Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 ISSUE1363

Tucson Observer Archives

Target Buzz Drops After Boycott Over Anti-Gay Donation

MINNEAPOLIS (Observer Updatge) - Target's reputation plummeted immediately after gay rights activists called for a boycott of the chain over its support of an anti-gay candidate, and has yet to fully recover.

According to Brandweek, Target lost one-third of its BrandIndex score, a measure of a brand name's buzz, over the course of 10 days in August when the news first broke. While the retail giant has rebounded some since, its score remains 14 points lower than in July. Brandweek says its index "analyzes the most talked abut brands based on buzz: The scores are based on weighing positive and negative perceptions of a brand."

The Minnesota-based Target donated $150,000 to the group MN Forward, an independent political fund supporting Tom Emmer, the anti-gay Republican nominee for Minnesota governor. Electronics giant Best Buy also donated money.

Target apologized for the donation but rejected a request by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest gay rights advocate, to give an equal amount of money to a pro-gay candidate. HRC has said it will drop Target and Best Buy from its annual Buying for Equality Guide.

The progressive group MoveOn.org has launched ads urging shoppers to boycott the Minnesota-based retail giant for its $150,000 contribution. The group says corporations should stay out of politics. Institutional shareholders are pressuring Target to rethink its donation policies to avoid future political stumbles.

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Gay GOP Group President Enters Utah Senate Race

SALT LAKE CITY (Observer Update) - On Top Magazine reports thatMelvin Nimer, the president of gay GOP group Utah Log Cabin Republicans, is vying for a seat in the Utah Senate, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Melvin Nimer

Republicans recruited Nimer after Nancie Lee Davis was disqualified from the race for failing to file a campaign financial disclosure. Nimer will face Senator Ben McAdams, a Democrat who is considered gay friendly, in the fall. McAdams was appointed to the Senate earlier this year after openly gay Senator Scott McCoy retired from politics.

If approved by voters, the 60-year-old Nimer would become the state's first openly gay Republican legislator. But Nimer said he doesn't believe sexual orientation will become an issue in the campaign. "More than anything else, what I'm doing is giving the Republicans and independents an alternative to vote for," he said. "I bring a different viewpoint to this stuff. I am a conservative Republican as far as limited government and individual responsibility."

The choice, however, has left many scratching their heads. While the district, District 2, leans mostly in favor of gay rights, Utah Republican legislators – in the Statehouse and Congress – remain generally hostile toward gay issues.

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EDITORIAL. . . . . .

Capsule Comments

The deadline to register to vote for the Tuesday, November 2 election is Monday, October 4. If you are not registered to vote, you need to do so now because there is just too much at stake for this election.

To register to vote, one can go online to servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter/ and fill out the form online.

As mentioned, the election is Tuesday November 2, but early voting will begin on Thursday, October 7, when ballots will be mailed out to those on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL).

Many voters in Pima County and Arizona have signed up for the PEVL List. To sign up, go online to recorder.pima.gov/earlyreq.aspx, print out the form and send it in. The last day to request an early ballot is Friday, October 22.

Our state Senator Paula Aboud has represented LD 28, as well as the Tucson and Arizona LGBT community well in the Arizona Legislature.

But in this election Aboud faces three opponents, a right-wing Republican endorsed by Russell Pearce and Jim Kolbe, a "closet Green party" candidate running as an independent and an individual, running as non-partisan who ran against her in 2006 for the Democratic party nod for the state Senate and had his political backside handed to him on a plate by the voters.

Plain and simple., Aboud has helped her community and now is the time to return the favor. To volunteer for her campaign, call (520) 323-7264 or go to paulaaboud.com and sign up.

Court Won't Force Calif. Officials To Defend Prop. 8

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - California court has refused to order Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown to appeal a ruling that overturned the state's gay marriage ban, reports 365Gay.com.

The 3rd District Court of Appeal denied a conservative legal group's request to force the officials to defend voter-approved Proposition 8. Presiding Justice Arthur Scotland did not explain why the appeals court turned down the request filed two days earlier by the Pacific Justice Institute.

The institute now plans to take the matter to the California Supreme Court, Chief Counsel Kevin Snider said.

"We are disappointed that the appellate court showed indecisiveness in trying to prevent a constitutional crisis," Snider said. "They didn't want to deal with it."

The institute maintains the attorney general and governor have the duty to uphold all laws, including those passed by voters.

Brown has said he cannot defend Proposition 8 because he thinks it is unconstitutional; Schwarzenegger has chosen to remain neutral.

Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker struck down Proposition 8 last month as a violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

The measure approved by 52 percent of California voters in November 2008 amended the state Constitution to outlaw same-sex unions five months after the state Supreme Court legalized them.

The state has until Sept. 11 to challenge Walker's ruling. Both Brown and Schwarzenegger have said they don't plan an appeal.

The coalition of conservative and religious groups that sponsored the ban has appealed the ruling by Walker. But doubts have been raised about whether its members have authority to do so because as ordinary citizens they are not responsible for enforcing marriage laws.

Twenty-seven members of the California Assembly sent Schwarzenegger a letter this week urging the governor to bring an appeal if Brown will not.

UPDATE

'Pride On The Rocks' Sept. 25

SEDONA (Observer Update) - Come celebrate diversity and community on the banks of beautiful Oak Creek. Sedona Pride is hosting their 2nd Annual "Pride on the Rocks," Saturday, September 25, creek side under the sycamore trees in Tlaquepaque located at 336 State Route 179 in Sedona Arizona.

