Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

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Tucson Observer Archives

WEEKLY OBSERVER JULY 6, 2011 ISSUE 1405

DADT Repeal C ertification Weeks Away, Obama Says

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President Barack Obama said he believes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal certification is weeks, not months, away, reports On Top Magazine.

Congress approved and Obama signed into law repeal of the law last December. The policy, enacted in 1993, forbids gay and bisexual troops from serving openly. Top Pentagon officials, including Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and the president must certify that the military is prepared to end the ban before it's lifted.

Gates, who had said he's prepared to endorse certification in June, retired from his post leaving the task for his successor, Leon Panetta. Gay rights groups lobbying for repeal of the law had called for certification before Gates' 4-year term ended.

Twenty-three GOP lawmakers led by California Representative Duncan Hunter last month wrote to the president asking him to delay implementation of repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

At the White House's annual Gay Pride reception, Obama quietly told Chris Geidner, a reporter for gay weekly Metro Weekly, that certification is around the corner. "At #LGBT Pride reception, Obama says 'in a matter of weeks, not months,' expects to sign #DADT repeal certification," Geidner tweeted.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ends 60 days after certification.

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Bloomberg To Sell New York City As Gay Marriage Destination

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is preparing a campaign to promote his city as a gay wedding destination. The city's marketing office, NYC & Company, has already released portions of its upcoming NYC I Do campaign. Helpful advice on who can marry in New York City and how soon is posted at the city's NYCgo.com website, reports On Top Magazine.

Kimberly Spell, spokeswoman for NYC & Company, said the campaign "will create millions of dollars in additional economic impact to the city's $31 billion tourism industry." The agency "is working to create a multichannel, global communications and marketing campaign – NYC I Do – to promote the vibrancy and attractiveness of the five boroughs as a gay weddings destination," she said.

A study conducted two years ago when lawmakers were considering legalizing marriage for gay couples from then-city Controller William Thompson predicted $149 million in city coffers within three years. But a more recent report released by the Independent Democratic Conference, a group of four New York Senators led by Senator Jeff Klein, put the figure closer to $400 million.

Gay and lesbian couples can begin marrying in the Empire State on July 25. "I just don't know that everyone is going to rush to New York the first day given there are alternatives," Bloomberg told the New York Daily News. "But we will be ready. Will there be lines the first day? Yes. Get ready for it. Get used to it. It's a lot better than no lines."

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Tucson Knight Owls Turn 32 On July 9th

The Tucson Knight Owls would like to take this opportunity to invite all of Tucson to the Venture-N on July 9, 2011. This will be a special day for TKO because they will be celebrating their 32nd Birthday. A special invitation goes out to all who, over these 32 years, have helped TKO make it to this special day. This special invitation goes to all past members of TKO.

The Tucson Knight Owls first started up way back in the days of the Tool Box in 1979. Since that time of the first meeting, this club has gone through many changes but the original basic idea for the club still lives; a social club for anyone wishing to joint together in a common bond.

There will be a B-B-Q which will start around 12pm with the installation of the elected officers for the coming year.

Stop in at the Venture-N and help TKO celebrate their 32nd Birthday and have some fun with Tucson's oldest club. Look over their photo albums; you might catch your own photos among them.

Feds: CA School District Failed To Help Gay Teen

SAN FRANCISCO – A Central California school district did not adequately investigate or respond to complaints of bullying endured by a 13-year-old boy who later committed suicide after being harassed by classmates because he was gay, federal officials said in a letter to administrators released, the Leff News Network reported for sfgate.com.

Federal education and justice department officials told the Tehachapi Unified School District that school officials failed in their legal duty to protect Seth Walsh from "persistent, pervasive and often severe sex-based harassment" at Jacobsen Middle School. Seth hung himself from a tree in his backyard two weeks after starting eighth-grade year last September and died eight days later.

The government officials launched their investigation based on a civil-rights complaint filed by Seth's mother, Wendy Walsh. They reached their conclusion after interviewing teachers, administrators and more than 75 students.

Their report provided a detailed account of a sensitive boy who, for more than two years, was teased for looking like a girl, inappropriately touched, had food and water bottles thrown at him, became the subject of false sexual rumors and eventually stopped changing into his gym clothes because he felt threatened in the locker room.

"These sexual and gender-based acts of verbal and physical aggression, intimidation, and hostility directed toward the student_particularly in light of their cruel, relentless, and inescapable nature, in conjunction with the student's young and vulnerable age_were clearly sufficient to create a hostile environment that limited the student's ability to participate in and benefit from the school's education program," the investigators wrote.

Although the school disciplined at least one student who used an anti-gay slur against Seth, the federal investigators found several instances in which complaints brought to Jacobsen's principal or vice-principal by the boy or his mother went unanswered or were handled ineffectively, even though many adults knew that Seth was picked on.

The vice-principal, for example, told Walsh "that, in a perfect word, the student would be treated equally, but that the students were at a difficult age and he could not change attitudes originating in the students' homes." On another occasion, the principal gave Seth a yearbook to identify the boys who had been taunting him, but let the matter drop because the boy could not name any of his alleged harassers.

"When administrators should have been actively communicating to students the importance of treating the student with respect and of intervening on his behalf when others did not do so, they instead engaged in passive, incomplete action or inaction, creating for some students the perception that the harassment was acceptable," the justice and education officials said.

To settle the case, the school district has agreed to be subjected to several years of monitoring on its anti-harassment efforts and to train school staff on how to properly handle complaints even though it disputed the government's findings, according to the report.

Superintendent Richard Swanson said in an interview that he looked forward to implementing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

UPDATE

Bears of the Old Pueblo Meeting and Potluck July 8

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Bears of the Old Pueblo are a social organization for bigger, bearish, robust gay/bi men and those who love them.

We hold a business meeting to review and plan activities. The business meeting is also a social time and get-together with a pot luck and fellowship. All Bear meetings and activities are open to anyone who would like to participate.

