Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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# EDITORIAL. . .

## City of Tucson General Election Rothschild, Romero, Cunningham and Scott are the Clear Choices

Four political offices are up for consideration in this election to take place November 8, Mayor, and three Council seats in Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4 respectively. Tucson will select a new person to serve as its Mayor. For the three Council seats, the current office holders are facing challengers.

MAYOR - JONATHAN ROTHSCHILD

For more than a year, Jonathan Rothschild has been running to become the leader of the City of Tucson Mayor and Council. He has met with many community leaders - including from the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, current City Councilmembers, City of Tucson Department Directors and staff, former Mayors and City Managers, in his preparation and during his candidacy.

In addition, he has been at many community events, discussing issues with Tucsonans of all aspects, and taking part in various community projects.

Jonathan Rothschild has done his homework to be prepared to serve. In addition, he has reviewed the City of Tucson's Charter, in existence since 1929, and is prepared to lead, despite what the writer's of the Charter intended for the post he seeks.

He is a longtime business attorney who has served on the board of several large social-service agencies, including as president of Casa de los Ninos, Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging and Temple Emanu-El. Rothschild served on the Tucson Parks and Recreation Commission and manages day-to-day operations of a 56-employee law firm. His experience is a good match and necessary for the role of a mayor in Tucson.

WARD 1 - REGINA ROMERO

Regina Romero was elected to the Tucson City Council to represent Ward 1, encompassing Tucson's westside, in 2007. For four years, jobs, human rights, and the environment have been the staple of Romero's tenure on the Tucson City Council.

As the Ward 1 Councilmember, Romero created an Economic Recovery Plan to create high-wage long term jobs, focusing on innovation and research. She developed a model small business forum to improve doing business with and in the City. She helped bring investments to Ward 1 in an economic crisis - Meridian Engineering new HQ on the Southside, FBI building, the Mercado and Senior Housing Group on West Congress, and new affordable housing.

Romero is working to save taxpayer dollars. Since 2007 she has worked to reduce general fund expenditures by more than $90 million, by merging departments and eliminating expensive director positions. She reduced her own office budget by 20 percent and fought against a pay raise for city council.

WARD 2 - PAUL CUNNINGHAM

Paul Cunningham is a Tucson native with 19 years of experience in both professional and volunteer public service. After graduating from Rincon High School in1992, Paul earned a B.A. from the University of Arizona and a M.S.W. from Arizona State University. He is a 12 year veteran of the Pima County Juvenile Probation Department, and served as a combat medic in the Army Reserve and National Guard from 1993-2001. Cunningham was appointed to the Ward 2 Council seat in 2010, replacing Rodney Glassman, who resigned to run for the U.S. Senate seat, against John McCain. Glassman has endorsed Cunningham in his bid for a full term.

Why is he running? In an interview with the Tucson Weekly, he said, "I really want Tucson to be successful, and I'm the kind of guy who can bring us there. Tucson is one of the greatest cities in the world, and I love it with all of my heart. ... I think I bring this kind of unique skill set to put people together, collaborate and try to come up with effective solutions. It's not sexy, but it's what gets the job done."

As a Councilmember, Cunningham sponsored 3 graffiti clean-up events; Voted against Rental Tax; Voted against Garbage fee increase; Hosted four document shredding events to help residents protect their privacy; Implemented median adoption programs and neighborhood clean-ups and led the effort to restore the chip-seal program to re-vitalize residential streets.

He has been endorsed by environmental groups, labor unions, public safety organizations and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce. So Paul is living up to his promise to bring people together.

WARD 4 - SHIRLEY SCOTT

Tucson's public safety employees, city employees, businesses, educational insitutions, city residents and especially Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities owe a big debt of gratitude to Shirley Scott for her caring and commitment to her work.

Scott is running for another term and has a laundry list of accomplishments during her time on the Tucson City Council, including:

Adoption of the Houghton Area Master Plan and continual road and infrastructure improvements in the Houghton corridor and across the East side to make traveling from Point A to Point B safer and more efficient; Successful annexation and development of the UA Science & Tech Park, an incubator for 21st Century hi-tech jobs in Tucson;

Facilitated successful land swap between KB Home and the UofA Tech Park in order to allow the UofA Bio Sciences Center at the Bridges Project on 36th and Kino; both projects valued at $10 million in sales tax per year for the City of Tucson General Fund; Sponsored the deferral of impact fees with the goal of reducing up-front costs on projects, to create jobs sooner rather than later;

Strengthening the Tucson Housing Trust Fund to help families purchase new homes; Brought to Mayor and Council the concept of deferring elements of the Land Use Code for up to five years as a means to facilitate the expansion of existing businesses in the inner city; Establishment of a Police Substation and two new Fire Stations in Ward 4, greatly enhancing public safety on the Southeast side;

Creation of the Clements Recreation Center, a regional center for fitness, nutrition and wellness support for all ages; Major improvements to Pantano River Park; Saving Fantasy Island for bicycling enthusiasts; Stopped the construction of an incinerator plant near the intersection of Harrison and Irvington that could have created a health hazard in the region and would have devastated land values; Organized a Task Force of alternative energy experts to review the best options for Tucson for renewable sources of energy, which determined through extensive research that Solar is the best renewable energy for Tucson; the extensive solar project at Davis Monthan Air Force Base is as a direct result of report of the Task Force on Renewable Energy;

Establishment of the Jobs for Tucson Advisory Board, bringing together private and public sector partners, neighborhood representatives, and environmental and labor leaders to generate job-creation solutions and foster trust and collaboration; Leadership on City/County negotiations over the water and wastewater, with an eye toward economic impacts during the implementation of each of the goals; Resolved scores of issues between developers and neighborhoods to the satisfaction of both in order to facilitate the creation of jobs; Have worked to protect $30 billion/year industry with meaningful jobs at the critical national security facility, Davis Monthan Air Force Base; helped establish the the Joint Land Use Act that shielded DM from future encroachment.

Worked with Council Member Regina Romero to extend approved development plan protections for up to five years to eliminate extensive de-

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## Gillibrand To Introduce Gay Adoption Protections Bill

N.Y. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced that she would introduce a bill to bar discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people who want to adopt or become foster care parents.

Gillibrand said she would sponsor the Every Child Deserves a Family Act in the Senate.

If approved, the bill would ban federally-funded foster care and child adoption agencies from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"New York is a leader on ensuring that any family can adopt children and sets a great example for the rest of the country,"Gillibrand said in a statement. "By removing all barriers for LGBT families to serve as foster parents, New York State has increased its foster parent pool by 128,000 prospective parents. This legislation would open thousands of new foster and adoptive homes to children ensuring they are raised in loving families."

The proposed legislation is sponsored by California Rep. Pete Stark in the House.

"I applaud Senator Gillibrand for introducing the Every Child Deserves a Family Act in the Senate as we look forward to celebrating National Adoption Month in November," said Stark. "It is time to put the best interests of children first and remove all discriminatory barriers in our child welfare system."

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# UPDATE

## Jerome Beillard Festival For Life 2011, Nov. 19

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Jerome Beillard Festival for Life will celebrate its 23rd anniversary in 2011. Festival for Life is an evening featuring a live and silent auction of fine art and other unique gifts. This year's event is Saturday November 19, at the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center, 1228 West River Road.

