Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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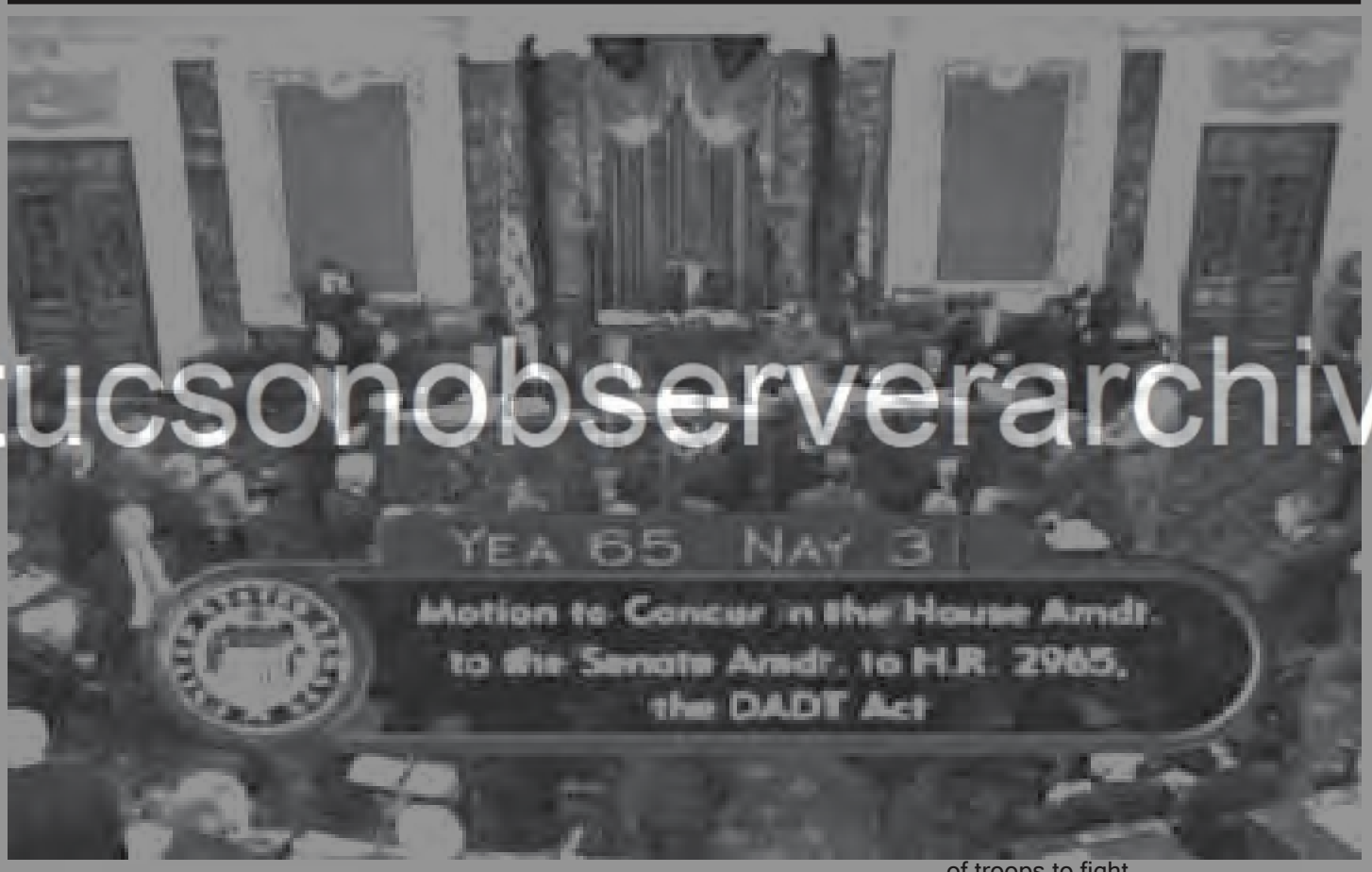
DADT REPEALED



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WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The Senate voted 65-31 to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell. Both Arizona Senator John McCain and Jon Kyl voted against the repeal.

This is landmark legislation and means that gay servicemembers will be able to serve openly once the President and Department of Defense certifies to Congress that millitary efficiency will not be impeded.

In a landmark for gay rights, the Senate on Saturday voted to let gays serve openly in the military, giving President Barack Obama the chance to fulfill a campaign promise and repeal the 17-year policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Obama was expected to sign this week, although the change wouldn't take immediate effect. The legislation says the president and his top military advisers must certify that lifting the ban won't hurt troops' fighting ability. After that, there's a 60-day waiting period for the military.

"It is time to close this chapter in our history," Obama said in a statement after a test vote cleared the way for final action. "It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed."

The Senate vote was 65-31. The House had passed an identical version of the bill, 250-175.

Repeal would mean that, for the first time in American history, gays would be openly accepted by the military and could acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being kicked out.

More than 13,500 service members have been dismissed under the 1993 law.

Rounding up a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate was a historic victory for Obama, who made repeal a campaign promise in 2008. It also was a political triumph for congressional Democrats who struggled in the final hours of the postelection session to overcome GOP objections on several legislative priorities before Republicans regain control of the House in January.

"As Barry Goldwater said, 'You don't have to be straight to shoot straight,'" said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., referring to the late GOP senator from Arizona.

Sen. John McCain, Obama's GOP rival in 2008, led the opposition. The Arizona Republican acknowledged he didn't have the votes to stop the bill and he blamed elite liberals with no military experience for pushing their social agenda on troops during wartime.

"They will do what is asked of them," McCain said of service members. "But don't think there won't be a great cost."

In the end, six GOP senators broke with their party on the procedural vote to let the bill move ahead and swung behind repeal after a recent Pentagon study concluded the ban could be lifted without hurting the ability of troops to fight.

Advocacy groups who lobbied hard for repeal hailed the vote as a significant step forward in gay rights. The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network called the issue the "defining civil rights initiative of this decade."

Supporters of repeal filled the visitor seats overlooking the Senate floor, ready to protest had the bill failed.

