Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Tucson Observer Archives

WEEKLY OBSERVER MARCH 2, 2011 ISSUE1387

Gov't Drops Defense Of DOMA

WASHINGTON (Observer Update) - In a major policy reversal, the Obama administration said Wednesday it will no longer defend the constitutionality of a federal law banning recognition of same-sex marriage.

Attorney General Eric Holder said President Barack Obama has concluded that the administration cannot defend the federal law that defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. He noted that the congressional debate during passage of the Defense of Marriage Act "contains numerous expressions reflecting moral disapproval of gays and lesbians and their intimate and family relationships – precisely the kind of stereotype-based thinking and animus" the Constitution is designed to guard against.

The Justice Department had defended the act in court until now.

The move quickly drew praise from some Democrats in Congress but a sharp response from the spokesman for Republican John Boehner, the House Speaker.

"While Americans want Washington to focus on creating jobs and cutting spending, the president will have to explain why he thinks now is the appropriate time to stir up a controversial issue that sharply divides the nation," said Boehner's spokesman Michael Steel.

Gay groups, which had long pressured the administration to take a step like this, were pleased. Ron Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called the policy change "a tremendous step toward recognizing our common humanity and ending an egregious injustice against thousands of loving, committed couples who simply want the protections, rights and responsibilities afforded other married couples. We thank the Obama administration."

Obama's move may position him politically at the forefront of rising public support for gay marriage. Polling results can vary rather significantly depending on what words are used to describe gay marriage, but there is a gradual trend in public opinion toward more acceptance of gay marriage.

An Associated Press-National Constitution Center Poll conducted last August found 52 percent of Americans saying the federal government should give legal recognition to marriages between couples of the same sex, while 46 percent said it should not. In polling by ABC News and the Washington Post, support for the legalization of gay marriage has climbed from 37 percent in 2003 to 47 percent in February 2010.

Holder's statement said, "Much of the legal landscape has changed in the 15 years since Congress passed" the Defense of Marriage Act. He noted that the Supreme Court has ruled that laws criminalizing homosexual conduct are unconstitutional and that Congress has repealed the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney said Obama himself is still "grappling" with his personal view of gay marriage but has always personally opposed the Defense of Marriage Act as "unnecessary and unfair."

Boehner that Obama has concluded the Defense of Marriage Act fails to meet a rigorous standard under which courts view with suspicion any laws targeting minority groups who have suffered a history of discrimination.

The attorney general said the Justice Department had defended the law in court until now because the government was able to advance reasonable arguments for the law based on a less strict standard.

At a December news conference, in response to a reporters' question, Obama revealed that his position on gay marriage is "constantly evolving." He has opposed such marriages and supported instead civil unions for gay and lesbian couples. The president said such civil unions are his baseline – at

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

tucsonobserverarchives.org
Protected - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum ©

In Solidarity: LGBT Workers Join Anti-Walker Protests

MADISON (Observer Update) - The chant went up from the thousands gathered at the Capitol in Madison: "We are one. We are one."

The same chant went up from those standing in solidarity with the Wisconsin workers at rallies around the United States this week, reports 365Gay.com. And the message – "We are one. We are one" – was repeated in dispatches from an array of organizations, including a number of LGBT civil rights groups challenging Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's push to terminate collective bargaining rights for public employees in the state.

"Our call to support the public employees who teach our children, care for our sick and plow our streets has received an overwhelming response," said Katie Belanger, executive director of Fair Wisconsin, a statewide LGBT advocacy group.

Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin, along with the national Pride at Work and GetEqual LGBT groups, encouraged LGBT Wisconsinites to join the ongoing demonstrations in Madison and their hometowns to protest the governor's "Budget Repair Bill."

The organizations also urged LGBT people to protest the legislation, which could be voted upon at anytime, at solidarity demonstrations held this week from Alaska to West Virginia.

"Around the country, LGBT workers and our allies are standing in solidarity with the workers in Wisconsin," said Peggy Shorey, executive director of Pride at Work. "The right to collective bargaining is vital for all workers, and particularly so for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers and our families."

The bill

The protests began after the Feb. 11 introduction of Walker's Budget Repair Bill. The governor, a Republican elected last November in a conservative sweep of the state, proposed the legislation to "meet the immediate needs of our state and give government the tools to deal with this and future budget crises, according to a news release. Walker's office maintains the state faces an immediate deficit of $137 million and that action is needed to "lay the foundation for a long-term sustainable budget without raising taxes, raising segregated funds or using accounting gimmicks."

The bill contains multiple steps for saving money, including repealing the authority of public employees to collectively bargain with the state, setting a series of caps and other restrictions on wage increases and increasing worker contributions to pensions and health insurance. Walker's overview of the bill states that Wisconsin public employees enjoy benefits in excess of employee benefits in neighboring states and that he is seeking to strike "a fair balance."

Protesters and state Democrats said the proposal is about union busting, not fairness. "If passed, the balance in our society will again tilt to the powerful over the powerless," said state Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee. "The ability to organize and get fair treatment are qualities that built our country. This is what the last generation fought for in the Sixties and the Seventies, to make sure we all had a better life."

Larson, one of 14 Democratic senators who last week left the state to prevent a vote on the budget bill, said Walker is "seeking to scapegoat unions as the cause of the fiscal crisis in an effort to divide the middle class against itself. This, while he is opening tax loopholes for the richest in the country." As he and other Democrats vowed to stand firm, and Walker vowed not to compromise, protest organizers vowed to escalate their opposition to the proposal.

Drummers have served as the rhythm section for the Capitol protesters, whose numbers have varied – 30,000, 40,000, 70,000 and more – as

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE

UPDATE

8th Annual Moda Provacateur - Fashion, Style & Entertainment, March 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Möda Provocateur, a fashion and fundraising event, has become known over the past seven years for pushing the boundaries of hair, style and entertainment. Fashion meets The Cirque to benefit the programs and services of SAAF!

Different from typical fashion shows Möda Provocateur features salons which plan their segments and collaborate with boutiques to match their unique style...add amazing dance and music to that and you have Möda Provocateur!

Lobby doors at the Grand Ballroom, U of A Student Union will open at 4:30 pm. The main show begins at 6:00 pm. Guests holding tickets for Runway and VIP tables will enjoy dinner and entertainment beginning at 5:00 pm. For more information, call 520-628-7223.

Queer & Migrant Politics In the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands and Beyond, 3/12

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Authors Karma R. Chávez and Eithne Luibhéid discuss Queer and Migrant Politics on the Border at the Tucson Festival of Books.

This discussion is moderated by Adela Licona. It will take place, March 12, 1:00 pm, at the U of A Student Union, Catalina Room and the event is sponsored by the Tucson Festival of Books.

For more information, call Naomi McCoy at 520-891-9681. The Tucson Festival of Books is online at tucsonfestivalofbooks.com.

The Ripple Effect : LGBTQ Health & Wellness Workshop Series - Step Up! Bystander Intervention Train

TUCSON (Observer Update) - What do we do when we hear someone saying 'that's so gay,' or calling someone a dyke or a fag? How do we respond when it seems like a situation we are witnessing could escalate and become violent?

Step Up! is an interactive training program, presented by Campus Health Outreach Specialist Melanie Fleck and Violence Prevention Specialist Erin Strange, which will help develop skills to address offensive language, harmful actions against others, and ultimately prevent violence in your community. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?" - Martin Luther King Jr.

This will take place on Mar 9, 5:00 - 6:30 pm, Student Union Memorial Center, Kiva Auditorium - 1303 E University Drive. Brought to you by: LGBTQ Affairs, Campus Heal. For more information, contact Jennifer Hoefle at 520-621-7585.

Editorial

VOTE FOR SOUTH TUCSON ON MARCH 8

Voters will go to the polls in South Tucson on Tuesday, March 8, to select four persons to serve on the South Tucson City Council.

Eight candidates are vying for the seats but for voters, there is a clear choice in this important election to shape the future of South Tucson.

Jennifer Eckstrom, Miguel Rojas, John Garcia and Mary Soltero must be given another term in office to continue their work of making the smallest City in Pima County, one of the best.

Around The Gay Globe

"Zimbabwe cannot have gay rights," Farai said in a translated statement by Seta. "My relatives can not help me, because they would have trouble."