December 8, 1989 was the first Festival of the Trees, a fundraiser for the People with AIDS Coalition of Tucson (P.A.C.T). The event auctioned off nearly 200 decorated trees and wreathes for the holiday season. Over the years, the event grew and in 1992, Festival of the Trees became Festival for Life adding artwork, menorahs, and celebrity items. That year also had a special appearance by Miss Mary Wilson, formerly of the Supremes. In 1995, P.A.C.T.'s co-founder and Executive Director, Jerôme Beillard, passed away from AIDS complications and Festival for Life was renamed to the Jerôme Beillard Festival for Life - honoring the work and spirit of a great man. Each year added amazing artwork, designer Christmas trees, gift baskets, celebrity items and sculptures. Each year also added local sponsors and community members all supporting the same cause.

In 1997, when the three AIDS Service Organizations merged to create the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF) - the Paper Prayer Benefit from the Shanti Foundation was added to Festival for Life. Local artists, students, and others create strips of art that represent an ancient Japanese tradition of giving a person who is ill a Paper Prayer as a gift to bring good health. Each year, Festival for Life continues to sells hundreds of Papers to Prayers to be used as cards and tokens of good health.

Over the years, the event has grown and changed, but the main attraction continues to be the collection of fine artwork on display in the live and silent auction. In addition to art, the auction features holiday items, gift baskets, gift certificates, celebrity collectibles, trips, one-of-a-kind experiences and paper prayers. Our guests recognize this great opportunity to find amazing works of art and great gifts, just as the holiday shopping season begins!

For more information, go online to festivalforlife.org.

## EDITORIAL

Continued from Page One

velopment costs that the private sector would have experienced through the need to re-submit their development plans; Road and infrastructure improvements to facilitate growth of the UA Tech Park Corridor, home to Global Solar, Raytheon, IBM, Citi-group, U of A Southeast Campus and Vail HS, among others; Creating the environment, particularly on the east side, for continued private sector investment in Tucson; and converting the Ward IV Office building into the first totally solar City building.

A VOTE FOR

Jonathan Rothschild, Regina Romero, Paul Cunningham and Shirley Scott bring knowledge and a good track record of accomplishments to the Mayor and Council table. Each and every one support the 34 year Tucson anti-discrimination ordinance, the work of the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT issues, the continuing work by SAAF (Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation) and TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Action Network), the City of Tucson Domestic Partner Registry, as well as the work of the City government to protect the rights of all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or otherwise.

As our community celebrated the 34th annual Pride Festival, Tucson's LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities can cast a vote for Jonathan Rothschild for Mayor and Regina Romero, Paul Cunningham and Shirley Scott for the Tucson City Council, for Ward 1, Ward 2 and Ward 4 respectively, with pride that they will work for our community, unlike their opponents who have never worked with the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities, said a word in support, or otherwise.

Ballots have been mailed out. For questions or more information, call the City Clerk' s Election Office, 791-3221.

## Transgender Victory In Maricopa County

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - On Sept. 27, three years after a similar proposal was rejected, Equality Maricopa, led by former Tucsonan Lori Gershik, joyfully watched as the governing board of the nation's largest community-college system, the Maricopa County Community College District, voted to add "gender identity" to its anti-discrimination policy, wingspan.org reported.

This victory, and the lessons learned from the battle to achieve it, will have a lasting and far-reaching impact as other transgender-advocacy groups and their allies petition for similar policy changes in other jurisdictions.

Three SAGA members, including SAGA Program Coordinator Erin Russ, attended this historic meeting as a show of solidarity and to speak about Tucson's experience with transgender-inclusive policies in support of the policy change.

## Tempest Du Jour Needs Your Help

TUCSON - Tempest Du Jour and his family were involved in a SERIOUS automobile accident on Saturday, October 1, 2011, while heading home from an evening in Phoenix. Their car was pushed into a flat-bed truck on Interstate 10.

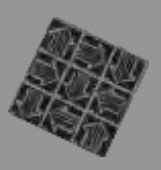
Tempest, for those few who do not know, is one of Tucson's most popular female impersonators ('Drag Queen") and has been entertaining the community for several years. He is known to his friends as Patrick Holt.

Fortunately, no one was killed, but the force of the collision was terrific, and everyone received injuries. Tempest received numerous broken and fractured bones, and is currently in rehab under medical care where she will remain for some months. The medical bills alone are sky high, and the family is finding it extremely difficult to pay them and all the other on-going bills at this time.

Tempest has supported the community here in Tucson for countless years, and now is a good time for the community to help support him, and his family..

Please give what you can.

There are donation boxes located at Colors, Woody's, IBT's and the New Moon. You may stop by any Chase Bank and donate to the Tempest Du Jour & Family Fund - Acct. # 999846777.



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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performances by
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Knokache
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Johnny D
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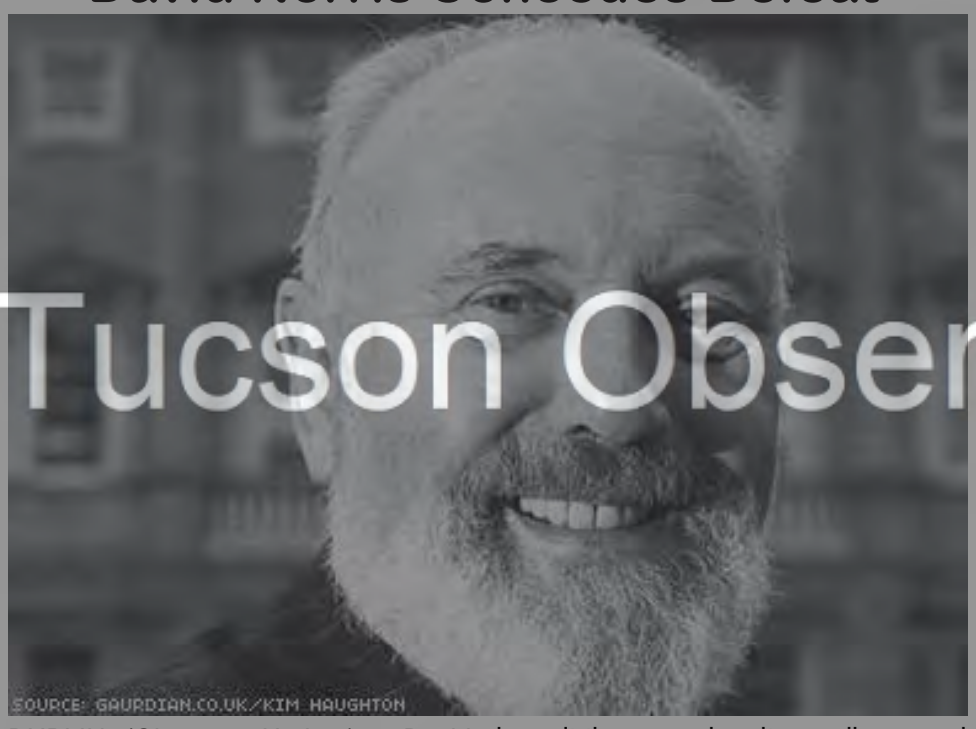
# No Gay President This Time: David Norris Concedes Defeat

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DUBLIN (Observer Update) - David Norris had led polls early in the race to become Ireland's president, before he dropped out and then jumped back in amid a scandal. But the senator, who could have become the world's first openly gay president, has conceded defeat, reports advocate.com.

Early poll results show him finishing a distant fourth, and so Norris became the first candidate to congratulate Labor Party candidate Michael Higgins on what appears to be his win. Paul Allen from the Norris campaign criticized the media in reaction to the loss in an interview with the Irish Times. Allen said Norris had endured "severe pressure" but "he never crumbled."

