

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

<http://www.tucsonobserver.com>

WEEKLY OBSERVER

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Not Home For Christmas

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Lee Quillian, now retired from the Navy, remembers one holiday season when she was serving on a ship in the Middle East, reported 365Gay.com. All the other sailors were going to a special room to film video messages to their sweethearts. But not Quillian. She didn't record a message. She couldn't. Because her partner is a woman.

Quillian and her partner Jenny Kopsstein are just two of the thousands of Gay couples affected by Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The policy, which forbids disclosure of a Gay identity while serving in the military, is challenging under the best of circumstances - but during the holidays it becomes particularly dire.

"The holidays bring up memories, expectations," said Trey Malicoat, a therapist who has worked with servicemembers. "There are more parties, more activities, there's a financial drain. For Gay soldiers, there's the added burden of not being able to talk about home, about where he or she would like to be, about the person who has the most significance in his or her life."

Malicoat says that this added burden can bring anxiety, depression and an increased sense of isolation to servicemembers who already feel isolated. This is true even for military members who are serving in the U.S. and can go home at the end of the day.

"Even while I'm here stateside at lunch, people are talking about what presents they're going to buy their wife or girlfriend - I'm part of the group but I can't be part of the discussion," said Elizabeth, an officer in the Army. Elizabeth married her partner in Massachusetts a year ago (they've been together seven years), but they still need to keep their relationship a secret. "It's very difficult to abide by the policy and not talk about what's really going on in your life and at the same time try to connect with your fellow servicemembers. And you are supposed to connect pretty deeply, because we are supposed to put our lives on the line for each other," Elizabeth said. She added that she thinks that the secrecy does a disservice to straight military members, "99 percent of whom would just roll with it and be OK."

Servicemembers say that they have to take the most extraordinary precautions for the most ordinary activities. They need to watch everything they say, using gender neutral pronouns or making up a significant other of the opposite gender. They need to hide who sent them care packages, who sent them a letter, who they write to themselves. If they're deployed in a foreign country, their partners need to limit calls to the shared phone, lest others on the base (who usually answer that phone) begin to suspect something is up.

Quillian, who was on a ship, couldn't call Kopsstein at all - ship calls are all monitored by Navy personnel.

"We definitely had less contact than a straight couple would have," Quillian said. "Our goodbyes had to take place at home. And Jenny couldn't be on a pier waiting for me during homecomings, even though every other sailor was kissing and hugging."

It's tough on the person at home, too. The military has an excellent support system for family members left behind that includes counseling, a newsletter updating families on unit activities, and support groups and networks. But Gay partners of servicemembers can't take advantage of any of that. If they do, they risk outing their partner - who under the policy will then lose their job.

"Under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, you go years and years having to hide who you are," said Quillian's partner Kopsstein, who herself was in the military before she told her commander that she was a Lesbian. "The policy affects how you relate to people, your friendships, your work relationships, everything."

"I waste a lot of time protecting my conversations in ways I shouldn't have to," Elizabeth said. "I think it's very tiring. I'm tired of it. I'm a good soldier and a good citizen. It's ridiculous that I have to hide my real life."

Report: Colorado Church Shooter May Have Been Gay Or Bi

DENVER, Colorado - A Denver television station reports that web postings believed made by Matthew Murray, the young man who killed four people at two conservative Christian missionary centers on Sunday (December 9), shows he was Bisexual, possibly Gay, 365Gay.com reported.

The postings were made on a web site for people who had left evangelical churches and were made under a nickname. The administrator of the site notified police when he saw them but too late to stop the killings. The postings were immediately removed. But Fox Affiliate KDVR reports that the postings alluding to his sexuality began last summer and became more definite over time.

"People like us are going to go to hell, according to Christians," Fox quotes from one posting made last summer. Murray goes on to list

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Talking With Sergeant Darren Manzella

By Steve Ralls (of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN))

After watching Lesley Stahl's report on 60 Minutes with Army Sergeant Darren Manzella (pictured), I sent an email to Darren, letting him know how proud we all are of him, and asking if he had any thoughts to share with SLDN's supporters. From Washington to Kuwait and back again, here's an exclusive SLDN conversation with Darren.

Q: What motivated you to come out on 60 Minutes?

A: I saw a chance that so few individuals have the opportunity to participate in. I saw a chance to get on national television and just tell my story and try to relay to millions of Americans how hurtful the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is to this country's military. It was an opportunity to notify the country that I am open about my homosexuality to my command and colleagues and that the Army has not fallen apart due to my confession.

Q: After notifying your command and colleagues of the story, what has been their reaction?

A: I have not received any notification, positive or negative, from my command since I notified them of my participation in the story or since the broadcasting of the segment.

Q: As someone serving on the frontlines, what do you hear from other troops about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell?" What do you think is the future of the law?