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, says the Finnish government's immigration office is not being sensitive to Farai's claims. ...

Months after Ireland enacted a civil partnership bill recognizing the rights of same-sex couples, six in 10 Irish people say they believe the country should legalize full marriage equality.

According to an Irish Independent/Millward Brown Lansdowne survey, three quarters of those aged 18-24 want to legalize marriage equality, while those older than 65 were the most opposed (54%). Only 27% of all Irish voters surveyed are opposed to allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, and 12% were undecided on the issue.

President Mary McAleese signed the civil partnership bill into law in July, despite opposition from Catholic bishops. The law went into effect in January and gives same-sex couples most of the same rights as married heterosexual couples.

Gov't Drops Defense Of DOMA

Continued from Page One

this point, as he put it.

"This is something that we're going to continue to debate, and I personally am going to continue to wrestle with going forward," he said.

Holder said the president has concluded that, given a documented history of discrimination against gays, classifications based on sexual orientation should be subject to a more heightened standard of scrutiny than the department had been applying in legal challenges to the act up to now.

The attorney general said the department will immediately bring the policy change to the attention of two federal courts now hearing separate lawsuits targeting the Defense of Marriage Act.

One case, in Connecticut, challenges the federal government's denial of marriage-related protections for federal Family Medical Leave Act benefits, federal laws for private pension plans and federal laws concerning state pension plans. In the other case in New York City, the federal government refused to recognize the marriage of two women and taxed the inheritance that one of the women left to the other as though the two were strangers. Under federal tax law, a spouse who dies can leave her assets, including the family home, to the other spouse without incurring estate taxes.

Calling for friendly and reliable people to join SAAF's Client Services Team as volunteer Peer Counselors.

If you are interested in offering peer support to clients, educating on HIV/AIDS and more, contact Volunteer Resources at 628-7223 or volcoord@saaf.org

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community
OBSERVER
http://www.tucsonobserver.com

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

Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

Observer on the World Wide Web :
www.tucsonobserver.com
E-Mail: info@tucsonobserver.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER:
Bob Ellis
MANAGING EDITOR:
Mark Kerr
Special Events Photos:
Bill Morrow
Amanda Irvin
Contributing Columnists
Mark R. Kerr
Jack Melichar

Publication of names or photos of any person or organization in the OBSERVER is not to be construed as indication of the sexual orientation of such person, organization or advertisers or any employees thereof.

Opinions that are expressed in Letters to the Editor or columns by contributors are not necessarily those of the OBSERVER, its staff or advertisers. OBSERVER assumes responsibility for its own editorial policy only.

Although OBSERVER has many fine advertisers, we do not accept responsibility for any claims made pertaining to their products and/or services.

*

Permission to reprint (except for separately copyrighted material) is granted when credit is given to the OBSERVER.

*

Informing the Community
The Observer

Coyote Moon Pub
sports pub & dance club
Thursday Drag Bingo 7:00pm
Benefit Bingo with your hostess Britney Star.
Proceeds will go to Wingspan.
Friday DANCE LESSONS 7:30 - 8:30 PM
Two-step, west coast swing, and more! $3 individual, $5 couple.
Stay and practice your new moves—it's Country Friday.
Saturday Mardi Gras Party 4-8pm
Join Han for a Naw'leans afternoon and let the good times roll!
Complete with hurricanes and oyster shooters!
Sunday Talent Show 8pm
"Puttin' on the Lips" Come show what you can do in this 12-week talent competition. Sing, drag, dance, comedy - here's your chance!
915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered & Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum Project

In Solidarity: LGBT Workers Join Anti-Walker Protests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

momentum has built and news has spread. Laurie Marks and her partner, who both work for the state university system, and their two children joined the protests. "We are so nervous about what this governor's intention is in terms of healthcare for our kids, because this state doesn't have second-parent adoption," said Marks, of Waukesha. She also expressed concern that Walker might move to repeal the state's domestic partnership act.

Lisa Hager, a member of the University of Wisconsin faculty and advisor to a gay-straight alliance, trekked from Waukesha to Madison to demonstrate. "We have record enrollments, but we haven't had raises since 2005," she said. Hager, heralding her union's efforts to combat anti-LGBT discrimination in employment as well as homophobia on campus, added, "People are scared of what this governor and Republican legislature are capable of doing."

"Wisconsin has played such an important role in the labor movement," said protester Billy Eames of Racine. "To assault worker rights here? This is like a Valley Forge of labor." Wisconsin, in 1959, was the first state to enact a comprehensive collective bargaining law and is the birthplace of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees national (AFSCME) union.

Eames and partner Jeff Reigel attended two days of protests. "Our activism goes way back to the early 1970s," Reigel said. "I think the gay community is exceptionally good at getting people out to these events because we've had such a long history of demonstrating for our rights."

Reigel and Eames are not government employees. They and other LGBT Wisconsinites said they were motivated to go to Madison for two reasons – labor has long been an ally in the push for LGBT equality and shutting down collective bargaining can turn off negotiations on partnership benefits. Equality Wisconsin, encouraging LGBT residents to petition Walker, summarized: "The right to organize and collectively bargain for better wages and benefits helped to make this country great by securing a strong middle class.

"There's an LGBT equality issue at stake as well: public sector unions were how domestic partner benefits were won at the city of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Milwaukee Public Schools, in some cases taking the lead for their gay and lesbian members when elected officials were too timid to act."

For the past two weeks, Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin have posted regular updates from the Capitol protests, as have LGBT activists associated with national groups, including Pride at Work and GetEqual.

"GetEqual has reached out to Fair Wisconsin to offer our help in organizing LGBT folks on the ground in whatever way they see as helpful," Managing Director Heather Cronk said. "We have organizers in Wisconsin who have been attending the protests for the past few days in solidarity with union folks there, and we're ready and willing to help in any additional ways that could lend a hand to working people in Wisconsin."

Some media outlets – Fox News specifically – characterized the demonstrations as verging on violence. But those on the scene stressed the peaceful nature of the events. "Right-wing media and the Tea Party have been trying all week to incite violence at the Capitol," said openly gay Wisconsin Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison. He added, "I'm proud of everyone involved in this rally for their level of decorum, and I'm grateful to law enforcement for ensuring the citizens access to their own government."

Protesters received encouragement from other political leaders, as well as long-distance backers who ordered them pizzas, cyber-supporters who posted pledges on social networking sites and worshippers who joined in community prayers.

Reigel cheered a communiqué from former and current Green Bay Packers, who called the budget bill "an unprecedented political attack." Facebook, which has driven demonstrators to Madison, also is driving a national solidarity campaign, helping activists around the country coordinate "We Are One" rallies in dozens of locations.

"At the end of the day, the fight in Wisconsin is not about money or budgets but about fairness and the basic right to a voice at work – and that is something that matters for all of us," said Shorey, of Pride at Work. "Through joining unions, LGBT workers can negotiate for and win legally binding contracts for benefits not addressed by state or federal laws," she said. "Further, LGBT people have higher rates of poverty and homelessness, and unions play a vital role in lifting up wages and benefits for all people, allowing working people to support their families."

In addition to mobilizing for Madison, Pride at Work encouraged members to attend solidarity rallies from San Diego to Lansing, Mich., from Lincoln, Neb., to Hartford, Conn.

Another rally took place Feb. 22 at the statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, where lawmakers are considering legislation similar to the Wisconsin measure.

"Ohio's Senate Bill 5 contains language that could impact current and future domestic partner benefits for LGBT employees," Equality Ohio, a state gay rights group, stated in an alert. "Join us and thousands of other opponents … to stand up for equal access to healthcare and other benefits for all Ohio families."

Larson warned of a domino effect if the pending legislation passes. "If this bill moves forward … rights in all America we have grown to take for granted will no longer be so reliable," the Wisconsin senator said. "If this passes here, it will pass in other states."

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARRIAGE

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

IBT's
Happy Hour
EVERYDAY
NOON-8PM
$2.00
WELL &
DOMESTICS
PREMIER DRAG SHOWS
HOSTED BY JANEE STARR
WEDNESDAY
"VEGA-LADIVA"
SATURDAY
"SATURDAY NIGHT STARLETTS"
*SHOWS START AT 9PM
616 N. 4TH AVENUE TUCSON, AZ 520.882.3053

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Last week this column ended with Alley Oop riding into the sunset on the back of his trusted dinosaur - with State Senator Sylvia Allen riding on the saddle horn, at least that's how it ended in my mind.