Held at the Ward 6 Office, Friday, July 6, 6 to 8 pm, 3202 E 1st St. Just south of Speedway and east of Country Club. For more information call 520-904-4714.

Welcome To OZ Scored Big

TUCSON (Observer Update) - During the recent week of bowling for the Welcome to Oz League, two scores of note were posted by "the Richard's."

Richard Foster, the President of the League, which bowls Thursday nights at Tucson Bowl, put it together for an impressive 655 series for three games.

The other Richard, was Richard Burch, who bowls on the team, known as "More Gumm," strung the first 10 strikes in a row. On the eleventh ball, he left a ringing seven pin. Richard converted the spare for a 289 game.

Vegas Officials Consider Marketing Gay Honeymoons

LAS VEGAS (Observer Update) - Same-sex couples can't get married in Nevada, but Las Vegas tourism officials are still looking for a way to cash in on the growing gay wedding industry, reports advocate.com.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority is considering marketing southern Nevada as a honeymoon destination for same-sex couples. The Las Vegas Sun reported that the tourism agency's director of diversity marketing has already discussed the possibility with his staff.

New York recently became the latest state to legalize same-sex marriage, joining Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire and the District of Columbia. Same-sex marriage was banned in Nevada in 2002 by a statewide vote. Las Vegas is widely recognized as a wedding destination because of the relative ease in obtaining a marriage

Anti-Violence Programs Volunteer Advocate Training July 16-17

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs operates a 24 hour crisis line for LGBTQA survivors of violence.

We need the communities' help to answer the calls and give out resources. During this two day training attendees will learn about the types of calls we get as well as ways to be an ally and support the LGBTQA community.

July 16th 9:00 am-4:00 pm and July 17th 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Volunteers will need to attend both days, to be held at Wingspan, 430 E. 7th St. Snacks and lunch will provided. Contact Kristi Smith at ksmith@wingspan.org or (520) 624-1779 ext 119.

CA School District Failed To Help Gay Teen

Continued from Page One

changes outlined in the district's agreement with the Department of Education's civil rights division, such as adopting lessons to combat bullying and conducting regular surveys on school environment. "The conclusions are devastating really," Swanson said. "Things get by us, there are things we need to do to respond and to change, and I think we have the chance to be exemplary. We can either be resistant or stick our head in the sand, or we can move forward."

James Gilliam, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who represented Walsh in the complaint, said he was ecstatic the federal officials had confirmed that the school had abandoned its responsibility to Seth. "Every school in the country now has notice they have to protect these children," Gilliam said. "But I also know it sends a message to everybody in Tehachapi."

Seth's case represented one of the first times that the U.S. Department of Education had applied federal laws designed to protect girls from gender harassment to a situation involving a student's sexual orientation.

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Feds Appeal Bankruptcy Ruling Against Marriage Ban

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The Obama administration appealed a bankruptcy court ruling that found the federal ban on gay marriage unconstitutional.

The Justice Department filed the appeal even though President Barack Obama said he agrees the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. Nevertheless, government lawyers said Obama has ordered them to defend the ban until Congress repeals the act or there is a final judicial ruling striking it down.

Attorney General Eric Holder said in February the U.S. Department of Justice would remain a party to the cases and continue to represent the interests of the U.S. despite the administration's view that the law was unconstitutional.

After the administration's announcement, a House of Representatives committee hired former Solicitor General Paul Clement to defend the Defense of Marriage Act against federal court challenges. Clement, however, ignored the bankruptcy case.

Brendan Buck, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, said it was too expensive to intervene in every court challenge across the country. Further, he said it appeared unlikely the U.S. Supreme Court would issue a definitive ruling on the federal marriage ban based on a bankruptcy appeal.

Nevertheless, Assistant U.S. Trustee Jill Sturtevant, who represents the federal government in bankruptcy court, said in the court filing that the Obama administration is appealing the ruling to give Congress a chance to weigh in on the case.

The Department of Justice "is interested in providing Congress a full and fair opportunity to participate in this and other cases," Sturtevant wrote.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Thomas Donovan in Los Angeles called the ban unconstitutional on June 15 when he overruled government attempts to block a same-sex married couple from filing a joint bankruptcy. The couple married in 2008 during the brief window when gay marriage was legal in California. Nineteen other judges on the bankruptcy court signed the ruling.

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

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Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Obama Administration Backs Lesbian Worker's Lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - In a strongly worded legal brief, the Obama administration has said the federal act that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman was motivated by hostility toward gays and lesbians and is unconstitutional, reported the AP.

The brief was filed in federal court in San Francisco in support of a lesbian federal employee's lawsuit claiming the government wrongly denied health insurance coverage to her same-sex spouse. The Justice Department says Karen Golinski's suit should not be dismissed because the law under which her spouse was denied benefits - the Defense of Marriage Act - violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

"The official legislative record makes plain that DOMA Section 3 was motivated in large part by animus toward gay and lesbian individuals and their intimate relationships, and Congress identified no other interest that is materially advanced by Section 3," the brief reads, referring to the section in the act that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman.

Though the administration has previously said it will not defend the marriage act, the brief is the first court filing in which it urges the court to find the law unconstitutional, said Tobias Barrington Wolff, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"This brief represents the concrete manifestation of a complete paradigm shift in the federal government's position on anti-gay discrimination and the constitutional rights of married same-sex couples," Wolff said in a phone interview.

Three In Air Force Seek Discharge Under Gay Ban

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Three members of the Air Force have asked to be discharged because they are gay, moving quickly to get out of the military under the ban on openly gay service before its expected repeal later this year.

Pentagon officials said the other military services have not seen any similar effort this year under the so-called don't ask, don't tell law that prohibits gays from serving openly. Then Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said there are no roadblocks to ending the 17-year-old ban, but it probably won't happen until mid-summer. Leon Panetta has been sworn in to replace Gates, who had announced his retirement previously.

According to the Air Force, during the past month two female staff sergeants and a male 2nd lieutenant made statements identifying themselves as gay and asked to be separated quickly from the service. Only one other person, an airman 1st class, has been discharged under the law since last October.