A: I have served with many men and women in Iraq, Kuwait and throughout the United States. In my opinion, they do not care if a service member is Gay or straight. These men and women are my brothers and sisters in arms and I am the same to them. I know that what matters most is not the sexual orientation of the person in your unit. What matters most is if that person is a good worker, a team player and most importantly, if that person has your back when it really matters whether it be in a combat zone, during a training exercise or day to day operations. I think that a majority of troops are in favor, or at the very least indifferent, to the repeal of this policy. I find that many are surprised that so much power and influence over the fate of this policy lies in the hands of individuals who are not even in the ranks of the military.



Sgt. Darren Manzella

Q: What do you want SLDN supporters to know about your experience, the 60 Minutes story and the campaign to repeal this law?

A: I would like the supporters of SLDN to know that when I first came out to my command I felt alone. Like I was an individual that did something wrong. Now I feel like part of family and I know that this family will always be supportive and protective of me. I feel pride as well. I am so proud to be a part of something that may soon bring down a policy that forces individuals to remain silent and not publicly confess who they truly are.

I am so blessed to have the staff at SLDN work with me and assist me. They have been my backbone in every phase that I have gone through, from my coming out to my command to my notifying them of the 60 Minutes episode broadcast. To have people be so devoted to helping you give a voice to thousands of Gay and Lesbian service members is a feeling that I never thought I would experience.

(You can send Darren a message of support, via SLDN, by emailing him at darren@sldn.org.)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

UPDATE

TIHAN Volunteer Training January 10

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) will conduct Volunteer Orientation/Training on January 10, 2008 from 5:15-9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave.

Volunteer Training will address questions about HIV/AIDS and give volunteers new ideas about what they can do to help. Interactive and informative, the training is available to all who want to learn more about HIV/AIDS, gain understanding of and sensitivity to those living with HIV/AIDS and people interested in TIHAN volunteer opportunities. Subjects covered include HIV/AIDS 101, stigma and stereotyping, living with HIV/AIDS, interfaith responses to HIV/AIDS, and an introduction to TIHAN programs.

TIHAN encourages all ages, including seniors, University students and high school age teens, to participate. The cost is \$17.00 which covers a light meal and printed materials. Please plan on attending one of our next orientations so you can join the Volunteer Team. Please call (520) 299-6647 for additional information and to sign up to begin your Volunteer journey.

Auditions For 'Homoneurotic II, January 12

TUCSON - "Homoneurotic II (Bigger! Faster!! Harder!!)" announce auditions for their April production at the Cabaret space in the Temple of Music and Art downtown will take place Saturday, January 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Wing-span, 425 E. 7th St.

No need to prepare anything, walk-ins are fine, but prefer appointments. Roles are available for six men, ranging from 20 - 45 and two women, age negotiable. Please bring photo/resume or just show up and they will do a quick pencil sketch.

For more information, contact Kenton Jones (520) 979-4508.

Equality Arizona Radio Is On The Air

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Saturday's at 10:00 a.m. (Arizona Time), Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgendered (LGBT) people, as well as their friends and families can tune into Equality Arizona Radio.

Equality Arizona Radio is designed to provide the listener with insights into the LGBT experience in Arizona. Their topics, guests and special guest hosts all focus on fulfilling Equality Arizona's mission to secure, protect and defend the rights and welfare of LGBT individuals living in Arizona.

Equality Arizona radio is broadcast on KPHX 1480 AM in the Phoenix area and can be heard online at aaphx.com or novamradio.com. Previous broadcasts are online at equalityarizona.org for those who may have missed previous airings.

For more information, either call (602) 650-0900 or go online to equalityarizona.org.

Sing With Desert Voices

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Want to sing with Desert Voices, Arizona's premier Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus? If so come to one of the rehearsals.

All rehearsals are open to the public, except four weeks leading up to a concert. Rehearsals are held at Water of Life MCC, 3269 North Mountain Avenue on Monday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

For more information, go online to desertvoices.org or call (520) 791-9662.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Gifted By Otherness Starting January 7

TUCSON - A course in Gay and Lesbian spirituality using the book *Gifted by Otherness* by L.W. Countryman and M.R. Ritley, will start Monday, January 7 and ends February 11, 2008, in the St. Francis Room, Grace St. Paul's basement, 2331 E Adams St.

We are encouraged by Countryman and Ritley to adopt a positive attitude to spirituality and to take a proactive role in the Church through telling our own stories, recognizing our spiritual gifts, interpreting spiritual writings in our own context, and refusing to apologize for who we are. Along the way, we'll review aspects of progressive theology, and take plenty of time to share our stories. Intended for Gay and Lesbian people from inside and outside the Grace St. Paul's community. Non-Gay and non-Lesbian participants who are contending with spiritual issues relating to sexuality and who are willing to maintain safe space for other participants are also welcome.