The Senator decided that after her statement of the earth being 6,000 years old, she would explain to our neighbors in Texas why SB 1070 was necessary, and why she voted for it.

Senator Allen wanted to explain why she voted "yes" on SB1070. According to the Senator, rancher Robert Krentz was murdered on his ranch by the drug cartel on March 27, 2010.

Unfortunately, Senator, the facts don't equate with your statement. Mr Krentz had radioed his brother that he was aiding someone he believed to be an illegal immigrant. To my knowledge it has never been established that the individual was a member of a drug cartel.

The Senator went on to say, "I participated in a senate hearing two weeks ago on the border violence, here is (sic) just some of the highlights from those who testified.

"The people who live within 60 to 80 miles of the Arizona/Mexico Border have for years been terrorized and have pleaded for help to stop the daily invasion of humans who cross their property."

The facts, however, Senator, are quite the opposite this assertion. Crime rates and violence in Arizona are down, not up. Federal statistics show that in fact violent crime in the state is lower than it has been since the early 1970s. In fact, violent crime and property crime have fallen consistently in all the border states over the last several years. The Mayor of Hidalgo, Texas, for example, said that in his 20 years as mayor there has not been a single homicide, and there was only one kidnaping - committed by a registered sex offender from California.

The Senator goes on to say that "One Rancher testified that 300 to 1200 people a DAY (italics added) come across his ranch vandalizing his property, stealing his vehicles and property, cutting down his fences, and leaving trash. In the last two years he has found 17 dead bodies and two Koran bibles."

One needs to ask that after counting at least 109,500 to 438,000 illegals a year, when does this rancher have time to chase his cows. Sounds like a pretty cushy job to me Me thinks someone is bending the truth. Ah, hell, they are lying.

I am going to leave the flake from Snowflake for now, and remind evertone of a great play opening at the Arizona Theatre Company on March 4 - LOST IN YONKERS, the Pulitzer Prize winning work by Neil Simon.

It is a coming of age tale that focuses on brothers Arty and Jay, left in the care of their Grandma Kurnitz and Aunt Bella in Yonkers, New York. Their desperate father, Eddie, works as a traveling salesman to pay off debts incurred following the death of his wife. Grandma is a severe, frightfully intimidating immigrant who terrified her children as they were growing up, damaging each of them to varying degrees. Bella is a sweet but mentally slow and highly excitable woman who longs to marry an usher at the local movie house so she can escape the oppressive household and create a life and family of her own. Her brother Louie is a small-time, tough-talking hoodlum who is on the run, while her sister Gert suffers from a breathing problem with causes more psychological than physical. Missing much of the sentimentality of the plays comprising Simon's earlier Eugene trilogy, LOST IN YONKERS climaxes with a dramatic confrontation between embittered mother and lonely daughter that creates a permanent fissure in this highly dysfunctional family. The play runs through the 19th of March at the Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Finally, congratulations to THE KING'S SPEECH - crowned the best picture of the year at the Oscars, with Colin Firth named best actor. Tom Hooper was named best director. The film also was honored for the best screenplay.

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered, Copyrighted, All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson City Museum ®©

Conservatives Vow To Make Gay Marriage 2012 Issue

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Angered conservatives are vowing to make same-sex marriage a front-burner election issue in 2012, nationally and in the states, following the Obama administration's announcement that it will no longer defend the federal law denying recognition to gay married couples.

The mainstream media played this up as a sensationalistic item in their effort to grab circulation and ratings but their reaction was no surprise, since political gay bashing is the only option for these groups running low on funds and ideas. Their statements.

"The ripple effect nationwide will be to galvanize supporters of marriage," said staff counsel Jim Campbell of Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative legal group.

On the federal level, opponents of same-sex marriage urged Republican leaders in the House of Representatives to intervene on their own to defend the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, against pending court challenges. "The president has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging Congress," said Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council. "It is incumbent upon the Republican leadership to respond by intervening to defend DOMA, or they will become complicit in the president's neglect of duty."

Conservatives also said they would now expect the eventual 2012 GOP presidential nominee to highlight the marriage debate as part of a challenge to Obama, putting the issue on equal footing with the economy.

Bed and Breakfast to Couple: 'You're Wrong, Unnatural'

CHICAGO (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that an Illinois same-sex couple trying to find a venue for their civil union ceremony were rebuffed by two bed-and-breakfasts, with one telling them they are "wrong" and "unnatural." Todd Wathen of downstate Illinois sent out inquiries to Beall Mansion and the TimberCreek B&B regarding his upcoming civil union reception. While Beall Mansion's managers told Wathen they allow only traditional weddings at their property, the TimberCreek B&B went much further.

"We will never host same-sex civil unions. We will never host same-sex weddings even if they become legal in Illinois," TimberCreek operators told Wathen in an e-mail. "We believe homosexuality is wrong and unnatural based on what the Bible says about it. If that is discrimination, I guess we unfortunately discriminate." When informed of Illinois's new civil unions law, Jim Walder of TimberCreek replied, "The Bible does not state opinions, but facts. It contains the highest laws pertinent to man. It trumps Illinois law, United States law, and global law should there ever be any."

Walder later sent an unsolicited e-mail of Bible passages to Wathen. He wrote, "Hi Todd, I know you may not want to hear this, but I thought I would send along a couple of verses in Romans 1 detailing how the Creator of the Universe looks at the gay lifestyle. It's not to late to change your behavior." Wathen and his partner filed complaints against both bed-and-breakfasts with the Illinois attorney general's office and the state Department of Human Rights. The couple alleges violations of the Illinois Human Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by businesses open to the public.

Tucson Observer Archives

tucsonobserverarchives.org

COMMENTARY. . . .

BY DAVID BADASH

The GOP Sanctimonious Defense of the Sanctity of DOMA

President Obama has declared "unconstitutional" the Defense of Marriage Act, also known as DOMA, and said he and the DOJ would no longer defend the fifteen-year old law. It was a stunning day, as Senator Dianne Feinstein subsequently announced her intention to introduce a bill in the senate to repeal DOMA, and sanctimonious Republicans, GOP presidential hopefuls, and right wing hate groups wasted no time weighing in on the news.

Though strangely absent from the national conversation on DOMA - so far - were Republican presidential hopefuls and possibles, Sarah Palin, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Tim Pawlenty, Mitch Daniels, and Chris Christie, you can imagine the reactions from the rest. Here's a sampling. Speaker of the House John Boehner – who not three months ago was fixated on getting a video that contained an image of a crucifix with ants crawling on it kicked out of the Smithsonian, and closing the museum to boot – has been fast and furiously working (when he actually is working, that is,) on denying America the constitutional right to abortion, while claiming to be working on "creating jobs and cutting spending."

On the news Obama and Holder would not defend DOMA, Speaker Boehner (R-OH) said, "While Americans want Washington to focus on creating jobs and cutting spending, the President will have to explain why he thinks now is the appropriate time to stir up a controversial issue that sharply divides the nation." Evidently, denying the constitutional right to abortion, (or censoring a national, public, tax-payer funded museum,) does not qualify as a "controversial issue that sharply divides the nation."

Former Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, who, in
2008, infamously said, "America has been the best country on earth for black folks. It was here that 600,000 black people, brought from Africa in slave ships, grew into a community of
40 million, were introduced to Christian salvation, and reached the greatest levels of freedom and prosperity blacks have ever known," couldn't wait to weigh in. Saying, "Moral truth exists and it does not change and all things are not equal," Buchanan claimed Obama is "not a strong leader," and capitulated to members of the "militant gay rights community." Hardly.

And for the record, this from then-Senatorial candidate Obama in
2004: "For the record, I opposed
DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] in
1996. It should be repealed and I will vote for its repeal on the Senate floor. I will also oppose any proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gays and lesbians from marrying. This is an effort to demonize people for political advantage, and should be resisted … .

"When Members of Congress passed DOMA, they were not inter- ested in strengthening family values or protecting civil liberties. They were only interested in perpetuating divi- sion and affirming a wedge issue. …"

Moving on, but hold onto that for a while.