Norris was accused of favoring pedophilia based on an old newspaper interview that misquoted him, and then he quit the race when it was discovered he'd written a letter to authorities in Israel pleading for clemency for his then-partner Ezra Nawi in a statutory rape case. The letter was written on official stationary in 1997 but had not surfaced until the presidential campaign.

Norris later re-entered the race when polls indicated he could still win if he jumped back in. That hope didn't materialize after voters went to the polls on Thursday. A message posted on the candidate's Facebook page from his campaign claimed Norris as an example to others of what's possible politically. "For anyone who ever feels that something is ever too difficult they can look at David Norris as their inspiration, stand on the shoulders of this giant and reach for their dreams," wrote Norris staffers.

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# Pentagon Outlines 14 Post-DADT Benefits; Gay Groups Not Impressed

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Gay groups dismissed a Pentagon memo identifying 14 benefits that include gay service members, reports ontopmag.com. The Defense Department released the list as part of its ongoing review of military benefits in connection with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law that banned gay and bisexual troops from serving openly, reports ontopmag.com.

"We listed eight member-designated benefits in our original Quick Reference Guide, released Sept. 20. We've now validated an additional six," said Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen Lainez. "While these are not 'new,' now that we've confirmed these additional benefits, we're updating the Quick Reference Guide to ensure all are aware of their beneficiary options."

Among the benefits are listing a gay spouse as a service member's group life insurance beneficiary, a thrift savings plan beneficiary and a veteran's group life insurance beneficiary. The last benefit – attendance at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration events – became news earlier this month when New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen intervened in the state's National Guard decision forbidding Chief Warrant Officer Charlie Morgan from including at such an event her wife, Karen Morgan.

"Unfortunately, today's announcement does nothing to move the ball forward on the issue of providing equal benefits, recognition, and family support for legally married gay and lesbian families. The benefits outlined today were, in fact, available even before the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN).

The new guidance comes a day after SLDN filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as it relates to gay service members.

"We are not advocating any special treatment for the families of gay and lesbian service members or veterans, but we want to underscore that all military families should be treated the same when it comes to recognition, benefits and family support," Sarvis added.

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# Hard Times For Gay Retirement Havens

SANTA FE (Observer Update) - Like so many others who have settled here, Janice Gaynor and her partner, Barbara Cohn, wanted to retire somewhere where they could be themselves, whether that meant holding hands in public or making decisions about each other's end-of-life health care, reported the New YorkTimes.

So when RainbowVision swung open its doors in 2006 as one of the first retirement communities in the country to proudly serve gay men and lesbians, offering elegant adobes where people could live out their lives among friends, the couple could not move in fast enough.

"This was our safety valve," Ms. Gaynor said.

These days, that promise is all but forgotten. RainbowVision has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, racked by financial problems and an increasingly bitter dispute between residents and management. Its problems mirror those of many other gay retirement communities around the country that have either failed to open or fallen on hard times, victims of a weakened housing market, a deflated economy and, in some cases, poor business decisions.

They were once hailed as havens where the so-called Stonewall generation – the first "out" group of senior citizens – could age without being treated with hostility or forced back into the closet. But such communities in Austin, Tex.; Boston and in the Phoenix area never opened because of a lack of finances and a decline in real estate values. A development near Portland, Ore., is struggling at 25 percent of capacity, and another near Sarasota, Fla., has, like RainbowVision, filed for bankruptcy.

"It's very concerning to see places like RainbowVision having trouble, both because older people need them and because they're an important community institution," said Michael Adams, executive director of Services and Advocacy for G.L.B.T. Elders. The group, which is known as SAGE, is pushing for improved housing options for elderly gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people.

Many are growing older without the support of children or extended family members. Gay and lesbian seniors are twice as likely to live alone, according to SAGE. A 2010 report by the group also found that nursing homes often failed to protect gay men and lesbians from hostile treatment by staff or other patients. In a study released in April by the National Senior Citizens Law Center, many older gay men and lesbians and their family members reported instances of mistreatment at long-term care centers. The study also noted that social service providers said it was unsafe for residents to be openly gay at such facilities.

Potential residents of retirement communities, however, may be less inclined to sell their homes and move away during tough economic times. And because developments for older gay people have emerged only within the last 15 years or so, they may not have the financial reserves to weather an economic crisis, Mr. Adams said. As a result, housing options tailored to the estimated 1.5 million elderly people in the United States who are gay are especially limited.

Before buying a condominium at RainbowVision, Ms. Gaynor, a former school administrator, toured a traditional retirement community in Florida, but left with the distinct feeling that she and Ms. Cohn were not welcome.

The fear of suddenly being hurled back into a world that is not always friendly has divided residents at both RainbowVision and the Palms of Manasota, a small community near Sarasota on Florida's Gulf Coast whose developers filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last year. A local bank foreclosed on unfinished buildings and a number of empty units at the Palms, and there is uncertainty about who will buy the foreclosed land.

"There was a lot of contentiousness, and the bank hasn't given any indication on what they plan to do," said Ron Lennon, president of one of two homeowners' associations at the Palms. He said his support for the bankruptcy angered fellow residents who feared what could happen to the community. "There are still people here who won't talk to me."

For those who have invested, both emotionally and financially, in retirement communities that never got off the ground, the prospect of having to drastically change their plans is daunting.

Alice Fisher, a retired caterer, is weighing her options after plans for Boston's first retirement community geared toward gay people were abandoned in 2008 after a major investor dropped out.

Ms. Fisher, 70, lost her $10,000 investment in the community. The developer, Stonewall Miner LLC, has since filed for bankruptcy. Ms. Fisher, who is single and owns her home, is contemplating moving into a rental for the first time, or to another retirement community.

"I thought it was really, really too bad," she said. "This felt important because it felt like we were the last generation who were going to be able to do something like this because the economy has changed so much."

The battle at RainbowVision has unsettled the once-harmonious group of about 100 residents, about half of whom are straight. It involves reduced services and the steeply rising monthly fee for use of a popular common building that includes a restaurant, a salon and a gym. The fee increase has strained the finances of some of the residents.

RainbowVision's chief executive and president, Joy Silver, said that the cost of running the community had skyrocketed and that the flailing economy had slowed leasing activity for the community's condominiums.

Many condo owners, including Ms. Gaynor and Ms. Cohn, began refusing to pay the common building fee and have been banned from using the building.

Ms. Silver, who founded RainbowVision with help from other investors, attributed much of the ill will to speculators who bought units but never lived there. "What's difficult is watching people who are full of fear worry about what's going to happen to them and watching them go through the challenges of aging," she said. "If it were up to me, everything would be free. But that's not pragmatic or realistic."

In June, an arbitrator in the dispute between residents and the management decided that though RainbowVision had not broken any laws, it was overcharging residents based on the services it was providing. (An attorney for RainbowVision responded that the arbitrator had not taken into account how expensive it had become to operate the community.) In the bankruptcy court filings, RainbowVision's lender described the atmosphere at the community as "terrible and openly hostile," and called for the management to be replaced.

"Every one of us had this starry-eyed vision of what we thought RainbowVision was going to be, and we thought we were working toward a common goal," said David Garrity, 62, who also stopped paying the disputed fee because of the lack of services.

Mr. Garrity, who has not fully moved into his condominium yet, said he had overlooked red flags about the company's finances because he was excited to be part of a project he called "a dream" for gay men and lesbians. "Here we are, the victims, victimized by their own," he said.