Led by Chris Eastoe, Ph.D., former Senior Warden of Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For more information contact Chris Eastoe, (520) 791-7430 or E-mail: eastoe@email.arizona.edu.

Battalion Chief Suspension For Gay Slur Upheld

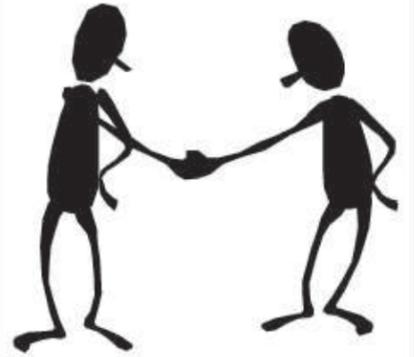
TUCSON - The City of Tucson Civil Service Commission upheld the 30-day suspension of a Tucson Fire Department battalion chief accused of sending e-mails officials considered "disparaging of the homosexual lifestyle," reported the Arizona Daily Star. The suspension was upheld 2-1 Tuesday (December 11), according to Mike Storie, Battalion Chief Sharon McDonough's attorney.

McDonough has already served her suspension but called it too harsh and wanted the suspension to be reversed and to have her disciplinary record cleared. According to a city document, McDonough and Roger Lee, a former Fire Department captain, were exchanging e-mails on February 1 about how McDonough was feeling after a fire earlier in the day. The conversation eventually focused on a Tucson Fire Department engineer, Michelle Maliniak. "I have two pitbulls (sic)," Lee wrote in an e-mail. "We could teach them to hunt the dreaded milliniak (sic) beast." To which McDonough replied: "delete - but okay ..."

Lee said it was a private exchange between friends that was later discovered by Maliniak. Both McDonough and Lee denied being homophobic. Storie said firefighters from the chief on down regularly send flirtatious e-mails with inappropriate jokes similar to the ones that got McDonough suspended. Maliniak returned to the department after taking an unpaid medical leave due to harassment she said she experienced at fire stations because of her gender and sexual orientation.

McDonough has worked for the department since 1990. She was promoted to battalion chief in 2005. "It's time for this commission to stop adopting every recommendation made by the chiefs of police and fire departments," Storie said of the ruling. Storie routinely represents police officers and said that in at least the last seven years, an officer has never won an appeal in front of the commission. McDonough can appeal to superior court, but that option hasn't been discussed and it is unlikely, Storie said.

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



P.O. BOX 50733,
TUCSON, AZ 85703
(520) 622-7176 (Voice)

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Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Men Not Immune To Breast Cancer, Told To Get Tested

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Observer Update) - Doctors are encouraging a new group of people to consider getting tested for genes that raise the risk of breast cancer: men. Male relatives of women with such genes often do not realize that they, too, may carry them, and face greater odds of developing male breast cancer, as well as prostate, pancreatic and skin cancer, new research suggests.



"Everyone thinks of breast and ovarian cancer and just assumes it's all women. They don't even realize these genes can be inherited from the father's side of the family," said Dr. Mary Daly of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. After seeing breast cancer in several male patients who did not know they were at risk, Daly conducted a small study, which was presented Friday at a conference in Texas. She now is trying to convince more fathers, sons and brothers of women with the genes to get tested. "Very few of them want to," she said.

Breast cancer is the most common major cancer in American women. More than 178,000 new cases, and more than 40,000 deaths from it, are expected in the U.S. this year. But men get it, too - about 2,030 cases are estimated to occur this year, accounting for about 1 percent of all breast cancer cases, according to the American Cancer Society. About 450 of these male cases will prove fatal.

The BRCA-1 or BRCA-2 genes markedly raise the risk of breast cancer and are most prevalent among those of Eastern European Jewish descent. In

men, they double the normal risk of prostate cancer, triple the risk of pancreatic cancer and make breast cancer seven times more likely to develop. As part of a larger study on perceptions of genetic risk, Daly surveyed 24 close blood relatives of women who had tested positive for one of these genes and had told their male kin the results. Six men said they hadn't been told, or had forgotten. Of the other 18, two mistakenly said the test had been negative. Seven did not think the results revealed anything about their own cancer risk. Only five understood they, too, might carry the genes.

Of the six who expressed any interest in being tested themselves, three said they were doing so mostly for their children's sake. "We try to reach out to the men in these families, particularly men who have little children," Daly said. "If they were to die without being tested, their children would grow up without that information" that they, too, were at risk, she said.

Dr. Steven Vogl, a cancer doctor in private practice in New York, said he recognized that potential when

his neighbor was dying of lung cancer and told him how many female relatives had suffered or died of breast and other cancers. "Being a good doctor, I took a history," and realized the man, an Eastern European Jew, probably had the gene. "At least it will help his granddaughter" to know of the risk, Vogl

said.