Air Force Secretary Michael Donley approved the discharges of the two women, and accepted the resignation of the airman who requested separation from the service. Gates issued an order last October that said no one could be discharged under the gay ban unless it was approved by the secretary of the military service involved.

The armed services are wrapping up their training of the force on the new law, passed last December that allows gays to serve openly. Before the law can go into effect, defense leaders have to certify that it will have no adverse impact on the military. So far, military leaders say they have seen no widespread resistance to the policy change.

In a survey of the troops last year, two-thirds predicted little impact on the force's ability to fight. But the greatest complaints about the change came from combat troops, including many in the Marine Corps and Army. Gates has met with the military and civilian leaders of the services and has started to prepare for certification. But the final action will be left to the next defense secretary, Leon Panetta. The repeal would take effect 60 days after certification.

Microsoft Backs Multinational Same-Sex Couples

SEATTLE (Observer Update) - Microsoft announced its support for a bill keeping multinational same-sex couples together, the Uniting American Families act, reports advocate.com.

The letter, addressed to bill sponsor Patrick Leahy, would allow foreign citizens in a same-sex partnership to stay in the country, similar to the benefit opposite-sex partners already have. "Our human talent is the key to Microsoft's ability to generate new ideas and new products, and to create new U.S. jobs, and we place top emphasis on attracting and keeping the best and brightest," wrote Karen F. Jones, VP of Deputy General Counsel. "Today's immigration laws create a particularly serious barrier to this goal by failing to provide immigration benefits to the same-sex permanent partners of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents."

The bill has been proposed seven times, but has been unable to garner sufficient support to pass since it was first introduced in 2000. It was most recently proposed with record support April 14, 2011, and is currently in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

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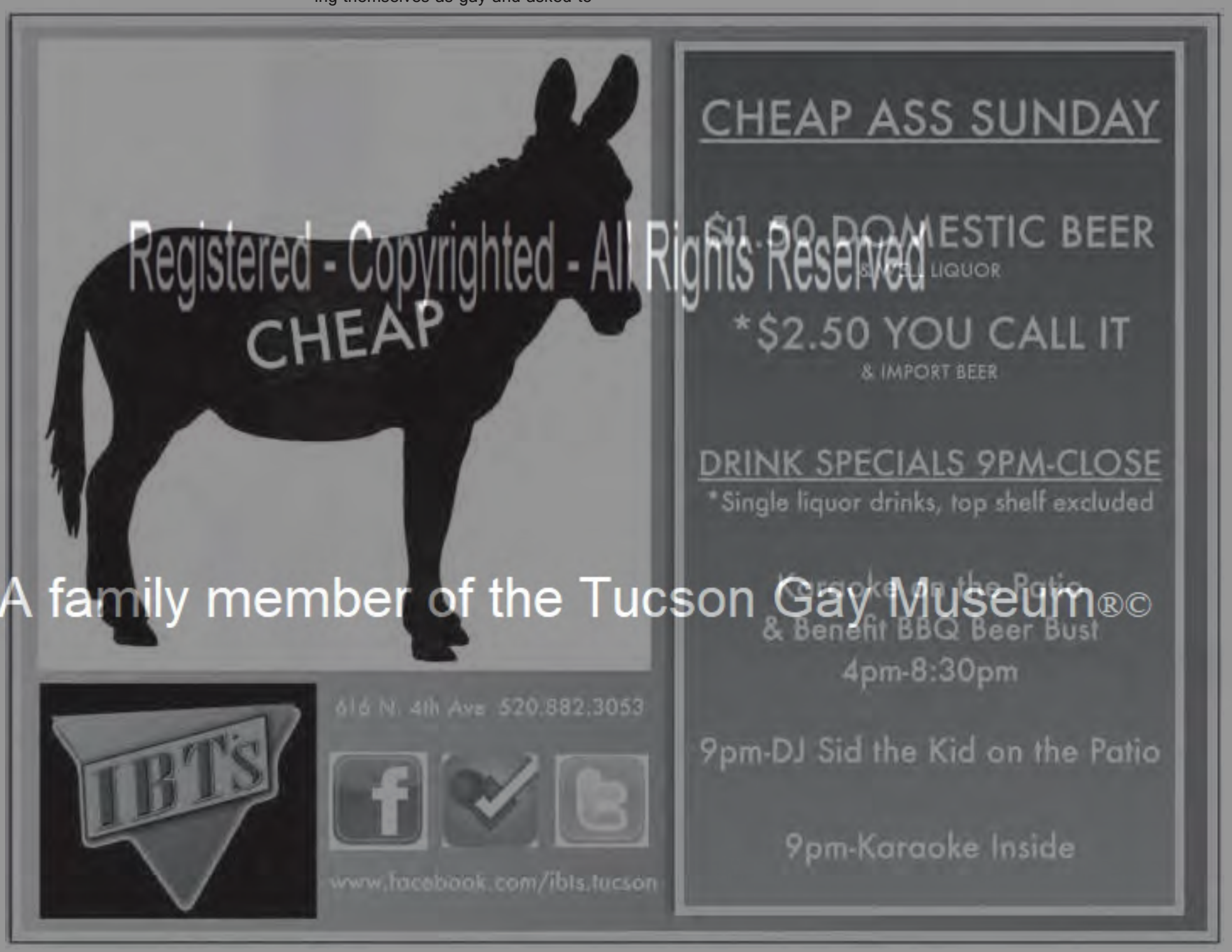


COMMENTARY. . . .

by Andrew Harmon

Obama: The Good Enough President?

