Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER NOVEMBER 2, 2010 ISSUE1370

Tucson Observer Archives

Too Many People Attend Rally To Restore Sanity And/Or Fear

tucsonobservernarchives.org

POTOMAC FEVERVILLE (Observer Update) - Exactly two months after Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin held their "Restore Honor" rally on the Mall in Washington DC, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert held a counter rally of sorts calling for a restoration of sanity and/or fear, reported towleroad.com.

It was a rally without a politician, featuring instead two political satirists, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Colbert, who used the stage to rib national journalists and fear-mongering politicians, and to fake-fight each other over dueling songs about trains.

Though at no point during the show did either man plug a political candidate, a strong current of political engagement coursed through the enormous crowd, which stretched from the Capitol almost to the Washington Monument, an overwhelming response to a call by Mr. Stewart on his show on the Comedy Central network. The turnout clogged traffic, and filled subways and buses to the point of overflow.

The New York Times's Brian Stelter puts the crowd estimate at 250,000. The Huffington Post helped bus 10,000 of those people from NYC to DC. Colbert himself tweeted his own crowd estimate: 6 billion.

What exactly was this rally about? At the end of the event, Stewart asked the massive crowd that exact same question. His response:

This was not a rally to ridicule people of faith or people of activism or to look down our noses at the heartland or passionate argument or to suggest that times are not difficult and that we have nothing to fear. They are and we do. But we live now in hard times – not end times. And we can have animus and not be enemies.

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New Social Network Takes The Gay-Straight Alliance Online

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - We've all seen and probably "liked" one or two advocacy campaigns on Facebook, like perhaps the recent page dedicated to making October 20th Spirit Day in memory of the LGBT youths who have taken their lives in the past few months, 365Gay.com reported.

Indeed, digital social networks like Facebook and Twitter have often been used to provide information, promote causes or call people to action. According to a CNN report, there's a new social network in town. Named Friendfactor, the site aims to promote gay rights – but instead of campaigning for causes like gay marriage or Don't Ask, Don't Tell, it aims to make people the focus of its online campaign.

Gay people create profiles on the site, and then solicit support from their straight friends for their fight for equality. These profiles are like "advocate" pages, where creators can post stories on their coming-out process or their struggles in obtaining a marriage license, and also answer "burning questions" that their straight friends have.

When straight allies affirm their support to a profile on the site, they trigger an automatic digital alert to the profile page's owner, in a social feedback system not unlike that of "liking" a Facebook status update.

The soon-to-be-launched site was founded by Brian Elliot, who believes that the site not only provides affirmation to gay people and letd them know they are not alone; it also humanizes what some straight people might see as a fight for abstract gay

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EDITORIAL. . . . . .

Election Night Results?

So why isn't there election results in this edition of the Observer?

Since the fact that this publication goes to press on Tuesdays, which for this edition is election day, and with the tabulation of ballots, early returned, voted at polls and late drop offs taking usually a week to complete, it is not a good thing for a weekly publication to report one thing when the end story could be completely different.

The question for the readership is the fact did they cast their ballots on the respective races and ballot measures that were on the ballot?

As in previous elections, this publication will have full coverage in the following edition of the general election results.

If one voted, the Observer thanks you. If you didn't, you have absolutely nothing to complain about, except failing to exercise your rights at the ballot

Objections To DADT Repeal By Retired Chaplains A " Red Herring" Says SLDN

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - On Top Magazine reports that a leading group lobbying for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has called objections to repeal by retired chaplains a "red herring."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) responded to the chaplains' argument that repeal of the law that bans gay troops from serving openly would force them to choose between serving God and the U.S. armed forces.

The retired chaplains argue that repeal of the law could lead to a chaplain preaching against being gay to conceivably be disciplined as a bigot under the military's nondiscrimination policy, the AP reported.

Sixty-five former chaplains have written to President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates urging them to keep the the law in place. Obama says he objects to the law, but is appealing a court case that found the law unconstitutional because the wants it ended legislatively.

"Many (if not most) chaplains will confront a profoundly difficult moral choice: whether they are to obey God or to obey men," they wrote in the letter dated September 16.

A majority of the 3,000 chaplains on active duty are from religious faiths that opposed being gay or sex between members of the same sex, including the Southern Baptist Convention, the Roman Catholic Church, the Full Gospel Pentecostal church, and the Assemblies of God.

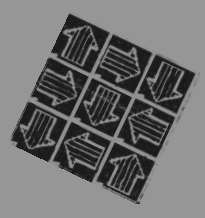
SLDN, however, called the argument a "red herring."

"The military already recognizes that the bottom line is the religious needs of a religiously diverse population of service members," said Paul W. Dodd, a U.S. Army retired chaplain, in a statement released Saturday by the group. "For a person to be considered for appointment as a military chaplain, a chaplain must agree that he or she is willing to function in a pluralistic environment and is willing to support directly and indirectly the free exercise of religion by all members of the military."

