Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

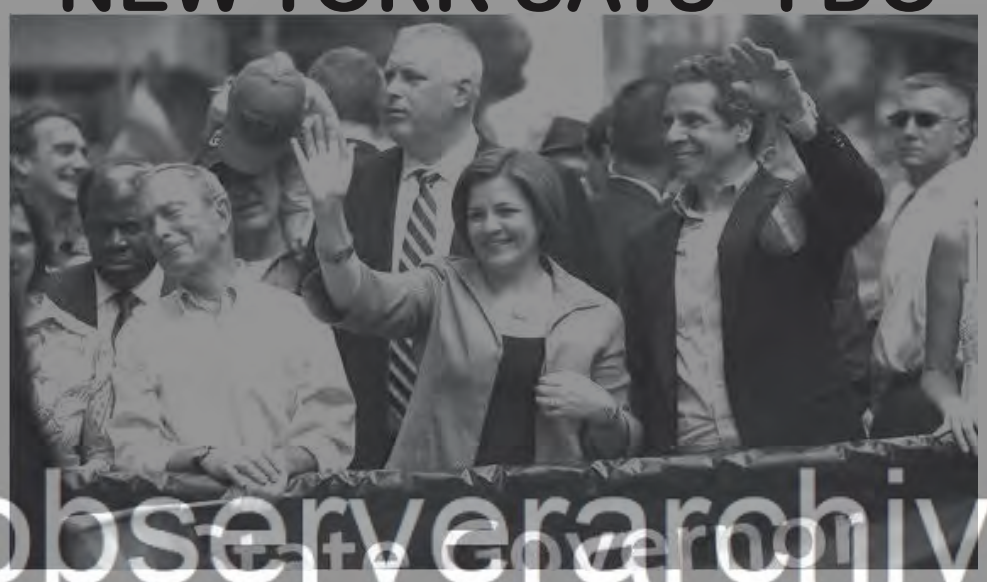
OBSERVER

tucsonobserverarchives.org

Tucson Observer Archives

WEEKLY OBSERVER JUNE 29, 2011 ISSUE 1404

NEW YORK SAYS "I DO"



LEFT TO RIGHT : NY MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG, CHRISTINE QUINN AND GOIVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO

In a historic vote with far-reaching implications, the New York State Senate passed the marriage equality bill, making New York the sixth and most populous state in addition to Washington, D.C., to offer civil marriage for same-sex couples.

The 33-29 vote, including four Republicans, came at the end of the legislative session and capped a dramatic week in Albany, where loud protests for and against the bill, many based in religious belief, filled the hallways outside the Senate chamber and the majority conference room at the state capitol. New York became the first state with a Republican-controlled legislative body to pass a marriage equality bill, following passage multiple times in the Democratic-controlled state Assembly since 2007.

"I cannot legally come up with an argument against same-sex marriage," said Senator Mark Grisanti, who voted yes with his Republican colleagues James Alesi, Roy McDonald and Stephen Saland.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the bill into law late Friday night just before midnight. The law will take effect on July 24. New York has no initiative process and only limited referendum practices that would make repeal of the law almost impossible.

Home to almost 20 million people and the nation's largest city, New York will double the number of Americans living in a state with marriage equality and bring international attention to the latest chapter in the gay rights movement. The development appears destined to become a national turning point, with litigation pending in the federal court system and legislation under consideration in other states while public opinion trends toward majority support for marriage equality, according to recent polls.

"I think this vote today will send a message across the country," said Cuomo at a press conference at the capitol. "This is the direction to go, and the time to do it is now, and it is achievable."

In the immediate future, the vote in New York would seem to demand a response from President Barack Obama, who continues to evolve on his marriage equality position. In an address to gay Democratic donors at a major Pride Month fundraiser in Manhattan Thursday, he said he supported equal rights for couples but stopped short of supporting gay marriage.

Asked how the vote in New York would affect the president's stance, Cuomo said, "I think you are going to see an evolution toward this position on all levels. I don't want to speak for any one person."

The Senate vote in New York caps an intensely coordinated, bipartisan campaign under the direction of Gov. Cuomo that raised an estimated $2 million, more than half of it from Republican-affiliated donors. The governor worked with New Yorkers United for Marriage, a bipartisan coalition of five LGBT organizations: Human Rights Campaign, Empire State Pride Agenda, Log Cabin Republicans, Marriage Equality New York, and Freedom To Marry.

Such coordination, let alone victory, seemed nearly unimaginable less than two years ago, when in December 2009 the marriage equality bill failed in the then Democratic-controlled Senate by a vote of 24 to 38, with no Republicans in support. Republicans have since regained control of the Senate. But gay donors have helped unseat three senators (two Democrats and one Republican) who voted against the bill, replacing them with yes votes to bring the measure within six votes of passing of passing at the start of this year.

The marriage equality push found a champion in Cuomo, a popular Democratic governor and former attorney general who took office in January. Under the supervision of his office, the New Yorkers United for Marriage coalition formed this spring, pulling together resources in a way never before seen on the state level to execute a unified communications, field and lobbying campaign targeting voters and undecided state senators.

Following months of quiet preparation, the campaign launched publicly in April and quickly coalesced its message around a poll that showed 58% of New Yorkers, a historic majority, supported the legalization of same-sex marriage. Business, labor and religious leaders spoke in support, while a range of celebrities, sports figures, everyday New Yorkers, and elected officials, including former president Bill Clinton, endorsed the effort. New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg delivered a public speech on the topic, in addition to lobbying and fund-raising.

Powerful forces of opposition also converged in New York. The Catholic Church and the National Organization for Marriage lobbied against the marriage equality bill, and the influential Conservative Party of New York State vowed to withhold its endorsement from any Republican lawmaker who supported the proposal. In the end, their efforts failed, although concerns within the Republican Senate conference resulted in a week-long negotiation over religious protections that at times seemed to threaten the bill's prospects. Senator Saland and two Republican colleagues who voted against the bill negotiated the religious exemptions with the Cuomo administration.

Long in development, momentum for marriage equality seemed to take hold in the second-to-last week of the legislative session, when three undecided Democratic state senators who voted no in 2009 announced they would support the bill, bringing every member of their conference on board except the avowedly antigay Ruben Diaz Sr. Soon after, Alesi, the first Republican state senator to support the bill, joined them, followed by McDonald.

The total number of senators in support of the bill stood at 31, just one vote shy of passage until the last moment, when the Republican conference under the leadership of Sen. Dean Skelos announced it would bring the measure to the floor for a vote.

Two more Republican votes, from Saland and Grisanti, remained unrevealed until the floor debate, adding to the suspense as Pride weekend began in New York City.

tucsonobserverarchives.org Registered Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

New York Win Celebrated Far And Wide

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

EW YORK (Observer Update) - Comments of celebration, and some inevitable criticism, began to flow into the Pride weekend worldwide as New York, the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement, became the sixth and most populous state, in addition to Washington, D.C., to give same-sex couples the right to civil marriages through a historic vote in the Republican-led state senate, reported advocate.com.

"New York has finally torn down the barrier that has prevented same-sex couples from exercising the freedom to marry and from receiving the fundamental protections that so many couples and families take for granted," said Governor Andrew Cuomo. "With the world watching, the legislature, by a bipartisan vote, has said that all New Yorkers are equal under the law. With this vote, marriage equality will become a reality in our state, delivering long overdue fairness and legal security to thousands of New Yorkers."

Cuomo signed the bill into law shortly before midnight. The law will take effect on July 24 with religious exemption language that helped secure the votes of two more Republicans, Stephen Saland and Mark Gristanti, during the senate floor debate. In all, four Republicans supported the bill, which passed the senate by a vote of 33 to 29 after winning approval in the Democratic-controlled assembly for the fourth time since 2007.