Not everyone here has sided against RainbowVision's management. John Wojtkowski, who is disabled, has been renting there since the summer and praised the company for being responsive to his needs.

But Mr. Wojtkowski, who worked on Wall Street for nearly 30 years, said he was worried. "We used to kid around when we were younger and say, 'Are we just going to sit around on a porch?' There was no place for us," he said. "I don't hide the fact that I'm gay. When I came here, I felt like I could be myself."

"I don't want to go back in the closet again," he added. "Without RainbowVision, there's no other place to go."

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# Lesbian High School Couple Crowned At Homecoming

Rebeca Arellano and girlfriend Haileigh Adams

SAN DIEGO (Observer Update) - A lesbian high school couple in San Diego was crowned Homecoming king and queen before a cheering crowd of their peers, reports ontopmag.com.

Rebeca Arellano also made history as Patrick Henry High School's first female homecoming king. Her girlfriend Haileigh Adams won the title of homecoming queen. The pair have been dating since February of their sophomore year.

"They were chanting my name and it was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had," the high school senior told KGTV News.

Though there has been some negative feedback, and hurt feelings of male students who were bypassed as Homecoming king this year, Adams and Arellano said they've received mostly support from their classmates and teachers. One teacher, according to ABC News, told Arellano, "Today, school is a bit better because of you girls."

Adams said, "The fact that other people are feeling more confident about themselves or feeling like they might have a chance at doing this, it's opening doors."

# Gay Lawmakers Backing Gay Soldier's Rival For Colorado House

DENVER (Observer Update) - All four of Colorado's openly gay state lawmakers are backing the rival of Brian Carroll, the first openly gay service member on active duty to run for elected office, the Denver Post reported.

Carroll served two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq with Army Special Forces Information Management, Special Operations Command. He continues to serve in the Colorado National Guard, reports ontopmag.com.

Earlier this month, Carroll announced his bid for a Colorado House seat. "As far as I know I am the first out veteran and active national guardsman in the country to officially run for office since the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" Carroll said, referring to the recently-repealed law that banned gay and bisexual troops from serving openly.

But Carroll's rival in the Democratic primary, Rep. Andy Kerr, has the backing of all four of Colorado's openly gay state lawmakers.Senator Pat Steadman, who introduced during the last legislative session a civil unions bill which died in committee, will host a fundraiser for Kerr on November 9 at his Denver home. The other 3 lawmakers are co-sponsoring the event.Also backing Kerr are Robin Kniech, the first openly gay member of the Denver City Council; Bobby Clark of the Gill Foundation; and Brad Clark, executive director of the gay rights group OneColorado.

# Danish Gay Marriage Pioneer Dies At 96

COPENHAGEN (Observer Update) - Axel Axgil, who fought to have his gay relationship recognized by the Danish government, has died at the age of 96, the AP reported.

Axgil was a co-founder of LGBT Danmark, one of the oldest gay rights groups in Europe.
The group, established in 1948, announced that Axgil had died in a hospital in Copenhagen from complications arising from a fall, ontopmag.com reports.

Axgil, who was born Axel Lundahl-Madsen, and his partner Eigil were among the 11 couples to inaugurate Denmark's civil unions law in 1989, becoming the first gay and lesbian couples in the world to be recognized with nearly the same rights as their heterosexual counterparts.The men combined their first names to create the surname Axgil. Eigil Axgil (born Eigil Eskildsen) died in 1995.

"Axel Axgil was a modest man who never cast himself as a lonely warrior," LGBA Danmark spokeswoman Vivi Jelstrup said. "He always underscored that there were many involved in the work [of gay rights in Denmark] and that it was a common cause." Denmark will consider a gay marriage law next year.

# Gay Troops Sue Over Gay Marriage Ban DOMA

WASHINGTON, DC(Observer Update) - The largest group representing gay troops filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) as it relates to gay and lesbian service members.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) is representing six gay couples in the lawsuit. The legal challenge, filed in the same Boston federal court that ruled last year that DOMA is unconstitutional, argues that the 1996 law that bars federal agencies and the military from recognizing the legal marriages of gay couples violates gay military couples' Fifth Amendment right to due process.

"This case is about one thing, plain and simple. It's about justice for gay and lesbian service members and their families in our armed forces rendering the same military service, making the same sacrifices, and taking the same risks to keep our nation secure at home and abroad," said SLDN Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis in a statement. "These couples are in long term, committed, and legally recognized marriages, and the military should not be forced to turn its back on them because the federal government refuses to recognize their families."
Massachusetts Army National Guard Maj. Shannon McLaughlin, 41, and her wife, Casey, 34, are lead plaintiffs in the suit. The McLaughlins married in 2009 and are the parents of ten-month old twins, Grace and Grant.

"We've been serving our country too long, working too hard, and sacrificing too much to see our families denied the same recognition, support and benefits as our straight, married counterparts," McLaughlin said. According to SLDN, DOMA blocks the military from providing housing, health care, surviving spouse benefits and morale, welfare and recreation programs to the spouses of gay service members.

"As plaintiffs, we are fighting to receive the same benefits and opportunities as our married heterosexual counterparts," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charlie Morgan of the New Hampshire National Guard, a plaintiff in the case. "This discrimination causes undue financial and emotional hardship for our families. As a cancer survivor, who has been recently diagnosed with a recurrence, I worry every day that my health may take a turn for the worse, and Karen would be unable to receive the survivor's benefits to help take care of our daughter. We are only asking for fair and equitable treatment as a recognized family."

The list of legal challenges to the law continues to grow, even as the Senate has taken steps to repeal the law. However, the issue is a non-starter in the House, where its speaker, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, is defending the law in court.

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# LGBT Folks Mourn Death of "Ask Beth" Columnist

ROSEVILLE (Observer Update) - For 35 years, Elizabeth Winship penned the syndicated "Ask Beth" column, which appeared in dozens of newspapers around the country. When she died Sunday at 90 in her hometown of Roseville, Minnesota, more than few LGBT fans shed a tear. That's because from 1963 to 1998, Winship's "Ask Beth" was one of the few people offering real advice to teens – and that meant a lot of queer and questioning kids, reports advocate.com.

According to TheNew York Times, Winship began reviewing books for The Boston Globe in the early 1950s and later became its children's book editor. In 1963, editors asked her to write a column that would connect with young readers. It did and that's because "Ask Beth" would talk honestly about sex, masturbation, attraction, and, yes, sexual orientation.

By the time Winship retired in 1998, the Times writes, one young adult had written her: "I grew up in a small town as a gay teen. Reading the letters in your column from other gay teens, along with your reassurance and frank and honest information, helped me realize that I was not some freak of nature, helped me through one more day, and I believe, may have saved my life."

That gay kid was one of many. In the 1980s, "Ask Beth" was the voice of the coming of (teen) age Gen Xer, an older sister figure who didn't think our questions were weird or stupid. She used words like penis and vagina – no euphemisms like winky and vajayjay – and her advice often helped befuddled newspaper-reading parents as much as their progeny.

Though Winship's daughter Peg took over the column from 1998 to 2006, kids in today's web-saturated world won't find Winship's steady voice in their daily newspapers. But she lives on in the hearts and memories of a generation of LGBT folks, many of whom are parents themselves now.

# Welsh Rugby Captain Jed Hooper Comes Out

CARDIFF (Observer Update) - The captain of the Welsh rugby team, the Old Redcliffians, came out as gay after a potential suitor he met said he couldn't date someone who was closeted, reports advocate.com.