The event runs from 11 am to 7pm and tickets are $10.00 for a Pride Pass, $10.00 for the post-event evening dance, $15.00 for a Pride Pass/Evening Dance Combo, and the VIP Ticket at $50.00 allows entry to all events. Last year's Pride Event kicked off with an opening welcome from the President of the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Wesselhoff and Mayor Rob Adams also addressed the crowd of almost 1,000 participants.

This year's Pride on the Rocks event promises to be even more entertaining, with various fundraising and social events scheduled all throughout August and early September that will lead up to the Pride on the Rocks date on September 25th. Sedona Pride encourages people to get involved in all aspects of our community including the 1st Friday of each month for the Gallery Walk. In addition, there will be a pre-Pride party on Friday, September 24th at Reds and a Night at the Movies. Additional details will be added to the Sedona Pride website at www.sedonapride.org closer to the actual event.

For more information about "Pride on the Rocks" or Sedona Pride, you can visit their website at sedonapride.org or contact Sherab Khandro at (928) 300-3389.

Desert Voices Yard Sale Sept. 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, September 25, at 4412 E. Holmes Street (between Columbus and Swan and 5th Street and Broadway).

Time will be 6 am to early afternoon. If you have items you wish to donate, please let me know and I will try and arrange for pickup. We will also have our concert tickets for sale, water and sweets. So come out and join us and shop a bit! See you on the 25th, if not before!

For more information, call Desert Voices (520) 791-9662.

Anti-LGBT Bullying Awareness Event Sept. 23

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A recent increase in Anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment reports to the AVP motivated Wingspan advocates and staff to organize an event to be held Thursday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. at 525 N. Bonita.

The event is designed for affected youth and their guardians, educators, school administrators and staff, as well as concerned community members.

The goal for the event is to raise awareness of this specific type of violence and to gain a commitment from attendees to address this type of violence in their respective schools and campuses. This event is free and open to all.

For more information, contact Oscar Jimenez, 624-1779.

'Keep Tucson First' Formed

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A coalition of groups, organizations, businesses, nonprofits and individuals who support Proposition 400 has been formed.

Proposition 400, on the November 2 general election ballot would give the Mayor and Council the option of raising the city sales tax rate by one-half cent for which those monies would go to maintain the City's core services: police, fire, streets, court services and Parks and Recreation.

Keep Tucson First are holding weekly meetings at the Sam Lena Library, 1607 S. Sixth Avenue, Friday's at 4:00 p.m.. For more information, call 261-0378 or E-mail: keeptucsonfirst@gmail.com.

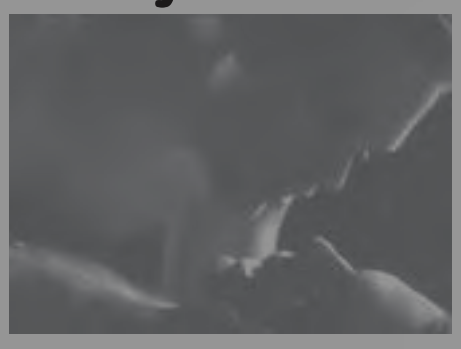
Antigone Books Event Sept. 24

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Please join us for an upcoming event at Antigone Books on Friday, September 24 at 7 PM: Join us for a fabulous event for teens, aspiring writers, teachers and librarians with three local authors: Jillian Cantor, Adam Rex and Janni Lee Simner.

Janni Lee Simner will read from Thief Eyes (Random House, $16.99). In this intense new fantasy, 16-year-old Haley accompanies her geologist father to Iceland, where she's determined to discover exactly what happened the previous year when her mother disappeared. Adam Rex will read from Fat Vampire (Harper, $16.99).

In this delightfully macabre spoof on the current vampire craze, Doug Lee is a 15 year-old overweight vampire and will be for eternity. Jillian Cantor will read from The Life of Glass (Harper, $16.99). High-school freshman Melissa's beloved father has recently died of cancer, leaving her struggling to find her way and learning how to come to terms with her grief without giving up her memories of him.

'True Blood's' Skarsgard: I'd Never Kissed A Guy Before'



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - On Top Magazine reports that True Blood's Alexander Skarsgard says he and co-star Theo Alexander had never had an onscreen male kiss before filming their electrifying scene.

After Skarsgard's vampire character Eric bests Talbot (played by Theo Alexander) at chess, Talbot declares he's bored and commands Eric to take off his clothes. Eric does as instructed and the men begin to kiss, but Eric is more concerned with revenge against King of Mississippi Russell Edgington (played by openly gay Denis O'Hare) than making love and ultimately kills Talbot, Edgington's partner of 700 years.

Skarsgard told Entertainment Weekly that neither he nor Theo Alexander had previously kissed a man onscreen. "I'd never kissed a guy before on a show or in a movie, and that was Theo's first time as well, and we talked about it," he said.

"It goes from being this romantic, beautiful scene, and they're getting rough with each other and getting it on - and [then] the turn where Eric just slaughters him. It's such a rich scene."