"This has been a long fought battle, but this failed and discriminatory law will now be history," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

The Pentagon study found that two-thirds of service members didn't think changing the law would have much of an effect. But of those who did predict negative consequences, a majority were assigned to combat arms units. Nearly 60 percent of the Marine Corps and Army combat units, such as infantry and special operations, said in the survey they thought repealing the law would hurt their units' ability to fight.

The Pentagon's uniformed chiefs are divided on whether this resistance might pose serious problems.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos has said he thinks lifting the ban during wartime could cost lives.

"I don't want to lose any Marines to the distraction," he told reporters this week. "I don't want to have any Marines that I'm visiting at Bethesda (Naval Medical Center) with no legs be the result of any type of distraction."

Adm. Mike Mullen and Marine Gen. James Cartwright, the chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, respectively, have said the fear of disruption is overblown. They note the Pentagon's finding that 92 percent of troops who believe they have served with a gay person saw no effect on their units' morale or effectiveness. Among Marines in combat roles who said they have served alongside a gay person, 84 percent said there was no impact.

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Obama Reacts To DADT Vote

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Today, the Senate has taken an historic step toward ending a policy that undermines our national security while violating the very ideals that our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives to defend. By ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell, no longer will our nation be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans forced to leave the military, despite years of exemplary performance, because they happen to be gay. And no longer will many thousands more be asked to live a lie in order to serve the country they love.

As Commander-in-Chief, I am also absolutely convinced that making this change will only underscore the professionalism of our troops as the best led and best trained fighting force the world has ever known. And I join the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as the overwhelming majority of service members asked by the Pentagon, in knowing that we can responsibly transition to a new policy while ensuring our military strength and readiness.

I want to thank Majority Leader Reid, Senators Lieberman and Collins and the countless others who have worked so hard to get this done. It is time to close this chapter in our history. It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed. It is time to allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve their country openly. I urge the Senate to send this bill to my desk so that I can sign it into law.

Merry Christmas

UPDATE

DADT Repeal Reaction From Your Elected Officials

ARIZONA STATE SENATOR
PAULA ABOUD

The LGBT community celebrates a huge victory in our fight for Equality with the last minute passage of the bill to end the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

Today, Americans from varied walks of life said enough is enough: the military, both parties in Congress, and the American people all supported equality for all citizens who are risking their lives on behalf of the country they love.

In these times of war, when the highest level of skill and intelligence is needed to defeat our multiple enemies, it has been ignorant of this country to expell LGBT service men and women who have brought their invaluable skills to use for their country.

America has now joined other developed countries in saying NO MORE! No more legalized discrimination against one segment of our diverse population.

As a state senator, I personally appreciate and applaud the efforts of the moderate Republican US Senator Susan Collins of Maine for her efforts to seek bipartisan support to end this denigrating and unjust policy. Without her leadership and Senator Joe Lieberman's, this Congress might have missed its opportunity for greatenss this session.

Senator Collins stands in stark contrast to Arizona's diminutive senator, John McCain, who continues to shrink in size as he panders to the ultra-right wing of his party rather than stand for fairness and justice for all Americans.

I thank all LGBT members of the military past and present for their service defending our country. It is through your valiant efforts to withstand the fear-based policy, your efforts to prove to America and its leaders that gay servicemen and women are invaluable assests to our military, your efforts to seek gainful employment no matter what level of intimidation and discrimination was in front of you, to you we all give thanks. You have lived with the burden of this repressive policy and now have the honor and pleasure to bask in the freedom that comes with the greatness of this moment. We thank you all.

(Paula Aboud was the first, open Lesbian appointed and elected to Arizona Senate, representing central Tucson.)

Stat Representative

This is a great dat for our country and especially for the brave women and men defending our freedoms around the world.

The repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell moves us one step closer to equality for all of our citizens.

(Matt Heinz is an openly Gay member of the Arizona House of Representatives for District 29, covering Southern Tucson and Pima County).

COUNCILMEMBER
KARIN UHLICH

Finally our country is poised to benefit from the bravery of all men and women willing to serve and to honor who do so.

They can even go further by passing the DREAM Act so immigrant youth can emerge from the shadows of discrimination.

(Karin Uhlich represents Tucson's Ward 3 on the Council and was the first open LGBT Tucsonan elected to the Council.)

Wingspan New Year's Party!

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Come celebrate and ring in the New Year with Wingspan and a few hundred of your closest friends!

Together we have accomplished much in Southern Arizona. Together we are strong. Join us as we create a safe, welcoming and elegant space to re-connect with friends and celebrate the year.

Mark your calendars now, Friday, December 31, 2010. Plan to join us at the JW Starr Pass Marriott Resort & Spa for cocktails while overlooking the city, a fabulous four-course dinner, dancing and even a little casino fun, and of course, a champagne toast at midnight!

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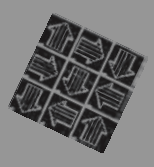

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Informing the Community
The Observer

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Thousands On HIV Drugs Desperate Amid Budget Woes

PROVIDENCE (Observer Update) - Cash-strapped states are cutting back on a program that provides free medicine to people with HIV, leaving thousands of patients to wonder where their drugs will come from and stirring fears of a return to the days when an AIDS diagnosis meant certain death, reports the AP on 365Gay.com.

At least 19 states have taken such steps as capping enrollment, dropping patients, instituting waiting lists, lowering the income ceiling for eligibility, and no longer covering certain drugs or tests. The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is funded by the federal and state governments and run by the states. It provides free drugs in all 50 states and U.S. territories. But because people are living longer with HIV and the recession has created more demand for the program, states have been unable to keep up.

"It's very frustrating to be stuck in this position at this age and not feel well and be wondering if I am going to die any differently than the people who I helped die in the '80s," said Stephen Farrar, 55, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who has HIV and is going on Florida's waiting list. "Am I going to be one of those people?"

Health officials and advocates believe most people on ADAP's waiting lists are getting AIDS drugs free from pharmaceutical companies. But advocates say an unknown number are falling through the cracks of those programs, which provide only a patchwork of coverage and have widely varying income requirements.

AIDS drugs can be extremely expensive - a single one can cost more than $20,000 per year, and patients often need to take a cocktail of prescriptions to treat the disease or keep symptoms at bay.

In nine states, more than 4,500 people with HIV are on ADAP waiting lists or can't get into the program because enrollment is capped, according to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.