Although the state senate Republican conference made history with the vote, it issued no official statement. Majority leader Dean Skelos announced that an up-or-down vote would be held after many hours of deliberation among his 32 members.

"As I have said many times, this is a very difficult issue and it will be a vote of conscience for every member of the Senate," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE NINE

UPDATE

Volunteer Recognition Picnic Held

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The volunteer-appreciation event took place June 9 at the Historic Y, 738 N Fifth Ave.

The event this year was a joint affair funded by the Raytheon GLTBA Employee Resource Group's Louise Young Community Engagement Fund and put on by the staffs of Wingspan, TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) and SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation).

Two Wingspan volunteers who provide hot meals for Eon youth were honored with a cash award at the June 9 volunteer-appreciation event. The award is from the Lavina Tomer Truth to Power Fund, which supports and honors outstanding Wingspan volunteers.

Alexandra Peterson and Victoria Ann Lee were selected by the Wingspan staff for their work with the SAGA (Southern Arizona Gender Alliance) Hot Meals program for Eon youth. When the previous coordinator of this program stepped down, Alexandra and Victoria stepped up to ensure it would continue to thrive. Alexandra and Victoria are valuable members of the SAGA Advisory Committee, which helps set the direction for SAGA and coordinate activities within the SAGA community.

Shirley Scott Fund Raiser July 14

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson just marked the 42nd anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the birth of the modern, LGBT rights movement.

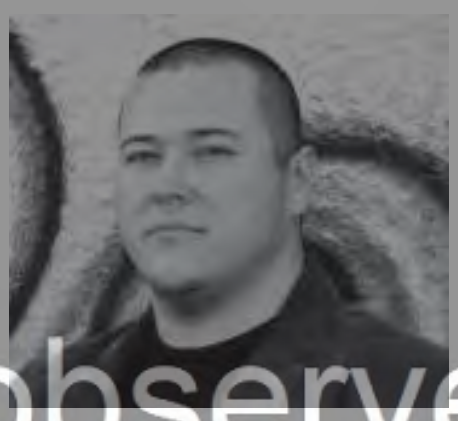
In the City of Tucson, many things have been achieved by the LGBT community: an anti-discrimination ordinance, and since 1995: hate crimes laws, a domestic partner's registry, recognition of G/L employees and their families, the formation of the City of Tucson Commission on LGBT Issues, a City Council who stood up to bigotry by the homophobic right and funding for AIDS Service Organizations.

Since 1995, one person has been there for Tucson's LGBT community, Tucson City Councilmember Shirley Scott, who has strongly supported all these measures. Shirley is running for another term on the City Council, representing Ward 4.

Shirley Scott has been there for many people, including the LGBT community, now it is time for the community to step up and help her beat her Tea Party, virulently homophobic, Republican opponent - who likes to send threatening letters.

On Thursday, July 14, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at Hotel Congress, 311 E. Congress, a fund raiser is being held for Shirley. A slew of elected officials, including out Councilmember Karin Uhlich and state Senator Paula Aboud are hosts for this party. Donations can range from $20 to $430. For more information, go shirley2011.com, and to rsvp, send an E-mail to info@shirley2011.com.

Oscar Jimenez Named New Program Director At Wingspan



OSCAR JIMENEZ

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan is pleased to announce that Oscar Jimenez will be its new program director, beginning July 1st. Oscar will succeed Linda Thomas, who is ending her 14-month tenure in that position, but not her involvement with Wingspan. Oscar currently serves as assistant program director and Anti-Violence Programs manager. He has been on staff for five years, coming aboard in June 2006 as a bilingual advocate/educator, doing outreach to the Spanish-speaking populations through Wingspan's Puertas Abiertas program.

During his five years on staff, Oscar has been instrumental in the creation of outreach programs to GLBTQ Latino/a and youth populations, including the weeklong Tucson Latino Gay Pride each September; RainbowCONNECT, a crisis warm line for young people who are being bullied or harassed; and Rainbow on the Road, which seeks to identify and support GLBT people in rural communities in Southern Arizona who will be visible resources and role models for the youth in those communities.

In fact, Oscar has been associated with Wingspan since 1996, when as a 19-year-old young man confused about his own sexual identity and full of emotional turmoil he discovered Queer Voice, the precursor of today's Eon, which gave him his own voice and changed his life. "Absolutely, who I am as a gay man was directly influenced by the Wingspan programs," he says. "Who I am as a leader and a community organizer is directly influenced by Wingspan."

Oscar is a member of the Tucson Human Rights Commission and of the Executive Committee of the Southern Arizona Hate Crimes Task Force. He is a recognized expert in anti-GLBT violence and an activist committed to fighting for the rights of all GLBTQ people to be heard and respected and free to live their lives. Says Taylor: "Oscar is truly passionate about the work that Wingspan does; his excitement is contagious. This isn't just a job for him; he is personally invested in making the world a better place, not just for LGBT people, but for all. His empathy and compassion allow him to connect with people on various levels and to see that they get what they need from Wingspan's programs and services."

Outgoing Program Director Linda Thomas, who came to Wingspan as a retired Air Force colonel, has watched Oscar grow into his new role. "There are some universally applicable leadership principles," she says, "one of the most important of which is: People care how much you care long before they care how much you know. The great thing about Oscar is that he cares AND he knows, and he is totally committed to Wingspan and its legacy. "I cannot imagine a better person to step in and provide the continuity, stability and potential for growth for Wingspan. I so look forward to seeing where he and his awesome team take this organization next. I also look forward to the community continuing to support them by donating of their time and their money. It is OUR community center, and we all have a role to play."

Active Duty Military Members To March In Pride Parade July 16

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - History will be made at this year's San Diego Pride Parade when active-duty military members will march openly through the heart of Hillcrest, reports signonsandiego.com.

"To my knowledge [it is] the first time in the history of Pride in the United States, ever, that we have said, 'Active duty, you are welcome,'" organizer Sean Sala said. "We want you to be there without fear of repercussions, because we love you." Sala, an active-duty sailor, said he was bothered to see that police and firefighters were represented in the Pride parade, but not the people who serve this country.

"I thought it was weird because San Diego has the biggest military installation in the United States, and military are public servants as well," he said. Sala said 200 active-duty members of the military and some veterans have signed up to march at the head of the parade. They will not wear their uniforms because that would violate military regulations. They will instead wear shirts that reflect their branch of service.

"We have made strong emphasis to make sure that this does not violate military policy. Every active-duty person on that float understands that, and every active-duty person on that float respects the military," said Sala. Why did it take so long for active-duty military to be included in the celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender pride?

"Because of fear and because of nervousness," Sala said. "Because some people thought, 'Oh, if I'm here then people are going to think it's because I'm gay.'" Sala said many of those who signed up to march are straight. His parents, who both served in the military, will be among them.

The Pride Parade will be held July 16 at 11 a.m.

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

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

Coming Out Isn't A Light Switch: Two Studies On Outness

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Two recent studies that have gotten mainstream press attention point out something that gay people have known for decades: coming out isn't a light-switch, it's a process that never finishes. It's good to get that message out there, but it's an incomplete discussion without mentioning rampant anti-gay workplace discrimination, reported pageoneq.com.

A new study by the Center for Work-Life Policy think tank has found that 48 percent of college-educated lesbian and gay Americans hide their sexual orientation at work. About a third of them are leading "double lives," the report says–staying in the closet at the office while being "out" in their personal lives. Gay and lesbians who are not out at work are more likely to report job-related stress and isolation than their peers, and are also more likely to say they want to leave their current jobs. When coworkers chat about their husbands or wives and their weekend plans, closeted coworkers fall silent. This result is an isolated feeling that they can't bring their "whole selves" to work, the authors say, which affects productivity and job satisfaction.

