Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

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Census Data Shows Number Of Cohabitating Same-Sex Couples Increases; Arizona Up 70%

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - U.S. Census data more data showing a 47 percent jump in the number of same-sex couples between 2000 and 2010.

Arizona, where the 2010 Census counted 20,948 same-sex couples –a 70 percent increase over the 12,332 reported in 2000. Twenty-two percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 8.8 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.

The city of Bisbee has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 20.91 per 1,000 households.

The Census Bureau has been rolling out data from the 2010 decennial survey on a state-by-state basis since mid-June.

In the first week of rollout, data from Alabama and Hawaii hinted at a dramatic increase in the number of same-sex couples identifying themselves on the 2010 Census compared to 2000. Hawaii showed a 78 percent uptick; Alabama a 39 percent increase.

In the second week, data from California and four other states continued the trend. California showed a 36 percent increase, Delaware a 79 percent increase, Pennsylvania 59 percent, Kansas 55 percent, and Wyoming 42 percent.

Data from five more states was made available during the third week, showing North Carolina with a 68 percent increase, Nebraska with a 61 percent increase, Colorado 60 percent, Alaska 57 percent, and Connecticut 46 percent.

In New York, the 2010 Census counted 65,303 same-sex couples – 18,813 more than the 46,490 counted in 2000. Twenty percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 8.9 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.

Not surprisingly, the county of New York (Manhattan) is the county with the highest density of same-sex couples, with 19.32 per 1,000 households.

So far, the state with the highest density of same-sex couples is Vermont, with 10.9 same-sex couple households for every 1,000 households. California is second with 9.98 per 1,000 households.

The city or town with the highest density, thus far, is Palm Springs, California, with 115.21 same-sex couples per 1,000 households.

The majority of same-sex couple households are female couples, accounting for an average of about 64 percent of the total number of same-sex couples. An average of 23 percent of all the same-sex couples are raising children, according to analysis of the Census data by the Williams Institute, a nationally respected public policy research organization focused on issues related to sexual orientation.

The Census data reports all same-sex couple households who identified themselves as such on the Census, regardless of whether they identified their relationship as "husband or wife" or "unmarried partner."

The Census Bureau is expected to release a national count of same-sex couples for 2010 later this year. But it is already clear that the 2010 data will identify many more couples than in previous years. The count so far, with only 18 states reported, totals 359,574. The total for those same 18 states in 2000 was 244,274.

In 1990, when the Census Bureau first began separating out data of same-sex couples from heterosexual couples who identified as unmarried partners, only 145,130 same-sex unmarried partners were identified in all 50 states. In 2000, 594,391 same-sex couples nationwide identified as unmarried partners.

Minnesota, where the 2010 Census counted 13,718 same-sex couples –a 50 percent increase over the 9,147 reported in 2000. Seventeen percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 6.6 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The city of Golden Valley, just west of Minneapolis, has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 23.98 per 1,000 households.

Montana, where the 2010 Census counted 2,295 same-sex couples –an 88 percent increase over the 1,218 reported in 2000. Twenty-six percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 5.6 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The city of Missoula, home of the University of Montana, has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 8.42 per 1,000 households.

Oklahoma, where the 2010 Census counted 9,802 same-sex couples –a 70 percent increase over the 5,763 reported in 2000. Twenty-six percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 6.7 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The City of The Village, outside Oklahoma City, has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 15.67 per 1,000 households.

Vermont, where the 2010 Census counted 2,798 same-sex couples –a 45 percent increase over the 1,933 reported in 2000. Twenty percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 10.9 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The city of Burlington has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 15.92 per 1,000 households.

Data during the third week came from five other states:

Alaska, where the 2010 Census counted 1,851 same-sex couples – a 57 percent increase over the 1,180 reported in 2000. Twenty-eight percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 7.17 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The city of Juneau has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 11.85 per 1,000 households.

Colorado, where the 2010 Census counted 16,114 same-sex couples –a 60 percent increase over the 10,045 reported in 2000. Nineteen percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 8.17 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. Denver is the city with the highest density of same-sex couples, with 17.19 per 1,000 households.

Connecticut, where the 2010 Census counted 10,747 same-sex couples –a 46 percent increase over the 7,386 reported in 2000. Twenty percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 7.84 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The town of New London has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 12.58 per 1,000 households.

Nebraska, where the 2010 Census counted 3,749 same-sex couples –a 61 percent increase over the 2,332 reported in 2000. Twenty percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 5.2 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. Omaha is the city with the highest density of same-sex couples, with 7.81 per 1,000 households.

North Carolina, where the 2010 Census counted 27,250 same-sex couples –a 68 percent increase over the 16,198 reported in 2000. Twenty-three percent are raising children. Statewide, there are 7.28 same-sex couples per 1,000 households. The town of Asheville has the highest density of same-sex couples, with 19.72 per 1,000 households.

Supreme Court Schedules Sept. Arguments In Prop. 8 Case

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The California Supreme Court will hear arguments September 6 as to whether proponents of Proposition 8 have the legal standing to appeal Judge Vaughn Walker's decision striking down the ballot measure – one he issued nearly a year ago.

In February the state's highest court certified a question from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where the case is currently on appeal, on whether under state law the backers of an initiative have "the authority to assert the State's interest" when public officials refuse to do so.

"I am confident that the California Supreme Court will swiftly reach a decision on this question, and that this nation is now one step closer to seeing the dark walls of discrimination finally crumble," said Chad Griffin, board president of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, the group that has organized and funded the legal challenge to Prop. 8.

The press release via the foundation: The Supreme Court of California announced that the hearing date for Perry v. Brown will be on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 10:00AM. The date announced is the very first day of the court's fall calendar. The court will hear oral arguments on a question of whether under state law proponents of initiatives have standing to defend their initiatives when they are challenged in court. The question was certified to them by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit earlier this year.

In response to the court's scheduling order, Chad Griffin, American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) Co-Founder and Board President, had the following to say: "I am very pleased that the Supreme Court of California calendared our case for the first day of their fall session. The governor and attorney general of California – and the United States District Court – all have found Proposition 8 unconstitutional. I am confident that the California Supreme Court will swiftly reach a decision on this question, and that this nation is now one step closer to seeing the dark walls of discrimination finally crumble."

In a separate, but related matter – the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California will hear AFER's motion on August 29, 2011 requesting that the video recordings from our January 2010 trial be released to the public.

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UPDATE

Stryker To Head LGBT Institute At UofA

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Susan Stryker, a leading scholar of transgender theory and history, has been named director of the University of Arizona's Institute of LGBT Studies. Stryker replaces the current director, Dr. Eithne Luibheid, who returns to teaching in the UA's Department of Gender and Women's Studies. Luibheid is nationally known for her research about LGBTQ immigration, reports wingspan.org.

Stryker is an author, filmmaker, archivist and activist whose documentary, Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria (2005), tells the story of the first known instance of collective militant queer resistance to police harassment in U.S. history. Led by transsexuals and drag queens, the San Francisco uprising in 1966 preceded the better-known New York Stonewall riot by three years. The film was co-produced and co-directed with Victor Silverman for the Public Broadcasting System.

In her new position, Stryker intends to build on the institute's existing strengths, one of which is its emphasis on border cultures. "I want to keep that focus and to think of all the ways border studies metaphorically reflect queer identities and crossings, and also how border issues impact the LGBT community in reality," she says.

Stryker grew up in Lawton, OK., and often visited relatives in Arizona. "I feel at home in the desert Southwest," she says. She welcomes the possibilities of working with Wingspan, especially its Southern Arizona Gender Alliance (SAGA). She brings to Tucson a reputation for collegiality and inclusiveness. "As a transsexual and a lesbian, I have a personal stake in keeping our LGBT community together," Stryker says. "I want to work to create a society that respects and supports diversity. I don't put energy into divisiveness."

Her goals at the UA institute also include increasing funding for programming such as conferences that produce publications and festivals that build excitement and interest about LGBT history and issues.

Wingspan Welcomes Four New Board Members

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Four members of our community have been chosen as new members of the Wingspan Board: Robert Bell, Matthew Ehler, Mark Moellenhoff, and Ron Zack, reports wingspan.org.

Robert Bell served in the Army during the Vietnam War and then practiced as an attorney for nearly 30 years in the Chicago area. His three decades in support of LGBT issues included co-chairing a successful $24 million capital campaign to build the Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBT Center, in 2007. He also served for many years on its board. Robert and his partner, Tom Buchanan, retired and moved to Tucson in 2006.

For more than a year Robert has been volunteering weekly at Wingspan's Eon youth lounge. He has seen firsthand the crucial growth opportunities Eon provides within a "safe place" environment. He looks forward to helping Wingspan continue providing much-needed services to rural areas, where isolation and lack of information can compound feelings of aloneness and despair.

Tom, his partner, is the development director at the UA Institute for LGBT Studies and also volunteers for the Wingspan Development Committee. Robert is a volunteer and mentor in the Goodwill GoodGuides Program and at Handi-Dogs, where he helps people with disabilities train their dogs as service animals. Robert and Tom love their life in Tucson, where they have met many friends, and enjoy each day with their favorite dog, Reilly.

The impetus for Matt Ehler to apply to the Wingspan Board was his past involvement volunteering at Wingspan and time spent at Eon during his MSW internship. As a board member, he looks forward to the challenge of rebuilding Wingspan with stronger programming.

He believes the Wingspan staff constantly look for ways to expand their services and strengthen Wingspan's presence, and he hopes to support their goals with wider community collaborations. He also thinks Wingspan's volunteers are its lifeblood and deserve his support.

Matt currently works in the behavioral-health field, recently receiving his masters degree in social work. He hopes to pursue avenues for social justice within the LGBTQ and the larger Southern Arizona community.

Mark Moellenhoff believes that Wingspan is a major reason Tucson is a welcoming place for LGBT individuals. Its support was an important reason in his coming out many years ago. Mark is currently an engineer at Raytheon. His work schedule has finally allowed him the time to serve on the board, and one of his goals is to help Wingspan stay a significant voice for the LGBT community in Tucson.

Mark recently completed two terms as president of Raytheon's GLBTA organization, which helped Raytheon move forward in the area of diversity and to be more inclusive of LGBTs.

Ron Zack is an attorney and a nurse, and has always been committed to working with the LGBTQ community. His law practice focuses on estate planning and elder law, two areas where this community faces unique challenges. He hopes through Wingspan and Senior Pride to be able to address some of these challenges.

He realizes the current economy has created a need to be especially creative in raising and expanding funding for Wingspan with a diversified donor base, along with pursuing government and private grants.

Ron appreciates the warmth and openness of Tucson and the particular warmth of the communities served by Wingspan. He values and looks forward to working with the talented and energetic staff and volunteers. He works long hours but loves what he does. He is especially passionate about issues related to aging and end of life.

TIHAN Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - One of our CarePartners living with HIV, a mother of several children, called us about picking up a care package, but said it would have to wait a bit because she wasn't feeling well. When we told her we could arrange for a volunteer to deliver it to her, she was overjoyed. "You know, TIHAN has always been a place where I can be myself and share with other people. You help me keep my boat afloat! You've been there for me so many times, it's like you're my life preserver! Thank you!"

TIHAN Publishes Updated Wish List. Can You Make a Wish Come True? No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted - Aesop. Without your support of our mission we would not be able to provide- through education, support and volunteer opportunities-compassionate support and services for those affected by HIV/AIDs. You can always find an updated wishlist at www.tihan.org/Wishlist.pdf.

Looking for a way to get involved? Enjoy, a nice 4-hours shift once a week, you will greet visitors, answer phones and help with other light office tasks. It is a great way to meet people and support THIAN. To get more information and to get involved, please contact Katie Meismer, Administrative Assistant, at 299-6647. ...

Use this box, made by our talented TIHAN volunteers, at your congregation to collect much need toiletry items for our CarePartners. We collect these items year-around. Remember, all of your donations stay here in Tucson and go to individuals living with HIV and their families. You can make a difference in the life of someone living with HIV right here in Tucson. To borrow this care package collection box, please contact Director of Congregational and Community Programs at 299-6647 or at education@tihan.org. Collected toiletry items can be dropped off at TIHAN's office (1011 North Craycroft Rd #301) near the intersection of Speedway and Craycroft.

Stay out of the heat and cool off in the TIHAN office! Are you an independent worker who enjoys a quiet work environment? Break up your home routine, get out of the house, and come down to the TIHAN office to become a Care & Support Data Entry volunteer! You'll be supporting the administrative functions of the Director of CarePartner Support, strengthening your computer skills, and helping TIHAN better serve those in need. For more information, please contact Taina at 299-6647.

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

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

SAAF.org

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

OBSERVER

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Informing the Community
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Navy Secretary Censures Former Officer For Anti-Gay Conduct

VIRGINIA BEACH (Observer Update) - The secretary of the Navy has censured the former commander of a fighter squadron at Oceana Naval Air Station, reports ontopmag.com.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Cmdr. Liam Bruen permitted a hostile work environment, allowed subordinates to sexually harass a junior officer and gave the officer a bad performance evaluation as reprisal for filing a formal complaint. The Virginian-Pilot reported Saturday that Cmdr. Liam Bruen was head of Strike Fighter Squadron 186 in August 2009 when an informal meeting was held to choose call signs for new officers. Ensign Steve Crowston was given one of three signals that were proposed, all of which had anti-gay overtones.

Mabus said in a letter that Bruen "demonstrated a profound lack of judgment" in not promptly stopping the harassment.

According to 190 pages of documents obtained by the newspaper through the Freedom of Information Act, after the August 2009 meeting Crowston promptly notified his chain of command that he found the names offensive and humiliating. Shortly afterward, the squadron's second-in-command, Cmdr. Damien Christopher, told Bruen he thought the names were problematic.

A few days later, Bruen called an all-officers meeting. His notes show he told the group "derogatory references of a homosexual nature" would not be tolerated. Crowston wasn't satisfied. Six months later, he filed a complaint with the inspector general for Naval Air Force Atlantic.

An initial investigation dismissed most of Crowston's complaints. The Naval Inspector General then conducted its own inquiry and found what happened at the call sign meeting constituted hazing, sexual harassment and a hostile work environment.

In a 17-page response to the inspector general's findings, Bruen called the investigations "troubling and one-sided." He said three of the other five officers had been given "homosexually oriented" proposed call signs that day, and he said he held an officers' meeting to "address the inappropriate behavior" without identifying Crowston as the one who had complained.

Bruen, who retired earlier this year, said in an email to the newspaper that since he is no longer in the Navy he fails to see the validity of the Navy secretary's actions.

Crowston said Friday that "justice is served" with Bruen's censure. The Navy also has removed the unfavorable fitness report from Crowston's file and has promoted him to lieutenant junior grade.

He said he hopes other service members subjected to offensive comments will be inspired by the outcome of his complaint.

"Fight the homophobic bigotry anywhere and anytime," Crowston said.

Navy Secretaru Commandfer Liam Bruen

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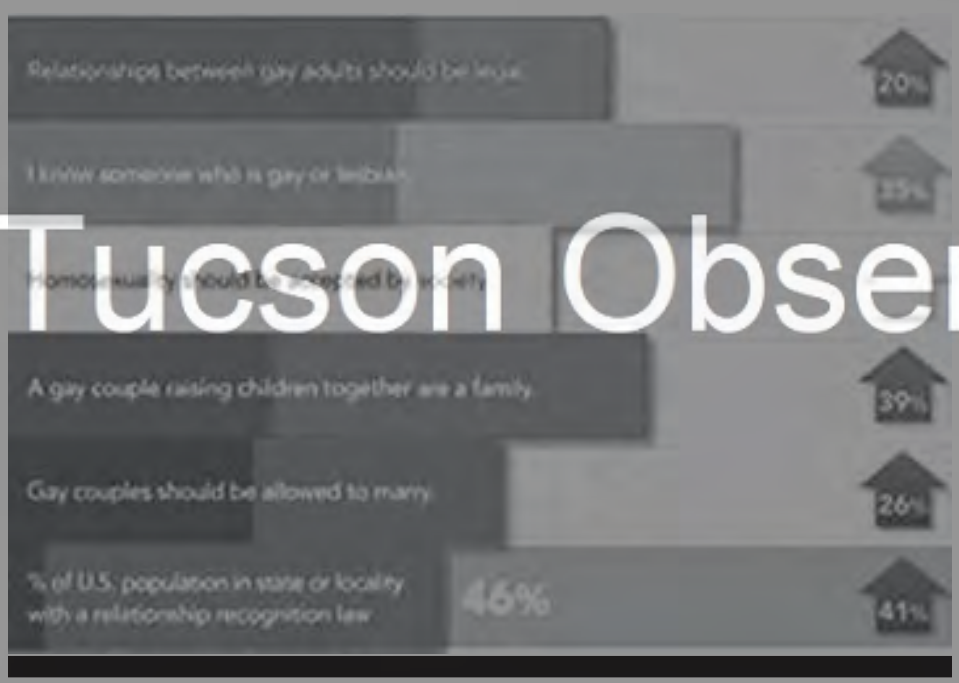
143 Million Americans Live In Municipalities That Recognize Gay Unions



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - In the past 15 years, the number of Americans living in municipalities that recognize gay unions has increased ten-fold, according to a new study released this week by the Washington-based think tank Third Way, reports ontopmag.com.

The survey lists five major indicators that illustrate the "seismic shift" between 1996, when President Bill Clinton signed into law the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which forbids federal agencies from recognizing the legal marriages of gay and lesbian couples, and now, when President Barack Obama supports repeal of the law.

In 15 years, support for marriage equality has doubled, from 27% to 53%. The number of Americans living in municipalities that recognize gay unions has increased from 13 million to 143 million. The number of Fortune 500 companies offering protections and benefits to gay employees and their partners has increased from 19 to 291. And President Obama has declined to defend DOMA in court.

"These findings demonstrate a remarkable transformation on this issue to the point that it can be argued there is a crystallizing consensus in favor of legal relationship recognition for gay and lesbian couples – extending all the way to marriage in many parts of the country," the survey's authors wrote. "In 1996, DOMA was thought to have ended the debate on marriage. But it seems to have been only the beginning of a more profound shift in favor of gay and lesbian couples."

Third Way's definition of recognition includes everything from marriage to local domestic partner registries, many of which guarantee no benefits whatsoever. According to that definition, 143 million Americans (46.4%) live in municipalities that recognize gay unions.

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Gay Marriage Gets Record Support, 70 Percent Of Young People Support It

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A new bi-partisan study confirms that first time, support for gay marriage generally outweighs opposition, and the rate of increase is startling, reported 365Gay.com.

According to the study, the rate of increase in support for gay marriage accelerated to 5 percent per year in 2010 and 2011. Between 1996 and 2009, this rate was less than 1 percent. Freedom to Marry, a pro-gay marriage organization, compiled poll data from Gallup, CNN/ORC, ABC/Washington Post, and Pew Research Center and others.

The Gallup poll's 2011 data supports marriage at 53 percent, compared to just 27 percent in 1996. Pew's data, the lowest in support at 45 percent, was also at 27 percent in 1997.

"A secondary analysis of public polling on marriage shows support has increased over the years and that the rate of increase has accelerated dramatically in the last two years," reads the report.

Also notable is the age demographic breakup – 68 percent of 18-29 year-olds support gay marriage, (up 11 points since 2005). Older adults, while still generally opposing marriage equality, have grown closer to support. Only 33 percent of adults 65 and older are in support, but this is up from a mere 18 percent in 2005.

The authors of the findings are Republican Dr. Jan van Lohuizen of Voter Consumer Research, who worked for President George W. Bush's presidential campaigns and Democrat Joel Benenson, who was the lead pollster and a senior strategist for President Barack Obama in the 2008 election.

"Even where antigay ballot measures succeed at the time, the net result is that people are prompted into these conversations," Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry, said to U.S. News. "The more people talk about this, the more they move into support of the freedom to marry."

Right To Marry Arizona Begins Campaign For 2011

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The Right to Marry Campaign uses the framework of pilgrimage for its outreach. Each summer a group of core Equality Walkers walks a mile for every year Arizona has been a state without full legal recognition of its LGBT citizens. The Equality Walkers utilize these miles to speak to police, city managers, faith communities, elected officials and individuals in diverse districts.

The goal is to carefully and collectively examine the intersection wherein scripture and social norms meet gender and human sexuality. And more practically, we hope to share and gain insights about how related policies and doctrines impact the lives of everyone in a community. These conversations are undeniably essential in creating a safe environment for all citizens of Arizona.

In 2008 the Equality Walkers completed 96 miles through western Maricopa County, in order to raise awareness about Proposition 102. In 2009 the Equality Walkers completed 97 miles through eastern Maricopa County focusing their outreach to diverse faith communities. In 2010 the Equality Walkers completed 98 miles through Northern Arizona walking through some of the most rural cities in the State and putting faces and stories to the issue of Marriage Equality.

In August 2011 while most people in Arizona are spending the summer relaxing in the pool or paying high AC bills trying to keep cool-the equality walkers will be spending the hottest month of the year traversing Southern Arizona on foot. They will walk through 18 cities and 9 counties as they bring their message of love and acceptance to police, city mangers, faith communities, elected officials and individuals in diverse districts.

The cities for the 2011 Right to Marry: Arizona campaign are: Parker, Yuma, Casa Grande, Arizona City, Eloy, Tucson, Nogales, Sierra Vista, Bisbee, Tombstone, Safford, Thatcher, Pima, Clifton, Duncan, Florence, Queen Creek and Phoenix.

Saturday August 6th – Yuma. Sunday August 7th – Casa Grande, Eloy, and Arizona City. Monday August 8th – Tucson. Tuesday August 9th – Nogales and Sierra Vista. Wednesday August 10th – Bisbee and Tombstone. Thursday August 11th – Safford, Thatcher, and Pima. Friday August 12th – Clifton and Duncan. Saturday August 13th – Florence and Queen Creek. Sunday August 14th - Phoenix.

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COMMENTARY. . .

by John Culhane

Why Marriage Matters To Those Who Won't Marry

Here's a question: Is the right to marry important if we're not going to use it? Setting aside Larry Kramer's mistimed grumpiness, gays and lesbians and our straight allies were literally or figuratively dancing for joy last week when the first same-sex weddings were performed.

In a typically eloquent and undeniably moving piece for Newsweek, Andrew Sullivan joined in the celebration. Shutting people out of marriage, he wrote, takes a toll on our developing sense of self: "At the very moment you become aware of sex and emotion, you simultaneously know that for you, there is no future coupling, no future family, no future home. In the future, I would be suddenly exiled from what I knew: my family, my friends, every household on television, every end to every romantic movie I'd ever seen. My grandmother crystallized it in classic and slightly cruel English fashion: 'You're not the marrying kind,' she said.

I had an eerily similar conversation with my grandmother, so I get it. But was the younger Andrew Sullivan that he's calling up in this essay really concerned about the legal right to marry?

The most direct answer to that question has to be "no." State approval isn't required in order for us to couple, or to create a family and a home. And presumably the film and literature worlds aren't blocked from creating, say, Brokeback Mountain or Tales of the City by the state's refusal to recognize gay couples as such. Kids – even those like me, who end up in law school – don't really focus on the legal question, anway.

What he sensed – what most of us sensed, accurately – was his coming exclusion from the social norms around home and family. There were very few models to whom we might have aspired, and only an underground and hard-to-find literature presented views of healthy gay men and women. (Is the homosexuality on view in a book like Forster's "Maurice" a healthy depiction? Discuss.)

Yet there were some gay and lesbian couples, of course, as Sullivan acknowledges toward the end of the piece, referring to long-term, committed couples who were "effectively married."

So why didn't those couples serve as an alternative model? I can think of a couple of reasons. First, they weren't that visible. There were far fewer of them, yes, but I really mean they were invisible. They were "friends" or "roommates" – not spouses, partners, or (in the gay community) "lovers." This vocabulary of obfuscation was a coerced bargain between the mainstream and the "homosexual" community (to use the nicest term current when Sullivan and I were growing up).

A second and related point is that these couples weren't conventional. Sullivan is (always was?) an assimilationist, so it's not surprising that these conventions would have had deep resonance for him, but I'd bet that most kids – wherever in the radical queer to Father-Knows-Best-simulacrum spectrum they ended up as adults – felt the same way. I did, anyway, and I'm much more critical of marriage than Sullivan.

Now, of course, the country is lousy (in a good way) with models of gayness, in all shapes and sizes, in reality and in an ocean of written and visual fiction. (Sometimes comically: I recall listening to a side-splitting review of an LGBT film festival a few years ago where the critic was ridiculing the check-every-box approach to the films chosen.) So – setting aside for a moment the benefits issue – why does Sullivan need marriage now? More to the point, why would a kid growing up today need legal marriage in order to imagine a family-centered future?

We might as well ask why the many LGBT people who have no intention of marrying, ever, were celebrating right along with those who raced to obtain marriage licenses last Sunday.

Because rights matter, whether or not we choose to exercise them. Although comparisons to the issue of interracial marriage are dangerous because of the very different histories of oppression the two groups have faced, here's one that I think works: Loving v. Virginia, which declared unconstitutional state laws that banned interracial marriage was important not only because of the comparatively few couples it benefited, but because it recognized that the ban was motivated by racism. In the Court's words: "The fact that Virginia prohibits only interracial marriages involving white persons demonstrates that the racial classifications must stand on their own justification, as measures designed to maintain White Supremacy."

That's right. Similarly, the arguments against marriage equality have by now been revealed as nothing more than a sometimes inarticulate desire to keep same-sex couples out and thereby affirm (weirdly) the superiority of opposite-sex ones. And this brings us back to Sullivan's essay.

No, the boy he describes so vividly wasn't thinking about the right to marry, at least not in those terms. But the denial of that right helped to create the social environment he describes, at the same time that it was a product of that environment. Rights matter, almost as much for those who choose not to exercise them as for those who do.

(John Culhane is a law professor, a blogger, and a contributor to Slate Magazine. His "slatest" piece discusses a point of similarity between the actions of the NFL and Big Tobacco. This is a reprint from 365Gay.com)

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A Glimpse Back In LGBT Time

Courtesy of the Tucson LGBT Museum

Leaders of all Tucson Gay organizations and businesses as well as members of the Gay Community meet at the Unitarian Universalist Community Resources Center to discuss establishing another Gay and Lesbian Community Resource Center to fill the void left by the Gay Community Services (G.C.S.) organization which had closed down. There that day, Wayne Blankenship, a former UofA student & Co-Editor of the Daily Wildcat Newspaper, and Co-Faciltator of a local Gay Youth Group suggests if an organization is started up it should be named WINGSPAN.

See this and other historical exhibits coming soon at the Tucson LGBT Museum

New Guide Covers Living As An Out Gay Man In A Post-DADT World

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - In preparation for the official repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the gay military organization Servicemembers Legal Defense Network released a legal guide on July 28 to help gay military members, veterans and their families tackle living in a post-DADT world, reports ontopmag.com.

Downloadable as a PDF, the 53-page guide documents what the repeal of DADT means, what it changes policy-wise, and many other questions or concerns anyone affected by the policy may have.

Other topics covered range from coming out (the guide reminds readers that they are not required to come out with the passing of DADT) to pornography, to medical attention and pastoral care.

"As has been our core mission since the founding of SLDN, we stand ready to represent and defend LGBT service members whenever the need arises, and our new online site reflects that ongoing commitment, while providing the most up-to-date and relevant information possible for those serving our country and those who support them," said Army Veteran and SLDN Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis.

The SLDN website emphasizes that coming out won't be safe until the full repeal, which is 60-days after President Barack Obama's repeal certification. DADT won't be fully repealed until September 20, 2011.

NAACP Has Its First LGBT Session

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - There used to be a time when the NAACP was the young turk of the black freedom movement. Now it comes off as musty and out of step, as if its glorious history blinded it to the present, reports towleroad.com.

In a 102 years, there never has been an LGBT session at its national convention. Here we are, the first decade of the 21 century gone, and the oldest civil rights organization finally makes a nod to gay and lesbian issues?

Need to be a bit more generous this morning because from the Advocate report, this was a decent first step out of the gate (although there wasn't much B or T in the conversation). The session was moderated by CNN's Don Lemon (did you see his funny bit on the Colbert Report?). On the panel was Benjamin Todd Jealous, the orgnaization's head, chairman emeritus Julian Bond, comic Wanda Sykes, Kenyon Farrow, professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall, and actor Darryl Stephens.

Remember last September when Jealous spoke at the New York City's LGBT Community Center? He did say the NAACP was going to try to be more nimble with gay and lesbian political issues.

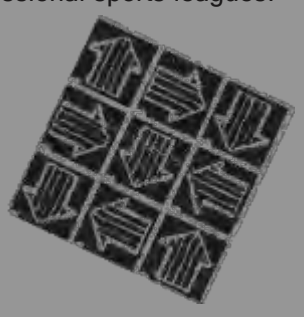
Orioles Fourth Big League Team To Make 'It Gets Better' Video

BALTIMORE (Observer Update) - The Baltimore Orioles became the fourth Major League Baseball team to film an "It Gets Better" video. It was released July 27, reports towleroad.com.

The Orioles follow the trend started by the San Francisco Giants and continued by the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox. The participation of MLB teams started with a Change.org petition for the Giants, which garnered more than 6,500 signatures. Mike Benard followed suit and created a petition to have the Orioles create a video.

"I am thrilled that the Orioles are supporting and reaching out to the LGBT community, particularly our young people who need heroes in their lives," Bernard said in a press release. "When I was a young, gay child, I was terrified to tell anyone who I was and couldn't dream of having a hero like a pro ball-player who would tell me that I'm okay exactly as I am."

The Orioles are one of more than 20,000 "It Gets Better" videos created since Dan Savage created the first one. There are currently no out players in any of the four major professional sports leagues.



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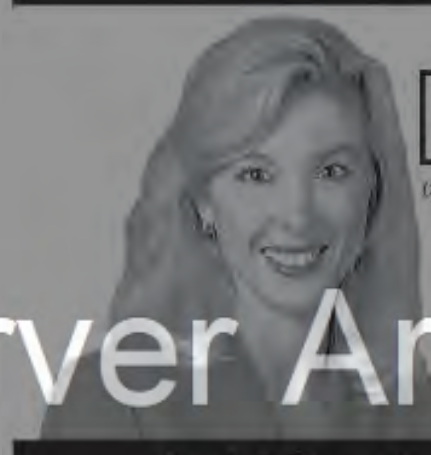
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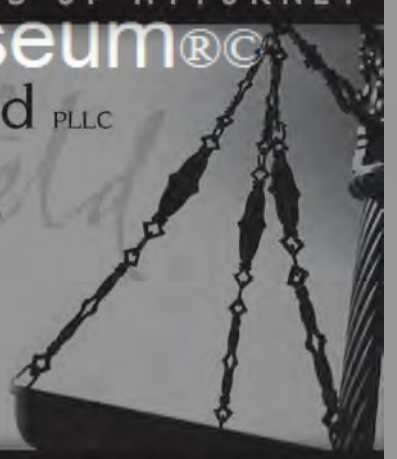
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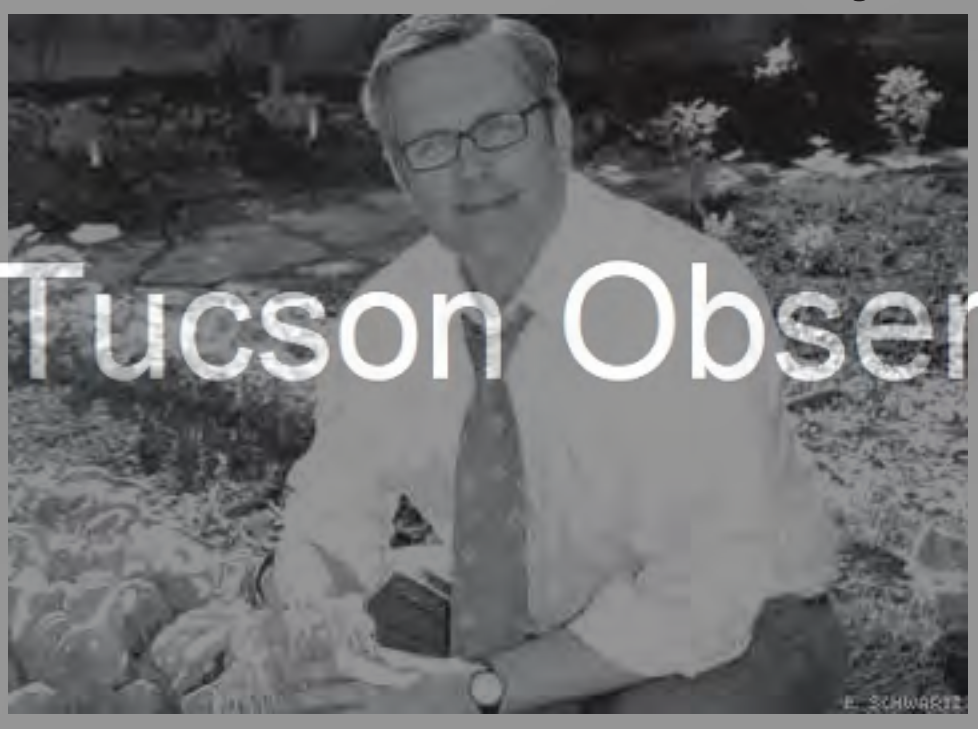
Sam Adams Won't Seek Re-Election As Portland's Mayor



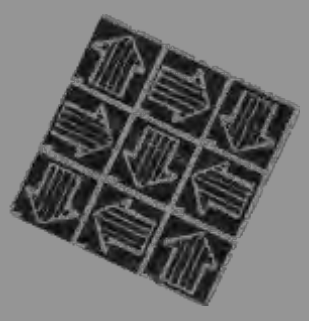
Portland Oregon Mayor Sam Adams

PORTLAND (Observer Update) - The openly gay mayor of Portland, Sam Adams, announced that he will not seek re-election because a campaign would be too time consuming, advocate.com reports. "For me to win re-election as mayor, I would need to fundraise and campaign full-time, starting now," he wrote to residents in a letter posted on the city's website.

Adams was dogged by controversy almost immediately after winning election in 2008, when he admitted lying about a sexual relationship he had with a teenaged legislative aide named Beau Breedlove. The mayor refused calls for him to step down and instead served out the remainder of his term.

Among his accomplishments on the job, Adams added comprehensive transgender health care benefits to one of the available plans for city employees. If he had chosen to campaign for a second term, Adams reasons that it would inevitably take time away from his work as mayor.

"As I have considered the reality of a possible re-election effort, I have come to the conclusion that I have a choice: Move this agenda forward, or campaign full-time for re-election," he wrote. "Making progress... is the reason that I entered public service. We have a lot more work to do." Adams has 18 months left on the job.



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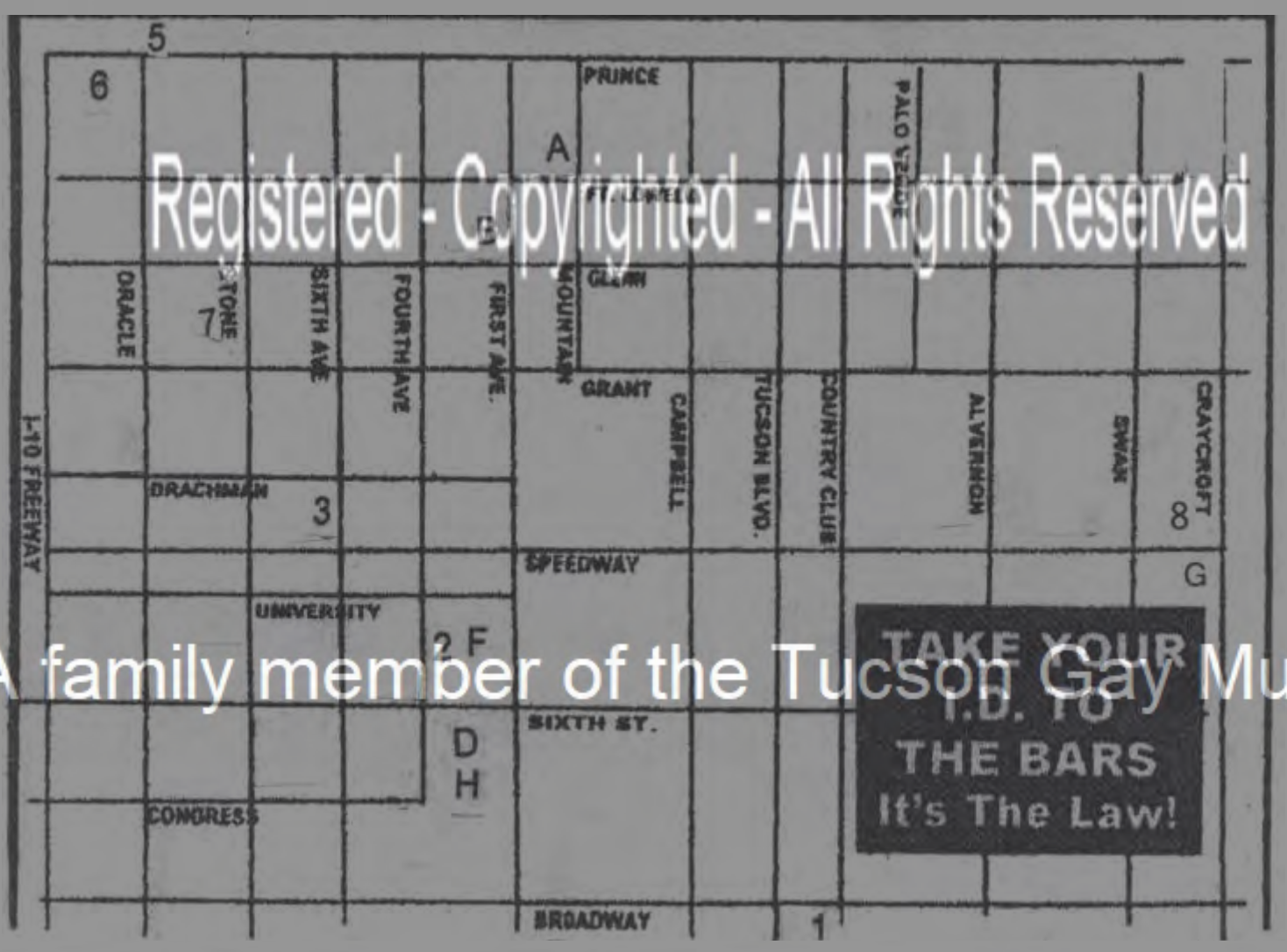

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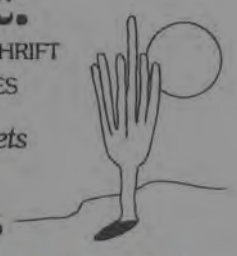

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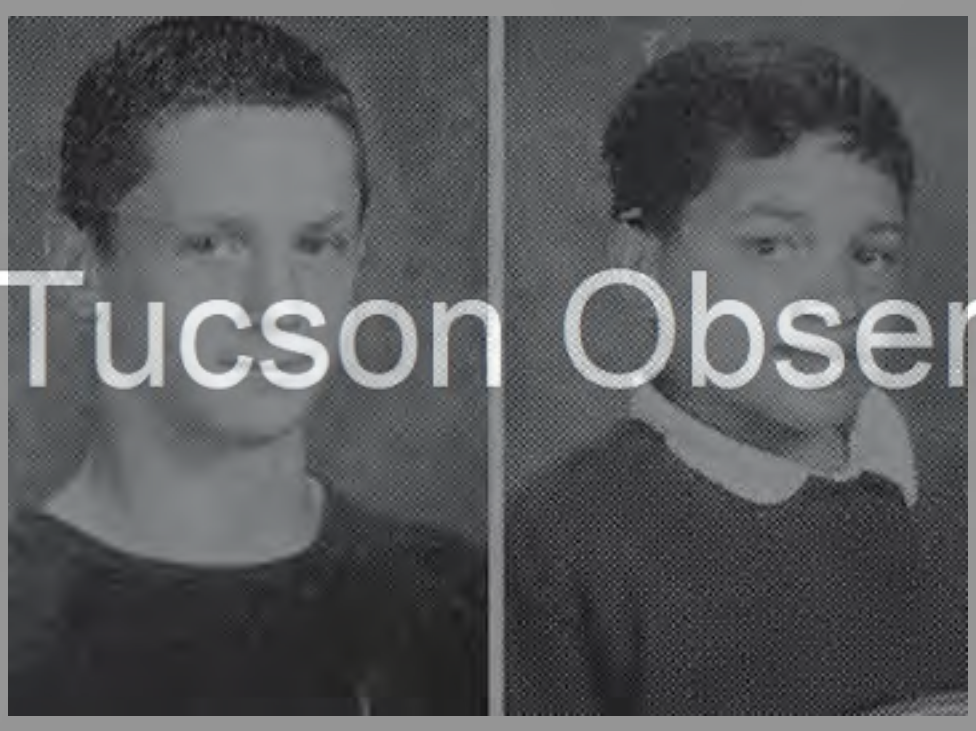
Families Clash At Trial For Slain Teen



OXNARD (Observer Update) - Four weeks into the trial concerning the death of Oxnard, Calif. teenager Lawrence King, the families involved cannot help but show their emotions, reports advocate.com.

Onlookers were touched when a photo was displayed of King happily wearing a strapless formal gown, given to him by his English teacher, Dawn Boldrin, theLos Angeles Times reports. Boldrin was on the witness stand when the photo was displayed. The mother of Brandon McInerney, the teen on trial for shooting King in a classroom in 2008, began sobbing, as did Boldrin's 13-year-old daughter.

The scene angered Greg King, Lawrence's father, causing him to storm out of the courtroom. When he returned, he gathered the King family to leave for the day. As the group walked past Boldrin's daughter and another family member, Lawrence's mother Dawn reportedly whispered an expletive to them.

The following day, Ventura County Superior Court Judge Charles Campbell ejected Dawn King from the courtroom for the rest of the trial due to the whispering. Soon after, Greg King shared his anger with reporters regarding the judge's ruling, and the tears shed in the courtroom the previous day.

"My son is dead and they're crying?" King said. "That's the woman who gave him a dress after complaining that he shouldn't be coming to school in makeup and boots!"

King was shot in the classroom at E.O. Greene Junior High School by McInerney in front of several classmates in February 2008. McInerney's attorneys are arguing that King sexually harassed McInerney. Ventura County Deputy District Attorney Maeve Fox has argued that McInerney was motivated to kill King because of a white supremacist background. McInerney is being tried as an adult. He faces 53 years to life if convicted.

Some teachers who knew King and McInerney said they were worried that King would be harassed by classmates for wearing makeup, and high-heeled boots.

Majority Of Americans Approve New York's Gay Marriage Law

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A majority of Americans believe New York's gay marriage law is a positive development, reports ontopmag.com. According to a new Washington Post/ ABC News poll, 50 percent of Americans approve of the law, which went into effect last Sunday, while 46 percent disapprove.

Age, religion and political affiliation factored in how people reacted to New York becoming the sixth state to adopt marriage equality. Adults under 30 cheered the new law by roughly a 2 to 1 margin, but a majority (60%) of seniors jeered it.

Pollsters separated Democrats into 2 groups; liberal and moderate/ conservative. A large majority of liberal Democrats (74%) and a majority (54%) of moderate/conservative Democrats approve of the law. When combined, a majority (56%) of Democrats favor the law. (The question then is which group is larger.)

A large majority (71%) of conservative Republicans, ostensibly defined by the paper as those who align themselves with the tea party movement, objected to the law. Half of non-tea party Republicans, however, say the law is a positive development. The survey also found a majority (59%) of Catholics support the law.

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Poet's Corner

MY BOSOX

by Ron Rose - Tucson

Lefty Tex is on the mound, I really have a hunch
His fast ball and his sneaky curve, will eat the Yanks for lunch.
We "thumbed" our way, this opening day to Fenway's secret ground
The Yanks, our dreaded enemy, sent Allie to the mound.
On the way, we stopped today, at Scolllay Square to see
A Sally Rand burlesque show, what horny lads we were we.
Paid a dollar for a bleacher seat in the forty second row
And watched with keen excitement the action down below.
Ted Williams, Joe Dimaggio, Tattoo the Monster's wall
While we, the Fenway Faithful, know for sure the Yanks will fall.

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!

FAIR Education Act Protesters Aproved To Collect Signatures

SACRAMENTO (Observer Update) - A little more than a week after the FAIR Education Act passed, contesters have gained approval from California to start petitions to undo the landmark legislation, reported 365Gay.com.

SB 48 - The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act requires all California public schools to teach about the LGBT community, including past accomplishments by pioneers like Harvey Milk. It also requires students be taught about Pacific Islanders and those with disabilities. The Capitol Resource Institute, operating under Stop SB 48, was approved by California to begin a petition against the act. If they collect more than 504,000 signatures by mid-October, they can have a voter referendum added to the June 2012 ballot.

"California has a long legacy of leading the nation on issues of inclusion and justice and the FAIR Education Act represents the next step in that tradition," Roland Palencia, Equality California Executive Director said. "This attack on the FAIR Education Act isn't just an attempt to censor the contributions of LGBT people and people from the history books, it's also an attempt by our opponents to revive lies based on prejudice about LBGT people being dangerous to children."

The anti-gay Stop SB 48 website says that the FAIR Education Act "forces" children to study materials that tell them their families' values are wrong; it forces schools to use a social science curriculum that promotes the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lifestyles that undermine traditional family relationships; It does not allow parents to "protect their kids" by opting out of classes that promote homosexuality. The FAIR Education Act received the backing of dozens of groups ranging from the City of Oakland and West Hollywood to Disability Rights California to California Faith for Equality.

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Email: Tucson LGBT Museum@live.com

Half Million Dollars To Settle 2014 Gay Games Suit

CLEVELAND (Observer Update) - The City of Cleveland has agreed to pay nearly half a million dollars to settle a lawsuit over who will produce the 2014 Gay Games, ontopmag.com reports. The lawsuit, filed last September in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, alleged that the City of Cleveland and the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) conspired to knock out Cleveland Synergy Foundation from acting as host of the games.

The FGG severed its relationship with Synergy, a non-profit group formed specifically to attract the Olympic-style event to the shores of Lake Erie, last July. FGG officials said they acted after Synergy failed to meet certain reporting requirements and had worked on events other than the Gay Games. News of the settlement arrived as the case was set to go to trial.

"What we felt was that the longer this went on – the litigation itself – the less likely it was any party … could successfully run the 2014 Gay Games," Attorney Richard Haber, who represents Synergy, told Spangle Magazine. "And resolving the lawsuit was in the best interest of all parties and in the best interest of the Gay Games."

"[Synergy] will not take an active role in the 2014 Gay Games," he added.

Synergy was prepared to argue at trial that several board members of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, the group taking the helm of the games, had made homophobic remarks, and that the games should be run by a group dedicated to Cleveland's LGBT community.

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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 - Open 4pm. Happy Hour 4-8 = $2 well, dom longnecks, dom pints, or New Moon shots. Kitchen open 5-9pm. Check our calendar for special events.
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-8
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 - Closed Mondays
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 9pm-close.
NEW MOON - Open 4pm. $2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm.
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 - Open 4pm. $2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. $2 off appetizer menu items* with drink purchase (priced $4 or higher).
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 Do mestics. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. $1.75 Long Island, $1.50 Tequila Shots, $3 Skyy Cape Cods and $4 Skyy Cosmos.
NEW MOON - Open 4pm. $2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Free Nachos 5-7. New Babies Drag Show 8pm. Check ouit the new talent!
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 - Open 4pm. $2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Women's Texas Hold 'em poker 6pm. Karaoke 8pm. First and Third Fridays are country, with dance lessons at 7pm and country DJ 8:30.
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 Spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".
NEW MOON - Open 4pm. $2 well, dom. Long necks, pints New Moon Shots. Kitchen open 5-9. Cheeseburger & Fries $5.
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. .

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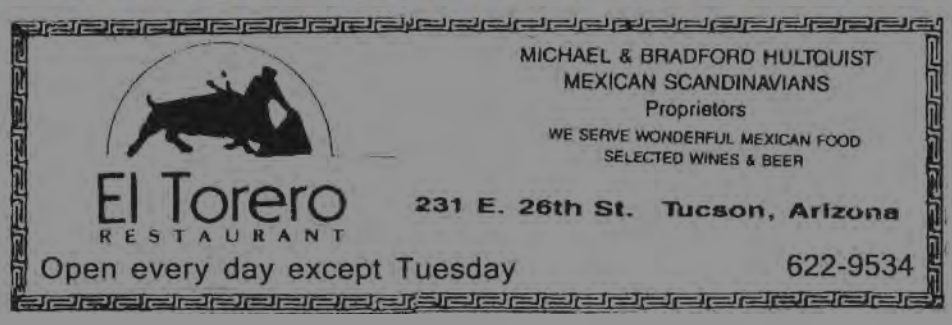

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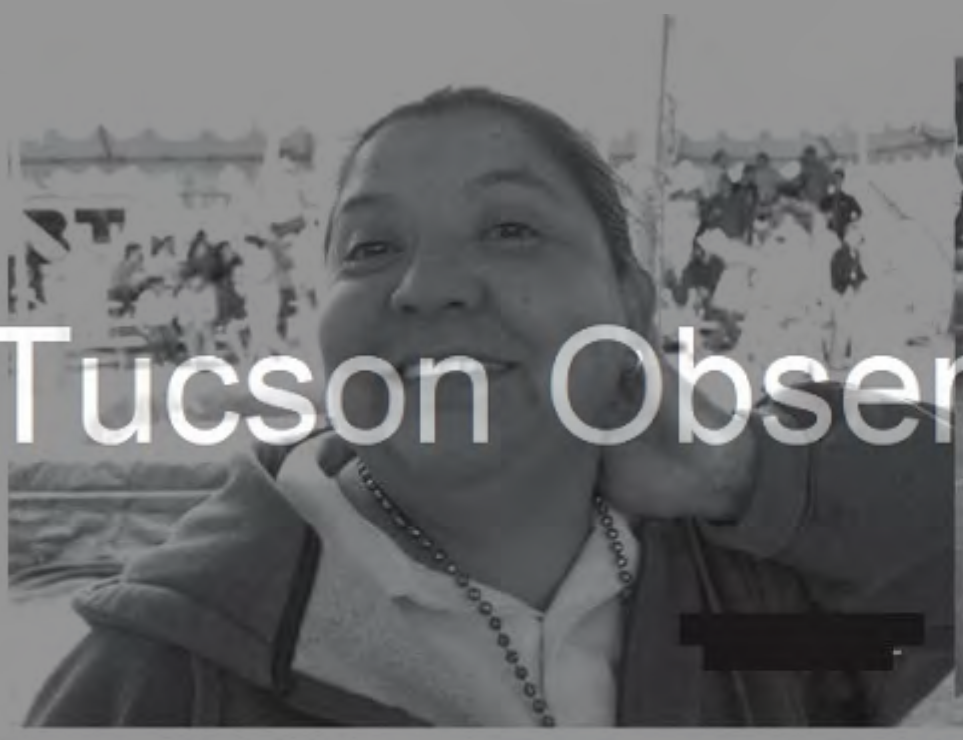
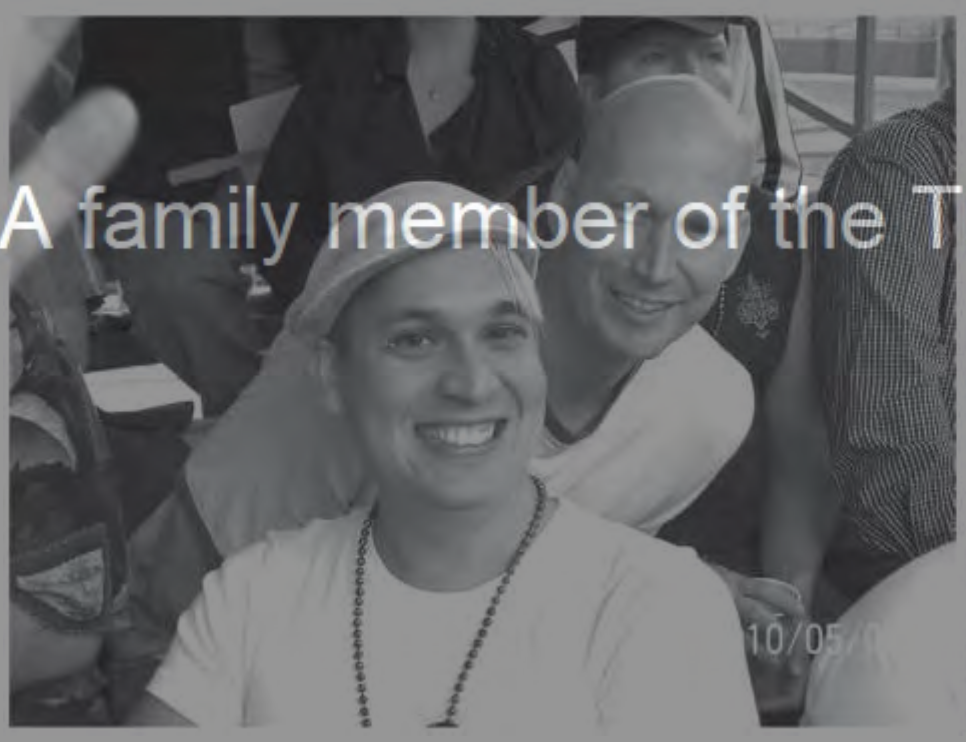
People Smiling Through The Heat And Monsoon





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