Another former Republican presidential candidate and 2012 GOP hopeful, Mike Huckabee, an ordained Southern Baptist minister and former governor, who evidently believes strongly in the power of forgiveness, having pardoned "twice as many sentences as his three predecessors combined," said Obama's DOMA decision "may destroy him, may destroy his cred- ibility, may destroy his campaign and candidacy and ultimately his term in office." Huckabee, himself weighing another run at the presidency, and rather adept at killing several birds with one stone, falsely claimed Obama "didn't take this position when he ran for president. I think if he had, he wouldn't be president," and added, "I think he owes the people of America an explanation - was he being disingenuous and dishonest then, is he being dishonest now, or did he change his view and if he did, when and why?"

The President is not being dishonest. Huckabee is. See above.

Speaking of being dishon- est, we have yet another possible Republican presidential candidate, Rick Santorum. You of course remember Santorum's rather nasty comments about the Catholic Church's pedophile priests rape and molestation scandal? Like saying, "We're not talking about priests with
3-year-olds, or 5-year-olds. We're talking about a basic homosexual relationship." In other words, Santorum blames thousands of victims for being raped and molested by priests all over the world. But wait, there's more from Santorum, the former GOP Senator from Pennsyl- vania who set the record for "the largest margin of defeat ever for an incumbent Republican Senator in Pennsylvania."

Back in 2003, Santorum set off fireworks by saying, "Every society in the history of man has upheld the institution of marriage as a bond between a man and a woman. Why? Because society is based on one thing: that society is based on the future of the society. And that's what? Children. Monoga- mous relationships. In every society, the definition of marriage has not ever to my knowledge included homosexuality. That's not to pick on homosexuality. It's not, you know, man on child, man on dog, or whatever the case may be. It is one thing. And when you destroy that you have a dramatic impact on the quality." Santorum was roundly excoriated.

But it should come as no surprise that the former Senator and 2012 presidential hopeful had this to say: "President Obama's refusal to defend a law that was overwhelmingly supported on both sides of the

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered & Copyrighted All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

TAVERN
2449 N. Stone Avenue
520-622-0447
Open Daily 10am-2am
Introducing Our New
Extended Happy Hour:
10am-8pm Daily
Now with lower priced
drink specials
Dart tournament
Sunday & Thursday
Registration starts at 7pm
This Sunday 4PM-7pm
50¢ Draught Beer
On the Back Patio
Fridays
Karaoke 9pm-Close

aisle and signed into law by a president of his own party is an affront to the will of the people. This is yet another example of our president's effort to erode the very traditions that have made our country the greatest nation on earth, and it begs the question what language changed in the constitution since 2008 to reverse his position?"

Again, see above.

Still another GOP 2012 presiden- tial hopeful, Tea Party and Republican Party supported Michele Bachmann, who came to fame on "The Chris Matthews Show" for saying, "What I would say is that the news media should do a penetrating expose and take a look...I wish they would...I wish the American media would take a great look at the views of the people in Congress and find out are they pro- America, or anti-America. I think people would love to see an expose like that." Former Bush Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bachmann (whose integrity is often called into question,) was the reason he voted for Obama. In 2009, Bachmann, who has received well-over $250,000 in federal farm price supports, got even more bad press, saying she wanted Minnesotans "armed and dangerous on this issue of the energy tax because we need to fight back."

Politico reports, "Just hours after the president's reversal on a Defense of Marriage Act provision, Bachmann, who is considering a White House run next year, blasted an e-mail to supporters. "I'm sending you this urgent message be- cause if we don't join together and take action today, it could be a crushing blow to the traditional marriage movement," she writes. "Bachmann urges them to sign her "Support Traditional Marriage" petition, setting a goal of collecting 50,000 names in
48 hours. And then she asks supporters to "consider making a generous donation of $25, $50,
$100, $250 or more" so she can circulate the petition to other activists around the country."

Another conservative mak- ing money off Obama and Holder's decision to no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act in court is, of course, Maggie Gallagher and her certified hate group, the National Organization for Marriage (NOM.) NOM President Brian Brown sent a hilarious email out, less than seven hours after the President made his announcement, saying dramatically, (and summoning the ghost of American patriot John Paul Jones,) "We have not yet begun to fight for marriage." (No, seriously, he actually said this.)

Writing, "This may be the most important email I've ever sent to you," Brown blathered on, saying something about "one man and one woman," then Maggie, NOM's Chair (and reader of The New Civil Rights Movement, who likes to leave comments,) adds something about, "truly shocking," "extra- constitutional power grab," "defection of duty," and

Continued on Page Seven

MARCH 2, 2011
MARCH 2, 2011

Tucson Observer Archives

Jeanne Assam Says She Was Asked To Leave New Life Church After Coming Out

COLORADO SPRINGS (Observer Update) - The former security guard at New Life megachurch who heroically stopped a gunman at the Colorado Springs church in 2007 says she was asked to leave after announcing that she is gay.

In December, 2009, a 24-year-old gunman named Matthew Murray opened fire on New Life's Colorado Springs facility, shooting four people and killing two. Jeanne Assam, then a 42-year-old volunteer security guard and ex-Minneapolis police officer, shot the gunman–who fatally shot himself soon afterward–as he entered the church.

At the time, Assam–who said her strong faith was responsible for her swift and decisive action–was hailed as a hero. However, she says the warm feelings from New Life subsided after she told them that she was gay. The Colorado Springs Gazette's Barry Noreen wrote that Assam told the crowd at a Pride Center fundraiser in Colorado Springs that she was asked to leave the Church when she informed officials that she was gay. Contacted by Noreen, officials at New Life flatly denied Assam's account. "We welcome everyone at New Life. We would never tell someone to leave because of their sexual orientation. Jeanne will always be a hero at New Life," a spokesman said.

Assam was fired from the Minneapolis Police Department after allegedly lying during an internal investigation. She denies the allegations, and says she was fired unjustly. Assam's Facebook page describes her as "[n]ot religious. I have a personal relationship with God." It also says she currently lives in Denver. She has written a book on her experience called "God, the Gunman and Me."

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Kansas High School Column Advocates Death To Gays

Homosexual teens alienated by current societal

Gun control becomes problem after East Hi

WICHITA (Observer Update) - An opinion column in the February 11 edition of a Kansas high school's student newspaper says same-sex relationships "just are not normal" and uses quotes from the Bible to advocate punishing gays and lesbians with death, according to The Wichita Eagle.

Gay rights activists are calling on Wichita school leaders to "undo the damage and hurt" caused by the column, which ran in the editorial section of East High School's The Messenger, reports advocate.com. The column says same-sex couples "just are not normal" and "should be frowned upon." It then quotes a verse from the Bible, saying men who have sex with other men have "committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death."

District officials and the newspaper's faculty adviser say the column is free speech and is protected by the First Amendment and the Kansas Student Publications Act. But the president of the Wichita chapter of the Center for Human Rights says the column isn't free speech – it's hate speech. Administrators "have the responsibility to make sure our kids are safe," James Pryor said. "By allowing this hate speech to happen, it's just legitimizing bullying and hate, and it's irresponsible."