Women, too, need to realize they are doing male relatives and their descendants a favor when they reveal their own genetic risk from BRCA genes. "They don't realize they are at risk," or that their grandchildren may be, Daly said.

Arizona Considering Domestic Partner Benefits

By Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Arizona's Department of Administration is in the process of taking steps to offer benefits to the domestic partners, both same or opposite sex, and their children of state employees, applying to all state employees, including those working at Arizona's three universities and would apply to the 65,000 active Arizona employees of state government and public universities and 9,000 retirees who participate in the state health plan would also be eligible.

State Department of Administration director Bill Bell filed the domestic partner benefits proposal November 7 with the Secretary of State's Office. After a few weeks to process the measure, it was published Friday (November 30) along with the secretary of state's regular registry of proposed rules.

The public will have an opportunity to comment, if this proposal is scheduled for the January meeting by the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, made up of a six-member board appointed by the governor, will have final say on the domestic partners plan.

People wanting to comment in writing can submit items (under A.R.S. 41-1052) to Governor's Regulatory Review Council, 100 N.15th Ave., Ste. 402, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. If one wishes to comment in person, they must

attend the meeting and give their comments.

The Governor's Regulatory Review Council was created by Executive Order in May 1981. Composed of six members, the Council is chaired by the Director of the Department of Administration or designee, who serves ex-officio. The current Council members are Graham Alex Turner, Sam Coppersmith, Yvonne Hunter, Stan Barnes, Marcus Osborn, Christopher Thomas and Charles Blanchard.

For most agencies, the Council is the final step in the rule making process. The Council reviews most rules to ensure that they are necessary and to avoid duplication and adverse impact on the public. The Council assesses whether a rule is clear, concise, and understandable, legal, consistent with legislative intent and within the agency's statutory authority, and whether the benefits of a rule outweigh the cost. If a rule does not meet these criteria, the Council returns it to the agency for further consideration.

The Governor's Regulatory Review Council next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, at 2643 East University Drive in Phoenix. For more information, call (602) 542-2058, online at grc.state.az.us/.



Tucson's #1 Gay Club

HOLIDAY CALENDAR



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Gay Contestant Wins 'Survivor'



NEW YORK CITY - Gaywired.com reported that he was obnoxious and often times repugnant with his backstabbing and overly paranoid game play, but this weekend, at the age of 22, Gay flight attendant Todd Herzog became the 15th winner to be declared sole survivor.

"Survivor: China" proved to be more entertaining than in the past with a colorful cast of characters offering a feast for reality television lovers. A gravedigger, a professional wrestler, a card shark and a lunch lady were all cast to the way side as Herzog, Amanda Kimmel, and Courtney Yates managed to make it to the final three, where Todd convinced the jury that he was the most deserving player.

He now joins the infamous Richard Hatch, who won the inaugural

survivor Borneo season, as the only openly Gay person to earn the title, but he was not the only money winner on the show.

Colorado Church Shooter

Continued from Page One

reasons. The seventh stated: "I'm Bisexual." In a subsequent posting he wrote, "... I can never get a female date. I am at least able to get some male action." The station, which said it got help from Westword Magazine in obtaining the postings, reported that Murray wrote about confronting his mother about his Bisexuality.

Murray wrote that he told her, "Using drugs, alcohol and having Gay sex, I'm just trying to do what any Christian pastor would do. At least I'm not doing meth like Ted Haggard." Haggard was the pastor who had been defrocked at New Life Church, the second of the shooting scenes. Haggard was removed from the ministry after being exposed as being Gay by a former male prostitute.

The first shootings Sunday (December 9) took place at a dormitory at the Youth With a Mission center in the Denver suburb of Arvada. Four people were shot, two fatally. Police said the gunfire there started when Murray who had attended a Christmas Party at the center was told shortly after midnight he could not spend the night in the dorm. Murray had studied but was dropped from the Mission several years ago. A spokesperson said only that it was because of "issues related to his health."

rsletterslettersletters

On behalf of TIHAN and SAAF, we want to thank everyone who supported the "Holiday Extravaganza" benefit show at the Yard Dog (see the photos in last week's edition of The Observer). The show raised over \$750 to support the holiday program collaboration of TIHAN and SAAF.