Jed Hooper, 22, told the Evening Post that the encounter was the catalyst for his big announcement. "Before that, I think I had already told about ten friends and their reaction was very positive so that gave me an inkling of what might happen," he said. "And I also thought if the crap really hits the fan then at least there are ten people on my side!"

Hooper texted his contacts and also made the announcement on his Facebook page. After, he said, "I then cried my eyes out as I was thinking to myself 'What have you done?,' but very quickly I must have had 40 replies and all of them were positive." Hooper, who plays the position of back row forward, then consulted the team's chairman, Ray Massey.

"I said that if the club doesn't want a gay man as its figurehead I would understand and step down," Hooper said. "But he was brilliant and said 'you're our captain and this doesn't change anything'. That support was massive to me."

The news comes after another star of Welsh rugby, Gareth Thomas announced his retirement. Thomas, 37, said he could no longer commit all of his time to the sport, but a film is still in the works, shepherded by American actor Mickey Rourke.

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# ADAM AND PETER: LOVE IN A TIME OF WAR (Part 1)

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WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Captain Pete Bennett doesn't remember the time he met his future husband. There wasn't much worth remembering, reports the Huffington Post.

It was during his freshman year in 2003, sitting at a table with other West Point cadets, when Adam first spoke to him. Though most West Pointers enter the academy from high school like any other college freshmen, the two were former enlisted soldiers, giving them a bit of common ground.

Adam recalls it well. A former Arabic linguist, he asked Pete what his job had been. But instead of calling it a "job," Adam deployed the in-the-know initials MOS, short for Military Occupational Specialty. It's a basic term familiar to soldiers, but new and bewildering to the younger cadets. One of the 18-year-olds in the room asked Adam what it meant. But the move left Pete unimpressed.

"He rolled his eyes," recalled Adam, "and he looked at me and said, 'That's what people who are in the Army say when they don't know how to make conversation.' And he stood up and left."

"All right," Adam remembers thinking, "well, this guy's a dick."

Captain Adam Harmon is now 31 and the intelligence officer for a military police battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas. Pete's picture sits openly on his desk in the headquarters building. And, for the past two weeks, Adam has worn a wedding ring on his left hand.

They were married on Oct. 8, just 19 days after the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell." Because of privacy laws, the Department of Defense has no data on how many gay and lesbian servicemembers have married since the Sept. 20 change. But Adam and Pete are surely among the first couples to test the limits of the Army's acceptance under the new policy.

The pair are familiar with uncomfortable moments, mostly in the form of insults shouted from cars when they hold hands in the street. And when they attempted to register at a Macy's in Columbus, Ga., where Pete was on temporary duty at Fort Benning, a clerk politely but adamantly changed their marriage to a "commitment" on the couple's paperwork.

Macy's apologized to Pete and Adam, and Pete doesn't blame the employee, whom he thought was well-meaning. But still, he said, "almost on a daily to weekly basis we're reminded how we're still not quite viewed as equal by a good portion of the United States. And this was just a really good example of that."

Throughout their time in service, they were also unequal by law. But according to Pete, now 27 and a supply officer with the 10th Brigade Support Battalion at Fort Drum, N.Y., the law has always lagged behind the treatment the pair has received from fellow soldiers.

"The military has been great," said Pete. "Which is kind of crazy because usually the military is a microcosm of society, but I definitely think that in this case ... the military is far ahead of where society is right now on this issue."

Their first meeting was one of the few times the pair spoke while at West Point.

"I kind of blew him off, which was probably typical me back then," said Pete, who lived firmly in the closet as a cadet. There was a private, informal support network among West Point's gays, but he stayed far from the group, afraid of any slip or guilt-by-association that could see him kicked out of the academy.

"Everybody assumed I was straight," he said, "and because of that I fit right in. Nobody really said anything to me."

What social life Pete could afford took place in New York City among friends far removed from the Army. His four years passed without incident.

Adam, meanwhile, was drowning. "I was miserable, I was ready to quit the academy," he said. "I really didn't think I could be happy at all, and I just felt like I was selling my soul."

Cadets have until the first day of their junior year, known as Affirmation Day, to make up their minds about the Army. Leave before then, and there's no penalty. As the deadline approached, Adam was convinced he had to quit.

But, before deciding, he tested the waters by coming out to some close friends. If they reacted

Continued on Page Twelve

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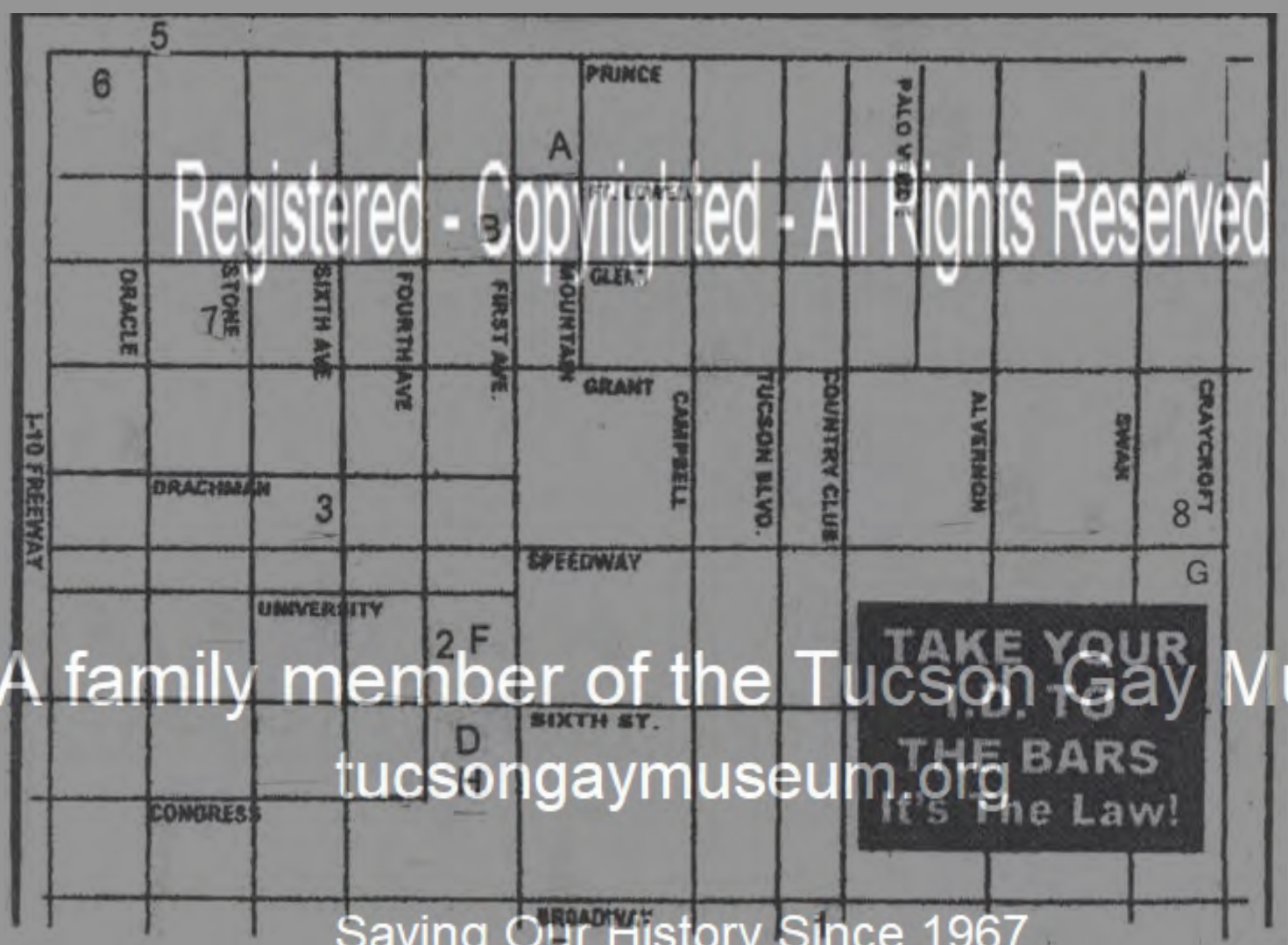