More than 300 people who had coverage were dropped this year, after five states lowered their income eligibility limits to as little as $21,000 per year. Hundreds more face the same fate by February if more states follow through on plans to cut their eligibility, the alliance said.

Several states have started covering fewer drugs - only AIDS medications, for example, but not drugs for conditions often developed by those treated for HIV.

The cutbacks have set off alarm among some HIV patients, with some people cutting pills in half to make them last longer, said Stephen Hourahan, executive director of AIDS Project Rhode Island, a state that was hit hard by the economic downturn and which instituted a waiting list this fall.

"There were stories of people calling us in a panic because they were afraid they were going to die if they didn't have their meds," he said.

Waiting lists have been instituted previously for the program, said Ann Lefert of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors. But as demand has spiked, she said, the lists now are bigger than ever before.

The program had more than 168,000 people nationwide on its rolls in 2009, the most recent numbers available. The federal government spent $860 million on ADAP programs in the fiscal year that ends March 31, while states spent $336 million. In 2009, California, for example, spent $71 million, Texas $27 million and Illinois $14.5 million.

Nearly 1,400 people entered the program every month nationwide this year, compared with half that number in 2008, the alliance said. While many states have increased money sent to the program, it often hasn't been enough to keep up with demand, and they've had to cut services. Despite the greater need, 12 states have put less money into their drug programs.

Most people on ADAP don't qualify for Medicaid because they are not sick enough to be considered disabled. Some who do qualify can get only limited drug coverage; ADAP covers the gap.

Making sure patients with HIV take their medications faithfully is a high priority of health care workers because it reduces the chance they will develop resistance to drugs and may also lower the risk of transmission.

Farrar lost his health insurance this month, more than a year after losing his job doing hair and makeup at a Florida TV station. Once his final insurance-covered prescriptions run out, he will have to worry about filling 17 prescriptions - two AIDS drugs and the rest for related ailments, such as arthritis and wasting, a severe weight loss. He will be one of more than 2,400 patients on Florida's waiting list, which was started June 1.

The cuts hit even those with insurance because copays can reach $500 to $700 per month for a single drug, and ADAP often helps with those copays.

"This is a huge financial burden on folks, but there's not a whole lot we can do," said Kevin Sullivan, executive director of the Ohio AIDS Coalition. The state has more than 370 people on the waiting list and dropped more than 250 others from the program because of now-lower income limits.

The process for getting free drugs from pharmaceutical companies can be difficult to navigate because each has different rules, with some limiting patients' income to $21,000 per year and others covering patients who make up to $54,000.

Patients who take many drugs from different makers, like Farrar, have to qualify for multiple drug company programs. If they qualify for one but not another, they might have to change their drug regimen, which can affect their health.

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

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New Year's Eve Menu Revealed

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tickets are going fast for Night Thing, Wingspan's fabulous New Year's Eve Dinner, Dance and Party. The event is Friday, December 31, 2010 at The Starr Pass Resort & Spa (HRC Equality Index Rating of 100%). Click here to purchase tables or individual tickets.

Night Thing has just announced the fabulous four course meal with appetizers and a champagne toast. (Please notify Wingspan in advance if you prefer a vegetarian meal)

Cocktail hour starts at 7:00 pm with the musical talents of Brad Holland on the baby grand piano. At 8:00 pm the doors open for a fabulous four-course dinner. Then get ready for entertainment, dancing and a chance to win BIG at the casino tables.

Turn your winnings into truly wonderful raffle prizes generously donated by our sponsors: theater tickets to a UA Presents show, a stay at the Starr Pass Resort or Hacienda del Sol, membership at Tohono Chul, beautiful art, Philabaum pieces and a week's condo stay in San Diego, just to name a few! Then at midnight, we'll have a champagne toast!

The activity and entertainment doesn't stop there! We are experimenting with the use of social media at this event. We will have a Twitter and Facebook site setup at the event to view live feeds on the big screen from the event while it's happening! We are also excited to debut a new video production by our very creative Wingspan staff.

If that's not enough, Bunny Fu-Fu will add to the energy as the Mistress of Ceremonies all night long! All this - under one beautifully decorated space at the Starr Pass Resort & Spa.

Individual tickets are $150 each. Ask to be seated at a table with friends or let us introduce you to new friends who want to celebrate the evening in style! Seating is assigned and is first come, first seated. With tables surrounding the dance floor, there's not a bad seat in the house! To buy tickets, use our online checkout here, or call Erin at Wingspan at 520-624-1779 x118.

Thousands On HIV Drugs Desperate Amid Budget Woes

Continued from Page Three

Elaine Henderson, 39, of Cleveland, gets her single AIDS drug through a pharmaceutical company's free program but worries about what will happen if the company changes its requirements.

"Right now, I'm hoping that I'll be OK until ADAP is fixed. If not, then I'll be in trouble," she said.

During the summer, after several states instituted waiting lists, the federal government infused the program with $25 million, which helped some states eliminate waits. But that fell about $100 million short of what AIDS advocates estimated was needed, Lefert said. The House recently approved a $60 million increase for the year starting April 1, but it hasn't passed the Senate and would not solve the program's woes for the current fiscal year, Lefert said.

Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., said states must do their part to provide money, but given the economic slump, the federal government needs to step in and do more.

"Just to let people hang out there without any notion of where they're going to get their lifesaving treatments or drugs, it's really morally offensive," she said.

In the meantime, states are looking for ways to move money around in their budgets to cover ADAP.

Rhode Island was able to close its waiting list this month after finding money elsewhere in the budget. Florida's program, which has a deficit of $15 million to $17 million for the current fiscal year, hopes to do the same, but that probably would not happen until July.

But Sullivan, of the Ohio AIDS Coalition, said: "This is going to take a federal solution. To expect the states with their budget crises to bail this out is not realistic."

Civil Unions Bill To Be Introduced In Colorado

DENVER (Observer Update) - Colorado state senator Pat Steadman plans to introduce a bill next year to legalize civil unions in the state, reports advocate.com.

According to the Denver Post, "Steadman, who is gay, said he expects his proposal to pass the Democratic-controlled Senate, but he's not sure what kind of reception the idea will get in the Republican-controlled House."