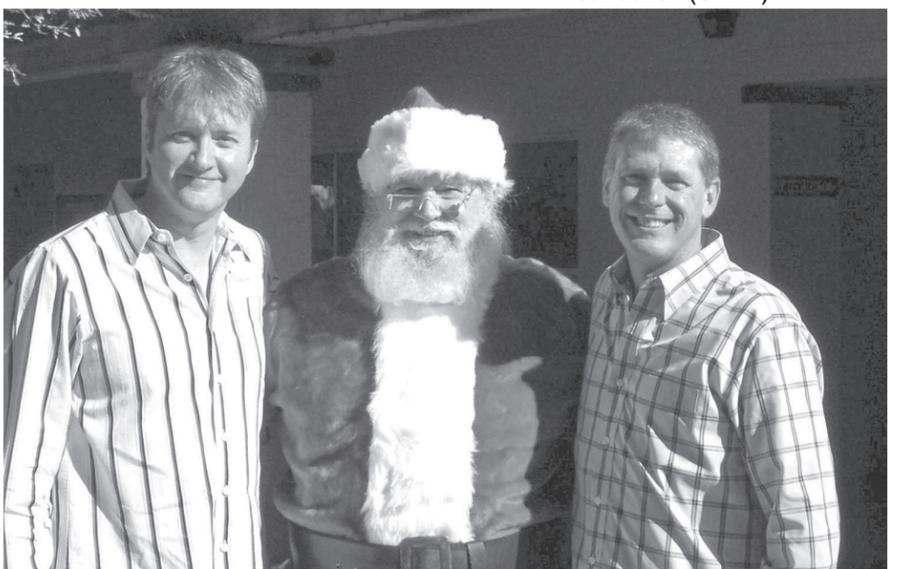
Thanks to Desert Diva Productions and event organizer Anthony Martinez, aka Amanda Nicole (Miss NCC National Elite 2007), and to Merlin and Ray and the Yard Dog for hosting the benefit and for all those who donated food for the pre-show dinner.

We also want to thank the performers, including Miss Gracie Wray, Misty Malone, Jasmina Miyaki (Miss NCC Black National 2006), Adrienne Alexander (Miss Gay Tucson 2007), Echo Contraire (Miss Carousel 2007), Layla Manilla (Miss Gay Chandler USofA 2008 and Miss Desert Enchantment USofA 2007), and Brad and Deb. Thanks also to Misty Malone, who helped emcee the show (and who presented a check to TIHAN from the proceeds of the Miss Carousel pageant!)

In addition to Desert Divas co-owner Gary Frank and all those who helped with makeup and lighting and the bar staff, we want to thank everyone in attendance who helped raise funds to brighten the holidays for our CarePartners living with HIV and their children and families. TIHAN and SAAF would like to express our gratitude to the Yard Dog and to Desert Divas Production and to the community for your generous support of our holiday program! With appreciation,

Scott Blades
Executive Director
Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)

Wendell Hicks
Executive Director
Southern Arizona AIDS
Foundation (SAAF)



Wendell Hicks

Santa

Scott Blades

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By Representatives Robert Wexler (D-FL), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

COMMENTARY . . .

A Case For Impeachment Hearings

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On November 7, the House of Representatives voted to send a resolution of impeachment of Vice President Cheney to the Judiciary Committee. As Members of the House Judiciary Committee, we strongly believe these important hearings should begin.

The issues at hand are too serious to ignore, including credible allegations of abuse of power that if proven may well constitute high crimes and misdemeanors under our constitution. The charges against Vice President Cheney relate to his deceptive actions leading up to the Iraq war, the revelation of the identity of a covert agent for political retaliation, and the illegal wiretapping of American citizens.

Now that former White House press secretary Scott McClellan has indicated that the Vice President and his staff purposefully gave him false information about the outing of Valerie Plame Wilson as a covert agent to report to the American people, it is even more important for Congress to investigate what may have been an intentional obstruction of justice. Congress should call Mr. McClellan to testify about what he described as being asked to "unknowingly [pass] along false information." In addition, recent revelations have shown that the Administration including Vice President Cheney may have again manipulated and exaggerated evidence about weapons of mass destruction - this time about Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Some of us were in Congress during the impeachment hearings of President Clinton. We spent a year and a half listening to testimony about President Clinton's personal relations.

This must not be the model for impeachment inquires. A Democratic Congress can show that it takes its constitutional authority seriously and hold a sober investigation, which will stand in stark contrast to the kangaroo court convened by Republicans for President Clinton. In fact, the worst legacy of the Clinton impeachment - where the GOP pursued trumped up and insignificant allegations - would be that it discourages future Congresses from examining credible and significant allegations of a constitutional nature when they arise.

The charges against Vice President Cheney are not personal. They go to the core of the actions of this Administration, and deserve consideration in a way the Clinton scandal never did. The American people understand this, and a majority support hearings according to a November 13 poll by the American Research Group. In fact, 70% of voters say that Vice President Cheney has abused his powers and 43% say that he should be removed from office right now. The American people understand the magnitude of what has been done and what is at stake if we fail to act. It is time for Congress to catch up.