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - President Obama. It's weathered with age; its font is a bit vintage. But the message of the 1996 internal memo on the stakes of a presidential reelection is strikingly current, even more than 15 years later:

"To abandon the President who has delivered on the overwhelming majority of his commitment to gays and lesbians to end discrimination, especially when the alternative is virtually guaranteed to be a President who will rapidly turn back the clock on gay and lesbian progress, would be a political mistake which would haunt gays and lesbians for decades," wrote Brian Bond, former executive director of the Democratic National Committee's Gay and Lesbian Leadership Council, in a January 1996 memorandum to Democratic National Committee and White House officials. Included is a compendium of administration accomplishments, from endorsement of the still-pending Employment Non-Discrimination Act to significant increases in public health spending on HIV/AIDS – milestones overshadowed in particular by one lamentable moment over which the 42nd president presided: passage of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"Bill Clinton has been the first President this nation has ever had to forthrightly, candidly, and in all but one case successfully attack some of the most basic and virulent discrimination that persists against gays and lesbians," wrote Bond, now President Obama's deputy director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

As Gay Pride Month draws to a close, pundits, community leaders, and activists are evaluating anew President Obama's own advocacy – how the accomplishments that the administration has already achieved, and continues to achieve, should be weighed against his current marriage stance, one that Freedom to Marry founder and attorney Evan Wolfson has said is "wrong – historically, constitutionally, politically, and morally."

The president struck a confident tone during the pride reception remarks at the White House ("I've met my commitments to the LGBT community"), confidence reiterated by Bond. "The President is proud of the accomplishments he and his Administration have achieved for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people here and abroad – accomplishments that have a positive impact on the daily lives of the LGBT community," he said in a statement. "He looks forward to continuing that progress in the months and years to come."

The Obama LGBT accomplishment list, featured on a White House Web page launched June 1, contains unquestionable historic victories for gay Americans, including declaring the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, signing "don't ask, don't tell" repeal into law, and assuring rights to hospital visitation and medical decisions for LGBT couples. The Democratic National Committee, which hosted an LGBT Leadership fund-raiser in New York last week, has its own list as well, enumerating accomplishments from the substantive to the symbolic. "Everybody agrees that we've made more progress at the federal level in the last two and half years than in the last 250 years combined," DNC treasurer Andy Tobias said (the president echoed the sentiment a few hours later in his news conference, saying that in opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, "We have done more in the two and a half years that I've been in here than the previous 43 Presidents"). "At the same time, we all, including the president, want to see a lot more progress," Tobias added.

Fred Sainz, vice president of communications for the Human Rights Campaign, which endorsed Obama's reelection last month, said that LGBT voters will ultimately judge the president on the full body of his accomplishments. While an endorsement for marriage equality would be a huge symbolic moment, "if the president endorses marriage, it's not game over," Sainz said. "It's one peg in a larger strategy. We're also focusing on meaningful legislation, on policy changes, on everything that will, over time, make the lives of LGBT people better." Others maintain that the New York victory has changed everything, making Obama's marriage position untenable and eclipsing what has been accomplished. "People now see what is possible with leadership that truly embraces full equality," said Richard Socarides, president of Equality Matters and a former special assistant and LGBT adviser in the Clinton administration. "I give the president a lot of credit for the recent leadership he exhibited around not defending [DOMA]. He gets credit for DADT repeal, as it happened on his watch. The rest of the [accomplishment] list is minor, incremental stuff, important if you are directly impacted, for sure, but not big, institutional or cultural change items."

Said Marsha Scott, a former deputy assistant to President Clinton and one recipient of the 1996 memo: "Of course I think people do want to see [Obama] reelected. The alternative would be a horrific setback. But he has promised things he is now not able to do." The administration made a historic move in February to no longer defend DOMA in federal court challenges. "Will DOMA be repealed [in this term]? No," Scott said. "Can we change much legislatively now? No. But that doesn't mean this constituency shouldn't continue to hold him accountable."

Some observers say this set of circumstances may mean a continued full-court press on the marriage issue as the summer progresses as well as continuing to clear up the record on what exactly has been accomplished – even among the more minor "firsts."

Speaking last week to The New Civil Rights Movement, an online journal, Paul Yandura, who served as director of gay and lesbian outreach on the Clinton and Gore campaigns and was once executive director of the DNC's LGBT Leadership Council, said the claim that Obama is the first sitting president to attend an LGBT fund-raiser is incorrect – that President Clinton had attended one in Dallas in 2000 during the end of his presidency (Obama is the first president running for reelection to attend an LGBT fund-raiser, National Public Radio clarified following a story last week).

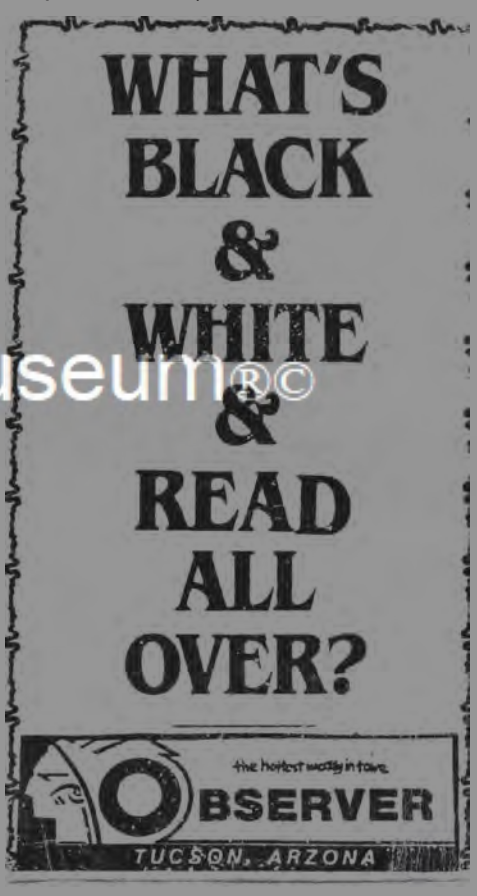
The DNC's list also touts the Obama White House as the first to send "an administration official to the Senate to testify in favor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act." Bond's 1996 memo, however, notes that the Clinton administration had sent its own official: "When ENDA was first introduced, in 1993, the Clinton administration sent Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights [now Massachusetts governor] Deval Patrick to testify at the one hearing on the bill in the Senate in support of the principle of non-discrimination against gays and lesbians in the employment context," he wrote.