Teen: Teacher Mocked Me For Being Gay

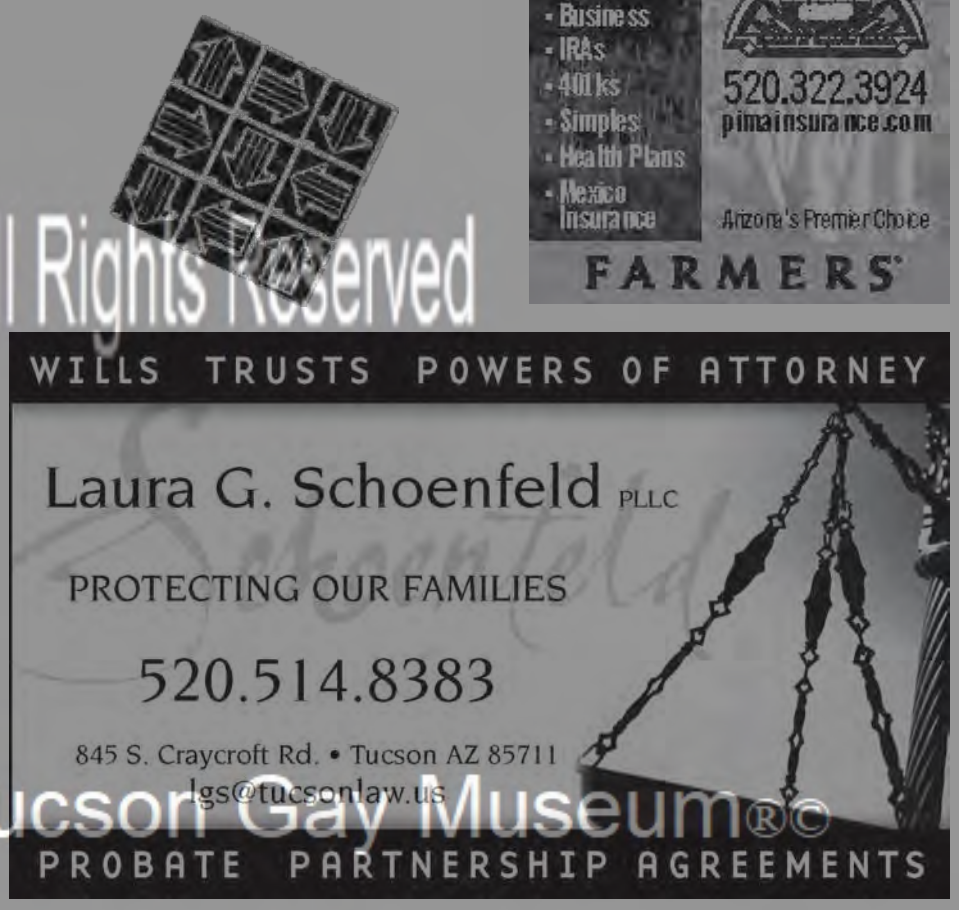
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

PALM COAST (Observer Update) - A teen says one of his teachers ridiculed him in front of classmates for being gay, telling him he couldn't keep his soda in the same fridge as other students or they'd turn out like him, reported advocate.com.

Flagler Palm Coast High School freshman Luke Herbert said he and his mother complained to school officials several times about the teacher, but no one has taken the complaints seriously. "He stood in front of the class and said 'you can't put Mountain Dew or Pepsi in the same fridge or they'll turn gay.' He [also] came over to me, and I was like 'hi.' He said hi, like he was imitating me or mocking me," the 15-year-old told Florida's News 13.

Herbert said the teacher ultimately apologized and school officials promised to switch him to another class – but it has yet to happen. "I don't feel safe with him being there," Herbert's mother, Dorene Davenport, told News 13. A representative for the school district told News 13 that officials are investigating the situation, but would not comment further.



The GOP Sanctimonious Defense of the Sanctity of DOMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

ended with, "powerful political special interests," which, I assume, she knows could include NOM, right? Of course, there was a big ol' "CONTRIBUTE NOW" button in the email. (Don't worry. I didn't.)

Speaking of certified hate groups, Tony Perkins, head of the Family Research Council wants Congress to override the President. Yesterday Perkins said, "the President has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging Congress. It is incumbent upon the Republican leadership to respond by intervening to defend DOMA, or they will become complicit in the President's neglect of duty." Perkins then said Obama was "pandering to his liberal political base."

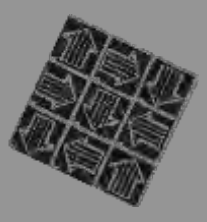
As a proud member of Obama's "liberal base," I can only say I wish he would. Still another hate group, the American Family Association (AFA,) weighed in. Calling Obama "a clear and present danger to his own country," and classifying Obama's actions yesterday as "impeachable," Bryan Fischer, AFA's Director of Issues Analysis, falsely claims "Obama is violating his oath of office by refusing to defend DOMA," and adds, "The entire argument based on marriage "equality" is just gas. Homosexuals already have full marriage equality: they can get married, same as everybody else, to an adult, non-relative member of the opposite sex. Don't let them fool you with all this "equality" bloviation. They already have full equality under the law; they have exactly the same rights as everybody else. What they want are special rights based solely on sexually deviant behavior. No sane society should ever commit such folly."

Be prepared for the people of Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and Sweden, Mexico City, at the very least, to be filing protests for being called "insane."

The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), a modern Christian non-profit whose roots run deep with hate group founders, are the folks who represented the "Yes On Prop 8? organization, ProtectMarriage.com. Today the front of their website says, "Obama administration says it will no longer defend key component of DOMA," and has a big "DONATE NOW" button right below it. ADF attorney Austin R. Nimocks falsely states, "The Department of Justice has a constitutional duty to defend the laws duly enacted by Congress … and the refusal of the attorney general to defend the federal Defense of Marriage Act just because they don't like it politically is really inexcusable."

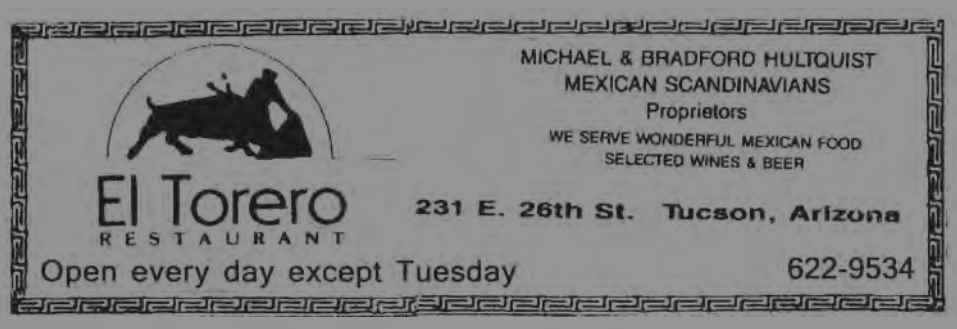
What "is really inexcusable" is how the GOP, Republican presidential hopefuls and has-beens, and hate groups gin up controversy over DOMA, DADT, ENDA, and the LGBT community, just to get some attention, and to pay their bills.

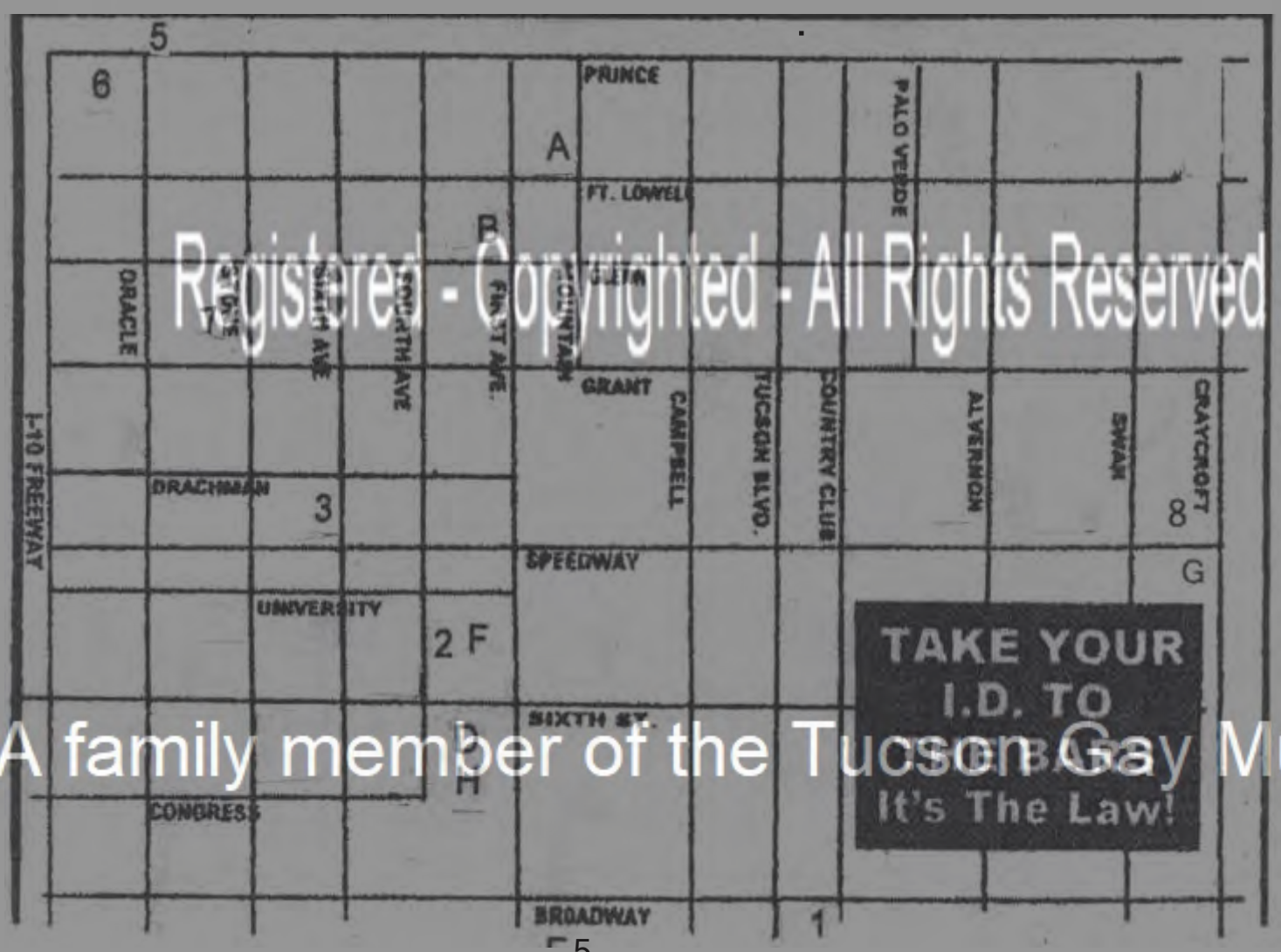
(David Badash is the founder and editor of The New Civil Rights Movement.)