Some people argue that the Judiciary Committee can not proceed with impeachment hearings because it would distract Congress from passing important legislative initiatives. We disagree. First, hearings need not tie up Congress for a year and shut down the nation. Second, hearings will not prevent Congress from completing its other business. These hearings involve the possible impeachment of the Vice President - not our commander in chief - and the resulting impact on the nation's business and

attention would be significantly less than the Clinton Presidential impeachment hearings. Also, despite the fact that President Bush has thwarted moderate Democratic policies that are supported by a vast majority of Americans - including children's health care, stem cell research, and bringing our troops home from Iraq - the Democratic Congress has already managed to deliver a minimum wage hike, an energy bill to address the climate crisis and bring us closer to energy independence, assistance for college tuition, and other legislative successes. We can continue to deliver on more of our agenda in the coming year while simultaneously fulfilling our constitutional duty by investigating and publicly revealing whether or not Vice President Cheney has committed high crimes and misdemeanors.

Holding hearings would put the evidence on the table, and the evidence - not politics - should determine the outcome. Even if the hearings do not lead to removal from office, putting these grievous abuses on the record is important for the sake of history. For an Administration that has consistently skirted the constitution and asserted that it is above the law, it is imperative for Congress to make clear that we do not accept this dangerous precedent. Our Founding Fathers provided Congress the power of impeachment for just this reason, and we must now at least consider using it.

For more info on this campaign go to WexlerWantsHearings.com.



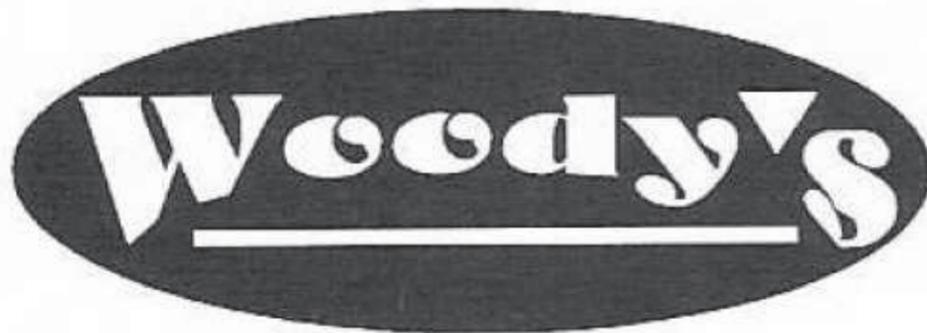
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Re. Robert Wexler (D-FL)



Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)



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POLITICS 2007

by Mark R. Kerr

A Presidential Primer: Cliff Notes

Monday, December 17 was the deadline for presidential candidates to file for Arizona's Presidential Primary scheduled to take place Tuesday, February 5.

A total of 48 people, 24 Democrats and 24 Republicans filed to be on the ballot for this election that Arizona and 22 other states will be holding on the first Tuesday in February.

Only the Democratic and Republican parties are the only political organizations to be listed since they were the only two recognized political parties with ballot access under A.R.S. (Arizona Revised Statute) 16-804, garnering five-percent of the popular vote in the 2006 Gubernatorial general election.

Arizona's Secretary of State will certify, under A.R.S. 16-242, the candidates who are qualified for the presidential preference election ballot.

A drawing by Arizona's Secretary of State will take place to determine the ballot order for the candidates for this election.

Some states prior to the February 5 elections, as well others on that day and after, hold what is called "open primaries," in which people need only to be registered to vote and can request the ballot of the party of their choice at the polls (or earlier if they decide to cast their ballot ahead of the scheduled time).

That is not the case for Arizona's Presidential Primary election though. A.R.S. 16-241 says that this election will give "qualified electors the opportunity to express their preference for the presidential candidate of the political party indicated as their preference by the record of their registration."

As previously reported in this publication, for one to cast their vote for their favorite presidential candidate, they must be registered with that political

party on or before January 7, 2008.

Online, the Observer at tucsonobserver.com/links.html, has links to voter registration forms and in other counties (than Pima) across Arizona, go online to azsos.gov/election/county.htm and follow the links.

Early and mail-in voting will take place for Arizona's election on February 5, 2008. Thursday, January 3, 2008, is the first day eligible voters can either request a mail-in ballot or go to one of the Pima County Recorder's offices.

In Pima County, for more information or to request your ballot, call (520) 740-4330 or go online to recorder.pima.gov/earlyreq.aspx. For other counties in Arizona go online to azsos.gov/election/county.htm and follow the links.

If one is registered to vote in the upcoming election and has questions about where the candidates stand, statements, position paper or vote on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and HIV/AIDS issues of concern, they can visit the candidate's respective website to read up on that, depending upon whether the information has been posted on "politically spinned" out of reality.