"It doesn't irk me," Scott said of the accomplishments list. "You do spend the first year and a half working so hard [in the White House], and the closer you get to reelection, the more concentrated you are on touting your boss's successes. Though I'd like to see accuracy" as well as a little more historical context in general, given public polling on support for gay rights causes in 2011 versus the 1990s, she said.

Yandura, whose partner filed suit against the DNC after he was terminated in 2007 (the suit was later settled on undisclosed terms), insists he has not wavered in casting a vote for Obama in 2012.

"But we should look at what he promised versus what is a first. Being a first is a low bar at this point," said Yandura, who runs the Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm Scott and Yandura along with Scott. "Elections are special opportunities to be heard. All we're asking of him is to do what he had promised. To be a fierce advocate. And no one should have any shame in doing so."

(Harmon is a writer for advocate.com, from which this is reprinted from.)



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Challenger Attacks Houston Mayor's 'Homosexual Agenda'

HOUSTON MAYOR ANNISE PARKER

HOUSTON (Observer Update) - The businessman challenging Houston mayor Annise Parker's reelection said the mayor was using her sexual orientation to promote "a homosexual agenda," reports advocate.com.

Dave Wilson sent a letter to Parker's supporters by obtaining contact information through her campaign finance reports, according to Think Progress. He said he understands that many receiving the letter condone Parker's "alternative lifestyle and agree with her promoting the homosexual agenda," but urged those who donated to her campaign out of "financial obligation" to their workplace to "search your soul and rethink your support."

Wilson said he has family members and friends who have been "ensnared and trapped in homosexual behavior," so he has been privy to "the incredible pain and sorrow it has brought to them and their families. He also warned that religious freedom will be stifled and "millions more will be trapped as the demand for legal and political approval for homosexual behavior increases," if a "homosexual agenda" is allowed to flourish.

Parker countered that she is being attacked solely for being a lesbian. Her message in her fund-raising letter sent out last month asked for donations to ensure that she secures reelection this fall. Both letters from Parker and Wilson were sent leading up to June 30, the deadline to report fund-raising results for the first quarter of the year.

Gay Softball World Series Hit By Heterosexual Cheating Controversy

SEATTLE (Observer Update) - The North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) is now facing a lawsuit following a decision from the 2008 Gay Softball World Series to strip the second-place team of their title because the team was apparently composed of not enough homosexual players. According to The New York Times, the five players in question were taken into a small conference room and interrogated about their sexual preferences, reports huffingtonpost.com.

Ultimately, three players were deemed at least "not gay enough," to play. From The New York Times: According to court records, one player declined to say whether he was gay or straight but acknowledged being married to a woman. Another answered yes to both gay and heterosexual definitions. A third asked if bisexual was acceptable and was told, "This is the Gay World Series, not the Bisexual World Series."

However, the three men who were deemed as cheaters, are suing, writes NESN. Steven Apilado, LaRon Charles and Jon Russ have taken to court, suing the NAGAAA for $75,000 in emotional damages, and a restoration of their title. A United States District Court in Seattle is currently hearing the case.

According to USA Today, a federal judge ruled in early June that the NAGAAA can limit the number of heterosexual players on the GSWS teams, but also allowed for the ongoing lawsuit to continue. This case has brought more attention to gay athletics, causing gay leagues nationwide to reevaluate their policies. The NY Times writes that many other homosexually oriented leagues like the National Gay Flag Football League will take a further look at their policies in order to attempt to make a clearer decision.

For the time being, many of these leagues simply institute an honor system, and try to maintain that a a limited percentage of the players can be straight.

1977 Hair Tic Bar In Tucson Co-Owner Dave Peppin Presents Award To Doc of the Gay Community Services organization

The Tucson LGBT Museum (T.L.G.B.T.M.) cordially invites all LGBT related Tucson businesses, groups, individuals, and organizations to share their written histories, stories, photos, videos, memorabilia, and other historical items for inclusion into the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, Transgendered online historical exhibits. Exhibits to be shown are between the years 1770 to 2011. With the museum set to open up to the public later this year. The group has been collecting Tucson's LGBT history for 44 years in an effort that began in the summer of 1967 with a small group of 'sexually liberated' high school students from 2 local area schools.

Email: TucsonLGBTMuseum@live.com

(Attn: Exhibits)

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Michele Bachmann's Husband, Marcus, Coming Under Fire For Anti-Gay Remarks

MICHELE BACHMANN AND HUSBAND MARCUS

At a time when presidential hopeful and Minnesota Representative Michele Bachmann appears to be toning down her anti-gay rhetoric, the views of her husband, Dr. Marcus Bachmann, are coming under fire, reports On Top Magazine.

In television appearances over the weekend, Michele Bachmann dodged questions about her views on homosexuality, not answering Face the Nation host Bob Schieffer's questions on whether she believes being gay is a choice and whether she would reject a Supreme Court nominee that supports marriage equality. Earlier, Michele Bachmann, who as a Minnesota state senator sponsored a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, said she was OK with New York's decision to legalize gay marriage.

But as Michele Bachmann becomes a serious contender for the GOP nomination, her husband of 30 years and his anti-gay views are coming under closer scrutiny. Marcus Bachmann, who runs a government-subsidized Christian counseling clinic, is coming under fire for remarks he made last year during a radio call-in show.

"We have to understand: barbarians [gay people] need to be educated," he said during an appearance on the Point of View radio talk show. "They need to be disciplined. Just because someone feels it or thinks it doesn't mean that we are supposed to go down that road. That's what is called the sinful nature. We have a responsibility as parents and as authority figures not to encourage such thoughts and feelings from moving into the action steps."

"And let's face it: what is our culture, what is our public education system doing today? They are giving full, wide-open doors to children, not only giving encouragement to think it but to encourage action steps. That's why when we understand what truly is the percentage of homosexuals in this country, it is small. But by these open doors, I can see and we are experiencing, that it is starting to increase."