Now, taking that 48% statistic as a hard fact would be a fallacy. There's little information in either the Yahoo! News article or on the Center for Work-Life Policy's website about methodology, but most likely they just surveyed workers. So that 48% there was the 48% of people who identified as gay or lesbian (not bisexual, apparently) who aren't out at work; gays who weren't willing to identify themselves as such for the survey (maybe they thought the results would be public, or they aren't entirely sure/aware of their sexuality, or they just didn't like the way the survey asked) wouldn't have been counted at all, which would only increase the percentage of closet cases at work. The real number is probably higher.

But the Yahoo! article doesn't seem to get how gay working people might feel they have to navigate these situations. Check out these paragraphs:

Despite the high percentage of workers who say they don't want to tell coworkers about their sexual orientation, many of the country's top companies explicitly extend protections and benefits to their gay employees. Nearly 90 percent of Fortune 500 companies prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and 57 percent of them extend benefits to the same-sex partners of their employees, the report says. Cisco even makes up the tax premium for its employees that gay couples in domestic partnerships pay over married straight couples, which is estimated to be at about $1,000 per year. Karen Sumberg, a co-author of the report, says that gay-friendly policies aren't enough to encourage some employees to come out. "It's not just the policies, but also how well they're communicated," she told The Lookout. "What we found is that people aren't always sure that they have these policies or what it means, both gay and straight."

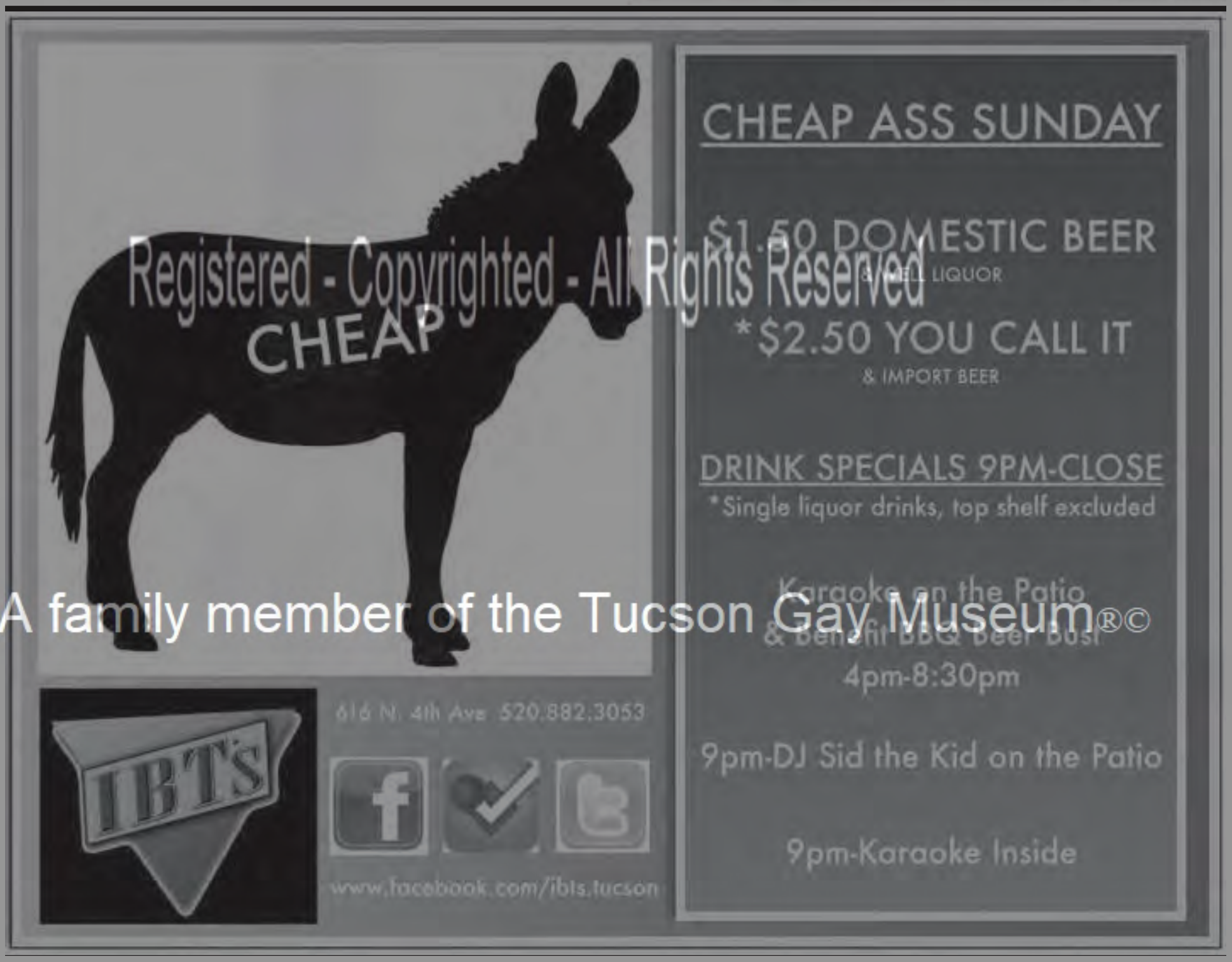
OK, yeah, maybe the gays don't know that the policy is in place. Or maybe they just don't believe it'll be enforced. There are people who do get fired for being gay at companies that have anti-discrimination policies. There are also people who don't get explicitly fired for that, but just passed over for promotions, ignored, or made to work in a hostile environment.

Just because corporate leadership writes a policy doesn't mean that it's actually becomes reality. Gay people know this. It'd be nice to point out the fact that homophobia still exists in an article addressing a straight audience.

The second item on outness from this week was this study from the University of Rochester that surveyed several LGB people it found in online message boards. Again, coming out isn't a lightswitch, but a dynamic quality. And it comes down to safety:

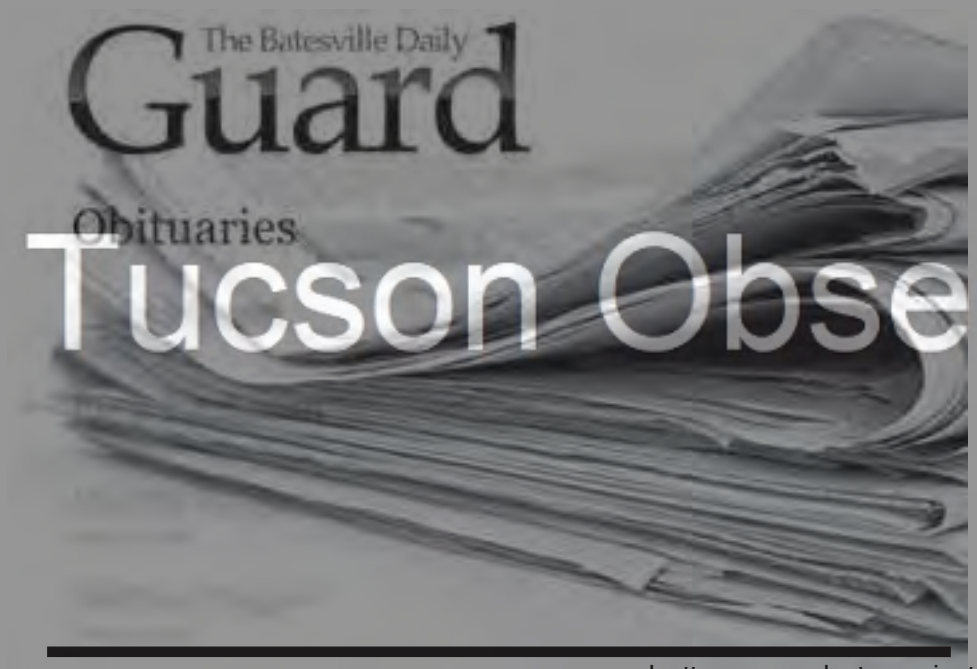
The research, which surveyed gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals recruited from online message boards, found that most of the volunteers were closeted in at least one area of their lives. Unsurprisingly, the participants hesitated to reveal their sexual identity in environments they judged as controlling and judgmental. About 69 percent said they were not open about their sexuality within their religious communities, for example, compared with only 13 percent who were not out to their friends. When people did come out in a certain aspect of their lives, the benefits were tempered by how accepting that community was, said study researcher Richard Ryan, a psychologist at the University of Rochester in New York. "We didn't find any overall negative effect of coming out in controlling environments," Ryan told LiveScience. "Rather, there sometimes was a negligible benefit. … You got some benefit from not having to conceal, but also you're likely paying some social price."