Instead of the potential blather one may incur upon their search, potential voters can go to the other websites for information, positions, statements and votes on LGBT and HIV/AIDS as well as other issues of concern before casting their vote.

Some of these are for LGBT and HIV/AIDS: visiblevote08.com, aidsvote.com, and thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/final_candidates_positions.pdf. On other issues, visit ontheissues.org and votesmart.org/election_president.php?dist=bio.php.

Favorite Books Of The New Queerlenium

The GLBT Services Committee was established in 1997 to better serve southern Arizona's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender library users. It seeks to fulfill this mission by creating exciting programs such as GLBT author visits, and through participation at various outreach events such as OUToberFEST and Tucson's annual Pride Parade.

On a daily basis they review, order and make GLBT materials available for all PCPL users, regardless of age, location or sexual orientation.

The Pima County Public Library's (PCPL) GLBT Services Committee is dedicated to upholding the library's Mission Statement as well as the Library Users Bill of Rights for all of our customers.

PCPL is one of the few public libraries in the country to have an established GLBT Services Committee. It's an exciting time for GLBT-themed publishing.

More and more books reflecting the strength, experience and vision of GLBT people appear on the shelves of book stores and libraries. The Pima County Public Library's GLBT Services Committee are proud to offer our favorite recent books that are by and about

GLBT people. We hope this offering inspires you to read one or more of these marvelous books

Transgender Care: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information and Personal Accounts by Gianna E. Israel & Donald E. Tarver II, M.D. (Temple University Press). This remarkable book was primarily written for medical and psychological professionals who treat Transgendered persons. However, it also offers enormous amounts of information to individuals confronted with gender issues; it will make an informed consumer out of anyone considering genital reassignment surgery, hormone administration, and therapy. Just how much testosterone should you take? What can you expect from your employer and friends when you 'come out' to them? Where can you go for treatment and surgery, and will insurance cover any of your expenses? These and countless other questions are answered in this unique and extraordinary book. (Karyn Prechtel)

For more information, visit your local Pima County library or go online to tpl.org/community/glb/index.cfm.



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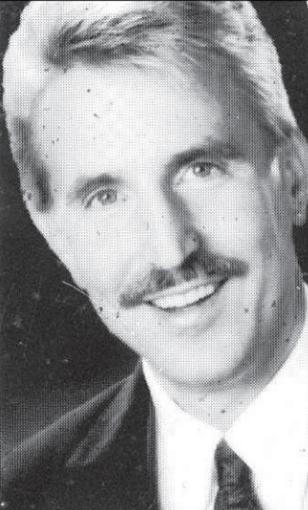


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In Stand For Marriage Equality, Some Churches Cut Out Civil Wedding Ceremonies

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - Some churches have decided that until same-sex partners can have a civil wedding ceremony in the church, they will not hold any at all, the Associated Press reported on advocate.com.

It doesn't matter if you're gay or straight, you can't get legally married at Lyndale United Church of Christ. The small, liberal church in south Minneapolis was the first of several Twin Cities congregations last year to stop performing civil marriage ceremonies as long as same-sex marriage is illegal. These churches, and a handful of others around the country that took the same step, will still hold a religious ceremony to bless the unions of straight and Gay couples – but straight couples must go separately to a judge or justice of the peace for the marriage license.

"If you feel that Gay and Lesbian people are loved and credited by God, then how can we continue to discriminate against our brothers and sisters?" asked Rev. Don Portwood, the reserved Nebraska native who's been lead pastor at the 120-member Lyndale United Church of Christ for 27 years.

The churches in question minister to only a handful of the most liberal churchgoers in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and most have a large contingent of Gay members in the congregation.

"Go 20 miles out of the city and it will be a different story," said the Rev. David Runnion-Bareford, executive director of Biblical Witness Fellowship, a New Hampshire-based conservative movement within the United Church of Christ.

But the pastors leading these congregations don't expect other churches, particularly those from more conservative denominations, to follow suit. Rather, it's a new strategy to achieve legal marriage for Gays and Lesbians, with supporters hoping to push toward a society that views civil and religious marriage as separate institutions.

"There's a real shift going on here where I think more and more people are recognizing the distinction, that what the state offers and the church offers are two different things," said the

Rev. Mark Wade, pastor of the 540-member Unitarian Universalist Church in Asheville, N.C.

Last year, Wade stopped signing marriage licenses, and now speaks of it as a stand for the separation of church and state. "We tell couples to go to the magistrate," Wade said. "I felt I couldn't serve an unjust law. That didn't make any sense to me."

It's difficult to know how many congregations nationwide have taken such a step. Wade said he knows of about a dozen fellow Unitarian ministers who won't sign marriage licenses. There are at least five congregations in the Twin Cities that either no longer perform civil marriages or are phasing them out – three from the United Church of Christ, one Unitarian and one Lutheran.