Although House speaker-elect Rep. Frank McNulty predicted a negative response to the bill, his Republicans only hold a slim 33-32 majority. Steadman, a Democrat, said that he believes the fate of the bill depends on what committee is assigned to hear it.

In 2006, Coloradans passed a constitutional amendment against marriage equality. That same year, voters also rejected a referendum that would have granted many of the same rights as marriage to same-sex couples.

However, a poll this year showed that 72% of Coloradans support "legal recognition" for same-sex couples, according to the Post.

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Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

At last, repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. This was done without the support of Arizona's two ossified senators – Kyl and McCain. I found it very interesting that both nincompoops felt they knew more than The Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and many other professional military personnel. This is in spite of the fact that Kyl never served in the military, and McCain's claim to fame was having his plane shot out from under his ass and being forced to spend several years as a North Vietnamese POW.

Both senators have shown us that they are vindictive and spiteful. Neither has offered anything constructive and both stand in the way of any meaningful legislation. Watching these two and so many other legislators from this dying state, one cannot help but believe that the country has been tipped on edge and every south end of a horse in the nation has fallen into Arizona – many choosing to seek political office on the Republican ticket. Well, here at least they can hide behind the banner of Christianity while espousing many un Christian ideas – like giving tax breaks to the wealthy while screwing the poor and middle class. Ah, we got what we voted for.

Not all news was bad, however. Last week Deb Waltman and Wendy Strozeski distributed toys to the children of Balboa Heights. Special thanks to all the bar customers who contributed, and a special Bronx Cheer to the patrons of Woody's who put not one toy in the collection box. Again Deb and Wendy, thank you for your efforts.

Sunday was a return to Ajia's Gospel Brunch. Music was supplied by Jonathan and his partner Hiram. As usual, it was super. This week, there were two new performers – China Collins and Kiki Vermont. Kiki came to us from Phoenix, and I intended to include an interview. Unfortunately, it was interrupted by someone who shall remain nameless (but he drives an imitation motorcycle and wears a helmet that looks like a Spartan war bonnet). Sorry folks. No interview because someone thinks he is a gift to the universe.

Mark your calendars for Ajia's next brunch on January 9. Don't miss out, it's great fun.

Also, remember the cruise which is being sponsored by The Bunkhouse in Phoenix. It will be May 2 - 6 and is priced at about $300 and that includes all food. For more information, call Don at 602-274-8292.

Finally, I was saddened to learn of the death of Blake Edwards. He brought us more his share of unforfeitable characters; the clueless George Weber (Dudley Moore) in ***10***, Peter Seller's bumbling Inspector Clouseau in ***Pink Panther*** movies, to name only a few. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, Julie Andrews. Thank you Blake for all the laughs.

To all, have a Merry Christmas or a Happy Festivus, or whatever is your flavor.

Dream Act Vote Fails In Senate

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The Senate voted overwhelmingly in favor of bypassing a filibuster of the DREAM Act, but fell five votes short, dealing a harsh blow to the bill that would have allowed some undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to gain legal status, reported the Huffington Post.

The final vote total was 55-41 – well above what would be needed for the bill to pass in a normal vote. Many previously undecided Democrats voted in support of the bill, as did Republican Sens. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Bob Bennett (R-Utah).

But others voted mostly along party-lines. Five Democrats voted against the bill: Sens. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), Jon Tester (D-Mt.), Max Baucus (D-Mt.) and Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), who switched her vote to a "no" at the last minute. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) skipped Saturday's votes for a Christmas party.

Given the incoming Congressional leadership's harsh views on immigration, the vote was likely the last chance to pass the bill for at least two years.

Students in graduation caps sat in the gallery to watch the vote, most of whom have spent months advocating for the DREAM Act. To be eligible for the act, undocumented students must have entered the country when they were 15 or younger and graduated high school or obtained a GED. To receive a green card, the bill requires them to complete two years in the military or two years of college – plus a 10-year waiting period. Only six years later would they be eligible to apply for citizenship.

Some DREAM Act-eligible students face deportation – despite clean criminal records – and hoped the DREAM Act could help them gain legal status. Others will now be unable to attend school, join the military or serve in certain jobs if they are not eligible to work in the United States.

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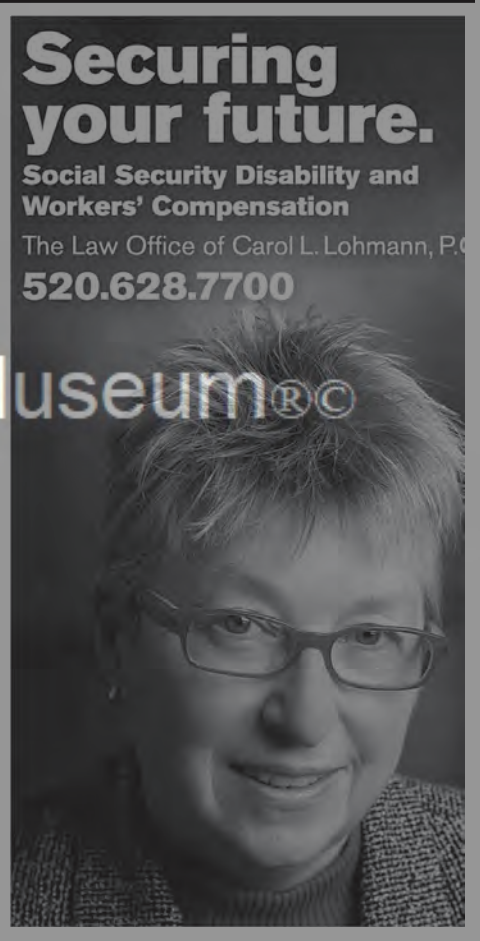

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EDITORIAL. . . . . .

Who Led The Fight Against DADT: John McCain

If one subscribes to the Tucson's only daily newspaper, it was interesting reading Sunday, December 19, especially for those who use the internet.

The front page story was that the U.S. Senate, by a vote of 65 to 31, repealed from the federal statutes, the seventeen year discriminatory policy of preventing gay and lesbian people from serving in the military openly and honestly, known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," (DADT).

But don't tell that to the Arizona Daily Star, who essentially buried the story and the fact that Arizona's senior Senator, John McCain, despite his wonderful, open minded daughter, Meghan, led the fight with assumptions and misstatements.

Not to the "Star," who buried the Senate vote, especially on its website, and their "political reporter," wrote glowingly about McCain is into pop culture, despite his archaic views and statements on DADT.

The reporter who wrote this was around when there was an individual who was trying to stay in the military, between the time frame 2001 to 2002, and appealed to and met with a certain Senator to try to stay in the military.

That individual was Steve May, then a Republican state Representative from Paradise Valley and the Senator, John McCain, who had spoken kindly about May and his service.

Don't tell that to the Arizona Daily Star though, who allow comments, such as: "sex with a 10 year old," "open sexual practices," "protecting heterosexual rights," "blame the left," "molesting teachers," "America is dead," "comparing gays to the KKK," "homosexuality equals pedophilia," "SO THAT WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING FOR STAR TREK. TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE? GET TO THE TRANSVESTER ROOM AND SET YOUR GAYZOR TO STUN (taken as typed), and "I hope the Good Lord calls them home," to stand as such.

Arizona Senator Jon Kyle: DADT Repeal Could Cost Lives

(Observer Update) - The Huffington Post reported that one day after the Senate voted to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell – a Pentagon policy prohibiting gay troops from serving openly – Sen. Jon Kyn (R-Ariz.) warned that eliminating the ban could "cost lives."

SEN, JON KYLE

Kyl, who voted against the measure alongside most of his Republican colleagues, spoke out on his opposition during an appearance on this weekend's edition of "Fox News Sunday."

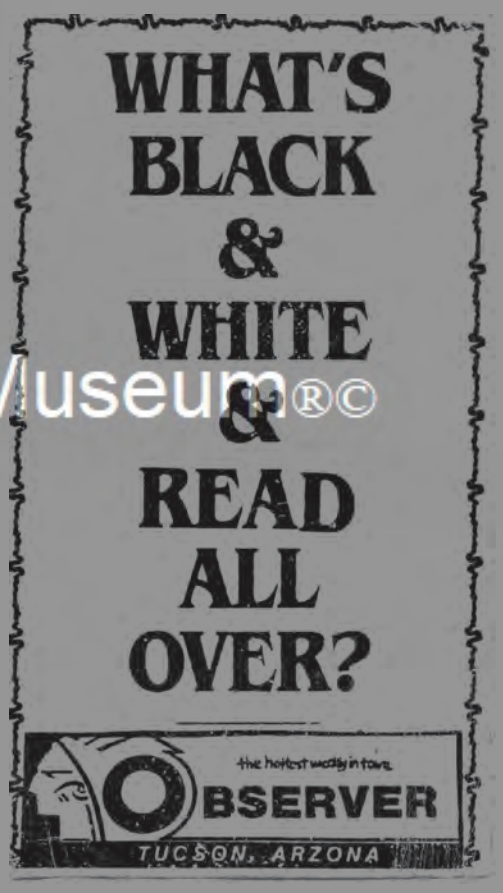
"From a constitutional stand point, this is not a constitutional right or a constitutional issue as was the issue of racial segregation," explained the Republican senator when asked what's the difference between allowing gay troops to serve openly and racial integration of the military fifty-years ago.

Kyl suggested that the troops have one function, which is "to fight and to fight well," while potentially sacrificing their lives to fulfill the goal. According to the Senate Minority Whip, repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell could inhibit the process and as a result "cost lives."

Despite the criticism, a Pentagon study released earlier this month indicated that lifting the ban would not have such effect. HuffPost's Amanda Terkel reported on its findings:

The Pentagon released its much-anticipated study on repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) on Tuesday, finding that 70 percent of servicemembers believe the change in policy would have a positive, mixed or no effect. The announcement was accompanied by a full-throated endorsement of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly by the study's co-authors, who concluded that there is little risk of disruption to the military if implementation is properly carried out.

Alongside Kyl, fellow Arizona Sen. John McCain also voted against repeal. Once a positive voice for eliminating the ban, he called Saturday "a very sad day" just before the Senate vote.



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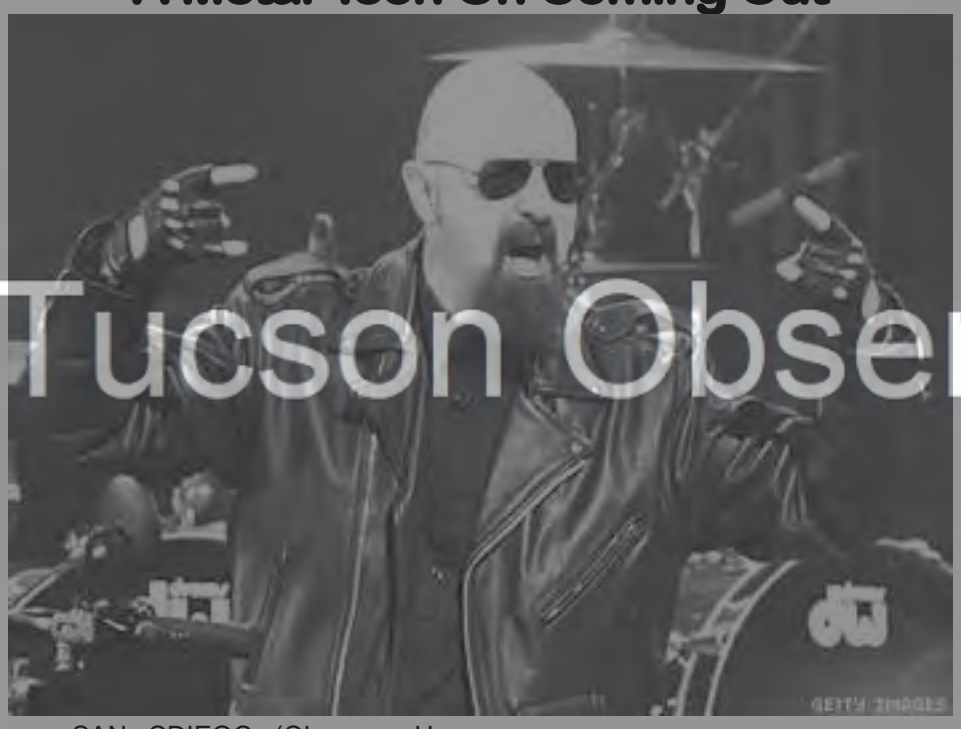
BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ --
A Metal Icon On Coming Out



SAN CDIEGO (Observer Update) - Rocker Rob Halford said his coming out 12 years ago on MTV proved how tolerant metal fans can be, despite what could be perceived by some as an intimidating demeanor, reports advocate.com.