"Military chaplains are required to serve a religiously diverse population, which holds different views on many things, including gender, race, other religions, and sexual orientation. This does not mean, of course, that the military chaplain must abandon his or her personal beliefs. Nor does it mean that the chaplain must modify his or her spiritual message when conducting a denomination-specific service."

"All chaplains will continue the historic tradition of securing the free exercise of religion for all our troops," he added.

Included in the Defense Department's report on how to end the law – due December 1 – is an internal survey on attitudes in the military on the policy. According to details leaked to NBC News, the survey will show that most troops are not concerned about serving and living alongside openly gay troops.



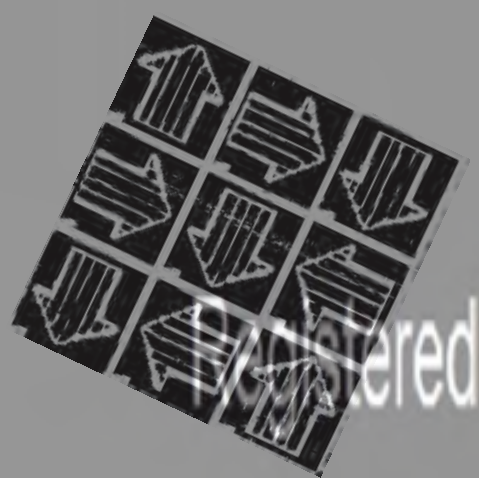
UPDATE

Observer Benefit Successful

Veronica Chase,

TUCSON - Last Sunday, Oct.31,a benefit for the Weekly Observer was held at the Coyote Moon . It was a successful evening raising funds for the Observer, and also an evening of great entertainment. Winners of the first month of the Moon's "Talent Spotlight" performed perfectly.

Veronica Chase hosted the affair and the performers included Johnny D., Holly Woodlawn, Wynonna Michaels and Brittney Star. The evening raised over $270, thanks to the performers who donated their tips as well as donations from members of the audience. The Observer, who is joining those fighting these economical times, thanks everyone for a wonderful evening of entertainment and helping keep the Observer on course.



LGBT Adoption Our Community, Our Voice, November 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - LGBT Adoption: Our Community Our Voice, will take place, from 8 am to 5 pm, at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde, 4550 South Palo Verde.

This event brings experts in the field of adoption together to help any LGBT person who is interested in adoption to learn the ins and outs of it as well as to assist those who have already adopted in the unique joys and challenges of raising our kids in our unique families.

Register today at ethicanet.org. For more information, contact Melissa Griebel, 520-975-0385.

Suzanne Westenhoefer November 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Suzanne Westenhoefer will be "Totally Inappropriate," when she comes to the Old Pueblo, at the Rialto Theatre, November 20.

What words best describe Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer? How about bold, bawdy, and just plain hilarious? Not afraid to ask tough questions that uncover the laughs underneath, Suzanne's made a career out of telling the truth. And the truth is, life is funny.

While she says she can't promise dancing girls or magic tricks on her new tour, she does guarantee an hour and a half of "the same brilliant stand up comedy that I've been pumping out for 19 years." And, she adds, "Each show on the tour will have its own version of inappropriateness, so you'll need to come to a show and find out for yourself."

For more information, go to rialtotheatre.com.

Gifted By Otherness: A Course In Gay And Lesbian Spirituality

TUCSON (Adult Formation Ministries at St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 4440 N. Campbell Avenue, is offering a repeat of last spring's forum series, "Gifted by Otherness: A Course in Gay and Lesbian Spirituality," on Tuesday evenings, November 9 through December 14, at 7 p.m. in the church's Library.

This course draws from the book, "Gifted by Otherness: Gay and Lesbian Christians in the Church" by L.W. Countryman and M.R. Ritley. Gay and lesbian people are encouraged by Countryman and Ritley to adopt a positive attitude to spirituality and to take a pro-active role in the Church through telling their own stories, recognizing their spiritual gifts, interpreting spiritual writings in their own context, and refusing to apologize for who they are.

For more information contact

Wingspan Classic Charity Golf Tournament

TUCSON (Observ er Update) - The Second Annual Wingspan Classic Charity Golf Tournament is set for November 12, 2010 at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort. This second year promised to be better than the first!

Get involved with this fantastic event by sponsoring, playing, volunteering or dining. See the Wingspan Classic website for Sponsorship opportunities (wingspanclassic.org).

Players get fantastic goody bags and volunteers get special edition shirts plus a discount on the dinner. All proceeds benefit Wingspan. Cost:$150 per person, includes greens fees, cart, driving range, deluxe goody bag and BBQ dinner after tournament. Format: Four Person Scramble, Low Gross Registration: Begins at 10:30 am, Shotgun Start at 12:45 pm.

For more information, contact Linda Thomas, 520-624-1779.