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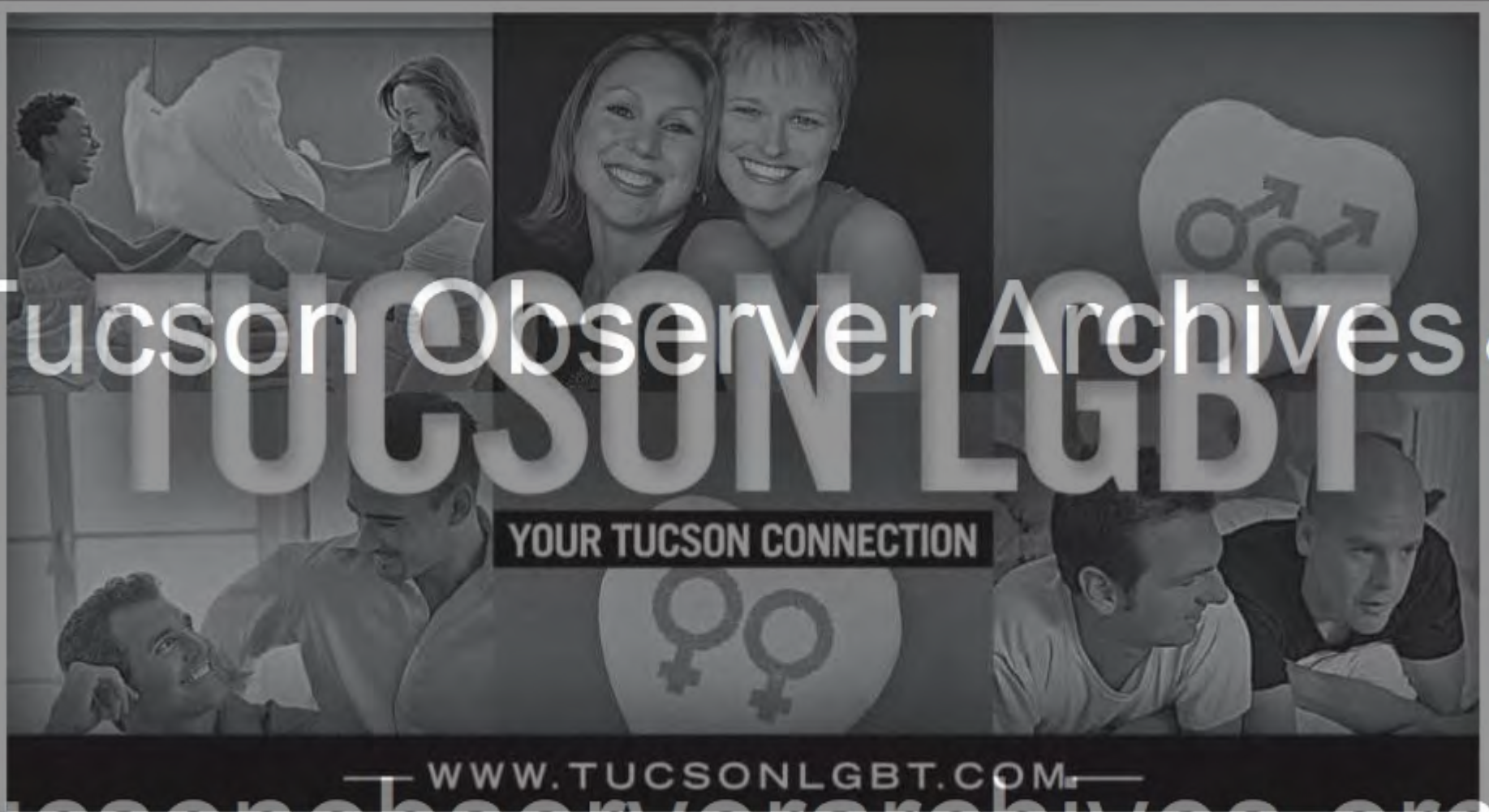


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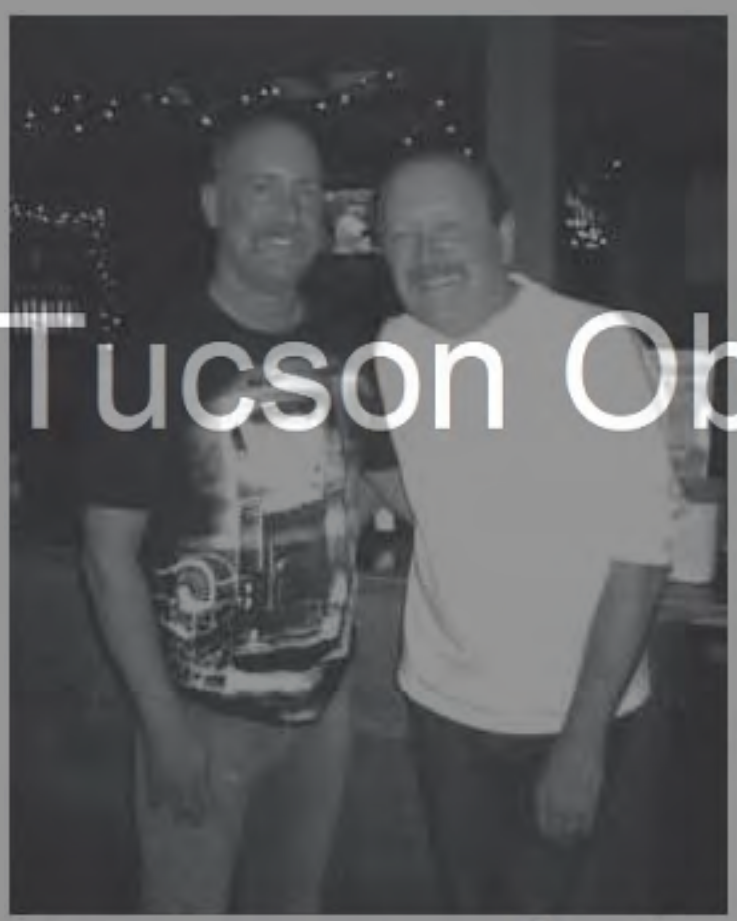
# Dave And Frank's 35th Anniversary At Woody's Last Friday



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# Poet's Corner

PERSPECTIVES

by Ron Rose - Tucson

How big do we look to an ant?
How small do we look to a star?
Is the answer, my friend, very close?
Is the answer, my friend, very far?
Do we know why some days pass so fast?
Do we know why some days pass so slow?
When I find the right person to ask,
I am sure that my maker will know.