During an appearance on MSNBC, The Daily Beast contributor David Graham explained that "in Christian circles barbarians [are] people who are outside of the norms of behavior."

"He's allegedly participated in gay-to-straight therapy, he's talked about homosexual agenda," Graham told host Thomas Roberts. (The video is embedded in the right panel of this page.)

Michele Bachmann has refused to comment on the controversy, according to ABC News.

Deportation of Partner in Same-Sex Couple Cancelled

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Anti-Violence Programs operates a 24 hour crisis line for LGBTQA survivors of violence.

We need the communities' help to answer the calls and give out resources. During this two day training attendees will learn about the types of calls we get as well as ways to be an ally and support the LGBTQA community.

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COMMENTARY. . . .

Review Finds Widespread Wrong-doing In Atlanta Eagle Bar Raid

Tucson Observer Archives

tucsonobserverarchives.org

ATLANTA (Observer Update) - At least 10 police officers lied and then many of them deleted data on their cellphones in an attempt to hide their actions the night of a raid on a Midtown Atlanta gay bar, according to the findings of an independent review.

The report from former U.S. Attorney Joe Whitley and a team of attorneys from the law firm Greenberg Traurig also found top police officials gave misleading information to the public when they answered reporters' questions about the controversial raid at the Atlanta Eagle bar on Sept. 10, 2009.

A statement from the mayor's office, released along with a 343-page report, said the independent review corroborated claims made in a federal lawsuit that has since been settled for more than $1 million. The mayor's office also released simultaneously a 39-page report of the internal police investigation of the raid.

"The reports conclude that most of the officers involved in the operation did not conform to the APD's standard operating procedures," city attorney Cathy Hampton said in a statement.

"Mayor Kasim Reed and Chief George Turner have made the resolution of this matter a top priority and will review both reports," Hampton said. "Chief Turner will determine appropriate disciplinary action in short order."

There also are plans for an expert to conduct extensive training for every APD officer within the next 90 days.

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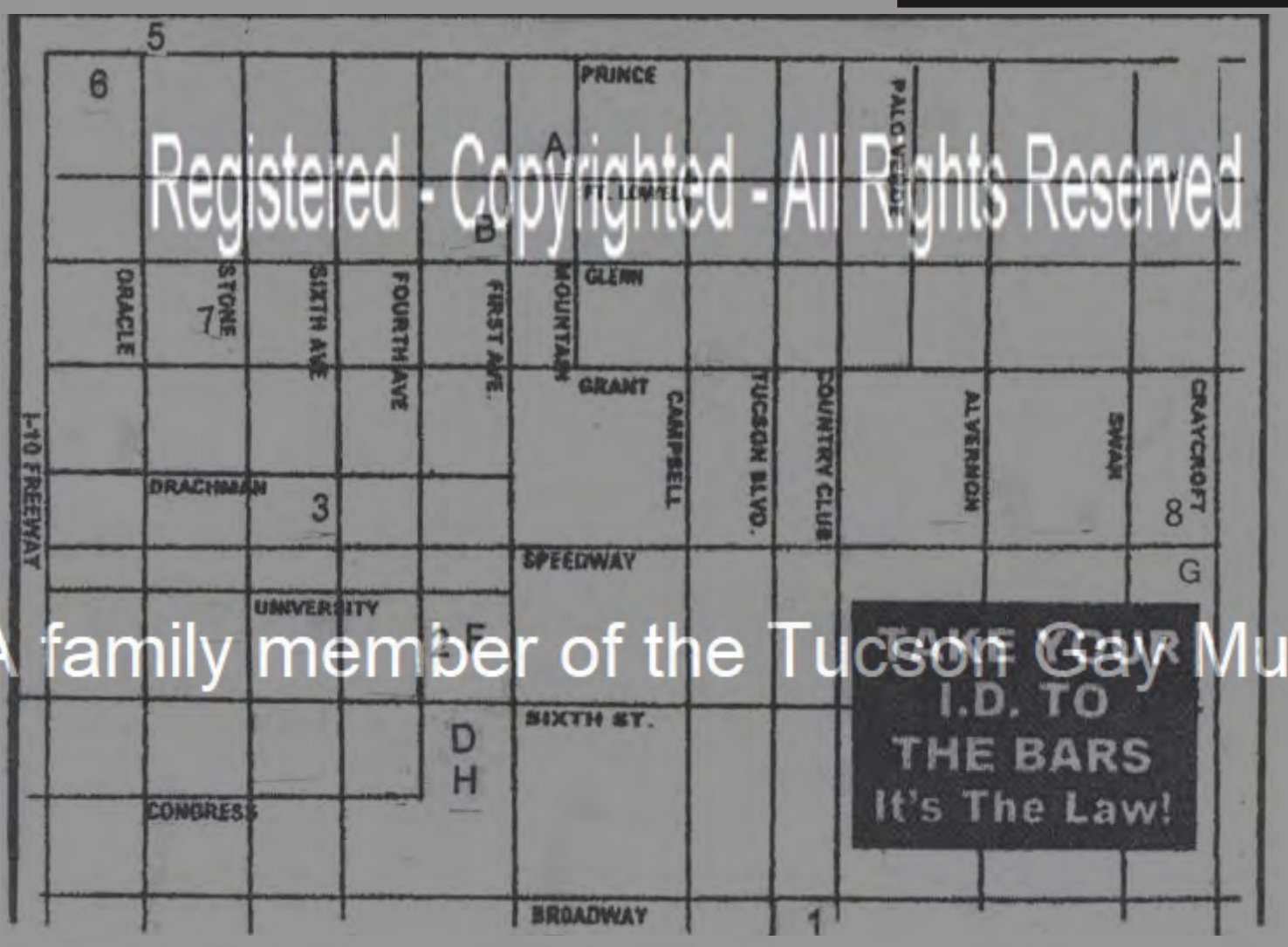