"I basically said, 'We've got to sell it in the beginning. It's got to be passionate and beautiful because then the payoff is going to be so much more rewarding.'" The curtain falls on season 3 of the HBO vampire drama on September 12.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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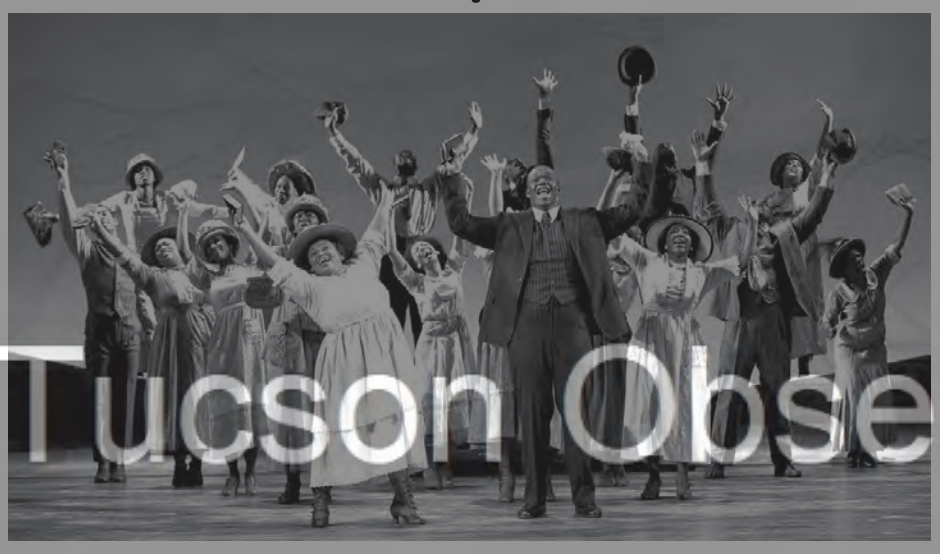
'The Color Purple' In Tucson



Tucson Observer Archives

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Broadway in Tucson is proud to announce that THE COLOR PURPLE, The Musical about Love, will play the Tucson Music Hall, November 2-7 for 8 performances only. Tickets go on sale Friday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

This production of THE COLOR PURPLE, produced by Phoenix Entertainment ~ Joyful Noisemakers LLC, helmed by Stephen Kane and Michael McFadden, is the next phase in the life of the groundbreaking Broadway hit musical produced by Scott Sanders. The original Broadway musical opened on December 1, 2005, and was nominated for eleven Tony Awards®, including Best Musical. THE COLOR PURPLE ran for over two years on Broadway followed by a three year First National Tour. THE COLOR PURPLE is based on the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the moving film by Steven Spielberg. It is the unforgettable and inspiring story of a woman named Celie, who finds the strength to triumph over adversity, and discover her unique voice in the world. With a joyous, GRAMMY®-nominated score featuring gospel, jazz, pop and the blues, THE COLOR PURPLE is about hope and the healing power of love.

Michael Kuchwara of the Associated Press described THE COLOR PURPLE as "a roof-raising story of triumph." And Richard Corliss of TIME Magazine said, "[it is] a soaring, epic tale. It made a joyful noise in my heart." Elysa Gardner from USA Today raved, "Pure heart! It celebrates the inspiring relationships of faith and love, A Broadway hit!" THE COLOR PURPLE is directed by Gary Griffin and features a libretto by Pulitzer Prize-winner Marsha Norman, music and lyrics by Grammy Award®-winning composers/lyricists Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray, and choreography by Donald Byrd. Rounding out the creative team are Tony Award®-winner John Lee Beatty (sets), Paul Tazewell (costumes), Tony Award®-winner Brian MacDevitt (lighting), Craig Cassidy (sound design), Steven M. Bishop (Orchestrations/Arrangements), and Jasper Grant (Music Director).

Stephen Kane and Michael McFadden have long been principal partners of Phoenix Entertainment and collectively share theatrical touring credits spanning nearly three decades on four continents. Their production repertoire includes: Grease starring Frankie Avalon, The Will Rogers Follies starring Larry Gatlin, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Gypsy, Man of La Mancha, The Pajama Game, Fame, Godspell, The Vagina Monologues, The King & I, Smokey Joe's Café, Singin' in the Rain, Buddy, Ring of Fire and Late Nite Catechism, among others. The original cast recording is available on EMI/Angel Records.

Performances run from November 2-7. Group sales are underway for groups of 10 or more. Groups may call Tanya Buffalo at (520) 903-2929 ext. 4. Tickets will go on sale to the public on Friday, September 10 at 10:30am.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Tucson Latino/a Gay Pride 2010

TUCSON (Observer Update) - It's time for Wingspans 3rd annual Tucson Latino/a Gay Pride!

A week-long series of events celebrates the intersecting Latin@ and LGBTQ2 identities. In collaboration with the University of Arizona Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs office, Odyssey Storytelling, Revolutionary Grounds and Coyote Moon Pub, Wingspan has organized social, cultural and educational events that highlight the struggles and celebrations that being LGBT and ...Latin@ bring. The events are designed to build community and bridge the Latin@ mainstream LGBT movements. The events will include storytelling, visual art, film, dancing and music.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12
Dancy party! @ Coyote Moon Pub 915 W. Prince Road - 9 pm - 2 am

MONDAY, SEPT. 13
OdysseyStorytellingpresents: Stories Without Borders @ Revolutionary Grounds, 606 N. 4th Ave. 7 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 15
Dinner and a Movie Youth Night @ Eon Youth Center, 430 E. 7th St.. 4:30 pm - 8 pm (Ages 13-23 only)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 16Latino LGBT Intersections Forum @ University of Arizona, Cesar Chavez Building, Room 205. 5:30 pm - 7 pm

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17
"Arte Sin Fronteras" Art and Culture Event @ Wingspan Community Center, 430 E. 7th St.. 7 pm - 9 pm

For more information, contact Oscar Jimenez at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779.