## 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!

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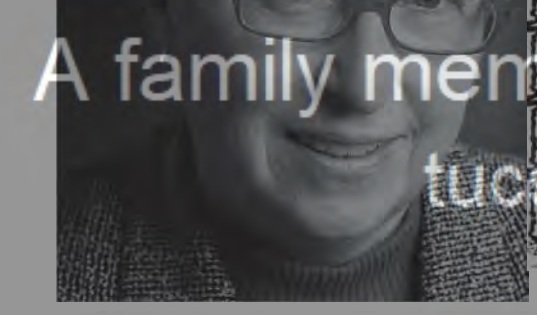

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## MSNBC Called On To Sanction Pat Buchanan Over Anti-Gay Remarks

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update)- MSNBC is being called on to sanction Morning Joe contributor Pat Buchanan for his anti-gay remarks, reports ontopmag.com. The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest gay rights group, joined media watchdog group Media Matters on Thursday in calling on the cable network to take action against Buchanan after he called homosexuality "unnatural" during an interview on National Public Radio (NPR).

"I believe that homosexuality is – that it is unnatural activity. Unnatural and immoral," Buchanan told Diane Rehm, host of The Diane Rehm Show. "I would say that kind of conduct should be discouraged in a good society, in a healthy society."

"And it used to be discouraged. And I do think that the idea that men can marry men and women marry women in the USA is a sign of a civilization in its final throes. I mean, we saw things like this at the end of the Weimar Republic. Things like this at the end of the Roman Empire. And they are attendant to a declining nation and a declining civilization."

HRC disputed Buchanan's assertions, arguing that "every credible major medical and metal health organization in the United States has stated that homosexuality is normal." "While Pat Buchanan is free to hold and express his views, the fact that MSNBC has given him a public platform to spew this sort of dangerous rhetoric is unacceptable," HRC President Joe Solmonese said in a statement. "MSNBC should sanction Mr. Buchanan, as his extremist ideas are incredibly harmful to LGBT people around the world."

## Senate Panel Set To Approve DOMA Repeal Bill

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has scheduled a vote for a bill that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the law that defines marriage for federal agencies and the military as a heterosexual union, reports ontopmag.com.

"The march for equality continues, and now is the time to ensure equality for gay and lesbian Americans who are lawfully married," Leahy said in announcing consideration of the bill in the committee. "This is part of the nation's continuing fight for civil rights for all Americans."

While the panel's Democratic majority backs the bill – making approval a near forgone conclusion – Republican members are uniformly opposed to the measure. The issue is a non-starter in the GOP-controlled House, where its speaker, John Boehner, is defending the law in court.

Still, passage out of the committee will represent a symbolic victory for gay marriage advocates. The legislation was first introduced in 2009 by New York Rep. Jerrold Nadler. California Senator Dianne Feinstein is the bill's primary sponsor in the Senate.

# Daily Bar Calendar

## SUNDAY

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm
IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-9pm. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Benefit BBQ Beer Bust, ($5 for Burger/Hot Dog, Veggie Burger, chips, Pickle Spear & 2 Pints of Bud/Bud Light or a soda/bottle water), "Cheap Ass Sundays" 9pm-Close, Karaoke Inside 9pm. Dancing on the Patio w/Sj Sid the Kid 9pm
NEW MOON - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm. Cheeseburgers & fries all day. NFL Ticket on HDTVs. Check our ad 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

BRODIES - Open 10am-2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm.
IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm. 8pm-close Reverse Happy Hour. Dance to all request music w/DJ Hurricane or lounge on the patio 9pm.
NEW MOON - Closed Mondays
WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Service Industry Night - Employee prices all day..

## TUESDAY

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.
IBT's -. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, T-Bar Tuesdays Drink Specials 9pm-Close. Mix-n-Match Mexican Beer Specials, Tequila Specials (Patron $6, Milagro $4.50, Hornitos $4, Cuervo $3.50), Million $ DJ Inside 9pm. Taco Tuesdays 2nd & last Tuesday of the month.
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

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.
IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Viva La Diva" Drag Show hosted by Janee Starr 9pm. DJ Hurricane on the Patio 9pm, $3- 42-Below Vodka Drink Special 9pm - Close, Million $ DJ Inside after the Drag Show.
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

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am - 8pm.
IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Therapt every Thursday. 2-4-1 Drink Specials (excludes top shelf). DJ Sid the Kid inside 9pm. Million $ DJ on the Patio 9pm. GoGos dancing at 11pm.
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

.BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm. Karaoke 9pm.
IBT's Happy Hour Noon-9pm. Flawless Fridays. Karaoke Inside 5-9pm. "Absolutely Flawless" Drag Show hosted by China Collins 9:15pm. DJ Hurricane Inside 9pm. Million $ DJ on the Patio 9pm. GoGo Boys 11pm.
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

BRODIES - Open 10am - 2am. Happy Hour 10am-8pm.
IBT's - Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Karaoke on The Patio 5-8pm. "Saturday Night Starrlett's" hosted by Janee Starr 9pm. Million $ DJ on the Patio 9pm. DJ Hurricane Inside after the Drag Show.
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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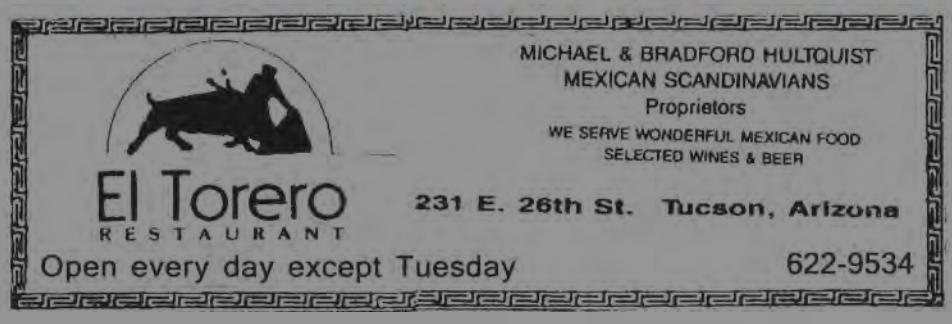