Bowling Fundraiser

TUCSON (Observer Update) - A fund raiser for the Tucson LGBT bowling tournament will be held Saturday, November 13, 2 - 5pm at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st St.

This event helps raise money to host Chuzapalooza, the LGBT bowling tournament being held January 14-16, 2011, at Tucson Bowl. See Chuzaplooza.com for details.

$20 gets you 3 games, rental shoes and 3 Chuza strikes. You may buy Chuza strikes: 1 for $5, 3 for $10 (Limit 3 per game). Regressive No-Tap as follows: Game 1 - 8 or better on first ball only counts as a strike. Game 2 - 9 or better on first ball only counts as a strike. Game 3 - Only a strike on first ball only counts as a strike. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd plus a special prize TBA.

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Director Ron Howard: 'Gay' Joke Will Remain In "The Dilemma"

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Earlier this month Vince Vaughn defended the "electric cars are gay" joke his character utters in the trailer for the upcoming Universal Studios release, The Dilemma. After receiving criticism from many, including GLAAD and Anderson Cooper, Universal axed the joke from the trailer. Now director Ron Howard is defending the joke and guess what? He's decided to leave it in the final cut of the movie, which will be released in January, reported towleroad.com.

Howard tells the LA Times:

"So why was the joke in the movie? Our lead character of Ronny Valentine has a mouth that sometimes gets him into trouble and he definitely flirts with the line of what's okay to say. He tries to do what's right but sometimes falls short. Who can't relate to that? I am drawn to films that have a variety of characters with different points of view who clash, conflict and learn to live with each other. THE DILEMMA is a story full of flawed characters whose lives are complicated by the things they say to and hide from each other. Ronny is far from perfect and he does and says some outrageous things along the way."

He adds: "I believe in sensitivity but not censorship. I feel that our film is taking additional heat as an emblem for many movies and TV shows that preceded it that have even more provocative characterizations and language. It is a slight moment in THE DILEMMA meant to demonstrate an aspect of our lead character's personality, and we never expected it to represent our intentions or the point of view of the movie or those of us who made it."

No word yet from Anderson Cooper but GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios issued a response immediately after hearing Howard's decision to keep the joke in the film.

"At a time when so many in our country are speaking out against the bullying of gay youth, Universal was right to acknowledge the offensive nature of this 'joke' when it removed it from trailers. Unfortunately, by leaving it in the movie, they are now contributing to the problem. The conversations started as a result of the community's response to this slur will help schools, media and parents understand the impact of the word 'gay' being used as a pejorative. Hopefully in the future, Universal and Ron Howard will recognize the power of their words and use their films to bring people together rather than drive us apart."

Tucson Observer Archives

New Social Network Takes The Gay-Straight Alliance Online

Continued from Page One

rights.

Speaking in an interview at PopTech, a conference for social change and technology, Elliot said, "Gay friends are so much more important than gay rights." The 29-year-old Elliot got the idea for his site when he started a Facebook page called Give Brian Equality. Half of the 600 friends he invited to join the page did so. In less than a month, 19,000 people had "liked" the page. Elliot reasoned that people were drawn to his story. His friends might not have been passionate about gay rights, but they were keen to help him as a person.

The site will be up in the next few weeks, and Elliot told CNN that he hopes that it will simplify gay rights and make it fun. He quotes advice from a mentor of his, saying that "you can't ask people to sign up for a struggle because 'America's Next Top Model' is on – and that's just more fun."

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Accused Tyler Clementi Bullies Out From Rutgers

PISCATAWAY (Observer Update) - Dharun Ravi and Molly Wei, the Rutgers University freshmen accused of bullying Tyler Clementi to death, have withdrawn from the school, the New York Post reported.

On Top Magazine reports, Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge to his death after learning that his roommate, Ravi, had secretly streamed live video of him having sex with another man onto the Internet. Lawyers for Wei on Friday said the 18-year-old student quit out of fear for her life.

"She is a student in good standing, has not been convicted of anything but had concerns for her safety," Rubin Sinins told the Star-Ledger.

Ravi, also 18, has transferred out of Rutgers to another school. Ravi and Wei have been charged with invading 18-year-old Clementi's privacy, but New Jersey officials have said they are considering charging the pair with committing a hate crime because Clementi was gay.

The nationwide gay college group Campus Pride had urged university officials to expel both students, saying they had acted "maliciously" and that Rutgers University owed an obligation to the parents of Clementi. Ravi is free on $25,000 bail and Wei is free on her own recognizance.

Ravi has said he hopes the public won't rush to judgment. Wei's attorney has denied her guilt, saying she's "a wonderful, caring and talented young woman with a bright future."

Clementi's death sparked a nationwide debate on gay teens being bullied to death.

Michigan Assistant AG Could Lose His License

LANSING (Observer Update) - This possibility arose after openly gay University of Michigan student assembly president Chris Armstrong and his attorney filed a complaint with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission, against Andrew Shirvell, reports towleroad.com.