Tucson Observer Archives

tucsonobserverarchives.org





Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum©

COMMUNITY BARS

1. THE BIZ, 2900 E. Broadway 318-4838
2. IBT'S, 616 N. 4TH Ave. 882-3053
3. VENTURE-N 1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
5. WOODY'S 3710 N. Oracle Rd 292-6702
6. COYOTE MOON PUB 915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
7. BRODIE'S TAVERN 2449 N. Stone 622-0447
8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS 5305 E. Speedway 323-1840

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 3269 N. Mountain 622-9151
B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP 2902 N. Geronimo 622-4626
D. WINGSPAN 430 E. 7th Street 624-1779
E. S.A.A.F. (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation) 375 S. Euclid 628-7223
G. TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV-AIDS Network) 1011 N Craycroft 299-6647
H. EON YOUTH CENTER 620-6245

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

TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES - TUCSON RESOURCES

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org

TRANSFORMATIONS
JAMIE CARR
Landscaper
YARD MAINTENANCE
CLEAN-UPS
FREE ESTIMATES
NO IRRIGATION
520-318-1219

University of Arizona Mystery's©
A Bizarre Collection Of Solved & Unsolved Mysteries At The UofA
www.uofamystery.com

Securing your future.
Social Security Disability and Workers' Compensation
The Law Office of Carol L. Lohmann, P.C
520.628.7700

Presidio
Hair and Nail Salon
Ed Thibeault
985 N. Alvernon
Tucson, AZ 85711
(520) 321-9626

SOUTHWEST ETC.
COLLECTIBLES - ANTIQUES - THRIFT
BUYING & SELLING ESTATES
Weekend Open Air Markets
4400 S. Mission
Tucson, Arizona 85746
520-908-0960

Steve Wagner, MSW, LCSW
Individual & Couple Psychotherapy
5210 E. Pima, #105
Tucson, Arizona 85712
520-629-9166

Tucson Gay©®
'Your Best Tucson Resource'
www.tucsongay.org

WORDS UNLIMITED
Writing, Editing, Ghosting
Everything from ghosting your memoirs to polishing your screenplay.
Free initial consultation.
Write to Box 85571
Tucson, AZ 85754

A. Michael Hutchins, Ph.D.
Counseling - Psychotherapy - Consulting
6812 North Oracle Rd. Suite 100
Tucson, Arizona 85704 520-797-2117

Charles Weasner
REALTOR®GRI
(520) 906-8103
Steve Redmond
REALTOR®
(520) 548-2096
Uptown, Downtown, ALL around the Valley!
LONG REALTY COMPANY
TucsonFoothillsLiving.com

DUI
SR-22
MIKE PIERCE INSURANCE
FREE QUOTES
888-8888
AUTO, LIFE, HOME, MEDICAL
COMMERCIAL, PROPERTIES, CONTRACTORS BONDINGS

Tucson LGBT©®
'Your Tucson Connection'
http://www.tucsonlgbt.com

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

RICH MUSZYNSKI Ph.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST
520.906.7048 Phone | 5956 E. Pima, Suite 130
520.296.8157 Fax | Tucson, AZ 85712

JON THE HANDYMAN
Can do: Home, Office cleaning, Yard-Work!
You name it.....
CALL:
GEMINI—Handyman services.....
Phone: 619-977-6012

Speedway Veterinary Hospital, Inc
Kayla R. Boyer, DVM
Small Animal Veterinarian
(520) 321-4235
3736 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716
www.speedwayvet.com

In a blink, your world could change.
For help with LGBT domestic violence, sexual violence, hate crime, harassment, and discrimination issues call the
Wingspan Anti-Violence Project
24-Hour Crisis Line
624-0348
1-800-553-9387
www.wingspan.org

TUCSON 420©®
'BRINGING SANITY TO THE MEDICAL & OTHER 420 LAWS'
WWW.TUCSON420.ORG

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum©®

Learn How To Buy Your First Home!
• Prices and interest rates are both low
• Tax credit up to $8,000
• Down payment grants available
For more info, call Mike at 272-6959
Or check out my site:
www.MikeSellsTucsonHomes.com
If you buy or sell with me, I'll donate 10% of my net commission to your favorite charity!
Century 21 CENTRA REALTY
Call Mike Pollock REALTOR® 272-6959

Antigone Books
• progressive
• independent
• fabulous
20% off any one rainbow item, LGBT novel or LGBT DVD.
We have books, cards, gifts, and things to make you laugh.
411 N. 4th Ave. • 792-3715 • antigonebooks.com

TUCSON GLBT
Chamber Of Commerce
Inclusive ▼ Engaged ▼ Professional
P. O. Box13312
Tucson, AZ 85732
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org
info@tucsonglbtchamber.org

Obama Names Gay Man As Social Secretary

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Barack Obama has named Jeremy Bernard, currently Senior Advisor to the U.S. Ambassador to France, as the White House social secretary, reports advocate.com.

Bernard is the first man and first openly gay person to have the job. "Jeremy shares our vision for the White House as the People's House, one that celebrates our history and culture in dynamic and inclusive ways. We look forward to Jeremy continuing to showcase America's arts and culture to our nation and the world through the many events at the White House," Obama said in a statement.

Tucson Observer Archives

Says Post writer Jonathan Capehart: Bernard and his then-partner Rufus Gifford were early supporters of Obama in California. And they raised a ton of money for him through their company, B&G Associates. Gifford went on to become finance director of the Democratic National Committee. Bernard was the White House liaison at the National Endowment for the Humanities before dashing off to his Paris post in November. Full disclosure: Bernard and I are friends. He will bring a certain warmth and irreverence to the job that will make him a joy for his colleagues to work with. His knowledge of the Obamas and his intense attention to detail will ensure that their vision for the people's house continues seamlessly. And he has a reverence for the presidency and the meaning of the White House that will make him an imaginative steward of their image.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Bernard currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy of Paris. He served as the White House Liaison to the National Endowment for the Humanities from 2008 to 2010. Previously, Bernard was a California Finance Consultant for the Obama for American campaign. He was a Principal of B&G Associates from 2007 to 2009, Vice-President of Mapleton Investments from 1999 to 2006 and Director of Government Affairs of Falcon Cable TV from 1996 to 2006. Appointed by President Clinton, Bernard served on the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 2001 to 2009.

tucsonobserverarchives.org

He previously served as a board member of A.N.G.L.E. (Access Now for Gay & Lesbian Equality) and the National Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. He was also a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's LGBT Advisory Committee, the Los Angeles Police LGBT Advisory Committee and the Los Angeles Mayor's LGBT Advisory Committee.