At least LiveScience gets that homophobia still exists. In a religious community, there's a lot to lose, and considering how homophobic a lot of religions are, it's a pretty sure loss. People are more likely to think that new friends can be made, though. That's not particularly "savvy," it's just knowing that things have gotten better, but are far from perfect.



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

Paper Apparent.ly Renegs On Rerunning Obit After Omitting Partner



BATESVILLE (Observer Update) - An Arkansas newspaper that omitted the name of a gay man's surviving partner from his obituary has apparently gone back on its promise to reprint the obit with the partner's name included, and it has published an editorial that gay rights groups characterize as defaming the partner, Terrance James, reports advocate.com.

The Batesville Daily Guard had agreed to rerun the obit after receiving pressure from groups including the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. When John Christopher Millican died June 11, James, his partner of 10 years filled out paperwork to have his obituary run in the Daily Guard. When the obit was published, however, it did not include James's name, but it did list Millican's deceased parents and surviving siblings, with whom he had little contact, according to the Center for Artistic Revolution, an Arkansas gay rights group.

James complained, but an editor for the Daily Guard told him the paper has a policy against printing names of unmarried partners and cited the fact that Arkansas does not recognize same-sex unions. She told him, however, that the paper would run a paid obituary for $85 that would include any information he wanted. (The Daily Guard offers both free obits, which contain limited information, and paid ones, which contain any information survivors wish to include.) This led to an action call from Change.org plus coverage in many gay news outlets.

GLAAD contacted the Daily Guard, which agreed to rerun Millican's obit with James included, with GLAAD paying the $85 fee and the paper donating it to the charity of James's choice. Officials at the newspaper also said they would revise the obit policy to avoid this situation arising again. Oscar Jones, a spokesman and attorney for the paper, told GLAAD, "When a gay person loses their partner, the loss is no less, and they need to be treated the same."

The Daily Guard's editorial, however, lambastes James and attacks his motives. It claims the funeral directors who dealt with James told him he would not be listed in a free obituary and that James said he did not want to assume the cost of a paid one. It also asserts he wanted to list pets as survivors and concludes, "The Guard does not owe Mr. James a free obituary or an apology."

A post on GLAAD's blog reads, "Now the paper has not only backtracked on the promises their spokesman and attorney made to us just yesterday, they've dug in their heels even deeper. And rather than printing a respectful obituary as promised, the paper is using its pages to insult Terrance, insinuating that he's a liar with an 'AGENDA' (their scare-bolding and capitalization) in an announcement."

The Human Rights Campaign has taken out a full-page ad in the newspaper and launched an online petition demanding that the Daily Guard change its obituary policy. The Center for Artistic Revolution is carrying on a grassroots local campaign of calls to the paper.

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered Copyright | All Rights Reserved
A Family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Two Punished After Disabled Gays Told To Leave Pool

HAZARD (Observer Update) - An employee at a public swimming pool in eastern Kentucky was suspended for a week without pay after telling two disabled gay men to leave, city of Hazard officials said Saturday.

The suspended city employee Kim Haynes told investigators that the two men were engaged in an excessive display of affection June 10, and that he would have told any other couple to leave had he seen similar behavior. Haynes, however, also acknowledged he said "We don't tolerate that kind of activity around here" and cited the Bible in an argument with Laura Quillen, a member of the social service group Mending Hearts, which was overseeing the group. Quillen told investigators the men did nothing inappropriate.

According to a report released by city attorney Paul R. Collins, summing up the conflicting accounts, at least one witness saw the men "standing 'man to man' or 'belly to belly' in the pool, splashing each other with water and pushing each other under the water." The witness "also said he observed them hug each other on at least one occasion" and give each other a kiss, the report said.

Pearlman and Haynes were not at work and could not be reached by the newspaper for comment by telephone. Meanwhile, dozens of people rallied at the pool Saturday in support of the gay men. "It's time that people stood up for people. It's just the right thing to do," Marsha Morgan from Leslie County told WYMT-TV.

Gay Journalist Comes Out As Undocumented

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, who has worked for publications like the Washington Post and the Huffington Post, has come out as an undocumented immigrant in an essay in The New York Times Magazine.

Vargas tells his entire story of coming to the US when he was 12, the last time he saw his mother and his family in the Phillippines, reports pageoneq.com.

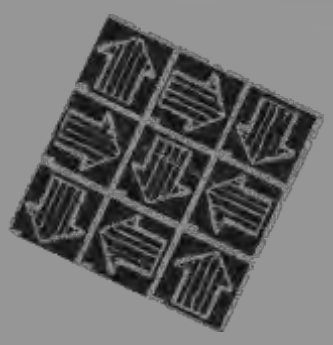
One August morning nearly two decades ago, my mother woke me and put me in a cab. She handed me a jacket. "Baka malamig doon" were among the few words she said. ("It might be cold there.") When I arrived at the Philippines' Ninoy Aquino International Airport with her, my aunt and a family friend, I was introduced to a man I'd never seen. They told me he was my uncle. He held my hand as I boarded an airplane for the first time. It was 1993, and I was 12.

He found out he was in the US illegally when he tried to get a learner's permit:

One day when I was 16, I rode my bike to the nearby D.M.V. office to get my driver's permit. Some of my friends already had their licenses, so I figured it was time. But when I handed the clerk my green card as proof of U.S. residency, she flipped it around, examining it. "This is fake," she whispered. "Don't come back here again." Vargas talks about his journey to find sustainable work while not letting his lack of proper paperwork get in the way - the entire essay is well worth a read.

With the current debate on immigration focused most on how to efficiently make all people without documentation leave the country, Vargas will be one of the few voices calling for more humanity in America's immigration system.

There's no reason someone like Vargas shouldn't be allowed to stay in the US, and there's no reason millions of other immigrants who don't have successful careers in the media shouldn't be allowed to stay either. While he's gay, his story isn't about DOMA or UAFA, about how he should be allowed to stay in the US because he is in a long-term, conjugal relationship with an American citizen. His story forces us to look at the immigration system as an individual faces it in all its cold logic.



Reactions To NY Vote Felt Around The World

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - Across the country and around the globe, the news of New York's legalization of gay marriage dominated the wires. The impact of the Empire State's vote was felt in newspapers like the U.K. Telegraph, who predicted that the news "will be the cause of huge celebrations in America at this weekend's annual gay pride festivities in New York," as well as the Belfast Telegraph, who labeled it "a breakthrough victory in the state where the American gay rights movement was born."

In Paris, where the city's gay pride festivities drew many French notables, Presidential hopeful Eva Joly said, "This is wonderful news from New York. Within the first 100 days of the new government, we will adopt that law [guaranteeing marriage equality]."