The Detroit Free Press reports: "Deborah Gordon, the attorney for U-M student Chris Armstrong, said she has filed a complaint with the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission against Shirvell, a Michigan assistant attorney general, on behalf of her client. The complaint alleges Shirvell harassed and defamed Armstrong during what Gordon describes as a six-month campaign 'of lies, dishonesty, heckling, hate speech and even job interference.' The commission could disbar Shirvell if it investigates. 'I could not stand by and let Mr. Shirvell continue his reckless, bullying behavior,' Armstrong said in a statement."

Armstrong added: "We just feel very strongly ... that you can't be a licensed attorney and an officer of the court and conduct yourself this way and essentially terrorize a college student."

While Armstrong has dropped his restraining order against Shirvell, the state's assistant attorney general is still not allowed to step foot on the the University of Michigan campus. Shirvell's attorney has threatened legal action if that ban lifted is not lifted as well.

Shirvell is still under voluntary leave from his position but is scheduled to return to his position.

Top Lutheran Says Gay Teens Were Created That Way

CHICAGO (Observer Update) - The leader of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wants gay and lesbian teens to know that they're "the people God created them to be."

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has joined President Barack Obama and prominent celebrities in recording video messages aimed at reducing despair and suicide among gay youths.

Hanson says, "Sometimes the words of my Christian brothers and sisters have hurt you." But he assures homosexual teens that there's a place for them "in this church."

The ELCA allows gays and lesbians in committed relationships to serve as clergy – a policy that has prompted a number of congregations to leave the largest U.S. Lutheran denomination.

Georgia MegaChurch Pastor Comes Out

ROCKDALE (Observer Update) - This story will certainly inspire. Earlier this month, Georgia Church in the Now megachurch leader Jim Swilley, who very recently divorced from his wife of 21 years, came out and he bravely did it in a very public forum - during a sermon in front of his congregation, reports towleroad.com.

Jim Swilley

Swilley, a father of four himself, said that he was prompted to come out now due to the recent increased reports of gay teen suicides. The Rockdale Citizen reported on his coming out: For many church members, Swilley's coming out during the service was not a surprise. Swilley said he had been aware of his sexual orientation since a young age. He and his wife and co-pastor, Debye Swilley, separated about 18 months ago and have subsequently divorced after 21 years of marriage. A video of the service was posted to the church's website Saturday that shows Swilley explaining to his congregation that he needed to be himself to continue his ministry and that meant explaining his homosexuality and debunking rumors about him.

"There are two things in my life that are an absolute. I did not ask for either one of them. Both of them were imposed on me. I had no control over them," Swilley said. "One was the call of God on my life ... the other thing was my sexual orientation." Swilley gives a 50-minute talk in the video and says that his sexual orientation is something he has struggled with his whole life. He adds he was always attempting to come to terms with his orientation and his faith in God.

"It's like having blue eyes and saying that you can't have blue eyes," he said. "So I would put the contact lens in and say I don't have blue eyes ... I was doing it not to hide something but to change something." The announcement brought some immediate changes to the church, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in May. Swilley will no longer be referred to as a bishop after he agreed to step down from the College of Bishops of the International Communion of Charismatic Churches, a coalition of church ministries of which Church In The Now is a member.

In the candid sermon, Swilley carefully explains to his congregation how being gay is not a choice. He also clears up some rumors (no, he did not leave his wife for another man nor is he not involved in the Eddie Long scandal).

Sources: Most US Troops, Families Say Gay's OK

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - An internal Pentagon study has found that most U.S. troops and their families don't care whether gays are allowed to serve openly and think the policy of "don't ask, don't tell" could be done away with, according to officials familiar with its findings, 365Gay.com reported.

The survey results were expected to be used by gay rights advocates to bolster their argument that the 1993 law on gays could be repealed immediately with little harm done to the military. But the survey also was expected to reveal challenges the services could face in overturning the long-held policy, including overcoming fierce opposition in some parts of the military even if they represent a minority.

Details on the survey results were still scarce Thursday, with the Pentagon declining to discuss the findings until after Dec. 1 when it rolls out its own plan for repeal.

The officials who disclosed the survey's findings spoke on condition of anonymity because the results had not been released.

President Barack Obama has said "don't ask, don't tell" unfairly discriminates against gays. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, the military's top uniformed officer, agree but want to move slowly to ensure that military effectiveness doesn't suffer.

Among their top concerns is that forcing too much change, too soon on an institution that historically has been reluctant to embrace gays could prompt a backlash among troops and their families.

With a Democratic-controlled Congress already considering a change to the law, Gates in February ordered a yearlong study into the matter. As part of that effort, the Pentagon sent out some 400,000 surveys to troops and another 150,000 to family members on the military's policy toward gays.

Officials said that with the survey results complete, the working group is analyzing the results and working on a plan to overturn the policy should Congress repeal the law.

