I instructed my Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, to make sure that any hospital that's participating in Medicare or Medicaid -- that means most hospitals – (laughter) – allow gay and lesbian partners the same privileges and visitation rights as straight partners. (Applause.)

After I issued that memorandum, I called Janice and I told her the news. And before we came out here today, I wanted to make sure that I had followed up – Secretary Sebelius will officially be proposing this regulation. And I can also announce that the Secretary has sent a letter today asking these hospitals to adopt these changes now -- even before the rule takes effect. (Applause.) Nothing can undo the hurt that her – that Janice's family has experienced. And nothing can undo the pain felt by countless others who've been through a similar ordeal -- for example, Charlene Strong is here. She lost her wife, Kate Fleming – and Charlene is here along with Kate's mom, who said on behalf of all mothers, thank you. Because we think it's the right thing to do. (Applause.)

In addition, I've issued an executive order[SIC]* to extend as many partnership benefits to gay and lesbian federal employees as possible under current law. And I'm going to continue to fight to change the law: to guarantee gay federal employees the exact same benefits as straight employees -- including access to health insurance and retirement plans. (Applause.) And in an announcement today, the Department of Labor made clear that under the Family and Medical Leave Act, same-sex couples -- as well as others raising children -- are to be treated like the caretakers that they are. (Applause.)

Because I believe in committed – I believe that committed gay and lesbian couples deserve the same rights and responsibilities afforded to any married couple in this country, I have called for Congress to repeal the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. (Applause.) We are pushing hard to pass an inclusive employee non-discrimination bill. (Applause.) No one in America should be fired because they're gay. It's not right, it's not who we are as Americans, and we are going to put a stop to it.

And finally, we're going to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". (Applause.) That is a promise I made as a candidate. It is a promise that I reiterated as President. It's one that this administration is going to keep. Now, the only way to lock this in -- the only way to get the votes in Congress to roll back this policy – is if we work with the Pentagon, who are in the midst of two wars.

And that's why we were gratified to see, for the first time ever, the Secretary of Defense, Bob Gates, testify in favor of repeal. And the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen, has repeatedly and passionately argued for allowing gay men and women to serve honestly in the military. (Applause.)

We know that forcing gay and lesbian soldiers to live a lie or to leave the military, that doesn't contribute to our security – it harms our security.

And thanks to Patrick Murphy and others, for the first time in history, the House has passed a repeal that would allow gay men and women to openly serve in our armed forces. And this repeal is authored so that the Pentagon can complete its review of the policy – which is critical, by the way, not only to passage, but it's also critical to making sure that the change is accepted and implemented effectively. In the Senate, the Armed Services Committee has approved repeal for the first time, and the full body is poised to vote soon.

So here's the bottom line: We have never been closer to ending this discriminatory policy. And I'm going to keep on fighting until that bill is on my desk and I can sign it. (Applause.)

Of course, ultimately, change is about more than just policies in our government. And that's why I want to close by recognizing all the young people who are here -- I had a chance to take a bunch of pictures with them, just really impressive folks who are advocating on their behalf. I know there are some in the audience who have experienced pain in their lives, who at times have been – felt like outcasts, who have been scorned or bullied, and I know that there are families here on behalf of loved ones who are no longer with us, some in part because of the particularly difficult challenges that gay men and women still face.

This is a reminder that we all have an obligation to ensure that no young person is ever made to feel worthless or alone – ever. Now, at the same time, I think there's plenty of reason to have some hope for many of the young people including those who are here today. They've shown incredible courage and incredible integrity – standing up for who they are. They've refused to be anything less than themselves.

And we all remember being young – sort of. (Laughter.) But it's not easy. It's not easy standing up all the time and being who you are. But they're showing us the way forward. These young people are helping to build a more perfect union, a nation where all of us are equal; each of us is free to pursue our own versions of happiness.

And I believe because of them that the future is bright. It's certainly bright for them. Of course, it does depend on all of us. It depends on the efforts of government and the activism of ordinary citizens like yourselves. It depends on the love of families and the support of communities. And I want you all to know that as this work continues, I'm going to be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with you, fighting by your side every step of the way. (Applause.)

So, thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

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Poet's Corner

GULFSTREAM BLUES

by Ron Rose - Tucson

My Gulfstream's black, and now I got the blues
Please come back, come back and clean the ooze
The fish are a dyin', now I'm just cryin'
Dolphins a floatin' they's no more boatin'
Down here we're wishin', to start a fishin'
Birds are sinkin', BP just winkin'
Lordy, Lord, the air's sure stinkin'
And all I got's, the same ole Gulfstream Blues
Shut dem rigs, stop 'em honey
Cause all dey got, is lotsa money.