In nearby Germany, Berlin's gay mayor Klaus Wowereit responded by calling for international acceptance of LGBT and other issues. "The support of many people from all walks of life sends a strong sign against discrimination," he said as thousands filled the streets for the city's 33rd annual CSD (Christopher Street Day) festival.

Meanwhile down under, Australian Marriage Equality National Convener Alex Greenwich praised the Empire State for holding out for full marriage rights and said the news gave Australian advocates renewed hope that change is possible. "The fact New York legislators rejected half measures like civil unions as a substitute for marriage equality sends a clear message to Australian legislators to do the same," he said.

In the U.S., California's Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom continued to voice his support of gay rights by tweeting "Thank you to NY State Legislature & Governor Cuomo for recognizing that marriage is more than a word: it's about dignity & equality."

And while some gay advocacy groups have been disappointed by President Barack Obama's lack of action on a federal level, the White House issued a statement to the Huffington Post saying "The President has long believed that gay and lesbian couples deserve the same rights and legal protections as straight couples. That's why he has called for repeal of the so-called 'Defense of Marriage Act' and determined that his Administration would no longer defend the constitutionality of DOMA in the courts. The states should determine for themselves how best to uphold the rights of their own citizens. The process in New York worked just as it should."

Judge Upholds Wisconsin Domestic Partnership Law

MADISON (Observer Update) - A judge ruled that Wisconsin's domestic partnership registry does not violate the state's constitutional ban on gay marriage - a major victory for the state's largest gay rights group that had defended the registry established in 2009 to bestow legal rights to same-sex couples, reports advocate.com.

The social conservative group that brought the lawsuit vowed to appeal it all the way to the state Supreme Court if necessary. Dane County Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser ruled that the 2009 law does not create a legal status for partners that is identical or substantially similar to that of marriage and therefore it does not violate the constitutional ban approved by voters in 2006.

"The state does not recognize domestic partnership in a way that even remotely resembles how the state recognizes marriage," Moeser said in the ruling. "Moreover, domestic partners' have far fewer legal rights, duties, and liabilities in comparison to the legal rights, duties, and liabilities of spouses."

Members of the conservative group Wisconsin Family Action filed the lawsuit last summer arguing the registry was unconstitutional. The group's president Julaine Appling called the ruling "just the first step in what will be a long process."

"We're going to work through the process and we will be appealing as we work to defend the constitution and the institution of marriage," Appling said.

Wisconsin Family Action had asked the state Supreme Court to strike down the registry directly, bypassing the lower courts. But the Supreme Court refused to act on the case before it went through the lower courts first.

Katie Belanger, director of the state's largest gay rights group Fair Wisconsin, heralded the ruling, calling it a "great day for Wisconsin." She said the group was prepared for the judge's decision to be appealed and it will continue to defend the law, which she said provides same-sex couples rights that are essential for them to care for one another in times of need.

A man who doesn't advertise is like one [illegible] in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

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

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
Archived by the Tucson Gay Museum®©

How An Idea Turned Into A National Fundraiser

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The It Gets Better campaign served as the inspiration for a "weekend of charitable shopping" being held in CB2 stores across the country, showing that some dividends of the viral video phenomenon are still coming to fruition even a year after its launch, pageoneq.com reports.

The modern furniture chain donated 5 percent of its sales to The Trevor Project, which helps combat teen suicide and has worked closely with project. Anything bought across its website, catalogs or in stores will factor. But the idea started much smaller than that, with the staff of just one store in New York City.

Jen Cutler manages the CB2 store in Soho, and during last year's Pride festival, she and her team wanted to do something to show their support for gay rights. But what to do? They could run a float in the parade. Or maybe volunteer with a local organization. And they considered a range of ideas, including those.

"We really felt that we wanted to publicly support the gay community and started brainstorming different ways that we could do that," Cutler said. They decided on donating a portion of their sales to a charity because "we really wanted to do something that was a little bit more impactful."

One of the store's associates suggested giving the money to The Trevor Project, which Cutler hadn't heard of, and then explained its connection to It Gets Better, which she had. And a partnership was born. The Soho store hosted a kickoff party for the "weekend of charitable giving" on June 16 and more than 350 people attended, which is a good turnout, but now it's going national. Cutler's corporate bosses heard about the idea when she pressed it in cooperation with The Trevor Project, and they quickly picked up on it.

Marta Calle, director of CB2, praised the store associates for thinking of the idea, which helped their marketing "have a purpose."

"Several associates from the Soho store knew someone at The Trevor Project and put CB2 corporate in touch," Calle said in a statement. "With bullying and suicides of gay and lesbian teenagers in the headlines, CB2 was inspired by The Trevor Project mission to prevent suicide

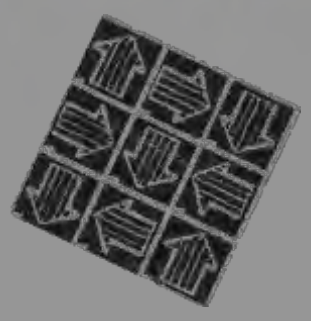
Six Members Resign From GLAAD's Board

YORK (Observer Update) - Following Jarrett Barrios' departure as president, POLITICO reports six board members have resigned from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Barrios resigned last following criticism for supporting a merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. AT&T had donated $50,000 to GLAAD. During an appearance on Michelangelo Signorile's show on Sirius/XM OutQ, former GLAAD board of directors co-chair Laurie Perper questioned the statements released by Barrios' office.

The six board members who've resigned are: Gary Bitner, head of a public relations firm; Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers; Jocelyn Bramble, an associate at the law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf; Kelly Dermody, a partner at Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein in San Francisco; Humberto Mata, founder of nonprofit Fundación VIHDA in Ecuador; and James Walker, a commercial real estate executive.

It's still unclear why the board members resigned but Weingarten sent an email to POLITICO stating that her departure "had nothing to do" with the AT&T/T-Mobile deal. There are 23 members left on GLAAD's board, including Troup Coronado, a former AT&T vice-president.



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

MICHAEL & BRADFORD HULTQUIST
MEXICAN SCANDINAVIANS
Proprietors
WE SERVE WONDERFUL MEXICAN FOOD
SELECTED WINES & BEER
El Torero RESTAURANT
231 E. 26th St. Tucson, Arizona
Open every day except Tuesday 622-9534

I DID IT - SO CAN - YOU
PERSONAL TRAINING
NUTRITION / WEIGHT LOSS COUNSELING
No Membership Or Contract
Call or E-Mail Drew
520-909-4649
Drewintucson@gmali.com
BEFORE AFTER

Douglas J. Newman, P.C.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Corporations · Limited Liability Companies · General Business
Wills · Trusts · Estate & Estate Tax Planning · Probate
2650 North Country Club Road · Tucson, Arizona 85716
Phone 520-325-2053 · Fax 520-325-2274 · dougnewmanlaw.com

WILLS TRUSTS POWERS OF ATTORNEY
Laura G. Schoenfeld PLLC
PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES
520.514.8383
845 S. Craycroft Rd. • Tucson AZ 85711
lgs@tucsonlaw.us
PROBATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

ON-SITE COMPUTER REPAIR
Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting, Inc.
WE FIX PCs AND MACs!
Repair - Maintenance - Networking - Upgrades- Webhosting - Web design
Computer running slow?
Adware or Spyware?
Popups?
New hardware?
Want to share your internet connection?
Virus?
(520) 312-2630
We'll save you time, money and frustration!
We come to you!
A+ Certified
7 years experience!

COMMENTARY. . .