Gay rights groups attacked the 103-question survey. They said it assumes troops don't want to serve with openly gay service members and repeatedly uses the term "homosexual," considered to be outdated and derogatory.

The survey was prepared by the Maryland-based research firm Westat under a $4.5 million contract.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon was forced to lift its ban on openly serving gays for eight days after a federal judge in California ordered the military to do so. The Justice Department has appealed and a federal appeals court granted a temporary stay of the injunction.

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Calif Gay Rights Group Finds Noose At Its Office

SANTA ANA (Observer Update) - Gay rights group Equality California found a noose hung outside its office, the Orange County Register reported.

On Top Magazine reports police responding to a call from the group trivialized the incident, dismissing the noose as a string on the door and saying that sometime you have to live with being a victim.

The black colored noose "was shocking," said Mel Distel, the phone-bank trainer who found the noose and called the police. "It struck me as something that could escalate, something that was definitely meant to be hurtful."

Distel said she "absolutely" plans to file a complaint against the police.

"This is an outrageous, despicable attempt to intimidate the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community just a few days before the election, but we will not be silenced," Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, said in a statement.

The office's nine volunteers working in the office were placing calls on behalf of Assembly candidate Melissa Fox.

Fox decried the hanging of the noose in statement, saying it was a "hateful" act "intended to threaten and intimidate Equality California and other supporters of marriage equality from exercising our Constitutional rights to free speech and free association."

NBC Affiliate Apologizes For Asking If Gay Acceptance Will Be America's Downfall

TYLER (Observer Update) - An NBC television affiliate in Texas has apologized for airing a radio station's segment asking listeners if acceptance of gay people will be "the fall of America." Gay rights groups the Courage Campaign and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) said they were appalled by the question, reported On Top Magazine.

KTBB radio host Garth Maier asked listeners: "Will the acceptance of homosexuality be the fall of America?" Tyler-based NBC affiliate KETK devoted 8 minutes of its news program to air portions of the radio segment.

In making his case, Maier noted that the Obama administration has appointed a record number of openly gay officials, that the president recorded a video message to troubled gay teens considering suicide as part of the It Gets Better campaign, and claims by a recent survey that 10 percent of teenagers are openly gay. Both stations issued apologies for asking the question.

KTBB Radio President Paul L. Gleiser called the question "poorly worded at best and inappropriate altogether at worst" in his apology. "The way our Talkback question was posed might be seen as asking, 'Do homosexuals, by their very existence, threaten to bring down America?' We believe that such a question, posed in such a manner, is likely to generate more heat than light," Gleiser said in a statement posted at the station's website.

KETK General Manager Dave Tillery appeared on-camera to issue his apology. "We have discussed these comments with KTBB and agree that the question was poorly worded," Tillery said. "For that, they have apologized. And since the question also appeared on our air, we are sorry for any offense that was taken."

Rally to Restore Sanity And Of Fear Recap

COMMENTARY. . .

by Amanda Lawson

(See Page One)

People on the left, people on the right, and everyone in between showed up at John Stewart and Stephen Colbert's Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear yesterday in Washington DC. From the Capitol Building to the Washington Monument a crowd of 150,000 formed with a shared common goal: restoring sanity to America.

First the rally had to accomplish its unspoken mission of entertaining the masses. The festivities kicked off with music from the Roots and John Legend, and quickly dissolved into scientific experiments. Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman, from the Discovery Channel show Mythbusters, made the whole crowd jump up and down to create an earthquake-like effect. Stewart made his entrance and exaggeratingly welcomed the crowd of '10 million.' Colbert entered in a tube resembling the one that saved the Chilean miners from his 'underground fear bunker' reportedly 2,000 feet below the stage.

Highlights of the rally included a poem by Colbert read by Sam Waterston of Law & Order fame and a 'train' themed medley with "Peace Train" performed by Cat Stevens (or Yusuf Islam), "Crazy Train" rocked out by Ozzy Ozbourne, and "Love Train" by the O'Jays. Other appearances included Sheryl Crow, Kid Rock and Kareem Abdul Jabar.

The mass of people on the hill made it very difficult for many to see or hear. Spectators climbed up trees and on port-o-potties just to catch a glimpse of the stage. However, the real event may have been what was going on in the audience. On the lawn you could find everything from the signing of a 50" Constitution, to picnics, to an intense game of Scrabble. Creativity flourished as an array of costumes such as banana suits, Storm Troopers, and tea bags were found throughout.

The rally proved to be extremely diverse. People of all different ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, political parties and ideals came to show that they don't take themselves too seriously. Rally-goers came from all over the country, like Adam from Minneapolis, MN who when asked why he traveled to DC stated, "We're here to take part in history."

Although the reason for each individual's participation in the rally was different, the central theme appeared to be tolerance. Sociopolitical signs boasted, "Republicans are my friends", "Kiss me I'm Muslim", and "I can't rally too hard, I don't have healthcare".