Newt Gingrich Asked About Gays And Hypocrisy at UPenn

PHILADELPHIA (Observer Update) - Newt Gingrich's recent speech to University of Pennsylvania students turned dramatic when one student questioned the former speaker on his prior marital affairs. Student protesters later stormed out of the auditorium before the speech ended, according to Politico.

Gingrich, a Republican, is Former Speaker of the House and potential presidential candidate for the 2012 election. "You adamantly oppose gay rights…but you've also been married three times and admitted to having an affair with your current wife while you were still married to your second," said Isabel Friedman, student president of Penn Democrats. "How do you reconcile this hypocritical interpretation of the religious values that you so vigorously defend?" she asked, reports 365Gay.com.

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

Gringrich replied, "I hope you feel better about yourself," before answering "if the primary concern of the American people is my past, my candidacy would be irrelevant. If the primary concern of the American people is the future…that's a debate I'll be happy to have with your candidate or any other candidate if I decide to run."

"I don't regret asking him the question," Friedman told The Daily Pennsylvanian. "He has offended more people than I did," she said. While Gingrich was still speaking, student protestors exited the venue yelling and waving signs that said "Global AIDS Budget Cuts Kill," according to Politico.

Hawaii Governor Signs Gay Unions Bill Into Law

HONOLULU (Observer Update) - Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie has signed a bill into law that offers gay and lesbian couples benefits and responsibilities nearly identical to those of marriage, the Honolulu Star Advertiser reported.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

"This signing today of this measure says to all of the world that they are welcome. That everyone is a brother or sister here in paradise," Abercrombie said in remarks before singing the bill into law, reports ontopmag.com. "The legalization of civil unions in Hawaii represent in my mind equal rights for all people," he added.

Lawmakers approved a nearly identical bill last year, but then-Governor Linda Lingle, a Republican, vetoed the measure after much public hand-wringing on the issue. "It's a sad day for the people of Hawaii," Senator Mike Gabbard, a former Republican who switched to the Democratic Party in 2007, told the paper.

The Hawaii Catholic Conference, which had strongly opposed the bill, also expressed disappointment: "Passage of this legislation is just a step towards the legalization of same-sex marriage." Hawaii becomes the third state to offer the union behind New Jersey and Illinois, whose governor signed a similar measure into law last month. Civil unions are also up for debate in Colorado and possibly Delaware.

PLEASE HELP

Humane Society of Southern Arizona
3450 North Kelvin Boulevard
Tucson, AZ 85716
(520) 327-6088
http://www.humane-so-arizona.org

Shift In DOMA Policy Prompts Questions From Judge In Lambda Legal Case

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - A federal judge has requested the U.S. Department of Justice to explain how it plans to defend denying spousal health benefits to a lesbian federal employee, following an announcement yesterday by the Obama administration that it believes the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White has given government attorneys to respond. Lambda Legal and the law firm Morrison & Foerster LLP represent Karen Golinski, a 19-year employee of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Golinski seeks the same employee health benefits for her wife, Amy Cunninghis, that heterosexual court employees receive for their spouses.

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski has issued several rulings in Golinski's favor, which the federal Office of Personnel Management ignored – claiming, among other reasons, that DOMA prohibited the provision of health insurance benefits to Golinski's wife. Lambda Legal's case, Golinski v. U.S. Office of Personnel Management requests an order directing OPM to stop interfering with Kozinski's prior rulings.

White issued a series of four questions asking the Justice Department to explain how the government plans to pursue its defense of the case following the announcement that President Obama and Attorney General Holder have concluded that DOMA is unconstitutional and inappropriate to defend.

"This is the first court to request an immediate clarification from the government on how it can keep denying equal rights to lesbians and gay men based on a law the Justice Department itself says is unconstitutional," said Jennifer C. Pizer, National Marriage Project Director for Lambda Legal.

"This shows just how big a sea change yesterday's Justice Department announcement was – not only has the department itself now said that it is unwilling to continue defending a blatantly unconstitutional law, but it's going to be hard to ignore its assessment that any sort of law that discriminates based on sexual orientation must be presumed to be unconstitutional."

Lambda Legal's Jennifer C. Pizer represents Golinski together with Rita Lin, James McGuire, Gregory Dresser and Aaron Jones of Morrison & Foerster LLP. The case is Golinski v. United States Office of Personnel Management and John Berry, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, in his official capacity.

Poet's Corner

DEAF-E-CIT SPENDING

by Ron Rose - Tucson

The answer is so simple
We don't want to hear.
The Deaf- E-Cit is rising
And now we live in fear.
Our leaders have it backwards,
Spend more and take in less.
Cut programs for the needy,
This doesn't make much sense.
Raise taxes on the wealthy,
Make business hire more.
Cut wasteful defense spending,
Just cut it to the core,
And make our nation healthy.
Please listen to our plea
And pay down our huge Deaf-E-Cit
And keep our country free.

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!

Anti-Prop 8 Team Asks Court To Lift Stay, Allow Gay Marriage In California

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - Ted Olson, lead attorney for the lawsuit challenging California's same-sex marriage ban announced that he is asking the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to lift a stay on a district court ruling that found Proposition 8 unconstitutional.

The request, if granted, would enable same-sex couples in California to marry immediately. Olson said he filed a motion with the California Supreme Court to schedule oral arguments sooner than September on an issue of standing it has been asked to decide for the 9th Circuit.

He said they filed a motion to ask that the 9th Circuit's previous order staying the district court decision be lifted. "Further delay is intolerable," said Olson.

"We're going on almost a year since it was held unconstitutional," noted Boies, referring to the August 4, 2010, ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional.

Olson said he and co-counsel David Boies are "very gratified by the developments today from the Department of Justice but did not make clear whether the request to lift the stay on the California ruling was triggered by the DOJ statement. However, he clearly feels the DOJ announcement enhances the possibility the 9th Circuit might consider lifting the stay.

"These bans are clearly unconstitutional," said Boies, referring not only to California's Proposition 8 but similar bans in other states. "We would hope that states would recognize the unconstitutionality of those bans and establish marriage equality without the necessity of litigation state by state....It is now overwhelmingly clear that these discriminatory laws are unconstitutional."

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, $5.00 MINIMUM

MASSAGE

MATURE MASSEUR offers pain relief, stress relief massage. Quiet setting, professional table. 10 years experience. Near downtown and UofA. $50/hour. 9am - 9pm daily. Dick. New phone 520-388-0613. 1388

Awesome Experience Tantric sensual MASSAGE. - Ecstatic Playful Sessions! A TRUE healing experience ! Creating a sacred space, for men. Marc - 881-4582, call 8 AM - 8 PM - Touching men with passion since 1981 1386

GREAT MASSAGE. Full body massage by a man for men of all ages. $50 1st hour. In or out calls. N/W are (Oro Valley) 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Privacy assured. Call Mike 440-5818. 1383

HELP WANTED

Part time Personal Assistant to successful businessman. Relocate to Sierra Vista. Private room, board, expense allowance of $50/week in exchange for helping with office, personal, and household tasks 20 hrs/ week with opportunity for full time work. Vehicle use, paid travel, other benefits after 90 days. Must be an extremely reliable and highly motivated individual seeking a career change who can eventually partner with me in my business. Email boothillaz@yahoo.com or call (800) 940-0331.

MORTGAGE RATES ARE STILL VERY LOW!
IS IT TIME TO EXPLORE REFINANCING?
REFINANCING TO A SHORTER TERM OR LOWER INTEREST RATE WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS
STEVE BARRETO PRIME CAPITAL, INC.
SBARRETO@PRIMECAPITAL.COM 323-3300
WWW.PRIMECAPITAL.COM LIC. #MB6502

NY Court Rules That Surviving Gay Spouse Retains Marriage Rights

ALBANY (Observer Update) - A New York appeals court ruled that the survivor of a gay marriage could receive the inheritance from his male spouse on Thursday, even though New York does not yet allow legal gay marriages to be performed in the state.