BY JOHN CULHANE

Analysis (And Celebration) Of The NY Marriage Equality Law

Marriage equality is coming to New York! The bill was signed within about an hour of its passage through the legislature, and marriage licenses will start issuing in 30 days.

It's hard to write a column when all you want to do is scream and dance. I'm in Pennsylvania, not New York, but I grew up there and am still enough of a NY snob and realist to know that this is a very.big.deal.

Only the more populous California rivals New York in legal and symbolic importance. The state's financial and cultural clout are exported around the world. Now this news about marriage will be, too, and I expect other states and nations to use this development as powerful ammunition for their own marriage equality movements.

Our opponents – especially the National Organization for Marriage – know this, too.

When they're being honest with themselves, they also know that their tactics at best delay the inevitable. That defensive game just got a lot tougher, especially since it was Republicans that made the difference in the state senate: Sen. Skelos, the majority leader, allowed the measure to come to a vote; and in the end four Republicans put the measure over the top.

Consider the two whose votes were declared only last night: Mark Grisanti, who represents the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area; and Steve Saland, from the beautiful Hudson Valley part of the state.

These are exactly the kind of measured, moderate voices that quietly voice the doom of the anti-equality effort. Saland has a reputation as a thoughtful (if dull) legislator, but he spoke with confidence and conviction about his vote, declaring that his emotional journey towards recognizing the dignity and equality of gay couples was now at its end. He knew, somehow, that his parents would be proud of him

It was Grisanti, though, who is going to have the Catholic-inflected NOM et al. scrambling for a new playbook. He's a real Catholic (check out his bio to see how very Catholic he is), yet was, in the end, able to separate his religion from what he concluded the law must allow.

Both Saland and Grisanti, significantly, are lawyers. I know, I know – a law degree doesn't confer infallibility. But when it comes to legal rights, any attorney should be able to articulate a reason to exclude a class of people from equality. And Grisanti said: "I cannot legally come up with an argument against same-sex marriage."

Others have, though. It's worth recalling that the New York Court of Appeals ruled in 2006 that the state could ban same-sex weddings, using some of the worst arguments you will ever see in a body of such stature. This win more than makes up for that serious misstep, and is more satisfying, in a way.

This brings me to the one part of the law about which I have serious reservations: the religious exemptions. I'm well aware that the bill wouldn't have passed without them, so the question is: Was it worth it? Are the exemptions too strong? Are they justified? Or should we have waited for a better law, bearing in mind that this version of marriage equality is likely to be ferried from state to state, going forward?

On balance, I think the exemptions are tolerable – but just barely.

First, they're not the broadest – and dumbest – exceptions that have been suggested by a small, seriously misguided, group of law professors. These folks lurch from state to state arguing that businesses should be able to refuse to cater, photograph, provide flowers for, or put up guests for same-sex weddings if their objection is based on religion

This has been, and will continue to be, a non-starter. Although ostensibly limited to transactions connected to the wedding, in fact the restriction is impossible to police and would result in the rollback of anti-discrimination protection in states that have worked so hard to get it.

But the exemptions that are in the bill remain troubling. They go beyond what the state law and the U.S. Constitution already require, which is that no religion is forced to solemnize any marriage that violates its tenets. Under the amendments – released, maddeningly, just hours before the vote – neither these religious organizations, nor any non-profit organizations they control, nor any other "benevolent association" (think Knights of Columbus) has to have anything at all to do with a same-sex wedding.

As a pointed example, the measure would foreclose a suit such as the one filed by a New Jersey couple denied use of a beach pavilion by the Methodist church that owned it. The facility was routinely rented out for all kinds of weddings, so one might think that the decision to enter the world of commerce means you have to take all comers.

Yes in New Jersey – but not in New York. A church, synagogue, or mosque, can spin off as many organizations as it wishes, and engage in whatever businesses it wishes, without having to get involved in anything to do with our weddings. They can't be sued for their actions, and they can't lose their tax-exempt status because of them. I prefer the New Jersey approach, which strips away the religious fig leaf from naked acts of commerce.

There are also provisions in the law designed to reassure religious organizations that marriage equality can't be used as a sword to get them to provide housing, employment, or services to the LGBT community where doing so would be inconsistent with their basic message. But those protections are already in state law, so the law isn't as troubling there. Or at least it's not newly troubling.

One thing that the law seems to leave out is an exemption for adoption agencies affiliated with religious organizations (like Catholic Charities) that will not place kids in households headed by same-sex couples. This is a vexing question that deserves its own post (coming soon!).

Let me close by panning back out, away from the details of the law to the broader commitment to dignity and equality that it embodies. Openly gay and HIV+ Senator Tom Duane ran well past his allotted time to provide a brief history of the progress of our movement, culminating in this huge victory. Then he said: "Nothing is going to change about how we love or take care of each other." It is just that the state is now going to recognize and support us in these efforts.

And it is about time.

(John Culhane writes a blog for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted.)

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

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

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. NEW MOON 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

Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserver.org
A family member of the Tucson Gay Mus...

Tucson Observer Archives

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

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

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

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

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

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

520-615-6436
P. O. Box13312
Tucson, AZ 85732
TUCSON GLBT
Chamber Of Commerce
Inclusive ▼ Engaged ▼ Professional
www.tucsonglbtchamber.org
info@tucsonglbtchamber.org

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

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

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 272-5959
Or check out my site:
www.MikeSellsTucsonHomes.com
Century 21 CENTRA REALTY
Call Mike Follett REALTOR® 272-5959
If you buy or sell with me, I'll donate 10% of my net commission to your favorite charity!

Registered - Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved

New York Win Celebrated Far And Wide

continued from Page One

The Log Cabin Republicans, part of the bipartisan New Yorkers United for Marriage coalition of five LGBT advocacy organizations that worked with Cuomo to pass the bill, issued a statement that marked the historic occasion.

"This achievement marks the first time a Republican led chamber has enacted marriage equality, we look forward building on our successes in states across the country," said R. Clarke Cooper, the group's executive director. "Log Cabin will stand with the allies who stood with us today as part of a stronger, more inclusive Republican Party."

The five organizations in the coalition, which raised $2 million in recent months, more than half from Republicans and affiliated donors, brought an unprecedented level of coordination and resources for communications, fieldwork and lobbying in the state campaign. In addition to Log Cabin, other partners included the Human Rights Campaign, Freedom To Marry, Marriage Equality New York, and the Empire State Pride Agenda.

New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, an independent and major contributor to state senate Republicans, lobbied some members of the conference and contributed to the fundraising. He also delivered a speech on marriage equality that positioned the issue as the latest in a series of freedom movements incubated in New York, including women's rights, workers' right, the abolition movement, and minority civil rights.

"In recent weeks, I have had many conversations with our state senators," said Mayor Bloomberg in a statement. "I emphasized that not only is marriage equality consistent with bedrock American principles, but it is also consistent with bedrock Republican Party principles of liberty and freedom – and the Republicans who stood up today for those principles will long be remembered for their courage, foresight, and wisdom. In fact, 10 or 20 or 30 years from now, I believe they will look back at this vote as one of their finest, proudest moments."

As Gov. Cuomo noted in his remarks after the vote, the four Republicans provided their support at greater political risk than the Democratic senators, all of whom supported the bill except the avowedly antigay Ruben Diaz. Sr. The Conservative Party of New York State, which threatened not to offer its influential endorsement to any Republican lawmaker who supported the bill, issued a statement calling the vote a "disaster."

"We question how marriage will be defined in the future. Moreover, we question what will be the effect on society," said the Conservative Party. "Passage of this legislation, in our view, will cause irreversible damage to our economy, educational system and the family."

The New York State Catholic Conference, which represents the bishops including Archbishop Timothy Dolan who strongly opposed the bill, issued a statement before the vote on Friday that reiterated no kind of religious exemptions would make the bill acceptable.