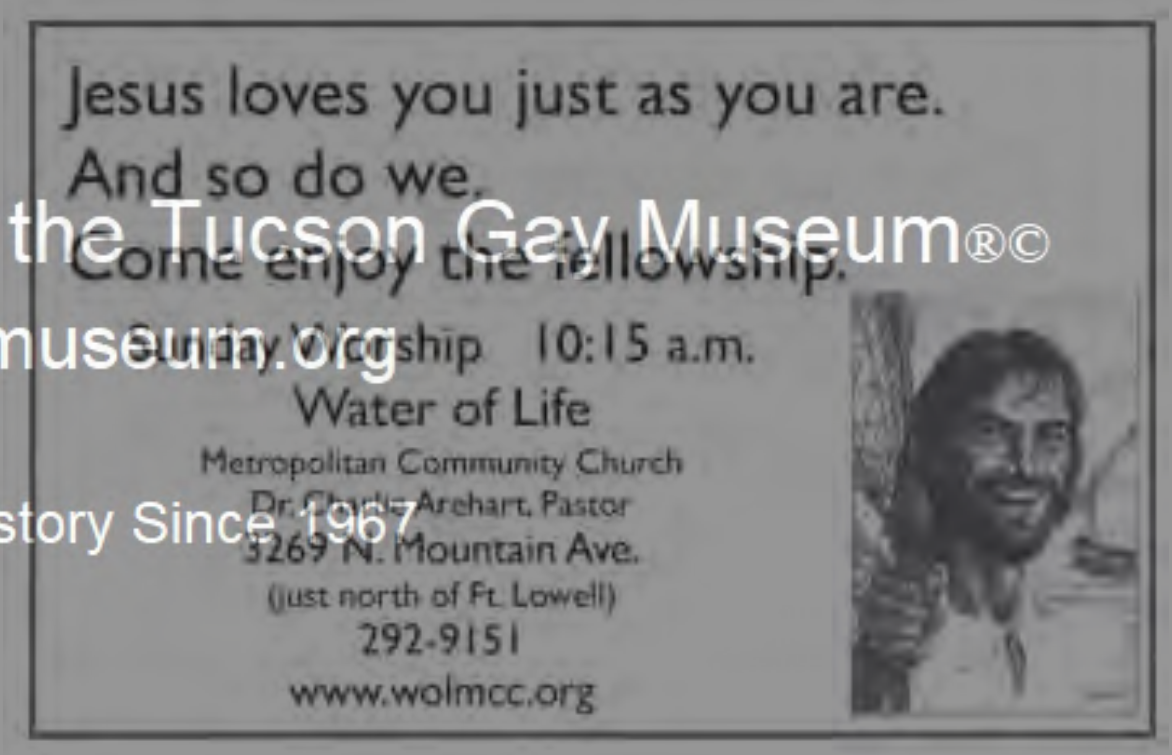



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# ADAM AND PETER: LOVE IN A TIME OF WAR (Part 1)

Continued from Page Seven

negatively, he thought, it would confirm that quitting was the smart choice. “But there were no negative reactions,” Adam said, “everybody was incredibly supportive, and so that allowed me in my last two years to be as normal as I guess I could under those circumstances.”

Adam became active in the network that Pete had avoided, both for his own sanity and to aid the new cadets who arrived each year with little expectation of help.

“I figured if I could develop that for the younger cadets I felt like I would have done something good,” he said. “So they’d have the support I really didn’t have.”

Though living a semi-out life, Adam graduated in 2007 and was commissioned as a military intelligence officer. While in training, he was able to rely on the support of West Point classmates who knew about his sexuality. But with the frequent moves and job changes inherent to military life, that support quickly eroded.

“It’s an odd situation, because no matter how open I was at West Point, every time you [move] you’re just de facto back in the closet,” he said. He was eventually stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, and began preparing for a deployment to Iraq.

At Fort Drum, Pete attempted a relationship but struggled with its tough realities. “It was ridiculously difficult on the relationship,” he said, “because we tried living together but, you know, we couldn’t go out together.”

To avoid rumors, they would sit seats apart at the local movie theater. To truly feel comfortable, they had to travel 90 minutes to Syracuse or make the three-hour trip to visit Canada.

The deception damaged both men’s relationships with other soldiers. For Pete, it meant constantly lying to his commander, a supportive officer and good friend.

“Who it affected, unfortunately, was my leadership,” he said, “because one of the things that the Army is really pushing is to, you know, get into your soldiers’ personal lives and find out about them and ... help them with those sorts of personal issues.”

Adam simply soured on the military as a whole.

“I had a lot of bitterness towards the Army, and I couldn’t talk about what the bitterness was about, so I channeled that into every other bitch and moan I had,” he said.

In March 2011, Pete returned to Fort Drum after a deployment to Afghanistan. Dealing with the effects of a recent breakup, he decided to send Adam a Facebook message.

Though they had kept apart at West Point, both men knew of the other as a fellow member of the school’s small gay community. They had remained out of touch as their careers progressed, but despite their unmemorable first encounter, Adam had left an impression.

“Adam had always been kind of in my mind, but just never enough to, you know, push it,” Pete said.

“We started just chatting on Facebook very platonically,” Adam recalled. “He had just gotten back from Afghanistan and was looking for something to do in his free time, and I was visiting friends in Austin. And I said, you know, you should come down.” With no plans and the Memorial Day weekend coming up, Pete booked the flight.

Neither man had seen each other since their West Point graduation four years earlier. It didn’t matter.

“Literally as soon as he showed up and I opened the door and he was standing there in person, it was just immediate,” Pete said. “I knew that he was somebody I wanted to be with.”

“It was love at first sight,” he said. “I know that sounds crazy, but it really was.”

The relationship progressed quickly, with flights from Kansas to New York once or twice a month. By the end of June 2011 they were engaged. Adam proposed while on leave in the Bahamas, producing rings on the deck of a cruise ship.

Their romance unfolded as DADT was coming to an uncertain end. Though the repeal bill passed Congress in December 2010, it was not until July that President Barack Obama, along with military leaders, certified that the change could finally take effect. But while politicians bickered over what affect repeal might have on the military, neither Pete nor Adam experienced anything but acceptance from their colleagues.

While in Afghanistan in late 2010, Pete told his commander his secret. As with Adam’s friends at West Point, he received nothing but support. “She was hurt at first,” Pete said, “because she was like ‘I’m one of your best friends here, why wouldn’t you tell me?’ But then they understand.”

NOTICE: Due to the length of this story, we have placed it as a two-part item. The second and final, part will be published in next weeks paper.

# Gay Marriage Trial Video Back On Hold

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update)- An appeals court in California on Monday suspended a lower court’s ruling ordering the release of video of last year’s trial that resulted in declaring Proposition 8, California’s gay marriage ban, unconstitutional, the AP reported on ontopmag.com.

U.S. District Court Judge James Ware last month ruled that “No compelling reasons exist for continued sealing of the digital recording of the trial.” Protect Marriage, the coalition of mostly religious groups that sponsored Proposition 8, appealed the decision. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals stayed Ware’s ruling pending a decision by the court, which has scheduled a hearing for December 5.

Proponents of Proposition 8 turned to Ware after U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker, now retired, used a clip from the 2010 trial he presided over during a speech he gave in February in Arizona. They asked the court to stop Walker from showing the video again. Opponents volleyed back with a request to make the recordings available for broadcast. Protect Marriage lawyers argues that release of the recording would put defense witnesses at risk of harassment from opponents of the constitutional amendment which overruled a 2008 California Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage in the state.

# Trent Franks Tells Tony Perkins That Gay Marriage Threatens The Nation

WASHINGTON, DC (Observer Update) - Arizona Rep. Trent Franks has said that gay marriage threatens the nation’s survival, reports ontopmag.com. During an appearance on the Family Research Council’s (FRC) radio program Washington Watch Weekly, Franks told the group’s president, Tony Perkins, that marriage should remain a “special right” for heterosexual couples.

Franks discussed a recent House hearing he chaired on religious freedom, at which witnesses testified that the nation’s increasing support for marriage equality was eroding freedoms for Christians. “The federal Department of Justice (DoJ) has ratcheted up its attack on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) by mischaracterizing it as an act of bigotry,” testified Rev. William C. Lori on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “If the label of ‘bigot’ sticks to our Church and many other churches – especially in court, under the Constitution – because of their teaching on marriage, the result will be church-state conflicts for many years to come.”

On the program, Franks said marriage should be limited to heterosexual couples because “that is the launching pad of the next generation.”

“And when people would come along and blur that distinction and say, ‘Well, that should apply in every way’ it not only is a complete undermining of the principles of family and marriage and the hope of future generations, but it completely begins to see our society break down to the extend that that foundational unit of the family that is the hope of survival of this country is diminished to the extent that it literally is a threat to the nation’s survival in the long run.”

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