J. Craig Leiby and H. Kenneth Rantfle were legally married in Canada in 2008. Three years ago, Rantfle died of lung cancer and left the majority of his estate to Leiby. But Rantfle's brother contested the will, saying that Leiby's inheritance would violate New York law, according to CBS New York, reports advocate.com.

Gay marriages are illegal in New York, but the state recognizes legal out of state and out of country marriages; therefore the court ruled that Leiby is legally entitled to the inheritance as a surviving spouse. Lambda Legal said the decision was the first of its kind at an appellate level in New York, according to the Huffington Post.

Lambda's senior counsel member Susan Somer said the decision "puts to rest the idea that out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples could be vulnerable to attack."

Around The Gay Nation

In New Hampshire, a committee will vote on two bills that would repeal the state's gay marriage law, the AP reported.

Over six hundred people packed the Judicial Committee's hearing on the bills last week. Supporters of the state's year-old law greatly outnumbered opponents. The panel will meet to decide the fate of the bills. Republican leaders have urged the committee to shelve the bills until next year, insisting social issues must take a back seat to the state's fiscal crisis.

The law, which marked its first anniversary on January 1, was signed by Governor John Lynch, who has vowed to veto any repeal attempt. Republicans, however, gained veto-proof majorities in both chambers on November 2.

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE OBSERVER

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday , Monday, Tuesday

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

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 Hour10am - 8pm.

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.Happy Hour 10am-8pm

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. Happy Hour 10am-8pm

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. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.

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. Happy Hour 10am-8pm. 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 10am - 8pm.

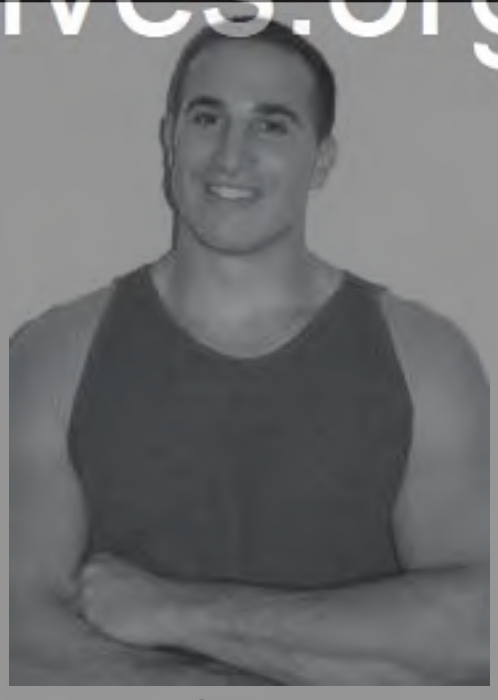
COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. $5.00 cheeseburger & fries OR two chicken tenders & fries. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

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. .

CHILL WITH A SUMMER MASSAGE

Starting @ $49.00
Outcall only 24/7
Friendly & Courteous Guy
TONY 520-390-0330



AFFORDABLE PERSONAL TRAINING
PRIVATE GYM (East Side)
12 Week Package To A Better Body
FREE Consultation and Session
CALL ANDREW
520-909-4649

Jesus loves you just as you are.
And so do we.
Come enjoy the fellowship.
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Water of Life
Metropolitan Community Church
Dr. Charlie Arehart, Pastor
3269 N. Mountain Ave.
(just north of Ft. Lowell)
292-9151
www.wolmcc.org

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

Gay Couple Bashed At Burger King Awarded $3.15 Million

Tucson Observer Archives

NEWARK (Observer Update) - A gay New Jersey couple who were chased and beaten by Burger King employees following a 2007 altercation have been awarded $3.15 million by a Hudson County jury, reports advocate.com.

In a civil trial that began Feb. 7, victims Peter Casbar, 43, and Noel Robichaux, 46, testified that a dispute with the person taking their order escalated to involve other workers and then became violent, even after the couple had left the Union City restaurant. "The manager and a group of angry restaurant employees chased the couple and then mercilessly kicked, beat, and spat upon the two men while screaming hate-filled anti-gay invectives," the couple's attorney, James F. Fine said in a statement.

Casbar and Robichaux said they were victims of a hate crime and brought the lawsuit under New Jersey's antidiscrimination laws. The jury agreed and ordered Food Service Properties Corp. and Union City Restaurant Corp., which owned the Burger King where the incident occurred, to pay damages. "Violence against anybody, including gay people, cannot be condoned," said Fine after the verdict. "The jury spoke to this issue."

tucsonobserverarchives.org

More U.S. Companies Covering Transgender Surgeries

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - When Gina Duncan decided to undergo the medical treatment that would make her a body into a woman's body, she had plenty to fear. The reactions of her children, her professional colleagues and friends. How her body would respond to hours on the operating table. If, at the end of it, she would look female enough so strangers wouldn't gawk, reports advocate.com.

What the Orlando mortgage banker didn't have to be anxious about was how she would pay for two of her surgeries. Her employer of 10 years, Wells Fargo, included breast augmentation and genital reconstruction as coverable expenses under its employee health plan. Duncan was told the San Francisco-based bank already had had 16 other employees transition to new genders and assigned a benefits specialist to walk her through the process.

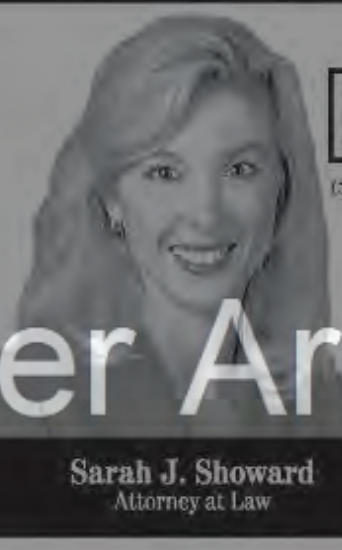
"They had a template in place, and it was surprisingly supporting and mentally encouraging," said Duncan, 55, who four years later still works for Wells Fargo. "So much of what I'd heard involved people who ended up losing their job, losing their family, losing their friends, becoming destitute."

With little fanfare, more and more large corporations, including Coca-Cola, Campbell Soup and Walt Disney, have expanded their insurance coverage to meet the needs of transgender workers. The trend follows a concerted push by transgender rights advocates to get employers and insurers to see sex reassignment the way the American Medical Association does – as a medically indicated rather than an optional procedure.

"We understand people simply get appendicitis, and it is something our community deals with through insurance," said Andre Wilson, who counsels companies on transgender issues as a senior consultant with San Francisco-based Jamison Green & Associates. "That's what we need to understand about transsexualism. Not everybody will be diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder, and in fact, few people will be. But the people who are diagnosed with it really need treatment."

Among the corporations providing transgender-inclusive health benefits are some leading Wall Street and Main Street brands. American Express, Kraft Foods, AT&T, Yahoo!, Eastman Kodak, Sears, Morgan Stanley, Price Waterhouse, General Motors and State Farm are among 85 large businesses and law firms that cover the cost of at least one surgery, according to a 2010 survey by the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group.

The number is expected to spike this year, when HRC adds availability of surgery-inclusive medical benefits for transgender employees or transgender dependents to the criteria in its annual corporate diversity report

Personal Injury?

SHOWARD Law Firm
(520) 622-3344 • toll free (866) 307-2147 • fax (520) 327-1667
2990 N. Campbell, Ste. 230
Auto Injury
Medical Malpractice
Premises Liability
Products Liability
Sarah J. Showard
Attorney at Law

Come Home with Troy...

and I'll donate 10% of my net income generated by this ad to your favorite charity.
520.955.3634
TROY GOODWIN
COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
Owned and Operated by NRT LLC
www.ISellTucsonRealEstate.com

COMMUNITY FRIENDLY
Free Inspection with mention of this ad
GALLO AUTOMOTIVE
520-622-3500 or 520-623-0644
Fax 520-624-6574
2208 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85705
COMPLETE CAR CARE

ON-SITE COMPUTER REPAIR
Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting, Inc.
WE FIX PCs AND MACs!
Repair - Maintenance - Networking - Upgrades- Webhosting - Web design

(520) 312-2630
We'll save you time, money and frustration!
We come to you!
A+ Certified
7 years experience!

Reproduced Courtesy of the Tucson Gay Museum. All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum