Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

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Tucson Observer Archives

Turnabout for TIHAN Show Wows 500 People, Raises $15,000

TUCSON - The 500 people who turned out for the 15th annual Turnabout for TIHAN show at the Doubletree Hotel were treated to a great show, and they responded in kind, contributing $15,000 in support of TIHAN's programs. "This was a very important milestone for us,\rdblquote said Scott Blades, TIHAN's Executive Director. "It was our 15th year since this show started at the Stonewall Eagle, and in celebration of our Quinceanera, we made it a FIESTA theme." And what a party it was.

The ballroom was packed, as the community cheered on their favorite performers from LGBT bars Ain't Nobody's Bizness, Brodie's Tavern, Colors, IBT's, New Moon, and Woody's, along with special guest Celia Putty, Miss Gay Arizona America 2011, and emcees Janee Starr and Tempest DuJour who did an incredible job entertaining the audience with their talents and humor.

" What we witnessed tonight was an amazing display of creativity, talent, and courage. And these were some beautiful drag queens and sexy drag kings too!" Blades commented. "They put their hearts into these performances, and the audience loved " Several performances brought the audience to their feet with applause, and dollars overflowed from the tip baskets.

And a few numbers brought out the emotions too, including Han Nguyen's amazing sign language performance of "Hero" by Enrique Iglesias, which touched the hearts of the audience members, and prompted Blades to come out with an impromptu and heartfelt discourse about some of the many heroes in our community.

Over the last 15 years, Turnabout for TIHAN drag shows have now raised over $179,000 for support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS, and AIDS education. TIHAN\rquote s Executive Director Scott Blades was ecstatic after the show. "Thanks to all the performers, the participating bars (Woody' s, New Moon, IBT's, Colors, Brodie's Tavern, and The Biz), producer/director David Zinke and all the volunteers who made it happen, and to the 500 people in attendance who showed their appreciation so generously," Blades said.

One of the evening's highlights was a tribute to Ken Sullivan and Jerry Geller, who were awarded the 2011 Stonewall Award for lifetime contributions. Ken and Jerry, who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary, were the owners of the Stonewall Eagle bar where Turnabout for TIHAN began 15 years ago. Unfortunately, at the last minute Ken and Jerry had to cancel their trip to Tucson due to health concerns, but the audience raised their glasses in a toast to them and their contributions to Tucson, Turnabout, and TIHAN.

"The theme of gratitude carried throughout the evening' s fiesta. "TIHAN and those we serve are grateful for your support tonight," said Blades. "And especially to our LGBT bars which put on such an entertaining show that raised $15,000 for TIHAN's programs and services to prevent HIV and to support those living with HIV/AIDS." And a few numbers brought out the emotions too, including Han Nguyen's amazing sign language performance of "Hero" by Enrique Iglesias, which touched the hearts of the audience members, and prompted Blades to come out with an impromptu and heartfelt discourse about some of the many heroes in our community.

Hawaii To Issue Civil Union Licenses For Gay Couples Starting Dec. 3

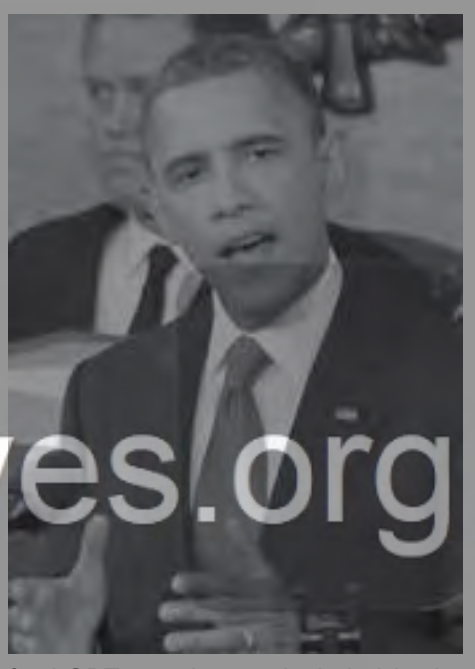
HONOLULU (Observer Update) - Hawaii officials expect to begin issuing civil union licenses for gay and lesbian couples by December 3, the Honolulu Star Advertiser reported. However, Hawaii's civil unions law won't take effect until January 1, 2012, and civil union licenses expire after 30 days.

Officials are issuing the early licenses to allow couples in a reciprocal beneficiary relationship to obtain necessary paperwork to have a ceremony after the law's start on January 1.
The state began offering the union to couples in 1997. It allows access to a limited number of state benefits, including inheritance rights, workers' compensation, health insurance, hospital visitation and healthcare decision making. Couples in a reciprocal beneficiary relationship can also jointly own property.

Couples moving from a RBR to a civil union could find fall into a "gap period" where neither is in effect, placing necessary benefits such as insurance coverage at risk.

Hawaii and four other states - New Jersey, Illinois, Rhode Island and Delaware - have legalized civil unions, while six states - Connecticut, New Hampshire, Iowa, Massachusetts, Vermont and, most recently, New York - and the District of Columbia recognize gay couples with full marriage. Democratic Governor Neil Abercrombie signed the bill into law in February.

Obama Praised For Jobs Speech Despite ENDA Omission



WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - LGBT advocates praised the initiatives President Obama set forth in his jobs speech – even though his address made no direct reference to the lack of federal job protections for LGBT people, the Washington Blade reported.

Speaking before a joint session of Congress, Obama unveiled a $447 billion plan – dubbed the American Jobs Act – that aims to stimulate the economy through payroll tax cuts, tax breaks for companies hiring new workers, funds for infrastructure development and regulatory reform.

"The people of this country work hard to meet their responsibilities," Obama said. "The question tonight is whether we'll meet ours. The question is whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy; whether we can restore some of the fairness and security that has defined this nation since our beginning."

Whether Congress will be able to pass Obama's plan – or any jobs initiative – remains to be seen. So far this year, Congress and the White House argued until the absolute deadline to pass a resolution to keep funding the U.S. government for the remainder of fiscal year 2011, and again bickered until the last possible day to come an agreement to raise the nation's debt ceiling and avoid default on the country's financial obligations.

Questions also persist regarding Obama's approach to paying for his $447 billion initiative. The president is calling on the congressional "Super Committee" established by the debt deal to come up with the additional deficit reduction needed to pay for the measure in addition to meeting an already established target of $1.5 trillion in deficit reduction.

One problem with job security that Obama didn't mention in his speech was the lack of federal non-discrimination protections faced by LGBT Americans in the workplace. Firing someone for being gay is legal in 29 states and firing someone for being transgender is legal in 35 states.

Obama campaigned on passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act – legislation that would bar such job bias against LGBT people in the public and private workforce – but the bill has languished for years and didn't even see a committee vote in the last Congress when Democrats were in control of both the House and Senate.

No mention of ENDA or the lack of federal workplace protections for LGBT people was included in the president's remarks.

Shin Inouye, a White House spokesperson, said the president continues to support ENDA, but the purpose of his speech was to address the larger jobs crisis faced by all Americans.

"On Thursday, the President announced that he is sending to Congress the American Jobs Act – a set of ideas supported by both Democrats and Republicans that Congress must pass right away," Inouye said. "The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans, including LGBT Americans. The President has long supported an inclusive ENDA, but Thursday's remarks were about the American Jobs Act, and not everything we support."

Despite the lack of any explicit mention, LGBT advocates praised the plan Obama unveiled on Thursday and said the policies would benefit all Americans – including LGBT people.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said Obama's proposals would be "very positive" for LGBT Americans and transgender people in particular.

Keisling said Obama's proposal to offer a tax credit of up to $4,000 to companies that hire potential workers searching for a job for more than six months is particularly important to transgender workers.

"We are disproportionately likely to be among the long-term unemployed and disproportionately likely to have faced recessionary discrimination during this current downturn," Keisling said. "So $4,000 job credits for employers who hire long-term unem-

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UPDATE

Double Minority: Latinos With HIV

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Being HIV-positive is hard, but being HIV-positive and Latino is doubly difficult, says Patricia*, a 30-year-old transgender woman living in Phoenix.

Patricia hasn't told her family about her HIV status, which she's known for two years. And because they live in Mexico, even if they were supportive–which she doubts–her family couldn't offer tangible help. Patricia's parents didn't talk about sex when she was growing up, so she was forced to learn and make mistakes, on her own. Patricia's English skills are limited, and since one of her former doctors didn't speak Spanish, she was forced to bring a translator to appointments.

Stories like Patricia's play out thousands of times every year across this country. In addition to the difficulties any HIV-positive person faces in the United States, many Latinos face additional cultural shame and guilt over their disease. It's likely that cultural stigma plays a role in HIV transmission. Latinos, the fastest-growing minority in the nation, are certainly contracting HIV at greater rates than Caucasians. Hispanic men are getting HIV at twice the rate of white men, while infections of Latinas are nearly four times that of white women, according to the latest numbers from the Centers for Disease Control. In 2008, Latinos accounted for more than 19% of the over 42,000 new cases of HIV in the 37 states with infection reporting, though they make up 16% of the U.S. population.

Pride On Parade Grand Marshals Announced

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson Pride has announced that Wendell Hicks, Dr. Heather Moroso, Scott Blades and Jeffrey Scott Brown, will be the 2011 Pride on Parade Grand Marshalls.

Come Join them on October 8th on Congress Street at 8pm!

Tucson Pride Board wanted to honor those that that work tirelessly in the AIDS community to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the AIDS virus.

Please join us in honoring these four community leaders.

Call To Artists: Tucson Latin @ Gay Pride 2011

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan will again present the 4th annual Tucson Latin@ Gay Pride schedule for September 15 through September 22.

Tucson Latin@ Gay Pride strives to create visibility of the LGBT Latin@ community, to raise awareness of the challenges faced by LGBT Latin@ people, and to celebrate the culture that occurs at these two intersections.

Always a highlight event, the Tucson Latin@ Gay Pride Art and Culture Fair facilitates the mission to create visibility by showcasing art produced by LGBT Latin@ artists and performers. The art and culture event is scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the beautiful Dinnerware Artspace.

Artists who would like to show their artwork at this event are encouraged to send an electronic image/video of their art, a bio, and contact information to Oscar Jimenez at ojimenez@wingspan.org. Please send information by September 2. There is no fee to show work. This is a non-competitive event. Artists are encouraged to distribute contact information with potential collaborators at the Fair. A booklet with artist information will be distributed the night of the event.

Welcome To OZ Bowling League Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Members of the Welcome to Oz League went to Las Vegas to bowl in the Showgirl Invitational over Labor Day weekend.

Alan Goldberg cashed in singles, 16th place, with his 703 series (plus handicap). Joe Ware and David Laing qualified for the Scratch Master's finals, and finished sixth and fourth respectively in their divisions.

Next stop is the upcoming tournament in Albquerque, New Mexico.

In league news, Welcome to Oz began the Winter League season for 2011-12 this past Thursday at Tucson Bowl, 7021 East 21st Street (22nd/Kolb). Many new faces joined regular Oz bowlers and 14 teams have been formed.

There are spots open on several teams. Having fun is the only prerequisite, not having a good average. If interested, show up ten minutes before start time, 7 pm, and the league officers will gladly get you on a team.

Phoenix Suns CEO Tells The Advocate About Loads Of Job Offers, Then Quits

Rick Welts

PHOENIX (Observer Update) -The first openly gay senior executive of a men's professional sports team, Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts, announced his resignation today on the heels of telling The Advocate he's been plied with job offers.

"I probably have had more job offers in the last five months than I ever have in my life from the most unexpected places, people who actually found me a more interesting candidate because of what I had chosen to do," Welts told The Advocate earlier this week.

But the NBA executive isn't leaving the Suns for another job, he toldTheArizona Republic. Instead, Welts said he's moving to Sacramento to be closer to his partner.

Welts told the Republic that coming out helped lead to the decision to leave the Suns, which he joined as an executive in 2002.

"Leaving one of the best jobs in sports to go figure out what's next is something I never would've done a year ago or five years ago or 10 years ago," Welts said. "Personally, there is a level of confidence and that I can figure it out and the future is going to be terrific. I'm just in a different place."

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

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

SAAF

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

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Obama Praised For Jobs Speech

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ployed and prohibiting discrimination against long-term unemployed will be especially helpful and important."

Keisling said a specific mention of LGBT issues in the speech wouldn't have been a relevant point for Obama during his remarks.

"It was not at all inappropriate that he did not specifically mention support for specific LGBT priorities," she said. "It wasn't that kind of speech."

Selisse Berry, executive director of the San Francisco-based Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, commended Obama for setting a goal for businesses to be innovative leaders and said companies can achieve the goal by embracing diversity, including LGBT people.

"America's most successful businesses are doing just that through their policies and practices," Berry said. "And the president knows the importance of diversity as well, since this administration has taken concrete steps to end discrimination against LGBT people in the federal workforce."

Following the president's speech, the White House issued statements from more than 40 organizations and Democratic lawmakers praising the plan. One of the statements in favor of the proposals came from Mary Kay Henry, a lesbian and president of the Service Employees International Union.

"President Obama displayed the leadership America needs by laying out a strong agenda to get America back to work," Henry said. "The proposals he outlined are an excellent starting point in the crucial effort to create good jobs now."

Henry called on Congress to take action and said Americans are watching Republicans closely to see if they'll "play politics" or take action to turn around what she called the national jobs crisis.

"The Republicans' plan to further cut corporate taxes will do nothing to put Americans back to work, just as the recent record corporate profits have not led to job growth," Henry said.

In another statement provided by the White House, Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell, co-founders of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, spoke out in favor of Obama's plan.

"President Obama demonstrated strong leadership and clear vision addressing the joint session of Congress," Nelson and Mitchell said. "While far too many in Washington, D.C. focus on the political horse race, the president shined the spotlight where it belongs; on the millions of Americans, many of them LGBT, who are working too hard to give their families a better life to read the latest poll numbers."

Nelson and Mitchell took particular note of Obama's plan to expedite payments to small businesses and to extend payroll tax cuts for these companies.

"As the president said, our recovery will not come from politicians but from businesses and talented individuals throughout the country, including those represented by the NGLCC," Nelson and Mitchell said. "We agree that business owners need timely payments and tax incentives to pay their employees, hire new staff and invest in new opportunities.

Given the difficulties of passing ENDA with Republicans in control of the House, some LGBT advocates have been calling for an executive order that would prohibit the U.S. government from contracting with companies that don't have non-discrimination protections for LGBT workers. Obama could take such action without concern over having to move legislation through Congress.

During his speech, Obama enumerated some initiatives he could take on his own accord without congressional involvement to improve the job situation – but an executive order for LGBT workers wasn't among them.

"My administration can and will take some steps to improve our competitiveness on our own," Obama said. "For example, if you're a small business owner who has a contract with the federal government, we're going to make sure you get paid a lot faster than you do now. We're also planning to cut away the red tape that prevents too many rapidly-growing start-up companies from raising capital and going public."

Additionally, Obama said his administration would work with federal housing agencies to help more people refinance their mortgages at interest rates that are now near four percent, which he said would put more than $2,000 a year in the pockets of American families.

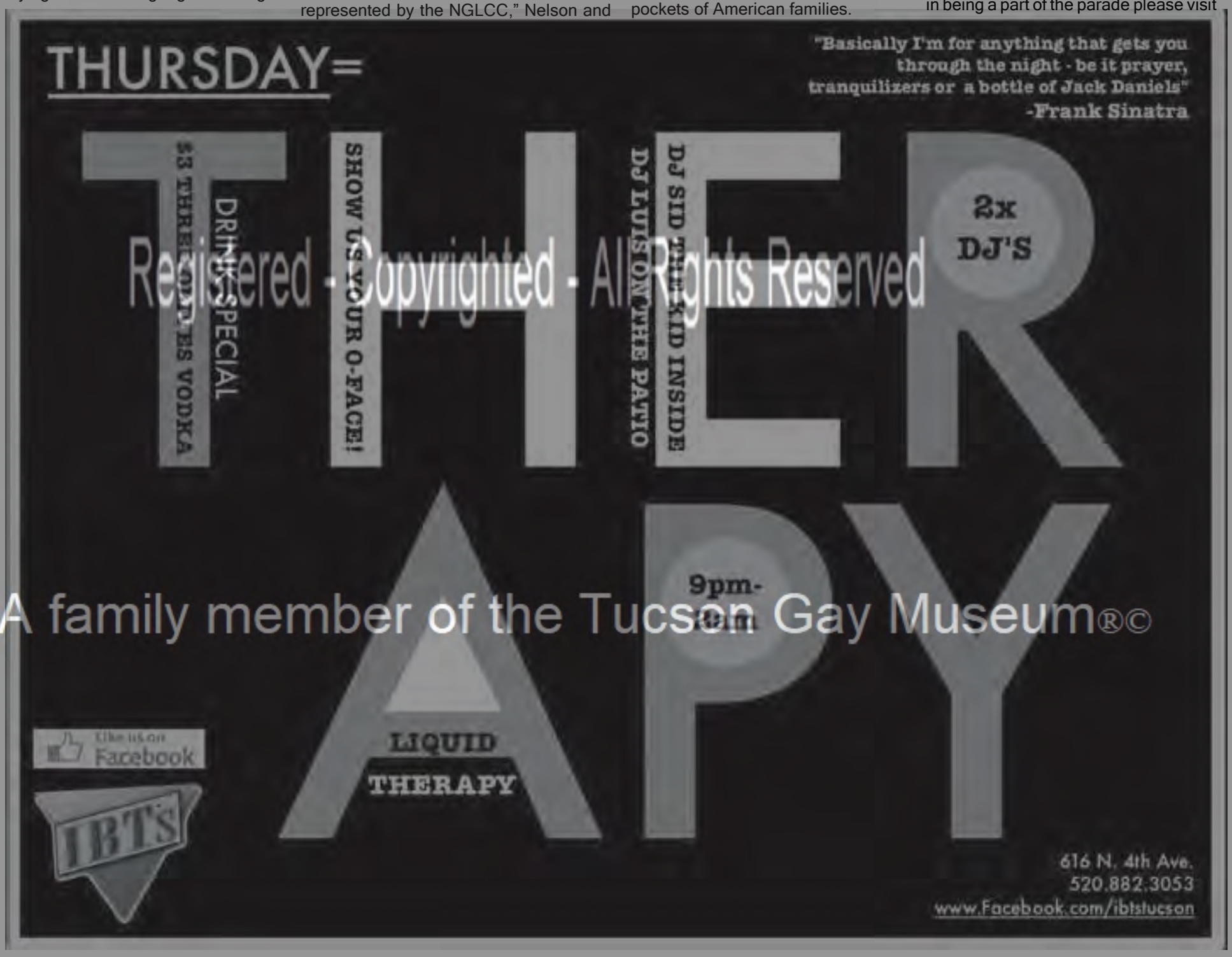
Richard Socarides, president of Equality Matters, is among the LGBT advocates who have been calling on the president to issue such an executive order against LGBT job bias.

Even without mention of the directive, Socarides said Obama gave "a strong political and policy message."

"It was a high-toned message and I think everyone in the LGBT community very much wants him to succeed at this, as all Americans do," Socarides said. "And on jobs and labor issues, we will keep reminding him we still need federal protections for all LGBT workers, we still need ENDA, we still need an executive order on federal contracting. And we fully expect he will deliver for us on these, too."

Tucson Gay Pride Parade October 8

The Tucson Pride Board announces Grand Marshals for their annual Pride on Parade. This year's parade is scheduled for October 8, 2011 at 8:00 in the evening. The parade is being held in conjunction with Second Saturday's monthly downtown event. In honor of the 30th anniversary of the discovery of the AIDS virus, Tucson Pride has chosen Wendell Hicks (Executive Director Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation), Dr. Heather Moroso (Founder of Positively Beautiful), Scott Blades (Executive Director Tucson Interfaith HIV Awareness Network), and Jeffrey Scott Brown (AIDS Ribbon). The parade will start at 6th Street and Pennington going south to Congress then west on Congress and north on Stone Avenue where it will end. It is a night time parade so come see all the bright and colorful entrants. If interested in being a part of the parade please visit



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DA To Seek New Trial In Larry King Case

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VENTURA (Observer Update) - There was no question that Brandon McInerney, who had just turned 14, shot a gay classmate at their middle school, but finding the appropriate degree of punishment proved to be troublesome for a jury that was inundated with factors to consider.

They heard testimony that McInerney was beaten by his father; was a budding white supremacist who doodled swastikas in his notebook; and a bright student who became unmotivated and couldn't control his emotions when 15-year-old Larry King made unwanted sexual advances toward him, the AP reported on 365Gay.com. Most notably in the jury's inability to reach a unanimous decision on a first-degree murder charge sought by prosecutors was McInerney's age at the time of the shooting in February 2008. One juror, who spoke with The Associated Press but declined to be identified, said he and several jurors felt McInerney shouldn't have been tried as an adult.

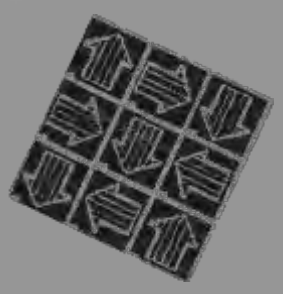
Some legal observers say while most people approve of stiff penalties for minors who commit violent crimes, they aren't as inclined to support a lifelong prison sentence if they discover the child was abused or had other problems growing up. "I think it's about what the just punishment is," said Aaron Kupchik, a sociology professor at the University of Delaware, of the deadlocked jury. "They still look at someone who was barely 14 when he did this. Though he may deserve a harsh punishment, it would be senseless to treat this child if he was as fully blameworthy as an adult."

The case drew worldwide attention because of its shocking premise: McInerney, a budding white supremacist, killed King in front of horrified classmates at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard because King stood up for himself and threw taunts back at one of his tormentors. Comic Ellen DeGeneres, who is a lesbian, weighed in on her talk show shortly after the shooting and said gays shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens. Jurors were apparently torn over how severe McInerney's sentence should be. The nine-woman, three-man panel said they took a series of votes – the last one with seven in favor of voluntary manslaughter and five jurors supporting either first-degree or second-degree murder.

A first-degree murder conviction carries a maximum sentence of more than 50 years in prison, while voluntary manslaughter has a 21-year maximum prison term. To find McInerney guilty of voluntary manslaughter, jurors had to find him not guilty of first- and second-degree murder. Defense attorneys do not deny McInerney killed King, but lawyer Scott Wippert said jurors had told him they weren't convinced by prosecutors' assertions the killing was a hate crime.

Prosecutors said that they planned to ask Ventura County Superior Court Judge Charles Campbell for a new trial during a hearing scheduled for Oct. 5. Over the next month, prosecutors will decide whether to pursue the same set of charges or drop some of them, said James Ellison, the chief assistant district attorney.

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum



Medical Schools Teaching Little About Gay Health

CHICAGO (Observer Update) - Future doctors aren't learning much about the unique health needs of gays and lesbians, a survey of medical school deans suggests, reported AP on 365Gay.com.

On average, the schools devoted five hours in the entire curriculum to teaching content related to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients, according to the survey results appearing in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. A third of the schools had none during the years students work with patients.

More than a quarter of the medical school deans said their school's coverage of 16 related topics was "poor" or "very poor." The topics included sex change surgery, mental health issues and HIV-AIDS.

While nearly all medical schools taught students to ask patients if they "have sex with men, women or both" while obtaining a sexual history, the overall curriculum lacked deeper instruction to help "students carry that conversation as far as it needs to go," said lead author Dr. Juno Obedin-Maliver of the University of California, San Francisco.

Without such education, doctors are left guessing and can make faulty assumptions, Obedin-Maliver said. For instance, lesbians need Pap tests, which screens for the sexually spread virus that causes most cervical cancer, as often as heterosexual women do. But some doctors assume they don't need them.

"I'm an ob-gyn and I have had lesbian patients come to me and say I haven't had a Pap test in 20 years because my doctors said I didn't need one," Obedin-Maliver said.

Earlier this year, the Institute of Medicine reported that there's little research to guide doctors in the treatment of lesbians and gays. But some things are known: There are increased risks of depression, suicide attempts, homelessness and being victims of violence for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Lesbians and bisexual women may get less preventive care to stay healthy, and have higher rates of obesity and breast cancer.

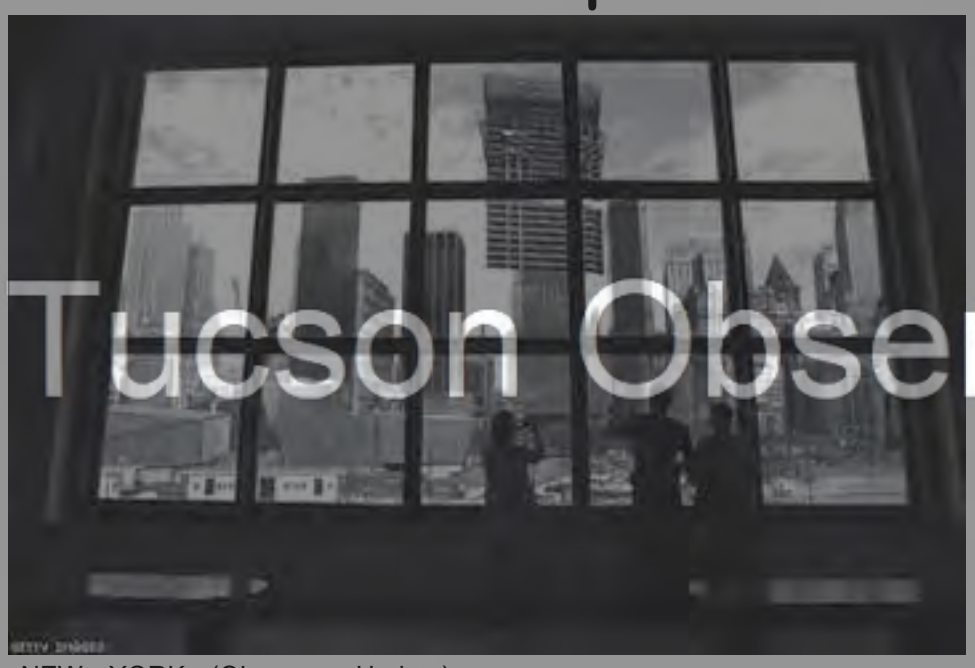
The Association of American Medical Colleges recommends that medical schools ensure students master "the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to provide excellent comprehensive care" for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender patients.

The new findings are based on a Web-based survey that drew responses from 85 percent of U.S. and Canadian medical schools.

That's a remarkably high response rate, which shows the deans believe it's an important issue, said Dr. Raymond Curry, vice dean for education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.

In an accompanying editorial, Curry wrote that the researchers missed the opportunity to find out how many medical schools have gay and lesbian faculty and how many have student groups for gays and lesbians. "Trying to assess the adequacy of a curriculum in addressing these issues is perhaps not best approached in counting hours of instruction," Curry said.

911 Voices: LGBT Leaders and First Responders



NEW YORK (Observer Update) - People look out from the World Financial Center as construction continues at the World Trade Center site on September 8, 2011, in New York City, reported advocate.com.

Retired New York City firefighter Tom Ryan remembers sitting at the computer on his day off the morning of September 11, 2001, when he received an instant message that a plane had struck the World Trade Center. He immediately called his firehouse, Ladder Company 12 in Chelsea, where a colleague relayed information that prompted him to race toward the site and reach the scene of devastation shortly after the second tower collapsed.

The voice on the other line belonged to Angel Juarbe, one of few firefighters to have expressed support for Ryan, the first and at that time the only openly gay man with the New York Fire Department. Juarbe would perish later that day, one of five members lost from Ladder Company 12, and among nearly 3,000 who died in the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania that touched LGBT people individually and collectively as Americans.

"They were there as firefighters, they were there as cops, they were the victims and the rescuers," says Ryan. "It's just like in the rest of life."

In interviews leading up to the 10th anniversary of 9/11, LGBT voices in New York recalled a time of shock, chaos, and compassion when they came together to help the wider community while tending to the unique needs of their own population laid bare by the unprecedented disaster.

Because of its location, the LGBT Community Center in the West Village of Manhattan became a gathering place for those seeking to offer assistance and grieve on September 11 and in the following days. The center is located steps from St. Vincent's, a hospital that closed last year but at the time of the attacks offered a Level I Trauma Center less than two miles north of the World Trade Center.

"We were right next to St. Vincent's, so when this happened a lot of staff members went right in line," says executive director Glennda Testone. "There was a line around the block to give blood. We know now that wasn't actually needed because there were not as many survivors as one would hope from 9/11."

Workers from the center also provided impromptu assistance to survivors as they streamed north, covered in debris. Water, snack bars, and shoes were in high demand, and in the following days, calls for counseling came, some from people who lost their partners with nowhere else to turn, others from traumatized witnesses at elevated risk for substance abuse.

"I think in many ways the response was very unified as New Yorkers, as Americans, people were just shocked," says Testone, who at the time worked for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which joined more than 30 LGBT groups in organizing a memorial at the center. "There was a lot of trauma and a lot of sadness. But there was a moment when the additional barriers that LGBT people face were raised in this time of crisis at 9/11. It was another example of yes, when something terrible happens, as LGBT people we experience it, but there's an added impact that comes from not having equal rights and protections."

One of the organizations that sponsored the memorial at the center on October 1 was the Gay Men's Health Crisis. By then, Jeff Rindler, who worked as assistant director of program volunteers had experienced weeks of working around the clock to serve clients affected by the disaster.

"We were obviously in shock but we made a decision not to close," says Rindler, now the managing director of program services and evaluation. "Clients were really experiencing this on a very, very deep level because it was bringing back that huge loss all at once that so many felt all at once in the early stages of the epidemic. GHMC was ground zero in 1981."

The 18-year veteran of the HIV/AIDS services agency recalls performing three intakes of new people on September 11, serving more than 150 meals, and bringing tuna fish sandwiches to first responders the next day. Staff members continued to provide in-demand mental health and prevention services, and somehow they came up with 60 cell phones so that clients could stay in touch.

"What I remember is a real sense of community and a real sense of coming together," says Rindler. "It brought clients closer, made them more tolerant, more open, more understanding. It certainly changed how I viewed the world, people, the human spirit."

Others remember the interminable waiting. Deanna Croce, then a case manager at the Hetrick-Martin Institute for LGBTQ youth, made her way to the organization's East Village headquarters after witnessing the devastation downtown just seven blocks from the World Trade Center. She arrived to find the chaos of phone calls as staff members and youths in attendance for the regular school day froze to await news of loved ones who worked at the Twin Towers.

Now a supervising counselor at Hetrick-Martin, Croce recalls that the violence and bullying faced by many of the youths on a daily basis did not cease during the disaster.

"One of the kids was gay-bashed in the middle of it," she says. "Their nose ring was ripped out. Tensions were high, and people saw this group of kids and then attacked. It was in the middle of the day."

Croce worked with the students that day, but she did not see the homeless population served by Hetrick-Martin in the afternoons as the city shut down on September 11 and in the following days. Their absence raised a haunting question faced by homeless LGBTQ youths in any disaster that tests the limits of a society.

"You've got really resourceful young people, but when you're hit with these extraordinary times, the plans don't work anymore," says Croce. "What if you're LGBT? Where do you go?"

Ryan, who retired from FDNY in 2003 after more than 20 years, remained at ground zero for eight days performing the "devastating work" of rescue and recovery while spending nights in the firehouse. Later in the week, he attended the funeral for Father Mychal Judge, the gay FDNY chaplain killed by debris on 9/11 when the South Tower collapsed. Although the men were not close, he became a pallbearer for Judge by accident when another person carrying the Franciscan priest's casket wavered.

A former president of Fireflag/EMS, a group for LGBT first responders, Ryan believes the shock of losing 343 firefighters and the wave of retirements in subsequent years ushered in change marked by new, younger recruits that has made it somewhat easier to be openly gay in the FDNY. However, every year on the anniversary, he remembers those whose contributions go unspoken.

"I think the part of 9/11 that we still need to talk about is that there were gay people there," he said. "You can't lump 9/11 into one category. It was an attack on America, but it goes to the issue of what America is."

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Openly Gay Tammy Baldwin Joins Wisconsin Senate Race

Tammy Baldwin

MADISON (Observer Update) - U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin entered the race for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Democrat Herb Kohl, becoming the first Democrat to officially jump in the contest, 365gay.com reported. Baldwin would be the first openly gay U.S. senator.

The seat is one of at least eight open spots that will help determine the balance of power in the Senate, where Republicans need to pick up just four seats to take control. One of the most liberal members of Congress, Baldwin had been saying since Kohl announced his retirement in May that she was seriously considering a Senate bid. Her congressional district includes the city of Madison, a liberal Democratic stronghold, and some surrounding rural areas.

Baldwin, 49, made her announcement in an email and video announcement to supporters. If elected, she would become the first openly gay member of the Senate. Baldwin, the first woman whom Wisconsin voters sent to Congress, was also the first person elected to Congress after announcing they were gay. She was first elected in 1998.

She downplayed the historic significance of her candidacy during a conference call with reporters Tuesday. She said she supports equal opportunity for all people, regardless of race or sexual orientation, but that her focus of the race will be on fighting for the middle class. "From day one, I have always been open about my sexual orientation," Baldwin said on the call. "I think that integrity is something that is important to voters." She called for a new federal stimulus plan focused on improving schools, roads, bridges and other infrastructure in order to put people to work immediately. "I hope we hear the president calling for that later this week," she said.

Baldwin also used her video message to mention her opposition to the war in Iraq and her support for ending the war in Afghanistan, as well as to hint at the obstacles her candidacy will face as she seeks to win her first statewide election. "I'm used to facing challenges head on," she said. "When I first ran for Congress in 1998, people counted me out. But we worked hard, campaigned across south-central Wisconsin, and we won."

Republicans are sure to go after Baldwin's liberal voting record, hoping to sway independent and moderate voters their way in a state that has swung between handing President Barack Obama a 14-point win in 2008 and kicking Democrats out of power in the Statehouse in 2010. Former Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann entered the Senate race last week. Neumann said at the time that he was focusing his campaign on Baldwin, who he presumed would capture the Democratic nomination.

Neumann and other Republicans lined up to cast Baldwin as a liberal who is unelectable statewide. "I'm a conservative, she's a liberal – it's that simple," Neumann said in his statement. Brad Courtney, chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, called Baldwin a "disastrous failure" when it comes to creating jobs and fixing the nation's economy. "We look forward to contrasting Baldwin's record of less jobs and more big government spending against the proven fiscal responsibility of the Republican candidates," Courtney said.

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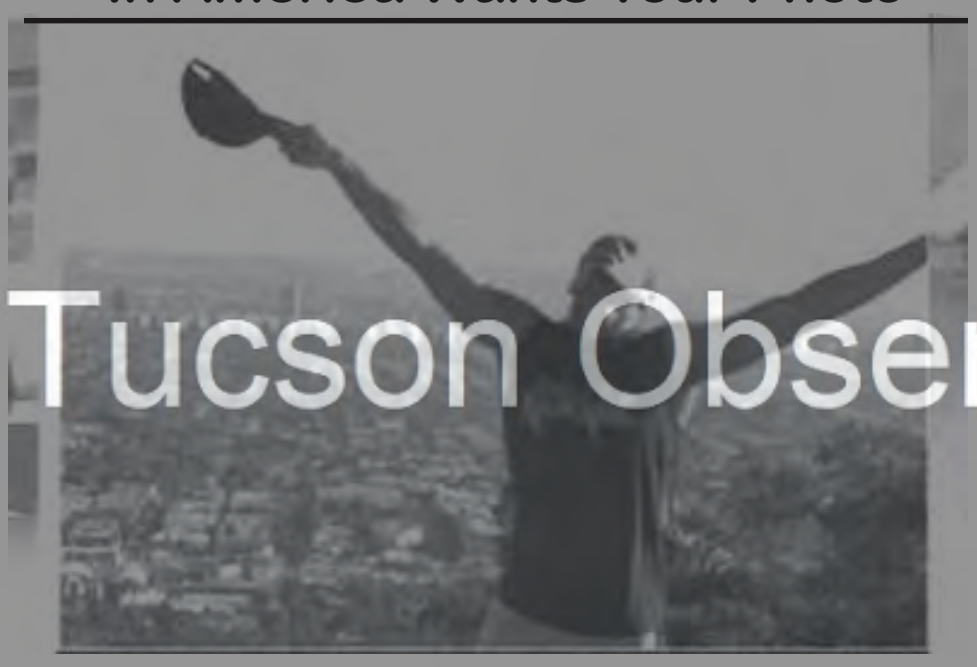
'Positively Aware's' A Day With HIV In America Wants Your Photo



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CHICAGO (Observer Update) - The editors of the HIV/AIDS glossy Positively Aware are turning to their readers to produce a snapshot of what it's like be HIV-positive in America.

The magazine is asking readers to take a photograph on Wednesday, September 21 for consideration in its second annual A Day With HIV In America photo layout to appear online, in its November/December issue and at the U.S. Conference on AIDS, which takes place November 10-13 in Chicago.

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"We're asking all Americans affected by HIV to share with all of us an image of their life with HIV," Positively Aware Editor Jeff Berry said. "Their vantage points captured over a single day will create a rich photographic tapestry of hope, strength and support that will help tear away the stigma of living with HIV in America today."

Photos must be submitted at ADayWithHIVInAmerica.com no later than Monday, September 26 for consideration. Positively Aware is published bi-monthly by the Chicago-based non-profit group Test Positive Aware Network.

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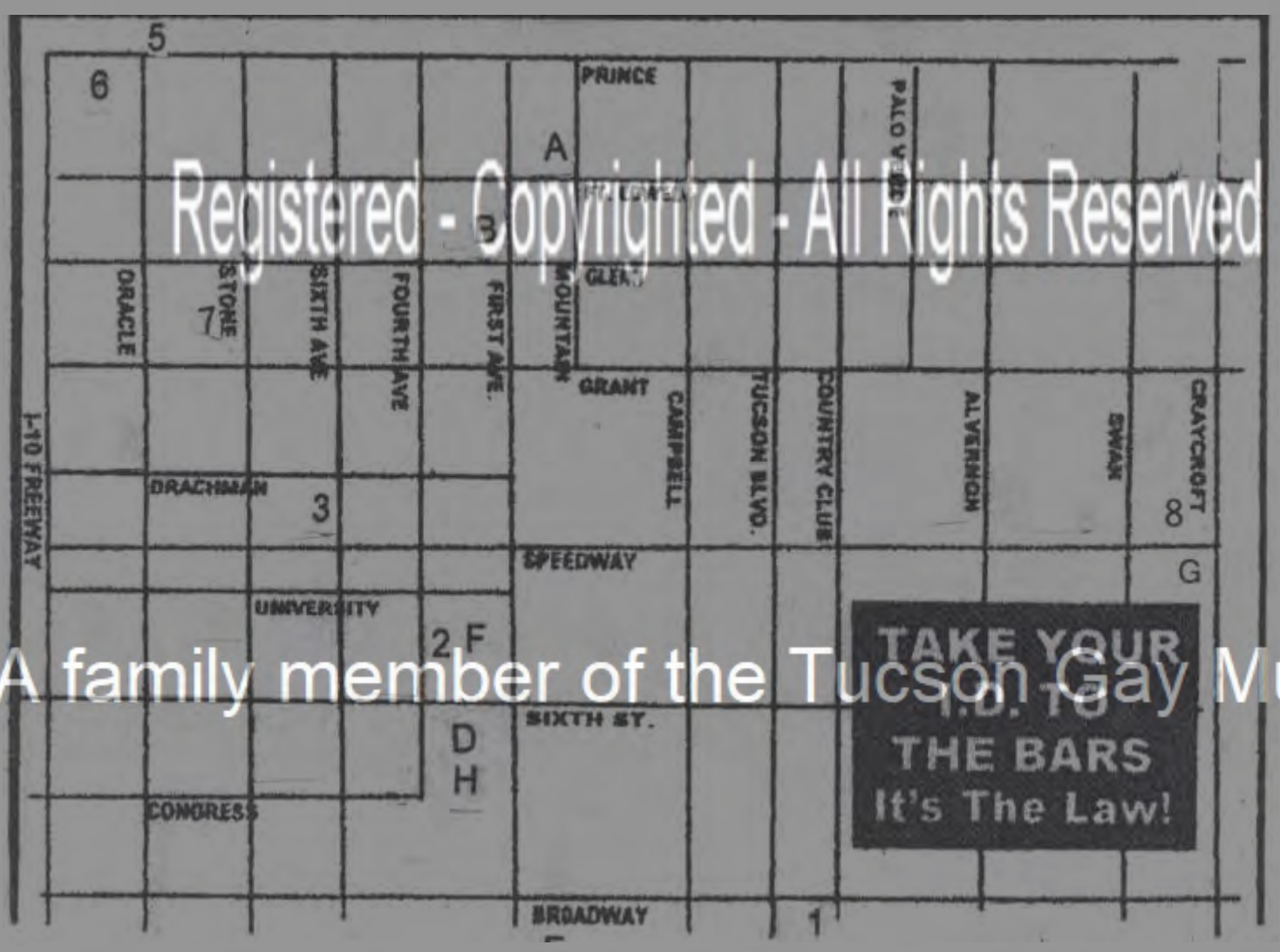

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Much Ado About Nothing

Jack Melichar

Well boys and girls, it has finally arrived. Of course, I am alluding to middle age! By the time this tome is your plump little hands, I will have graced the earth with my presence for seven decades. It is now time for me to sit back and share some of my observations. Please pay attention. YOU BOZOS IN THE FRONT ROW, SHUT UP!!! because with any luck, you will travel down the same road.

I. One of my first observations years ago was that birds of a feather flock together and then poop on your car. In my case now, however, they will have to settle for my scooter. Hopefully I am not in it when they choose to practice their bombing runs.

II. The older you get, the tougher it is to loose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends. In my case, I think they are married, and I don't intend to upset them.

III. The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement. I am not certain that is so much a factor of aging as one of forgetfulness – OK! OK! You win. It's also a factor of stupidity! I have had a problem with that particular defect for years.

IV. For those of you who are smirking at my comment about being fat – especially those of you 40 or over, may I remind you that the Roman numerals representing that glorious plateau are XL. (Ay god, isn't it wonderful to have had a semi-classical education? (Bet you didn't know you can still get one in Arizona. Yep. They try to teach English to replace Horne speak and Brewer babble.) When you notice you have reached XL, gather your friends together and sing a rousing chorus of "June is Busting Out All Over".

V. Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long distance and some of the roads weren't paved.

VI. When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth. Do what I do. Think of Algebra. Cures me every time.

VII. Not long ago, I had a new revelation –bone somewhat more sobering. I realized I was getting old because everything I had, had either dried up or leaked.

VIII. Finally, try not to get old. It's not worth the 10% discount. Besides, the only places where it is offered are places I don't go

IX. One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that is such a nice change from being young. Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable. Now I don't worry one wit about what I am about to say. Great fun, that!

Now some entertainment news:

Doris Day has become the oldest artist to score a UK Top 10 with an album featuring new material, according to the Official Charts Company.

Day's My Heart has gone in at number nine, 62 years after the 87-year-old's debut album was released in the US. My Heart is a selection of recordings produced by her son, Terry Melcher, before his death in 2004.

Cliff Robertson, the ruggedly handsome actor who won an Oscar for "Charly" but found himself frozen out of jobs for almost four years after he exposed a prominent Hollywood studio boss as a forger and embezzler, died Saturday on Long Island. He was 88 and lived in Water Mill, N.Y.

Mr. Robertson's long movie career began with "Picnic" in 1955 and continued through "Spider-Man" and its two sequels in the 21st century. Also a familiar face in television dramas from the earliest days of the medium, he was consistently praised by critics but never quite reached the top echelon of movie stardom.

Mr. Robertson, a frequent critic of the movie industry who once said he went to Hollywood only to work and never to live.

Finally, Andy Whitfield, the Australian star of the TV series SPARTICUS, has died of non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in Sydney, Australia. He was 39.

Well boys and girls, that is all for this week. I will be "speaking" to you again next week. Have a great week.

By the way, I am sorry to report that the miscreant I spoke of last week is still at Woody's.

Gay Bashing In Utah Continues

AMERICAN FORK (Observer Update) - Cameron Nelson is the third gay Utah resident in less than two weeks to report being attacked because of his sexual orientation, reports

The openly gay 32-year-old was taking the trash out at the hair salon where he worked when he was attacked. Men yelled anti-gay slurs at Nelson before beating him. They broke his nose and left him with other minor injuries.

Sgt. Gregg Ludlow of the American Fork Police Department, said the actions of the attackers were "disgusting."

Police in Salt Lake City are still investigating two earlier anti-gay attacks.

Activists plan on holding a rally to protest all three attacks and draw the attention of legislators in Salt Lake City.

Court: Arizona Same-Sex Partners Entitled To Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - Arizona must continue to provide health-care benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian government workers, at least for the time being, reported arizonarepublic.com.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday upheld a temporary injunction from a lower court that blocked a 2009 state law eliminating health-insurance coverage for same-sex partners of state employees from taking effect.

In its unanimous ruling, a three-judge panel of the appellate court noted that the state is not obligated to provide health-care benefits but said denying them to a specific group of employees violates the equal-protection provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

"When a state chooses to provide such benefits, it may not do so in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner that adversely affects particular groups that may be unpopular," the court stated in its opinion.

When Gov. Jan Brewer signed House Bill 2013 in September 2009, she overturned a 2008 executive order from her predecessor, Gov. Janet Napolitano, who used administrative powers to grant the coverage.

As written, the 2009 law also would have eliminated health coverage for several other groups, including heterosexual domestic partners and adult children. It was passed in response to the state's budget crisis.

Thus far, the only group to lose its coverage is opposite-sex partners. Their benefits were eliminated in January.

In court papers, the state estimated that a total of 893 domestic partners participated in the 2009-10 coverage term. However, the state did not provide a breakdown of how many of those individuals were heterosexual partners vs. gay and lesbian partners.

It was not immediately clear whether the state would appeal the 9th Circuit ruling. If it does appeal, the state can choose to seek "en banc" review, a decision by the entire 9th Circuit, or it could choose to bypass that step and appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

When asked about next steps, Brewer spokesman Matthew Benson would say only that the Governor's Office is "studying the ruling." But he did question the foundation of the appellate court's argument.

"This ruling is pretty much standard fare for the 9th Circuit," he said. "The decision flies in the face of both logic and the law."

Benson said the state, in response to an ongoing budget crisis, eliminated benefits "across the board" for domestic partners. The court, he said, has created an inequality by protecting some workers' benefits and allowing the termination of others'.

"The federal court has created this inequality by preventing the termination of same-sex benefits but allowing the elimination of benefits for straight couples," Benson said. "When you read the ruling, the court's real motivation seems to be for the legalization of gay marriage."

In its opinion, the court said the state's policy unfairly impacted gay and lesbian workers because, unlike their heterosexual counterparts, they are not able to legally marry under state law.

For Deanna Pfleger, an employee of the Arizona Game and Fish Department for nearly two decades, The ruling was welcome news.

"I feel like, when I go to work, I do my job. And my heterosexual co-workers, they are doing the same basic job, but they can enroll their spouse and benefit from that, both financially and emotionally," said Pfleger, who carries her partner, Mia, on her policy. "I don't have that. ... It's really about equal pay for equal work."

The ruling deals only with the temporary injunction put into place by U.S. District Judge John Sedwick in July 2010.

It does not address the larger case, which deals with Arizona's decision to limit health-care benefit eligibility. The 9th Circuit decision requires the state to continue providing coverage until there is a ruling on the larger case.

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Poet's Corner

SUNSET IN THE DESERT

by Ron Rose - Tucson

The bloody sunset zooming
Through sky of azure blue
So blinding in its beauty
Kaleidoscopic view.
Darkness overcomes us
The sky has lost it's hue,
So thank you up in Heaven
Thank your celestial crew,

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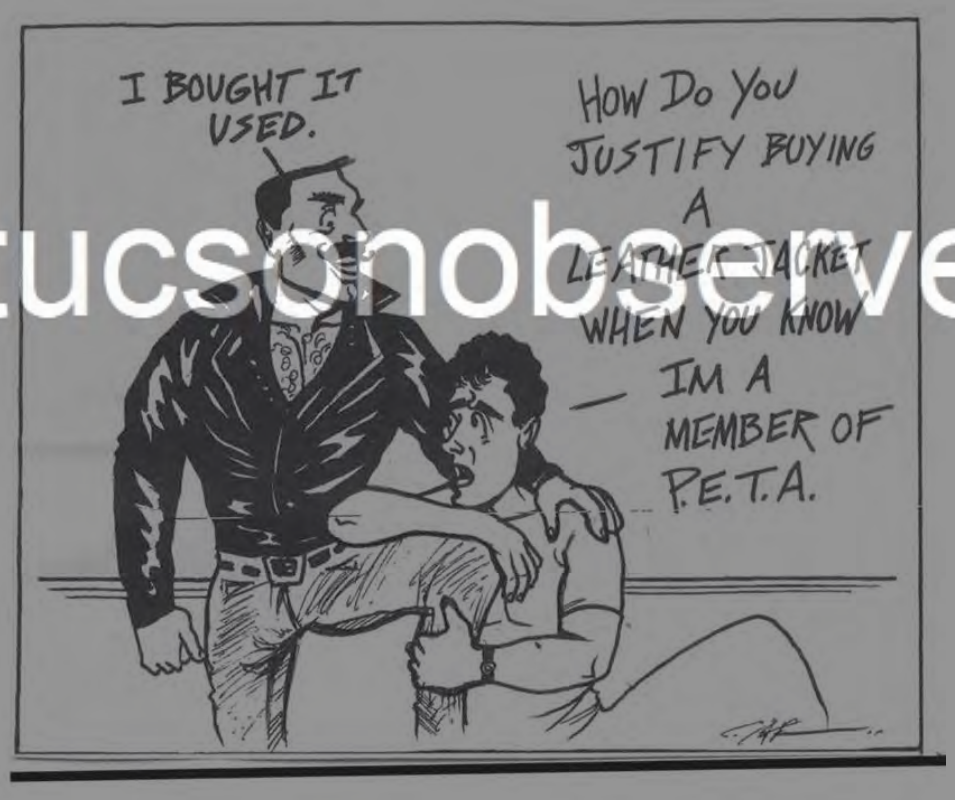
The Way I Saw It. . .by Gary Clark



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

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Colorado Activists Drop Marriage Vote Campaign

DENVER (Observer Update) - The effort to repeal Colorado's marriage equality ban was officially dropped.

College student Mark Olmstead confirmed that he and his team will abandon the effort to collect the 86,000 signatures needed to get the question on the 2012 voter ballot, according to the Denver Post. Olmstead was given clearance to seek ballot signatures in July to overturn the 2006 law, reported advocate.com.

"I think the attitudes in Colorado toward gay marriage have shifted since 2006," he told the Post in July.

The Denver Post reports that the prominent gay rights group was not on board for the plan to legalize marriage equality through a ballot initiative. Instead, the group plans to lobby state legislators for a civil union bill.

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ACROSS THE GAY GLOBE. . . . . .

Three Men Hanged For Gay Sex In Iran

TEHRAN (Observer Update) - According to local press, three men were hanged in Iranfor having gay sex, reported 365Gay.com. ISNA, the state run Iranian news agency, reports the men were killed for committing "unlawful" acts and acts against Sharia based on articles 108 and 110 of the Iranian Islamic penal code. According to Article 108, "Sodomy (or Lavat) is sexual intercourse between men," is punishable by death.

The men, only identified as M.T., T.T. and M.Ch, were also convicted of kidnapping and robbery. Iranian Human Rights spokesman Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam says this is one of the "rare cases" in which the government admitted to put people to death for homosexual acts. "Iranian authorities normally present such cases as rape," Amiry-Moghaddam said.

Amiry-Moghaddam added that more executions are scheduled to take place. "After a short break in the executions due to the Holy month of Ramadan, we have received reports about many scheduled executions in the coming days and weeks in Iran," Amiry-Moghaddam said. "Many of the scheduled executions are planned to be carried out publically."

Britain To Lift Ban On Gay Men Donating Blood

LONDON (Observer Update) - British health officials say they will lift the ban on gay men donating blood – as long as their last sexual contact with another man was more than one year ago.

The U.K. health department said the change would be implemented in November after a new review found no evidence to support the ban. The decision reverses a policy first adopted in the 1980s when officials feared AIDS could be spread in the blood supply.

Other countries including Australia, Japan, South Africa, Sweden and New Zealand also allow gay men to donate blood with similar conditions. In Canada and the U.S., however, gay men are still banned from donating blood.

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Controversal Nominee Approved To Court In Time For Prop . 8 Hearing

Controversal INomineee Approved To Court In Time For Prop. 8 Hearing

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The California Supreme Court will include a new voice, Goodwin Liu, on the bench when it hears a Proposition 8 case, reports advocate.com.

The court is set to decide whether supporters of the Proposition 8 amendment can defend it in a court challenge if the state government won't. Liu has been a vocal proponent of gay rights, and his nomination to a federal appeals court by President Obama was scuttled earlier this year in part because he once said a defining marriage only as a union between one man and one woman is unconstitutional.

But Liu's nomination was unanimously approved by the state Commission on Judicial Appointments which reviews nominees. So it seems Liu was too liberal for Washington and the Senate Republicans who delayed a vote on his nomination, but not for California.

The Los Angeles Times reports that no one testified against Liu. Letters against Liu's nomination by California Governor Jerry Brown included one from Judicial Watch., a conservative group that called Liu an "activist" - a label repeated many times in Washington before Liu withdrew his own nomination.

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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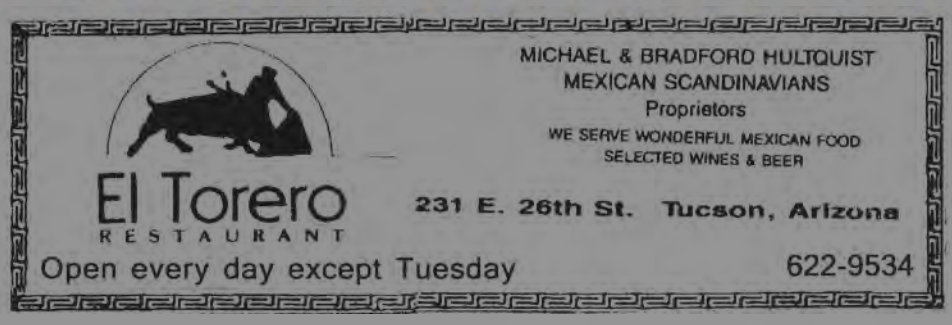

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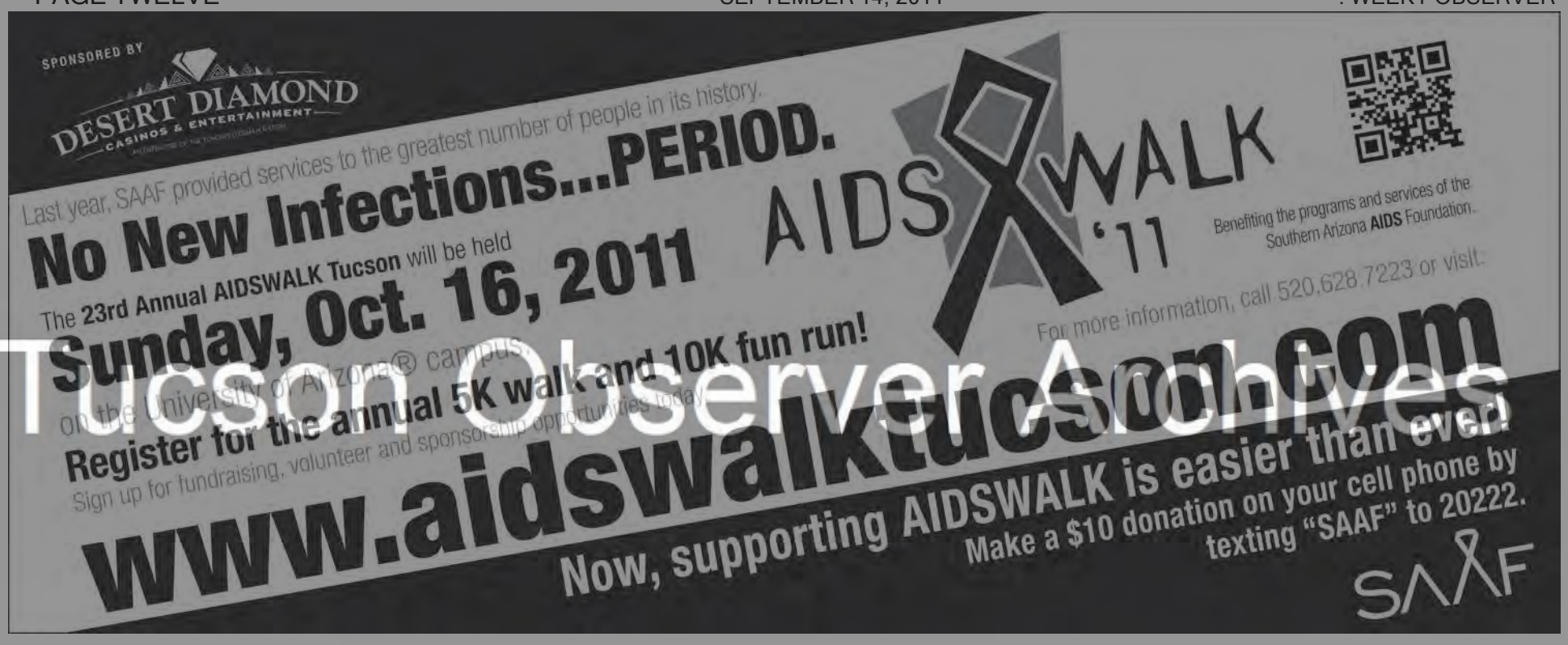

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HHS Details Enforcement Of Hospital Visitation Rights For Gay Couples

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HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - The Department of Health & Human Services will enforce the policy granting hospital visitation rights to gay couples by revoking Medicare provider agreements if conditions are not met, according to a new policy statement released Wednesday.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid sent a letter to state survey and certification agencies clarifying the mandate that President Barack Obama issued last year. All hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds must allow patients to designate their own visitors during a hospital stay, including a same-sex partner.

Jesse Moore, an HHS spokesperson, told the Washington Blade that "at this point, HHS hasn't heard of any problems with the guidance related to same-sex couples."

"However, Moore said if a hospital doesn't comply with the new rule and fails to fix the problem, HHS has 'the power to terminate a Medicare provider agreement.'"

The letter said that hospitals must abide by the expressed wish of the patient when it comes to designating a gay partner as someone who can make emergency medical decisions, unless that designation conflicts with state law.

The letter was the final step in ensuring that gay couples have visiting and decision rights. It applies to all patients, whether or not they are on Medicare or Medicaid.

"Couples take a vow to be with each other in sickness and in health and it is unacceptable that, in the past, some same-sex partners were denied the right to visit their loved ones in times of need," HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said in a statement.

"We are releasing guidance for enforcing new rules that give all patients, including those with same-sex partners, the right to choose who can visit them in the hospital as well as enhancing existing guidance regarding the right to choose who will help make medical decisions on their behalf."

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HHS Details Enforcement Of Hospital Visitation Rights For Gay Couples

Jesse Tyler Ferguson

WINNIPEG (Observer Update) - Jesse Tyler Ferguson, a co-star on the ABC comedy Modern Family, says conservatives tell him the show has changed their minds on gay marriage, reports ontopmag.com.

Ferguson, who plays Mitchell, and Eric Stonestreet, who plays Cameron, are one of the three couples featured on the Wednesday night comedy. On the show, the two men are in a committed relationship and raising their adopted daughter Lily. Ferguson, who is openly gay, told the Winnipeg Free Press that conservatives have embraced the gay TV couple.

"It's shocking isn't it [that gay characters are being embraced]? But also very encouraging. I was prepared for these characters to have a bit of a backlash and it's sort of been the exact opposite. Conservatives come up to us saying, 'You've changed my mind about gay marriage,' or, 'I relate to Cameron and Mitchell and find them very enjoyable and now I'm looking at Bob and Joe down the street and wondering how they're different.' We have gay couples coming up to us, obviously, and saying, 'Thank you so much for being on TV,' or, 'My daughter has someone to point to and say, 'That family is just like mine.'"

Ferguson added that coming out was never an issue for him: "I never felt in so it didn't feel like it was terribly difficult to be out." Modern Family returns for its third season on September 21

911 Voice: Alice Hoagland, Mother of Mark Bingham

A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum ®©

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - On a recent afternoon, Alice Hoagland takes a seat in a high-backed navy-blue booth with a slight view of the U.S. Capitol in the distance. It stands intact today quite possibly because of the heroic efforts of her son, Mark Bingham, and a small group of fellow mavericks on United Airlines Flight 93 a decade ago.

Each year, the September 11 anniversary is reliably a blitz of media appearances for the 61-year-old retired United flight attendant who lives in Northern California. On this day, Hoagland appeared in Washington, D.C. at a congressional press conference, met with family members of firefighters killed at the World Trade Center, was a guest via satellite on the U.K.'s Sky News, and is juggling print and radio requests for the remainder of the day. Wearing a trim black blazer and a bronze silk shirt with a snap collar, she orders a glass of fizzy water and smiles broadly.

Hoagland has unforgettable verve. And why not? This is, after all, another opportunity where she gets to talk about memories of her handsome gay rugby-playing son, her enduring pride and joy who, as she told Jon Barrett, The Advocate'sthen-news editor, in 2001, "lived the life that [she] always dreamed of."

The horror of what Bingham and fellow passengers went through on Flight 93 has been transcribed, published, transformed into Hollywood screenplays. Brief audio clips of the cockpit struggle were released Thursday by the Rutgers Law Review. Hoagland has heard the entire recording (the final 30 minutes remain classified) and has recognized her son's voice. Still smiling, she assures a reporter that her resolve is not impenetrable.

"In some ways I have not progressed through the grief process at all," Hoagland says.

"Sometimes the news of Mark's death and the whole horror of 9/11 comes back and hits me like fresh bad news – when I'm in my private moments, when I'm by myself. In public I try to be strong the way Mark was strong.