"What I think I have done is destroy the myth that heavy metal bands don't have that capacity," he told the San Diego Gay and Lesbian News. "It's a different world now. Heavy metal now is a completely different world compared to heavy metal in 1980. The gay and lesbian world is very different now as it was in 1980. We have all grown to some extent. There is still a long way to go. There are still a lot of issues that need to be addressed, but I think slowly but surely our lives are getting better."

Halford, who was a member of iconic metal band Judas Priest, also is touring with his own band, Halford. The band's new album, IV: Made of Metal, was released in October.

Neo-Nazi Gets Life For Murdering Gay Teen

TAMPA (Observer Update) - John Ditullio, a Florida neo-Nazi, was sentenced to life in prison Thursday for the stabbing death of gay teen Kristofer King four years ago.

According to WTSP-TV, the swastika-tattooed Ditullio was found guilty of first-degree murder and attempted murder late Wednesday in the attack that killed King and wounded Patricia Wells.

"Prosecutors say he broke into a mobile home in New Port Richey of 2006 and fatally stabbed Kristofer King, 17, because he was gay, and injured Patricia Wells because she was friends with a black man," reports WTSP-TV.

LETTERS . . . . . .

On Saturday December 11 Brodie's Tavern held it's first "Neighborhood Christmas" show in memory of Ray Gregg, former owner of the Yard Dog. In keeping with the tradition Ray began, all proceeds raised during the show were collected for the needy children of Balboa Heights neighborhood. Between the hard work of the show's cast: MC & Coordinator Misti Malone, Vivika De'Angelo, Andretta, Deb W., Miss Reyna, and the generous contributions of the good hearted Brodies crowd and community, we successfully raised slightly over $500.00 for the Balboa Heights kids. Special thanks goes out to the owners and staff of Brodie's Tavern for all their hard work and commitment to the cause. It was a great, fun-filled night, and our warmest thanks and gratitude goes out to all who partied with us that night and helped contribute to the success on the children's behalf. None of it would have been possible without you.

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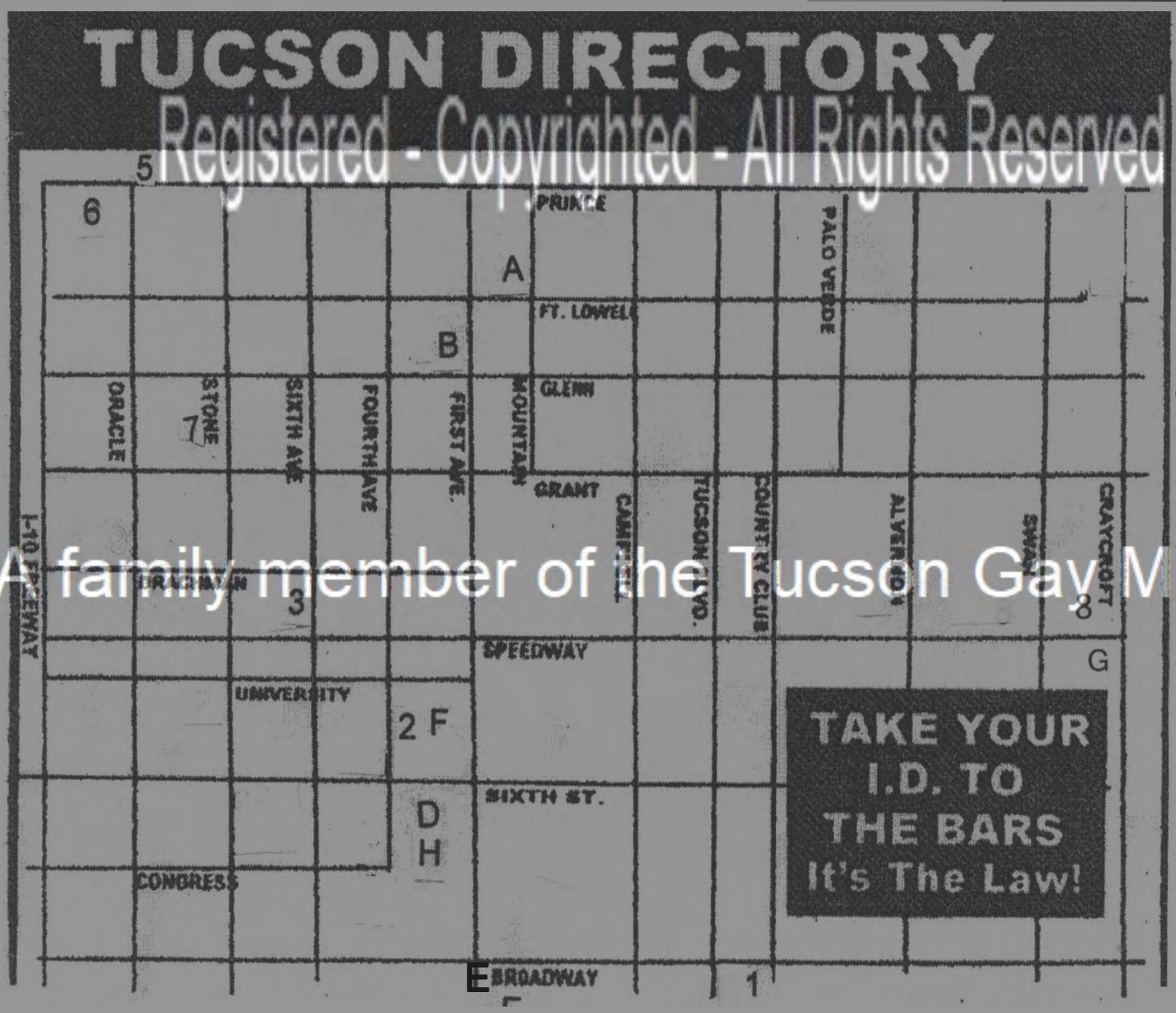

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3. **VENTURE-N** 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. **WOODY'S** 3710 N. Oracle Rd, 2 92-6702
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D. **WINGSPAN** 430 E. 7th Street -624-1779

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

G. **TIHAN** - Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network - 1011 N. Craycroft Suite 301 - 299-6647

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

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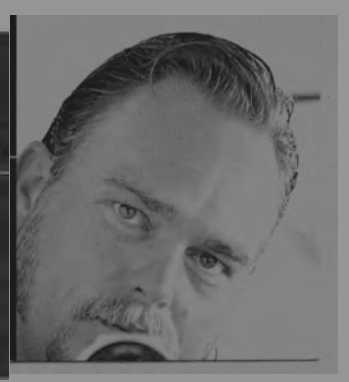

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, pleases contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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

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

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

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

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

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

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

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

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

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

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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

YOUNG AND GAY?
GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

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

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

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Poet's Corner

BOXING IN D. C.
By Ron Rose - Tucson

It's fight night in our Congress
We are totally in awe.
No winners and no losers
Just a simple "draw".
"Smiley" Pelosi vs. "Sleepy" Boehner,
Punches landing day and night.
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All looking for a fight.
The ref, Barach Obama
Is hoping for a win
For endless counter punching
Is such an awful sin.
Get us all a working, legislate, you must
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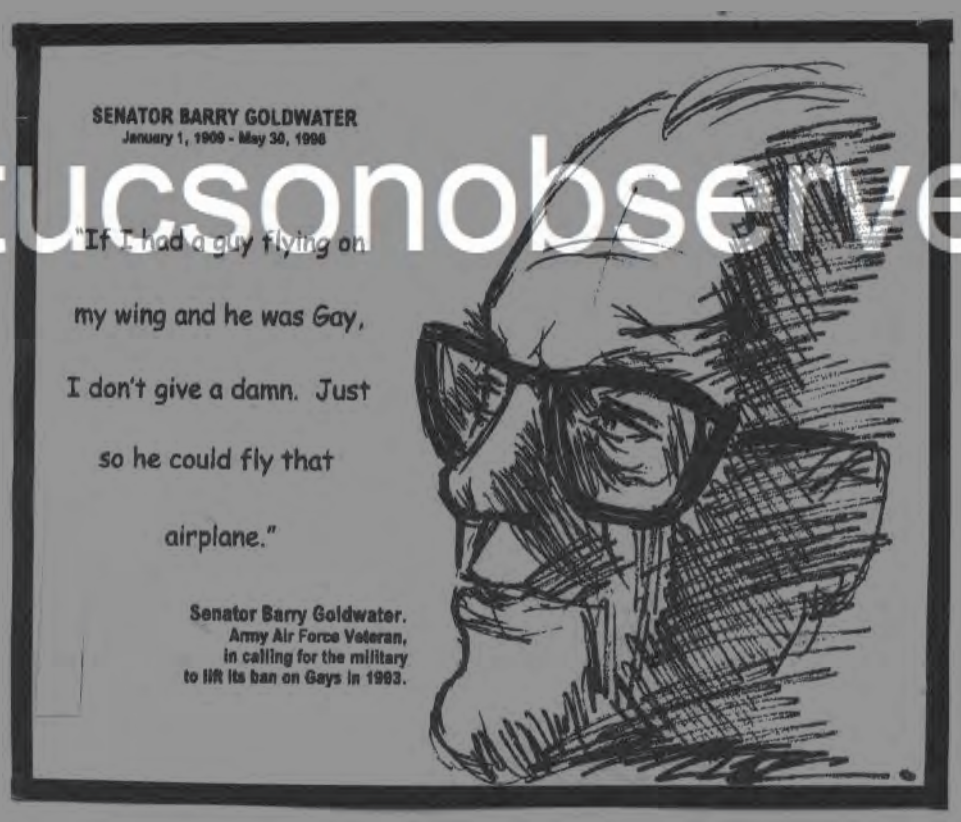
The Way I Saw It. . . by Gary Clark



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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!

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AROUND THE GAY GLOBE. . .

Civil unions, which were instituted to grant more rights to gay couples in France, are on track to become the preferred option of straight couples. The New York Times reports on the changing cultural attitudes in the past decade that have resulted today in two civil unions for every three marriages.

"When France created its system of civil unions in 1999, it was heralded as a revolution in gay rights, a relationship almost like marriage, but not quite," reports the Times. "No one, though, anticipated how many couples would make use of the new law. Nor was it predicted that by 2009, the overwhelming majority of civil unions would be between straight couples." Easy dissolution explains one aspect of the appeal behind civil unions, said fans of the institution. A registered letter is the only thing required to end the legal relationship. ...

Dr. Ondrej Trojan, a Czech doctor involved with the controversial "erotic lie detector" tests used to assess gay applicants for asylum, was fined for offering to masturbate in front of a patient. Trojan, a Prague-based doctor and sex therapist, administers "penile plethysmograph" tests on behalf of the Czech government to determine the veracity of claims from applicants seeking asylum on the basis of sexual orientation. The European Union's human rights agency recently criticized the practice, but the Czech government claims no one has been subjected to the tests since early this year.

According to ABC News, "In the meantime, Dr. Trojan is also involved in another scandal. A former patient claims that he offered to masturbate in front of her while she was under his treatment, and she says that she intends to produce video recordings as evidence. "Trojan insists that he was merely applying a method known as 'demonstration therapy,' which even he admits is 'controversial,'" reports ABC News. "Although the method is not considered a criminal offence, the Czech medical association slapped Trojan with a fine of 20,000 Czech koruna (round 800 or $1,100)."...

FIFA's president Sepp Blatter apologized Friday for his remarks that gay fans should abstain from sex during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Blatter told journalists in Abu Dhabi that he was sorry if anyone was offended by his comments this week in South Africa, where he said gay visitors should "refrain from any sexual activities" while in Qatar because of the Gulf nation's strict laws against homosexuality. "It was not my intention and never will be my intention to go into any discrimination," Blatter said in Abu Dhabi, which is hosting the Club World Cup. "This is exactly what we are against. If somebody feels that they have been hurt, then I regret (it) and present apologies." Blatter's comment prompted a leading international gay rights group to demand an official apology from FIFA.

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday , Monday, Tuesday

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

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. Beer specials and Trailer Trash Martini's All Day. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Mondays

BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 8pm.- 1am

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. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Tuesdays

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm - 1am. Happy Hour 4-8. $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. 2-4-1 Night

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm (2 for 1). College Night 18 & Over. Drink & Shot specials every half hour.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 4pm - 1am. 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.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour Prices all day.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9pm. 2 for 1 All Night Long.. Karaoke 9pm. Come out and play.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm.- 1am. Happy Hour 4 - 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; Free pool and Happy Hour prices all day.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-9 pm (2 for1) Latino Night. $2 Tequila, $1.50 Tecate. $5 Buckets of Beer.

. BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Karaoke 9pm.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 4pm. 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. Tori Steele Show 10pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. $10 and drink for pennies. All night long.

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 4-7.

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 OR two chicken tenders & fries. 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. .

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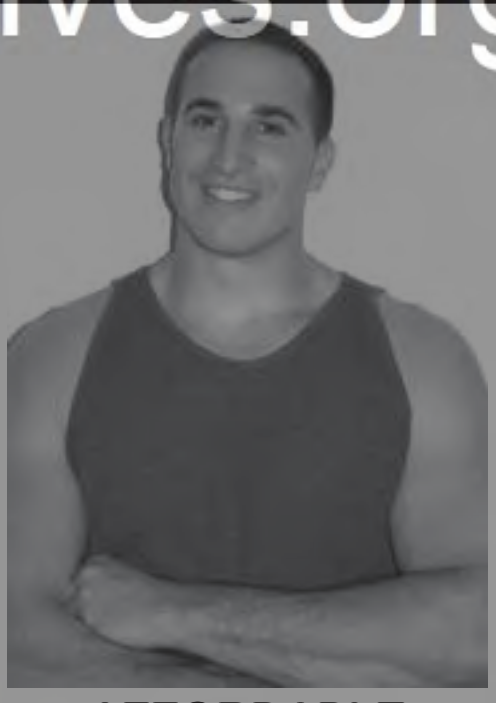

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Lambda Case Takes On DOMA

KAREN GOLINSKI AND AMY CUNNINGHIS

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - Oral arguments began in a U.S. district court in San Francisco concerning a health benefits case challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, reports advocate.com.

Lambda Legal is arguing Golinski v. U.S. Office of Personnel Management, which seeks to have health benefits extended to the wife of Karen Golinski, a San Francisco employee of the U.S. ninth circuit court of appeals. Back in January 2009, ninth circuit chief judge Alex Kozinski ruled it was illegal for Golinski to be denied spousal benefits, since the ninth circuit has a rule banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The federal government's human resources department (the Office of Personnel Management) told Golinski's carrier, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, to not enforce the judge's order and the insurance company complied.

Judge Kozinski said in November 2009 that he had authority to interpret laws governing the rights of judicial employees and that not offering the benefits violated the ninth circuit court's guarantee of equal employment opportunity. Kozinski also argued that same-sex spouses were entitled to benefits under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan. But the next month, OPM said it would not offer benefits to Golinski's spouse, Amy Cunninghis, because Judge Kozinski was presiding over an administrative proceeding; OPM argued that he was not serving in his official capacity as a ninth circuit judge when he ordered the benefits be provided, but was presiding over an employee dispute. OPM, headed by gay Obama appointee John Berry, said it had final say in the matter and that it could not offer benefits to Cunninghis because of DOMA, which forbids federal recognition of state-sanctioned gay marriages.

Part of Lambda's argument against OPM in this case is that DOMA is unconstitutional, specifically because it discriminates based on sex and sexual orientation and it infringes on the right to privacy. Lambda is arguing that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Lawrence v. Texas, which in 2003 overturned laws against sodomy, set a precedent for the federal government respecting one's familial relationships.

Lambda Legal also plans to tell district court judge Jeffrey White that he need not find DOMA unconstitutional to rule that Golinski's spouse is entitled to health insurance. "OPM, under the authority of President Obama, is part of the Executive Branch of the federal government, and lacks authority to override internal personnel decisions made by the Judicial Branch as it works to end discrimination against lesbian and gay court employees," says a press release from Lambda Legal.

"Different branches of government have different machinery for hiring and firing and the terms of employment," says Jennifer Pizer, Lambda Legal's senior counsel, who emphasized that OPM's maneuvering contradicted the ninth circuit's nondiscrimination policies. "One of the questions [of this case] is whether DOMA is unconstitutional or not, but the other existential question is whether we have one unitary federal government, or do we have separate entities?"

Conditions Set For Boy Scout Building Sale

PHILADELPHIA (Observer Update) - A Philadelphia city council ordinance would allow the controversial sale of a city-owned building to the regional Boy Scouts association to proceed under two conditions, reports advocate.com.

The ordinance attempts to settle qualms surrounding the sale, in which the city would sell the 13,000-square-foot headquarters to the Cradle of Liberty Council for $500,000, less than half the appraised value of the building. The sale stems from a civil rights challenge the city lost against the Boy Scouts over the group's ban on gay members.

Councilman Darrell Clarke, whose district includes the building, introduced the ordinance, according to The Philadelphia Inquirer.

"But written into the legislation were two conditions - that the Scouts could not sell the building for 10 years and that they must provide space for community programs, including diversity training," the Inquirer reports.

Gay rights advocates including the Equality Forum said the conditions do not go far enough and continued to call on the Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter to halt the settlement.

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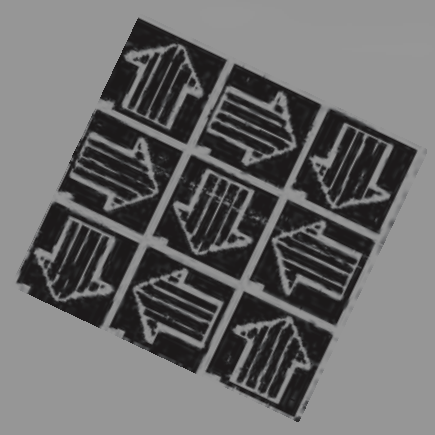

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