"Marriage has always been, is now, and always will be the union of one man and one woman in a lifelong, life-giving union," said the statement. "Government does not have the authority to change this most basic of truths."

The vote in the senate held special meaning for the chamber's first and only openly gay member, Thomas K. Duane of Manhattan, who has carried the bill for years. He spoke during the floor vote about coming out to his Catholic parents, the gay rights journey since the 1970s, and his relationship with his partner, Louis Webre.

"It is true that today holds enormous historical significance and it must be proudly celebrated," said Duane in a statement after the vote. "The paradoxical truth is that what already exists and will not change, but for true legal recognition, is the commitment and love that is already the reality in so many of New York's families."

Daniel O'Donnell, the openly gay Manhattan lawmaker who sponsored the bill in the Assembly, also spoke about the public and personal implications of the vote.

"This day is a momentous one, not only for the thousands of same-sex couples across our state who find themselves suddenly on the cusp equality, now awaiting only one person's signature before being able to marry, but for all New Yorkers who have recognized and fought against legalized discrimination," he said. "I have been with my partner John for over 30 years, and, at long last, the state where we were both born, raised, and have lived our adult lives has agreed that all New Yorkers deserve marriage equality in the eyes of the law."

The vote made global headlines as cities including New York City, Berlin and Paris prepared to celebrate Pride. It brought the state legislature in line with the stance of the statewide elected officials in New York, all of whom support marriage equality. U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, one of four senators calling on President Barack Obama to support marriage equality, issued a statement in which she pledged to continue the effort to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

"New York State has sent a powerful message to the rest of the nation," said Gillibrand. "The right to get married and start a family is a basic, human right that must be shared by all Americans. Every loving, committed couple in America deserves this right. And no politician should stand in the way of this fact."

Home of the nation's largest city and a population of nearly 20 million people, as many as Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C. combined, New York will double the number of Americans who live in a state or jurisdiction with a marriage equality law. The state, which has no initiative process to repeal the law, unlike Proposition 8 in California, is expected to inject new momentum into a marriage equality movement that stalled in legislatures in recent months. Federal courts cases are pending, and polls show that a slim majority of Americans now support marriage equality.

"We are beginning to see the dark walls of discrimination crumble," said Chad Griffin, co-founder and board president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is sponsoring the federal lawsuit against Prop 8. "The American Foundation for Equal Rights will continue its work in the federal courts and will not stop until all Americans have the same rights, including the freedom to marry, as guaranteed by our Constitution."

The victory in New York capped a year that also began with hope for passing marriage equality laws in Maryland and Rhode Island. The Maryland house voted to recommit the bill to committee in March after it passed the senate, and in Rhode Island, lawmakers decided instead to introduce a civil unions bill, which passed the house but has languished in the senate as the legislative session draws to a close.

Equality Maryland, the statewide advocacy group that moved the bill to a first-time vote and passage in the senate, issued a statement in response to the New York victory. "Equality Maryland looks toward the future of marriage equality as New York becomes the sixth state, along with the District of Columbia, to recognize gay and lesbian couples as full and equal citizens," said the statement. "It's time that Maryland joins the ranks of states who favor marriage equality for all loving and committed gay and lesbian couples."

New York also received congratulations from Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, which brought the lawsuit, Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, that made Massachusetts the first state in the nation with a marriage equality law in 2004.

"As a major cultural and population center for our nation and the world, the state of New York today has sent a powerful message of liberty and equality for all that will no doubt resonate far beyond the state's borders," said Gary Buseck, the acting executive director. "This is a momentous day for the marriage equality movement."

New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, the first openly gay person to hold the position, made a statement after the vote that looked toward the significance for future generations.

"And what it does for me is important, but what it does for gay children is indescribable," she said. "There are children who are watching this vote right now across the country in households where they are afraid to tell people that they believe that they are gay, and they just saw the legislature of the greatest state in the union say that they are equal and that they matter. That will keep children alive, it will give them hope, and it will tell them that it does get better and that they matter."

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

Poet's Corner

WORDS

by Ron Rose. Tucson

At 75, they started to flow
Words over the dam, to the paper below
Gushing and rushing, most of the time On
search of a word, in search of a rhyme. Like
crystal clear water, or just plain old mud
Words flow over the dam, part of the flood
Reaching the banks, and filling the streams,
I go back to my bed and return to my dreams.

The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark

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!

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Boys and girls, "The Moon" is back with a new moniker. No longer "Coyote" or "Howl At," it has been resurrected as "New Moon".

The bar opens at 4P.M. Tuesday thru Sunday, and is closed on Monday. New Moon has Happy Hour everyday from 4-8 featuring $2 domestic bottles, domestic pints, well drinks and New Moon shots.

The bar features live music, karaoke, drag shows, Tea Dances, Country Nights, Dance Party Nights – anything your little hearts could desire. For New Moon's schedule and specials, check Face book.

When the weather outside makes you fear you may be approaching the gates of hell, why sit outside and sweat? Come in and enjoy a libation in a cool environment. See you at the New Moon.

Now on a sad note, Peter Falk, the rumpled, scrubby "Columbo" has died at 83.

As a police detective, Columbo's interview technique was famously disjointed, with his inevitable afterthought ("Ahhh, there's just one more thing...") as the suspect was halfway out the door. It always tried the poor fool's patience.

"He looks like a flood victim," Falk once said. "You feel sorry for him. He appears to be seeing nothing, but he's seeing everything. Underneath his disheveled, a good mind is at work."

At the age of three, Falk lost an eye due to cancer. After failing a screen test at Columbia Pictures, Falk was told by studio boss Harry Cohen that "for the same price, I can get an actor with two eyes."

But Falk persevered. Even before Columbo, he had received two Oscar nominations – one for the 1960 mob drama, "Murder, Inc." and Frank Capra's last film, the 1961 comedy-drama "Pocketful of Miracles."

Thank you, Peter, for your wonderful talent and for sharing it with us. I shall remember you always.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE 25¢ PER WORD, $5.00 MINIMUM

The People's Bail Out Plan
Corporate America Had Theirs
NOW IT'S OUR TURN
$5.00 Start Up. $99k in 3-12 months
Call: 520-293-9198
1404

HELP WANTED

GENERAL SERVICES

NEEDED: Someone who wants free weekly sensual professional massage in exchange for 6 hours of household & yard work Central Tucson. GREAT OPPORTUNITY. Call 881-4582, SOON 1404

MASSAGE

Truly Great Experience A Tantric sensual MASSAGE, with a complimentary steel water bottle for the first 6 new clients in June. Creating a sacred space, for men since 1981. Marc - 881-4582, By appointment in advance.
1404

FOR RENT

1 BED STUDIO, TILE FLOORS. Air conditioning, extended cable, phone hook-up, on bus line, 1 person, no pets. $400/mo. Includes all utilities. Gay friendly. Deposit neg. 293-9198 or 561-5411 1405

SERVICES

ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS

Let me keep your clothes fitting properly and in good repair. Experienced - Economical - Prompt. Merle Hudson, (520)888-7264 in Tucson.
1410

SAVE TUCSON'S LGBT HISTORY!

Contact the Tucson's LGBT Museum about sharing/donating your LGBT history-related memories, memorabilia, photos, 8mm films, home videos. Estate LGBT historical items are welcomed from executors, executrixes, individuals, family members, trustees.
Email: Tucson LGBT Museum@live.com

Southwest Airlines Pilot Suspended For Anti -Gay Rant

HOUSTON (Observer Update) - A Houston-based Southwest Airlines pilot was just suspended after a rant from his cockpit transmitted to control towers and other pilots in the area.

The problem was that the pilot's microphone was malfunctioning and left on accidentally. The microphone mishap left other pilots within a certain altitude guidelines in a dangerous situation as they were unable to communicate with Houston Center air traffic controllers for the entire four-minute rant.

During his four-minute rant, the pilot said he was stuck with no one dateable instead, 11 gay flight attendants and one "granny." He didn't stop there, the pilot went on saying that during, "Six months, I went to the bar three times, three times. Once with the granny and the f** and I wish I hadn't gone."

The pilot explained how he also went out with two girls, "One of them that was probably do-able but we ended up going to the bar and then the crew room in St. Louis and all the women wanted to do was, one wanted to berate her sister and the other wanted to bitch about her husband. Literally. For three hours." He went on," I'm like, 'Why the **** did I stay up?'"

A controller comes on to say, "We don't need to hear that," and another voice chimes in, "They wonder why airline pilots have a bad reputation."

According to USA Today, the pilot was suspended and was required to undergo diversity training. According to the Wall Street Journal, in a statement, the FAA said the conversation "included offensive language and disparaging characterizations of certain groups and individuals. The FAA expects a higher level of professionalism from flight crews."

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Closed Sunday , Monday, Tuesday

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

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.

NEW MOON

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

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

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".

NEW MOON

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.

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.

NEW MOON -

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.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics.. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour".

NEW MOON

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.

IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, $2 Well or Domestics. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/Bartenders in their under-wear. 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.

NEW MOON -

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.

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.

NEW MOON -

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 styling of Susan Artemis 6-9pm. Tori Steele Show 10pm

SATURDAY

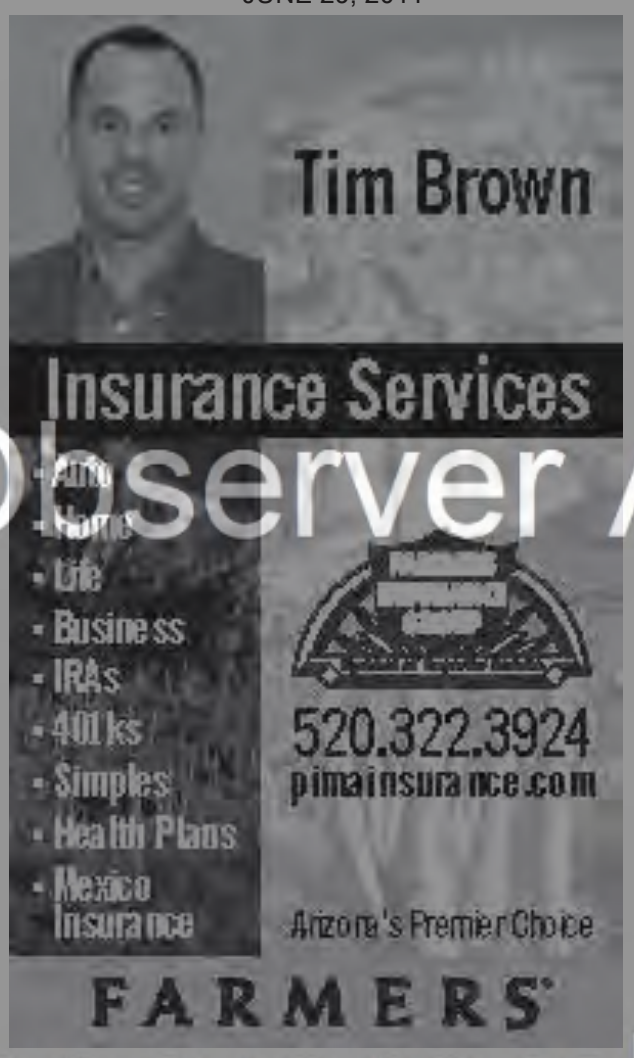
THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. $10 and drink for pennies. All night long.

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

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".

NEW MOON -

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. .



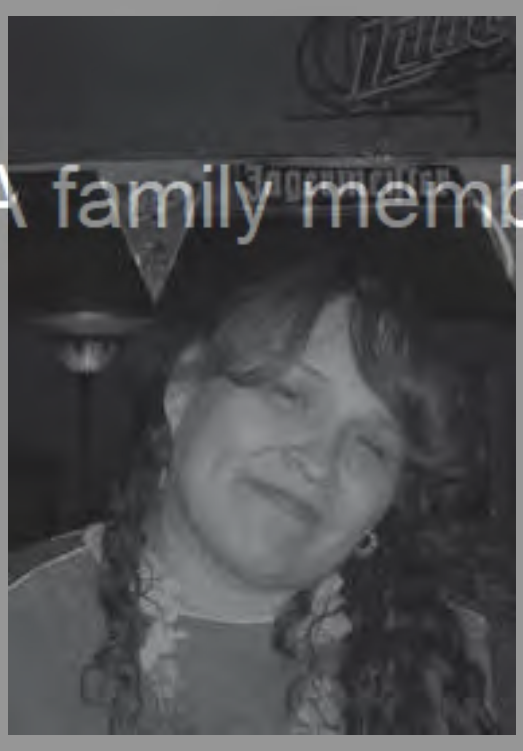
Tucson Observer Archives
tucsonobserverarchives.org
Registered Copyrighted - All Rights Reserved
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum®©

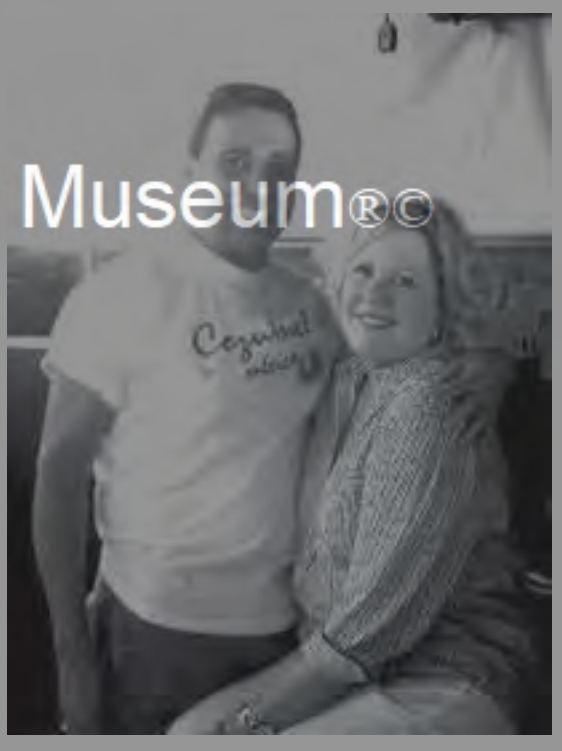
Marches And Celebrations Around The World

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - The legalization of same-sex marriage in New York isn't just being hailed as a major victory for the Empire State, but has also emboldened lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists and their allies around the world, the Huffington Post reported.

As the Associated Press is reporting, many Parisian revelers demanded that France follow New York's lead as they marched under a sea of rainbow-colored flags and jigged to thumping techno beats in a gay pride parade. Despite the festivities, the mood was bittersweet in France, where lawmakers had rejected a bill seeking to legalize same-sex marriage despite growing public support for gay rights a mere two weeks ago.

Elsewhere, in demonstrations across Germany, Israel, Mexico and even Russia – where 14 gay rights activists trying to hold an unsanctioned rally in St. Petersburg were reportedly detained – New York's legalization wasn't too far from everyone's mind, and many hoped it would be just the start. "The state of New York isn't the United States, unfortunately," 26-year-old German marcher Frederick Hartwig is quoted as saying. "The great victory for the United States will be when the middle of America – the middle of nowhere – will allow everyone to have such rights."





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