IBT'S
PREMIER DRAG SHOWS
WEDNESDAY
"VIVA LA DIVA"
HOSTED BY JANEE STAR
SHOW STARTS AT 9PM
MILLION $ DJ SPINNING INSIDE AFTER THE SHOW
DJ HURRICANE SPINNING 80'S MUSIC ON THE PATIO
SATURDAY
"SATURDAY NIGHT STARLETTS"
HOSTED BY JANEE STAR
SHOW STARTS AT 9PM
DJ HURRICANE SPINNING INSIDE AFTER THE SHOW
DJ LUIS ON THE PATIO
DRINK SPECIAL
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COMMENTARY. . . .

by John Corvino

A Good Gay Teacher

It's the first day of class, and I enter my lecture hall as I usually do, skirting the periphery until I reach the door that leads me discreetly backstage. The room is a "teaching theater," and while I could walk right up to the stage, I'm enough of a drama queen to prefer emerging onstage from the wings just before class starts.

I step out onto the stage for a brief moment, fiddling with the computer to boot up the powerpoint. As the huge screen behind me comes alive, I feel a bit like the Wizard of Oz without his curtain. Then I dart back offstage to collect my thoughts. 11:45 am. I emerge finally and walk briskly out to center stage. 150 new faces. "Good morning!"

I enjoy the first day of class, probably because I enjoy what I do for a living so much. I wouldn't say that I get nervous, but there is a certain tension, invigorating and familiar. What will this class's "personality" be? (Every class has one, just as surely as each student does.) How will they react to me and to one another?

My university is wonderfully diverse, and my classes reflect that. I scan the room and see students of all colors, of various ages, dressed every which way. There are nerds and jocks, preppies and punks. I spot a number of women in Muslim headscarves–some wearing all black, others in striking colors. I see at least one man wearing an Indian turban.

Last semester's class included a Buddhist monk, his deep orange robes making him easy to find in the crowd.

It's not until later in the day that I think about "the gay thing," when I pass a former student walking across campus and he gives me a bright "Hello."

"Peter" had set off my "gaydar" when he took my class, but he was shy–almost painfully so–and from a culture where such things are seldom discussed. He visited my office once to discuss his work, but he didn't bring up personal matters and I didn't pry. Today, he seems far more comfortable with himself, and I wonder about his journey.

I respond to Peter's greeting, but we both seem hurried. Maybe next time we'll talk more.

I'm openly gay on my campus, as in my life more generally. I'm the faculty co-advisor of our GLBTA, and any student who Googles my name will find my column and other gay-themed material.

But what about the students who don't? I want them, too, to know that I'm gay. Maybe some of them are gay themselves, and need to know that they're not alone. (This I imagine to be Peter's situation.) Maybe they have gay family members, or maybe they just need their assumptions challenged. How do I bring it up?

I'm not going to put it on the syllabus. ("Dr. Corvino, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Open Homosexual; Office Hours…)

In some classes it comes up more naturally than others: Contemporary Moral Issues, for instance. Still, it has to be handled right. "Not only do I write about gay issues, I'm also gay" feels a bit like "Not only am I the Hair Club president, I'm also a client," except without the before-and-after photos. ("My goodness, his homosexuality looks so natural…virtually undetectable!")

I want sexual orientation to be a "non-issue," but I also recognize that in many parts of society–including parts of my campus–we are not there yet. I spend a lot of time thinking about how to get us there, which means that, paradoxically, my "non-issue" is very much an issue.

Suppose that my coming out during a given lecture means that I "lose" 25% of the class for the next five minutes as they chew on this new bit of information. (Judging from their facial expressions when I do come out, I think 25% lost is a fair estimate.)

I want to be a good gay role model, but I also want to be a good teacher. A lecturer's effectiveness depends in part on audience reaction. In this respect teaching is like many other professions: think of salesmen, actors, or writers. When personal characteristics get in an audience's way – in this instance, by distracting from course content – they become relevant to job performance.

At the same time, part of my job as a philosophy teacher is to push people to challenge their presuppositions. As Socrates taught us, education isn't always about making people comfortable–often, it requires just the opposite.

So I come out in class, but I choose carefully when and how. I'll use examples that make my orientation clear, without making gayness the point of the example. I'll bring up the subject with a casual, matter-of-fact tone, even while my words are painstakingly selected.

Am I overthinking this? Perhaps so. But I'm a philosophy professor, after all. And I love what I do.