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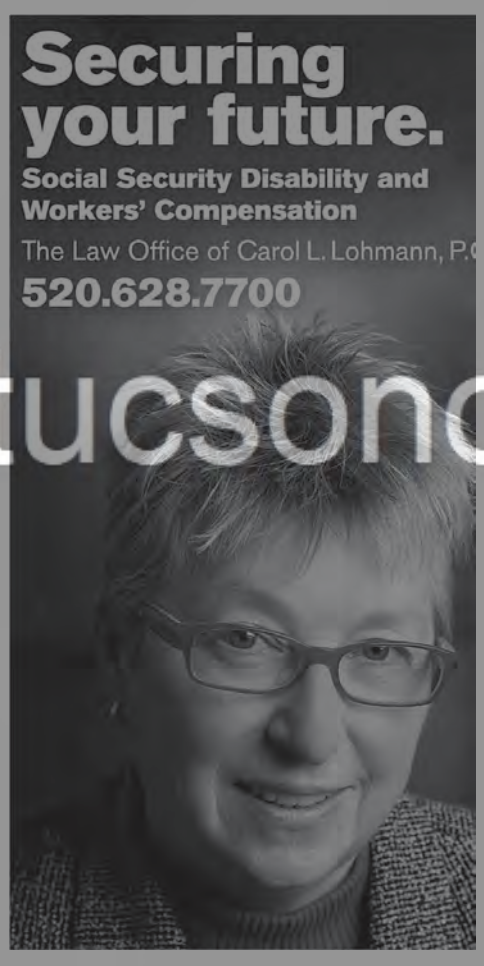

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Study: Gay Men Recognize Faces Better Than Straight Men

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that an NYU study found that gay men use both sides of their brains in facial recognition, unlike straight men, who tend to use only the right side.

Subjects in a New York University psychological test were asked to memorize 10 black-and-white images of faces, with hair, ears and blemishes removed. The subjects then had to differentiate these 10 faces from 50 others after seeing them each for just milliseconds.

"Our results suggest that both gay men and heterosexual women code faces bilaterally. That allows for faster retrieval of stored information," said study lead author Jennifer Steeves an associate professor at NYU.

Steeves also studied how hand dominance affects one's facial recognition skills. She found that straight left-handed participants had better face recognition abilities than gay left-handed participants and straight right-handed participants.

Studies in the past have shown that gay men are 39 percent more likely to be left-handed.

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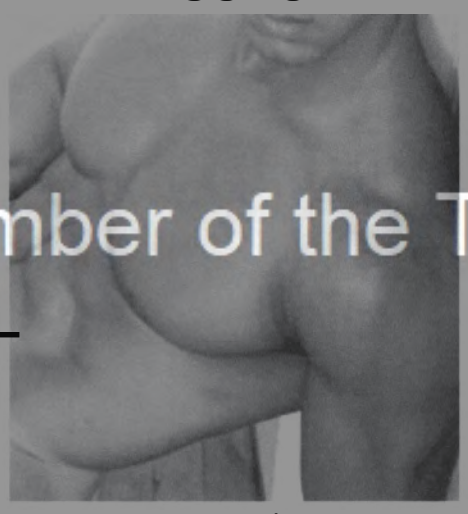

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Study: Gay Marriage Bans Lead To Lack Of Health Insurance

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - 365Gay.com reported that partnered lesbians and gay men are more than twice as likely to be uninsured as married heterosexuals," according to a new study of Californians by Lambda Legal and the Department of Health Services at UCLA.

Partnered lesbians are 28 percent as likely as married heterosexual couples to receive healthcare coverage for a partner through an employer; partnered gay men are 42 percent as likely, the study, which is published in Health Affairs, says.

The research shows that the exclusion of same-sex couples from civil marriages and the lack of insurance equity in domestic partnerships "contribute to unequal access to health coverage, with the probable result that more health spending is pushed onto these individuals and onto the public."

When an employer's insurance plan does not cover the employee's same-sex partner, that partner is often left uninsured. In these cases, the partners are dependent on public insurance options, shifting the cost of their insurance to taxpayers.

"The data from over 100,000 Californians is the first to quantify dependent coverage disparities by sexual orientation," said Professor Ninez A. Ponce, the principal UCLA co-author. "By not allowing lesbian and gay couples to marry, and not respecting their status when they are married, government invites the private sector to pass the costs of discrimination onto families and communities."

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 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.

Bar Specials

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

WOODY'S - A Midnights Summer Dream" with your favorite bartender Scotty featuring Jasmine White 10PM. Dress as a fairy, nymph or in sexy dream wear.