Many of the signs gave support to the LGBT community: "I'm a gay man and I'm not a hell beast," "I'm not afraid of gays, but I'm afraid of bears,"and "I'm not gay, but its OK if you are." One participant showed up dressed in a costume to represent the "Bill from Capitol Hill," from the television show School House Rock. On his costume he bore the bill number "S.3454," the piece of legislature that would repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell and install the Dream Act.

Stewart ended the Rally by thanking the crowd and explaining his reasons for having the event. He shared, "I can only tell you my intentions: This was not a rally to ridicule people ... or look down at them or to suggest times are not difficult and we have nothing to fear. They are and we do. We live now in hard times but these are not End Times. We can animus and not be enemies."

Colbert demonstrated the peaceful nature of the event by asking the crowd to whisper after him, "I'm concerned about the country and I'm open to a variety of ideas." Today people were open to discussing their different ideologies while wearing a banana suit or over a game of Scrabble. When it comes down to it, the Rally to Restore Sanity showed that Americans know how to come together and laugh at themselves.

(Lawson is a writer for 365Gay.com from which this is reprinted from.)

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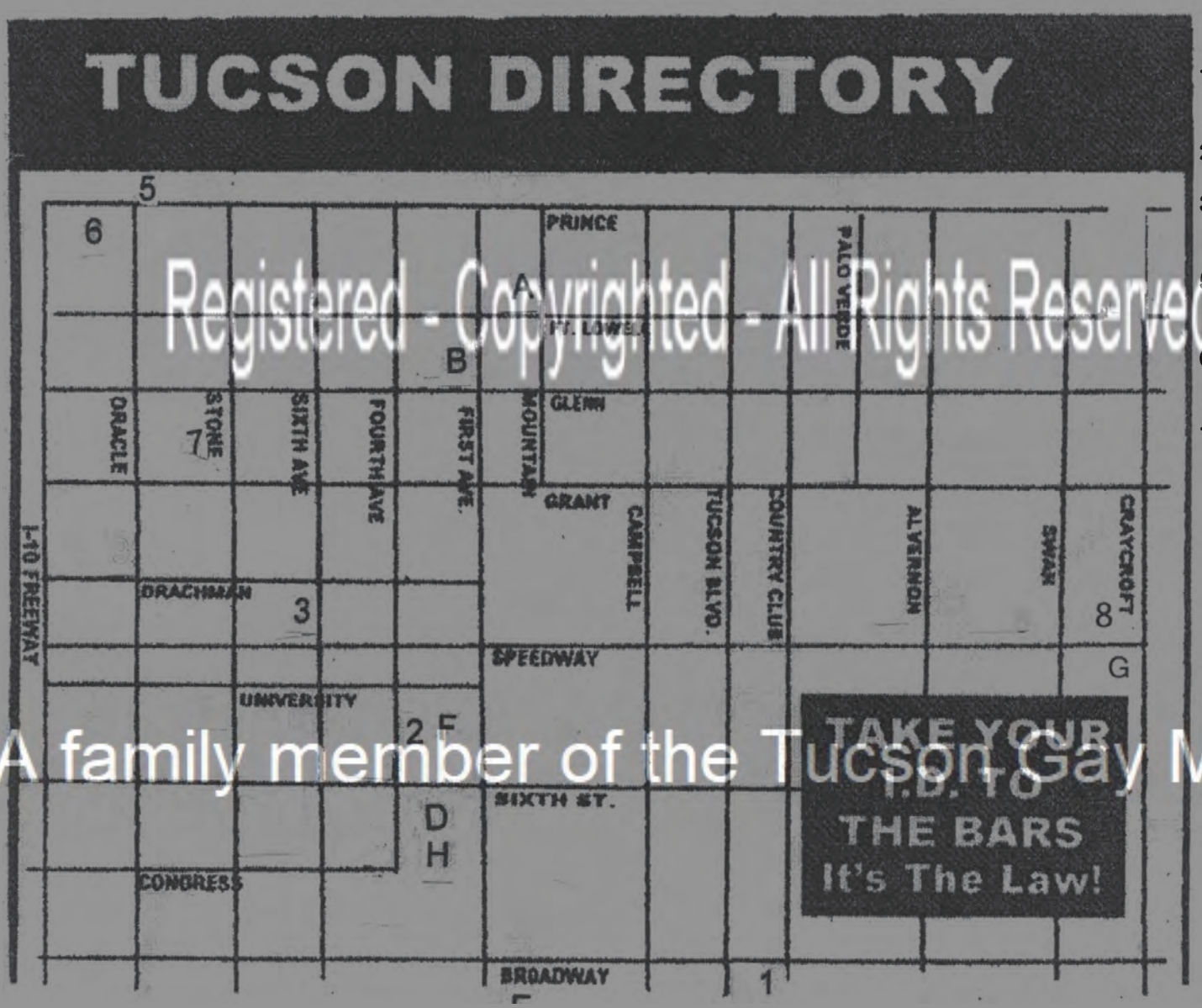

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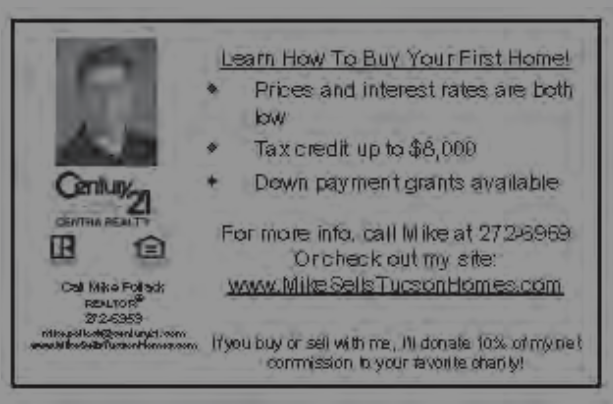
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P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

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Start getting more out of life with TUCSON PRIME TIMERS. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520-743-9514 Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpglcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322_5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contract TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

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

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

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

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

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit www.lctucson.org or write: Lutherans Concerned/ Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/ SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Megan at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 116. Services are free.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go toSAGE-Tucson-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. See you on the trails.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion,org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.
Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740

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

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

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GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY gay, bi and transgendered men, 18 and older, creating spriritual community using ritual, magic, shamanism and other traditions and Initiations withiin the Western Mystery Traditions. P.O. Box 42211, Tucson, AZ 85717

REVEILLE MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Monday evenings 7-10pm in their new home, Rincon Congregational Church, 122 N. Craycroft (next to the old Mervyn's store) in the Fellowship Hall. Call 304-1758 for more info.

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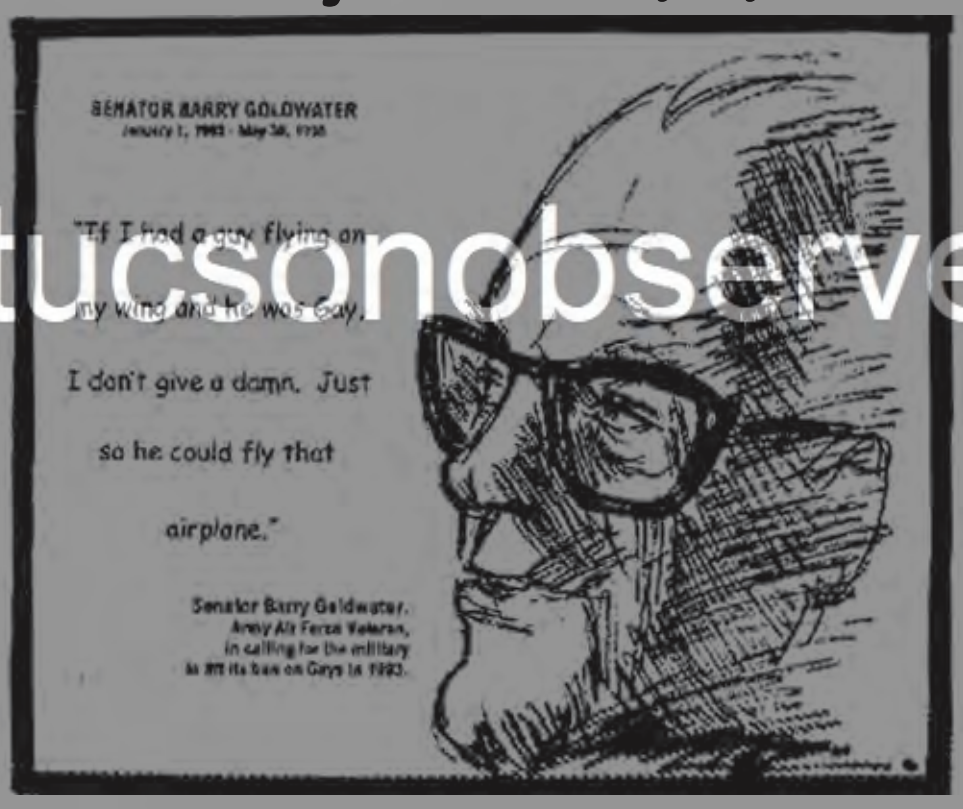
Poet's Corner

ZERO'S
by Ron Rose - Tucson

They'll print some more money
So spend while you can
Enjoy it my dears
Til the shit hits the fan.
The zero's don't matter
So write some more checks
The problem is simple, the answer complex.
The plastic invasion has us in it's grip,
Just look at your balance, I'll bet it's a pip.
So spend all your money, tomorrow can wait
Today we must have it, the debts not so great.
Enjoy all your pleasures, just go the last mile
For when you count zero's, you ain't gonna smile.

The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



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!

Wig Snatching Hate Crime In Fargo

FARGO (Observer Update) - A popular Fargo, North Dakota drag performer was standing outside a bar last weekend when a man yanked the wig off his head, called him and antigay slur and took off running down the street.

JustNtyme, who asked to be identified by his stage name to avoid further harassment in an interview with Fargo-Moorhead's news website In Forum, told police he was standing outside Dempsey's Irish Pub when a man in a black hoodie ran by, snatched the $150, custom-made wig off his head, yelled "faggot," and took off.

Later than night, unable to sleep, JustNtype wrote about the experience on Facebook. That night he also took a screen grab of a Facebook exchange bragging about the incident.

"You know it's a good night when your friend rips a wig off a tranny and books it down Broadway," part of the message read. Fargo police Sgt. Joe Anderson said there is "a person of interest" linked to the case, which is still under investigation. At this point, Anderson said it is considered a misdemeanor crime.

The bio on JustNtyme's website says he has been doing "female illusion since 2001." He is known for his impersonations of Madonna and Marilyn Monroe.

Man Charged With Lesbian Attack

DENVER (Observer Update) - A man was charged with assault and a hate crime, having been accused of attacking a woman in a parking lot because he thought she was a lesbian.

Alexander Declouet, 21, was charged with second-degree assault, criminal mischief, and bias-motivated crime, according to The Denver Post. All of the offenses are felonies.

Declouet was arrested October 3; the assault occurred August 22. According to KUSA, he is scheduled to appear in court on November 8 to be formally advised of the charges.

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AROUND THE GAY GLOBE. . .

Ugandan lawmaker David Bahati says he is confident his bill, which would jail or impose capital punishment on gay people, will be enacted soon, CNN reports. Despite international pressure to drop the legislation, Bahati said, "Every single day of my life now I am still pushing that it passes." His statement comes after the Rolling Stone newspaper in Uganda published a list of known gays, causing personal attacks on many of those listed, including Stosh Mugisha. A crowd gathered at her house, started chanting "homosexual" and throwing stones. She and her partner fled the home the following morning, narrowly escaping the attackers. They are now in hiding, according to the report.

President Obama in discussing the foiled terrorist plot involving packages delivered from Yemen, said two Chicago-area synagogues were believed to be targets. Now it appears that a gay congregation that meets at one of those synagogues was one of the more specific targets, Chicago's WLS Radio reports. Rabbi Micahel Zedek of Emmanuel Congregation said that a Jewish leader "of considerable consequence in Chicago" told him that Or Chadesh, a gay congregation that uses Emmanuel's synagogue, was one of the two targets. Or Chadesh Rabbi Larry Edwards said his congregants "received [the news] rather calmly..... Immediately, you kind of think, 'well, [representing the gay community], maybe that makes us an additional target.... It could be totally random, somebody went on the Internet and picked a couple of synagogues."

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It's More Than You Think. . . . .

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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 vocals and piano stylings of Susan Artemis 6-9pm.

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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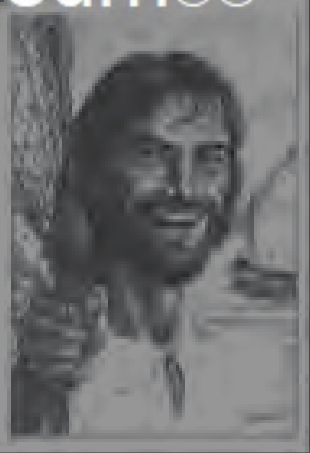

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Betty White On Gay Marriage: Mind Your Own Business

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Actress Betty White is in favor of allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, saying people should mind their own business, reported advocate.com.

White - also a comedienne, author and former game show host - is best know for her television roles. She played gossipy Sue Ann Nivens on The Mary Tyler Moore Show and gullible Rose Nylund on The Golden Girls.

In a cover story for Parade magazine, the 88-year-old White talks about the issue of gay marriage. "I don't care who anybody sleeps with," she says. "If a couple has been together all that time - and there are gay relationships that are more solid than some heterosexual ones - I think it's fine if they want to get married."

"I don't know how people can get so anti-something. Mind your own business, take care of your affairs, and don't worry about other people so much."

But White isn't about to get gay married, adding that she's "enjoyed the opposite sex a lot. Always have. Always will."

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Elton John On Why He Sang For Rush

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LONDON (Observer Update) - Pop icon Elton John says he sang for conservative talk behemoth Rush Limbaugh's wedding in June to open a dialogue with him.

"When he asked me to play at his wedding, my agent said, 'Well of course you won't be doing it,' But I said, 'Well, let me think about that first,'" John told the London Telegraph. The singer was paid $1 million for his performance.

Though Limbaugh has said there is no proof that AIDS can be transmitted heterosexually and described it as a "hyped" disease, John noted that Limbaugh and President Barack Obama currently share the same stance that marriage should be for heterosexual couples and civil unions are for gay and lesbian couples.

Still, John said he got along well with Limbaugh and his new wife, Kathryn Rogers, and that hopefully, "I think this year I can start to put things in motion by trying to get him on my side."

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