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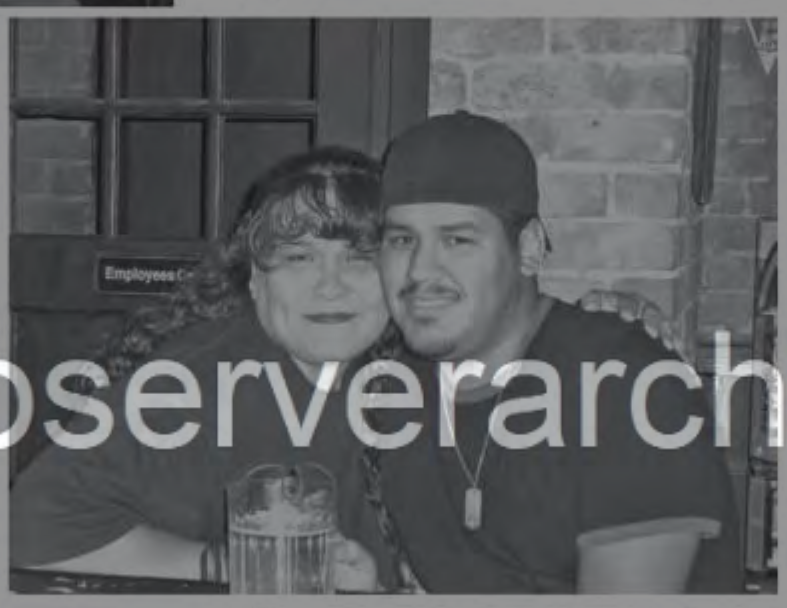

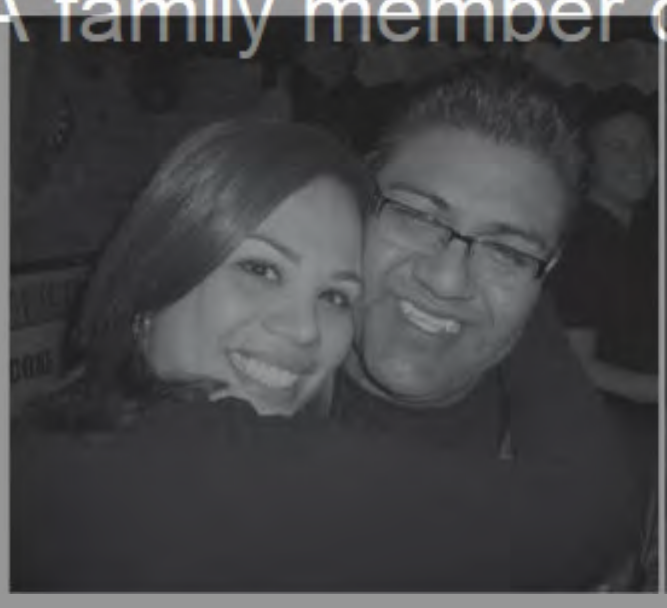

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Poet's Corner

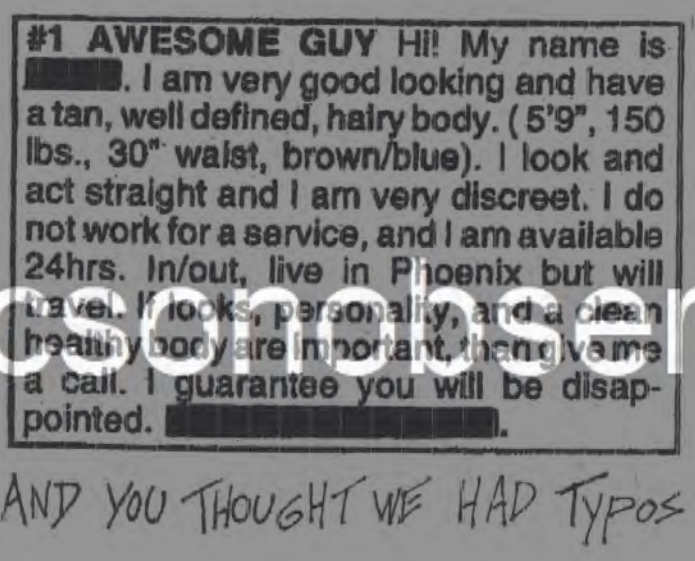
ANTHONY WEINER

BY Ron Rose - Tucson

Behind his lewd demeanor,
Is a part of Tony Weiner.
A promising career washed down the drain.
His narcissistic dealings,
His lack of human feeling,
His Face Book antics really quite a shame.

Tucson Observer Archives

The Way I Saw It. . . by Gary Clark



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

Shirvell Loses Bid To Seal Deposition

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LANSING (Observer Update) - Andrew Shirvell, the former Michigan assistant attorney general accused of using state computer resources to harass Chris Armstrong, the gay University of Michigan student body president, lost an attempt to have his upcoming deposition sealed.

Shirvell was fired last year after allegedly using a work computer to write a blog that harassed Armstrong for promoting a "radical homosexual agenda." He filed a complaint about his termination, pending appeal with the state Civil Service Commission, while Armstrong filed a harassment suit that is pending in federal court.

The Detroit Free Press reports that Shirvell lost a request to have a deposition sealed from public view. Judge Arthur Tarnow denied the request, and he also rejected an attempt from Shirvell, who cited concerns about his own safety, to limit those who can be in the room for the deposition.

"In his filing, Shirvell says he has received numerous threats 'against his life and physical well-being from [Armstrong's] political supporters during the past" 10 months," reports the Free Press.

An attorney for Armstrong, Deborah Gordon, replied to the motion and said that the safety claims made by Shirvell were unfounded. She also dismissed any need to seal the deposition.

"Ironically, Defendant Shirvell has had no problem publicly attacking [Armstrong] for all the world to hear and see, but now wants the truth or lack thereof behind his accusations to never see the light of day," said the reply, according to the Free Press. "[Shirvell's] deposition is an opportunity for both parties to set the record straight, and it is telling that [Shirvell] does not welcome that opportunity."