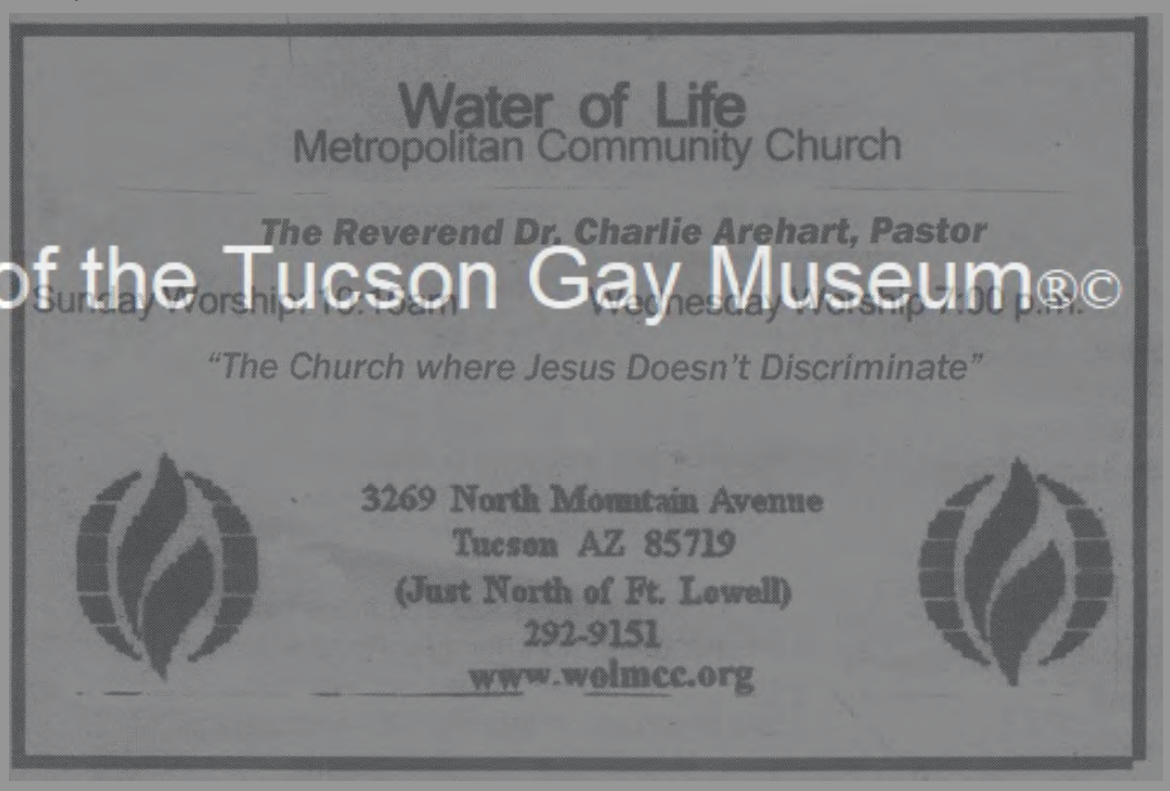
SATURDAY, JULY 3

WOODYS - Time to get leid at Woody's Luau .Woody's in the Tropics 8PM - close. Hot dance on patio with DJ Mike Lopez

SUNDAY, JULY 4

WOODYS - Celebrate Independence Day with Breakfast and Bloody Mary Buffet 11AM-1:30PM. Burger BBQ and Beer Bust 2-7PM Beat the heat with Sunday's Wet/Wild Party 2-8PM. Karaoke and Dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9PM to close.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE



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Iceland PM Weds As Gay Marriage Legalized

Tucson Observer Archives

REYKJAVIK (Observer Update) - Johanna Sigurdardottir, Iceland prime minister, married her long-time partner on Sunday as a new law legalizing homosexual marriages came into force.

Miss Sigurdardottir formally married Jonina Leosdottir, a writer, after the couple submitted a demand for their civil union to be transformed into a marriage, the RUV broadcaster said. Iceland's parliament on June 12 unanimously adopted legislation allowing gay marriage, in a law that came into force.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Homosexual couples could previously enter into a civil partnership and benefit from the same rights as heterosexual couples, but this had not been considered a formal marriage.

Miss Sigurdardottir, took power in February 2009. She has lived with Miss Ledsdottir for several years and the couple entered a civil union in 2002. She is the world's first openly gay head of government.

Obama, Municipalities Honor AIDS Testing

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that President Barack Obama renewed his call for increased testing in recognition of National HIV Testing Day, noting that one in five people with HIV are unaware they carry the virus.

"In recent years, we have made huge advances in HIV research, prevention and care," he said in a statement. "Still, HIV and AIDS remains an epidemic in this country. That is why my Administration is launching in the coming days a comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy focused on reducing new HIV infections, increasing access to care, and reducing HIV-related health disparities."

Obama also called for businesses, faith groups, scientists, academia, and philanthropic organizations to commit to fighting the epidemic.

"And all of us have a responsibility to reduce our risk and know our status, to continue to support those already affected by this disease, and to fight the stigma and discrimination people still face," he added. "So on this National HIV Testing Day, let us all recommit to do our part to help stop the spread of HIV and AIDS."

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