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralist" appears at365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

Family Indicted For Kidnapping Gay Teen

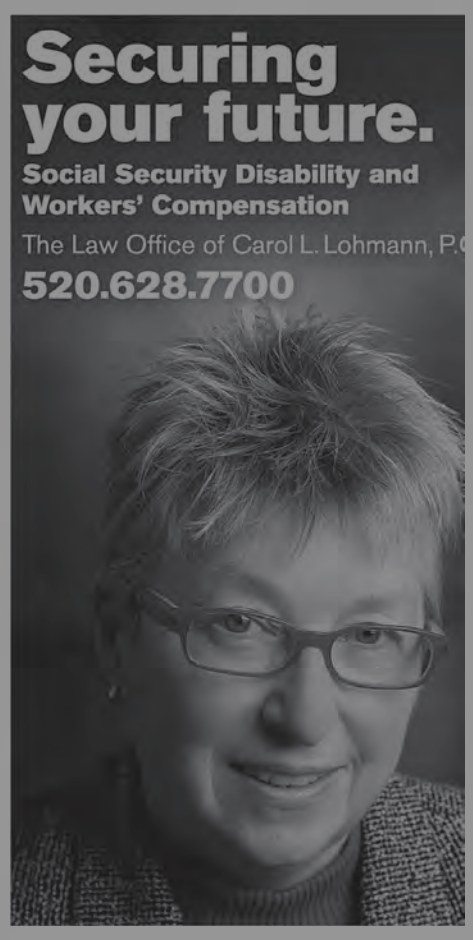
TEL AVIV (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that the family of an Israeli gay man was charged with kidnapping, assaulting, and falsely imprisoning him after he posted photos of himself dressed in drag on Facebook.

The family was indicted in Tel Aviv district court on Thursday. According to the charges, as recently as a week ago, the family arrived at 19-year-old Angel's apartment, attacked him, and sprayed his eyes with tear gas.

They then forced him into a car, proceeded to tie his hands with belts, cover his eyes with tape, and threatened to stab him if he didn't keep quiet. They then drove him out of Tel Aviv toward his hometown of Tamra, chained him in a room and left him for several hours.

Three weeks ago his mother sent him the following message on Facebook: "Either erase the pictures from Facebook or your family will come and get you and this will be your end."

The family is alleged to have kidnapped him on multiple other occasions. I was certain that I was going to die, and they also told me so," Angel told authorities.



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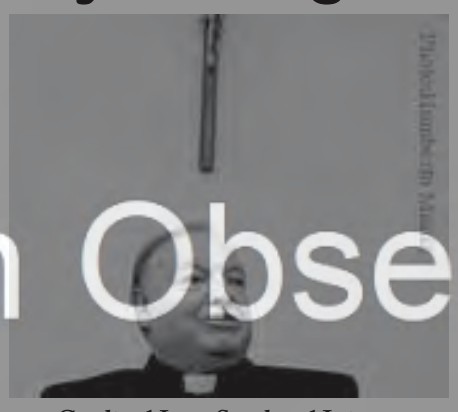
Mexico's Catholic Church Argues It's Not Homophobic For Opposing Gay Marriage



Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez

MEXICO CITY (Observer Update) - The Catholic Church in Mexico has rejected accusations that it is homophobic for opposing gay marriage, reported On Top Magazine. In an op-ed published in the weekly Desde la Fe (From the Faith), the Archdiocese of Mexico said it is "a myth and a fallacy to believe that anyone, because of their personal status, is discriminated by the church, or excluded from the requirements of the Christian way to achieve salvation. The Church is not in the world to condemn, but to save."

In the editorial Gays and the Church, the church says it is "absurd" to believe that gay men and lesbians don't have a place in the Catholic Church. Catholic leaders, led by the Archbishop of Guadalajara Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez, have harshly criticized Mexico City's gay marriage law and a Supreme Court ruling upholding its constitutionality.

Sandoval Iniguez accused Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard and his government of bribing the high court to rule in favor of its gay marriage law and condemned the court for betraying Mexico, the family and natural law. Ebrard responded with a lawsuit. "I do not know of any of you who would like to be adopted by a pair of lesbians of a pair of fags," Sandoval Iniguez said during a press conference in Aguascalientes. "I think not." While the church reconsidered the language used over the past few weeks, it also reiterated its opposition to gay marriage, saying such unions should not be called marriage "because they lack any element to be considered as such."

New Orleans Launches Gay Guide

NEW ORLEANS (Observer Update) - There's now an official gay and lesbian destination guide for New Orleans, reported the AP on 365Gay.com. The Navigaytour will launch just in time for the 39th Annual Southern Decadence Festival, which welcomes on average 100,000 attendees for events that take place over the Labor Day weekend.

The 32-page guide highlights events, attractions, restaurants, bars, clubs, accommodations and neighborhoods. This year, the Navigaytour guide features the first-ever Gay History Trail Map for New Orleans.

Its website says Navigaytour guides are only produced in conjunction with official tourist bureaus and Chambers of Commerce. The first was created in 2004 for Philadelphia; the group also has guides to Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Chicago and San Diego.

South Carolina Pride Parade Marched On

COLUMBIA (Observer Update) - Tantrums from a conservative group over rainbow flags aside, the South Carolina Pride parade rolled through the capital of Columbia, advocate.com reports.

The Associated Press reports that the parade began at Assembly and Laurel streets, moved through downtown Columbia, and ended at Finlay Park.

The Palmetto Family Council decried via press release the rainbow flags hung on city streets to commemorate the week-long festival.

"The flag raised today is symbolic of the city's ongoing and aggressive financial and institutional support of militant homosexual advocacy," the council said in a statement.

According to Palmetto's website, antigay activists had asked city officials to consider flying "flags celebrating one man, one woman marriage" as well. The request was denied.

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WOODY'S
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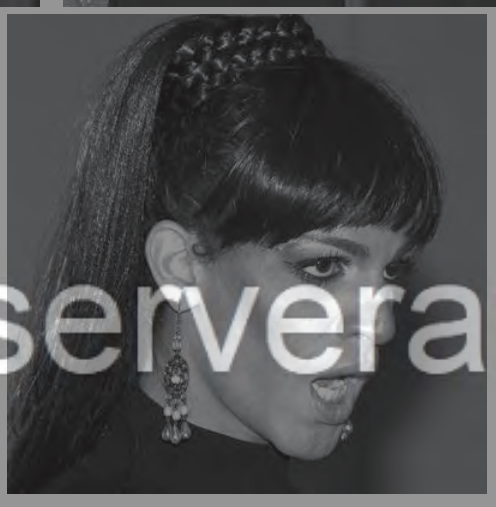
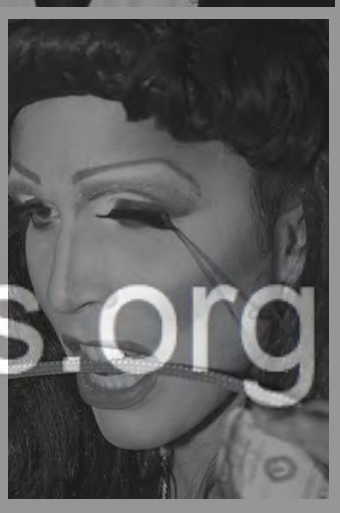
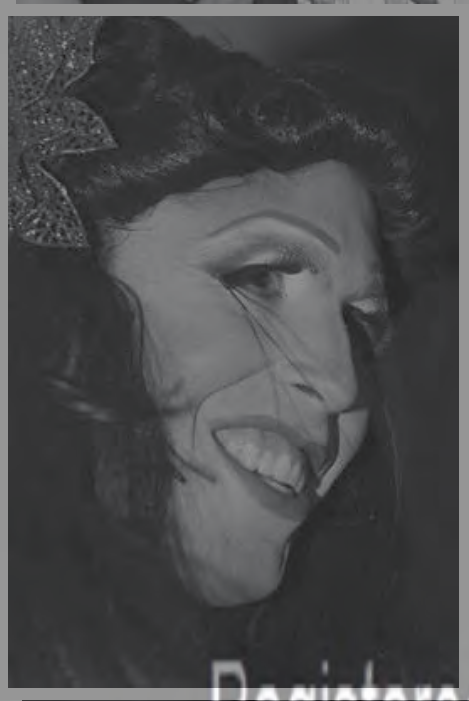
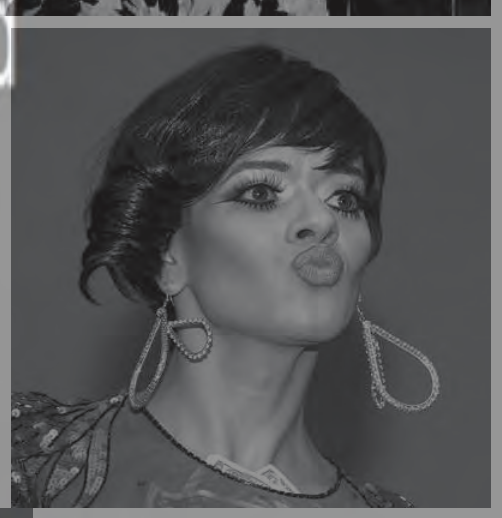
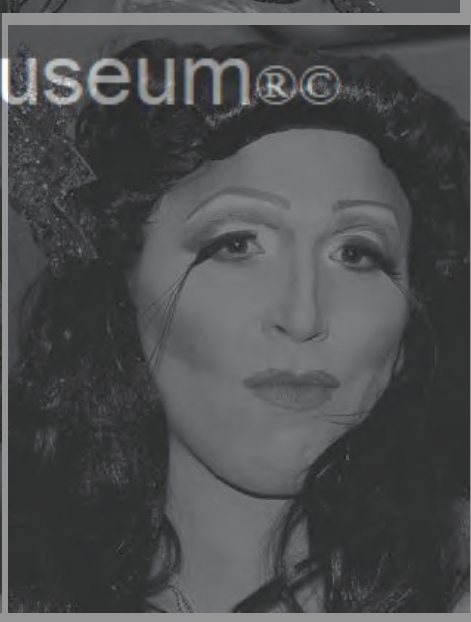
FACES SEEN AT THE TURNABOUT SHOW LAST SUNDAY







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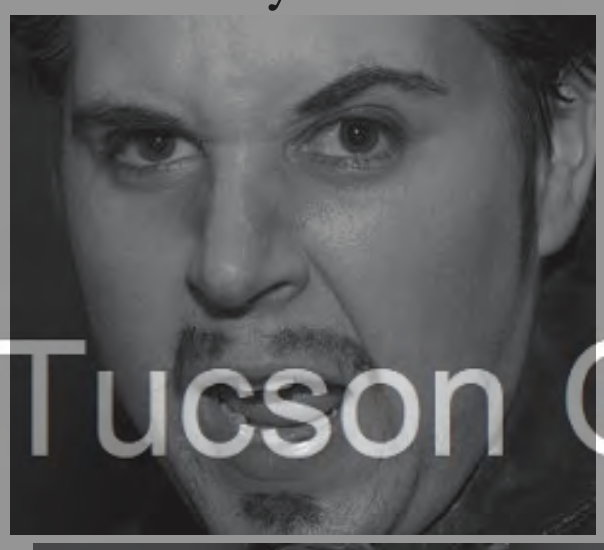

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There were so many photos taken at this wonderful benefit for TIHAN that we will have to print some more next week. If you missed this issue, check again next week.

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- **E. S.A.A.F. -** 375 S. Euclid 628-7223
- **G. TIHAN -** Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network - 1011 N. Craycroft
  Suite 301 - 299-6647
- **H. EON YOUTH CENTER**
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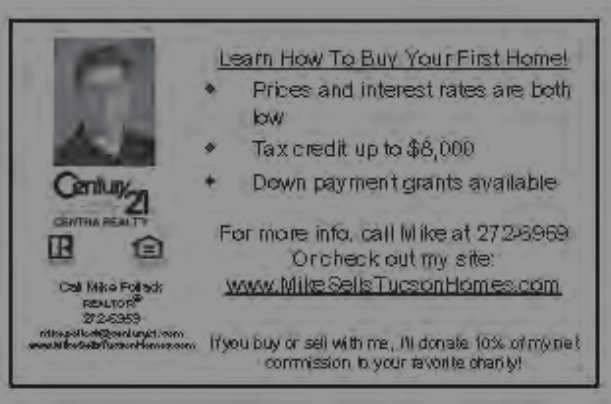
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CBS Money Watch Tackles Gay Couples

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - With the overturning of Prop. 8 on the brain, CBS Money Watch contributor and retirement planner Steve Vernon is offering up a number of retirement planning considerations for gay and lesbian couples, advocate.com reports.

"As a retirement planning expert," Vernon says, "what concerns me is whether there are special retirement planning considerations gay couples may need to take into account."

Chief among them, he explains, are pension plans that may not provide for partners, retirement and 401(k) plans that may default to a family member if a partner isn't listed as a beneficiary, and hospital visitation forms which need to specify partners by name.

Vernon says it's important to note that "the retirement planning considerations for unmarried straight couples and gay couples are very similar. You'll need to pay attention to the details that are specific to your situation."

Court Says G/L Couples Can't Divorce In Texas

DALLAS (Observer Update) - A Texas appeals court says gay couples legally married in other states cannot divorce in Texas, where same-sex marriages are banned.

The 5th Texas Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday that a Dallas judge didn't have jurisdiction to grant a divorce to two Dallas men who wed in Massachusetts. The court also says Texas' same-sex marriage ban is constitutional.

The state attorney general had appealed the district judge's October ruling that granted the men a divorce and found the ban violates equal rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

The Dallas men married in 2006 in Massachusetts and separated two years later. They're referred to only as J.B. and H.B. in court filings.

An attorney for J.B. says they haven't decided whether to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

Lambda Legal And HIV-Positive Retiree Settle Lawsuit Against Assisted Living Facility

LITTLE ROCK (Observer Update) - Lambda Legal announced today it has settled its lawsuit on behalf of an HIV-positive retired university provost and former minister against Fox Ridge, a North Little Rock assisted living facility.

The Reverend Dr. Robert Franke relocated to Little Rock to be closer to his daughter, Sara Franke Bowling, and moved in to Fox Ridge after fulfilling residency requirements that included submission of medical evaluation forms from a local physician. The next day, however - after realizing Dr. Franke is HIV-positive - Fox Ridge officials abruptly ejected Dr. Franke from the facility. With the assistance of Lambda Legal, Franke and Bowling sued under the Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and similar state laws.

"While we can't discuss the specific terms of the settlement, I can say we're quite pleased to have settled this matter," said Dr. Franke. "We firmly believe that as a result of our having brought this lawsuit, retired people in Arkansas who have HIV are less likely to face this kind of discrimination in the future."

The family's attorney echoed those sentiments: "Dr. Franke's case has already had an impact on the training of those responsible for enforcing Arkansas's fair housing laws, so awareness will continue to grow that people with HIV who need to move into assisted living should be treated the same as everyone else," said Scott Schoettes, HIV Project staff attorney for Lambda Legal. "The fact is, Dr. Franke never posed a health risk to anyone at Fox Ridge. The days are long over when a person could hide behind ignorance about HIV as an excuse to throw someone out on the street."

Fox Ridge attorneys filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit last July. But in August, Judge Garnett Thomas Eisele of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas denied that motion and cleared the way for the case to proceed to trial in August 2010. As the trial date approached, however, the parties reached a settlement, leading to dismissal of the case today.

"Recently, I received an email from a friend who works as the activity director at an independent living facility in town," said Sara Bowling. "She told me that most of the staff at her facility were being educated and trained about HIV and indicated that our case was described to the staff. I can't tell you how happy this news has made my father and me."

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Poet's Corner

THE PLAN

by Ron Rose

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Also Afghanistan
Send our troops to our borders
Called an "Immigration Plan".
Make war against each drug cartel,
Eliminate their threat.
Make our borders nice and safe
So we don't have to sweat,
And let's all "Buy American".
Could this lead to jobs?
Our workers really need a break
Before they turn to mobs.
To those who give our jobs away
'Tax 'em' to the max.
New immigrants would love these jobs
Boy, have we been lax.
I know we can be smarter,
High-tech cold lead the way.
We could even make a car,
TV, a phone, I say
The workers now who make them
Work very hard, you see
While greedy U.S. companies
Wring their hands with glee.

The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark

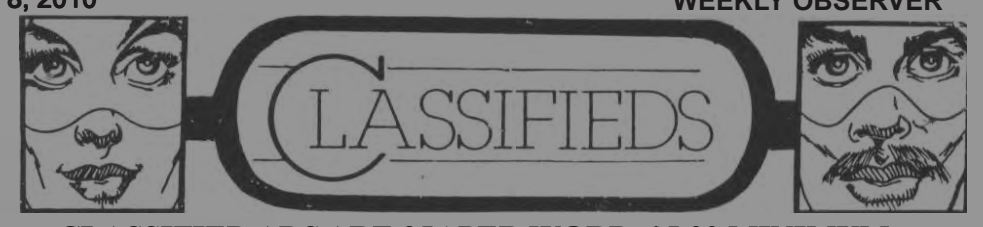
EDITOR'S NOTE: Before his untimely death, Gary Clark had worked on this newspaper for nearly 40 years as graphic artist and Entertainment Editor. Part of his heritage was producing a weekly humorous drawing of life 'as he saw it'. It is amazing that most of these drawings are as funny and entertaining today as they were in past years. We have decided to open the 'vaults' on these faultless viewpoints. Enjoy!

Army Launches DADT Survey

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Army announced that it launched an online inbox for soldiers to submit their comments and opinions on "don't ask, don't tell."

According to the Army News Service, the inbox is only available to soldiers through the Army Knowledge Online site, and will remain available until September 30 or "until leadership decides the inbox has fulfilled its purpose."

Advocate.com reports that the resulting inbox comments will be shared with the Department of Defense Comprehensive Review Working Group, which is currently evaluating the methodology to repeal the ban on openly gay and lesbian soldiers. The results of the DoD's stu[redacted]re due in December.



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GLAAD President On His Divorce

BOSTON (Observer Update) - Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation president Jarrett Barrios says that while the main focus on gay rights may be marriage, it also includes the right to divorce.

Barrios, who was once a Massachusetts state legislator, said he lobbied hard to get the state to recognize marriage equality. When it did, he and his partner of 11 years went to the altar in 2004. However, Barrios and his husband separated last year, and he has been enduring a tough divorce.

"Just as gay and lesbian couples share the joys of marriage, we will share the pain of divorce, something for which we have no template," he wrote in theBoston GlobeThursday. "Divorce plumbs impossible depths of sadness. It involves separating the dishes and the books and all the other things you acquired back when you both still felt the lightness of love, asserting to a judge at a public trial that, yes, your marriage has broken down irretrievably, and telling your parents whose marriage of 47 years hangs heavy over your anemic explanations to them."

GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

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

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2.25 domestic long necks. 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.

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Archie Comics Welcomes First Gay Character

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - There has been a number of gay characters in comic books since Marvel Comics opened the door with Northstar in 1992. But now a new level of acceptance has been reached- beloved comic series, Archie, is adding its first gay character, reports 365Gay.com.

Riverdale High will be introduced to Kevin Keller, the hunky gay blonde with a V-neck and perfectly coiffed hair. Archie Comics Co-CEO John Goldwater said, "The introduction of Kevin is just about keeping the world of Archie Comics current and inclusive. Archie's hometown of Riverdale has always been a safe world for everyone."

Kevin will first appear in Veronica #202. His first story line will solidify his sexuality, finding a polite way to turn down the persistent come-ons of Veronica. Kevin even entices Jughead by challenging him to a burger eating contest at Pop's Chocklit Shoppe. At least we know Kevin can handle large amounts of meat.

The introduction of Kevin Keller marks the first gay character in the series' 69-year history.

Steven Slater And Jetblue Officially Part Ways

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Towleroad.com reports that while it's unclear if he was let go or was fired, what we do know is that Steven Slater's no longer a JetBlue employee.

CNN reports: "JetBlue spokeswoman Jenny Dervin told CNN on Saturday that Steven Slater no longer works for the airline. She said that the separation occurred last week, but declined to elaborate how Slater and the company parted ways."

But according to ABC News, Slater's lawyer gave a different account on how things went down: "...Slater's lawyer said that when the flight attendant left JetBlue on Wednesday, it was not the airline's decision. 'He was not fired,' attorney Daniel J. Horwitz told The Associated Press. The lawyer told the AP that he and Slater were still working out details with the airline, but wouldn't elaborate."

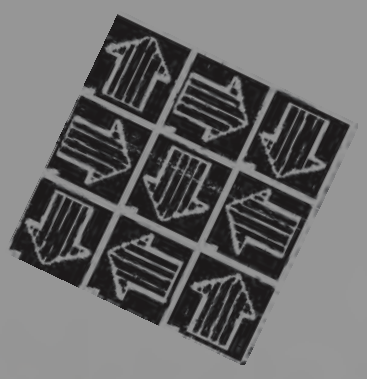
This begs the question, what's next for Slater? With his new found fame, this means he might be a season away from being a contestant on Big Brother.

Why The Media Won't Listen To Mike Rogers About Which Bigoted Politicos Are Gay

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - "This has been a well-known secret in Washington D.C.," Mike Rogers tells Ben & Dave's Six Pack about Ken Mehlman, queerty.com reports.

But professional outer Rogers isn't just livid with the former RNC chairman. He's got beef with the media who continue to refuse to point out the sexuality of anti-gay politicos.

"It's what I call the pact of protection. In which politicians protect the media and the media protects politicians. So the media knows what's going on. Who owns all these places? Everyone's biased. If CNN leaves that in [Bill Maher outing Ken Mehlman on Larry King Live], then they will be denied the big guests."



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