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Colorado Congressman, Partner To Become Parents

REP. JARED POLIS (D) AND PARTNER MARLON REIS (L)

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DENVER (Observer Update) - Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado and his longtime partner say they're expecting to be parents in September, reported the AP on advocate.com.

The Denver Post reports that Polis said he and partner Marlon Reis are both "very excited to become new parents." The Democrat for Boulder is one of the few openly gay members of Congress.

The couple declined to say whether they're adopting or having a child through a surrogate pregnancy. Reis is a 29-year-old writer in Boulder.

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

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. .

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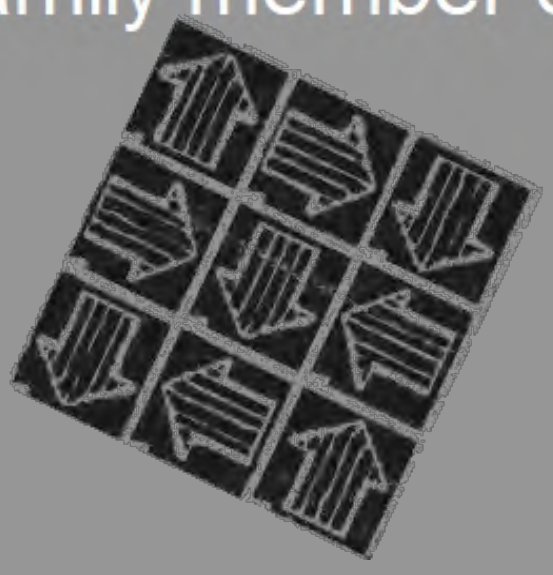

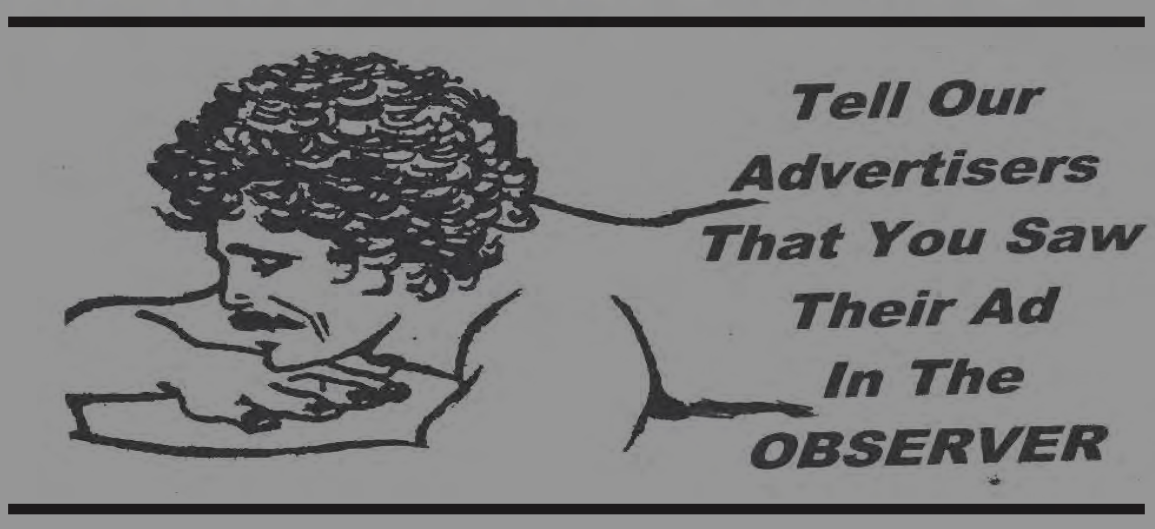

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Vicky Hartzler's Gay Marriage Stance Questioned By Gay Student

Tucson Observer Archives

ST. LOUIS (Observer Update) - A Republican congresswoman was put on the defensive this week by a gay student who questioned her controversial views on marriage equality.

While speaking to a conservative group in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of June, Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) likened allowing gay marriage to legalizing polygamy, incest and letting a 3-year-old get a driver's license.

"The government has to set some parameters," Hartzler said. At a public forum in Missouri on Wednesday, a Missouri med student asked Hartzler to explain her views.

"We're not the ones changing the policy, OK, so you shouldn't feel bad at all," Hartzler told the student.

"Why shouldn't I feel bad if there's an amendment, if you champion an amendment prohibiting me from [getting married?]" the student responded.

The confrontation comes on the heels of New York state's decision to legalize gay marriage.

In 2004, Hartzler was a driver behind the amendment to Missouri's constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

She was also against the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell and has been critical of President Barack Obama's decision not to defend the Defense of Marriage Act.

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R.I. Governor Signs Civil Unions Law

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RHODE ISLAND GOVERNOR LINCOLN CHAFEE

PROVIDENCE (Observer Update) - Rhode Island governor Lincoln Chafee Saturday signed into law a controversial civil unions bill that failed to please many gay activists, who had hoped for marriage rights instead and objected to the bill's broad exemptions for religious institutions.

Chafee, an independent who supports marriage equality, said at the signing that he sympathized with the criticism of the civil unions bill, but he also said it "brings tangible rights and benefits to thousands of Rhode Islanders," the Associated Press reports.

He added, "I remain committed to the passage of marriage equality, but democracy is about compromise. I am convinced that Rhode Island will someday have full marriage equality, and I intend to play a role in that effort."

Legislators including House speaker Gordon Fox, who is gay, had promoted a marriage equality bill earlier this year, but dropped the effort in favor of civil unions because the marriage bill appeared to have little chance of passing.

The civil unions legislation contains an exemption that says no religious organization or its employees would be required to recognize such unions, meaning they could deny numerous spousal benefits to gay employees. Some LGBT activists had called on the governor to veto the bill. He acknowledged that the exemption is "alarming," but he said the establishment of civil unions "provides a foundation from which we will continue to fight for full marriage equality."

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