Portwood said he knows of at least several other UCC congregations around the country that have made the change. Several messages left with UCC headquarters in Cleveland were not returned.

The UCC, which counts presidential candidate Barack Obama among its members, is one of the oldest denominations in the United States, with roots going back to the Pilgrims. In 2005, the church's General Synod voted to support same-sex marriage as a civil right, the first mainline Christian denomination to do so.

That started the discussion at several of the UCC congregations in the Twin Cities that led to the current policies. "I don't know that they thought we'd go quite this far," said the Rev. Sarah Campbell, lead pastor at the 650-member Mayflower Congregational Church in Minneapolis, which followed the Lyndale church's lead a few weeks later.

Both Campbell and Portwood said the change was an easy sell with their congregations. Both churches put it to a vote of their congregations. At Lyndale, there were no dissenting votes, while at Mayflower there were only two.

Portwood said Lyndale never held many weddings, and that hasn't changed since the new rule. Mayflower, with a larger congregation, has traditionally held more weddings and hasn't seen a spike or decline since the

change, Campbell said. In Asheville, which Ward said is something of a "wedding tourist destination," the Unitarian Universalist Church saw an initial drop-off in wedding ceremonies but has since returned to normal levels, he said.

Vickie Wunsch and Susie George, partners for the last 12 years, had a religious wedding ceremony at Mayflower a few weeks ago. "It was what I would consider a pretty traditional wedding," Wunsch said. The two have a marriage license from Canada, but hope to someday get one from the state of Minnesota, she said.

"I think both the civil and the conventional aspects of marriage are important, but they both have their place," Campbell said. "It's just gotten mixed up where they're not clearly separated. I would say it's only a matter of time before we move to what they've done in Canada, South Africa, Europe – separating out those two aspects."

Runnion-Bareford, whose group led the opposition to UCC's declaration on same-sex marriage in 2005, said that might not be as difficult to achieve as some might imagine. If Gay marriage becomes legal in states other than Massachusetts, Runnion-Bareford predicted, then churches like Lyndale and Mayflower could find unlikely allies.

"I know there are clusters of conservative pastors in Massachusetts who have discussed refusing civil ceremonies so as not to be under pressure to perform same-gender

ceremonies," said Runnion-Bareford, who himself believes that government and the church have a joint interest in promoting traditional marriage as a societal good.

"The question they are putting forward is, what is that connection going to be?" he said. "Will clergy continue to be civil agents? What will be the changing picture of the relationship between religion and marriage?"

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Study Shows Responsible Partner Selection Behaviors Practiced By Men Diagnosed With HIV

ATLANTA, Georgia - A study presented this week at the Centers for Disease Control Conference revealed that most HIV infected men have unprotected sex only with others who are infected with HIV, reported medline.net. The study included 27 men with acute HIV infection. (This refers to the one month period immediately following HIV infection, when a person tends to have the highest levels of HIV circulating in their blood, making it much more likely they will infect a partner during unprotected sex.)

"This reflects a systematic shift by me, most of whom are Gay, following HIV infection to demonstrate behaviors that protect their sex partners," noted lead author Wayne Steward, assistant professor of medicine at the University of California and San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

Prior to HIV infection, the men in the study had unprotected sex with HIV-negative or HIV-unknown partners almost 75 percent of the time. After learning they were infected with HIV, there was a major change in their behavior. They started having sex with other HIV infected men 97 percent of the time. "This study highlights the importance of identifying acute or recent HIV infections so that this partner selection strategy can be implemented at the critical juncture when individuals are most infectious," said Dr. Steward.

The study comes on the heels of new data from two U.S. studies that found that about a third of HIV infected Gay or Bisexual men report having engaged in unsafe sex. However, in many cases, the men were selecting other HIV-positive partners when engaging in unsafe sex, a practice called "serosorting."



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Is The Military Turning A Blind Eye To Gays And Lesbians?

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A Gay soldier says he disclosed his sexuality to his superiors, even offering graphic proof, and was neither discharged nor reprimanded, despite the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality, CBS News reported.

several Gay former military members who say they were also out openly in their units, known to be Gay by as many as a hundred other service members.

"They don't care...these are our peers...the 'Will and Grace' generation," says Brian Fricke, referring to the popular television program featuring a Gay character. Fricke was a Marine Corps avionics technician who served in Iraq. "They grew up with it in the media...They see Gay people as people...Americans," says Fricke. "They don't see Gay people as people with a disability..." The Gay former service members tell 60 Minutes that they did not re-enlist because they oppose the don't ask, don't tell policy, which they say shows the military's leadership is out of step with American society and its allies. Gays serve openly in the British and Canadian military and in those of the other 13 NATO countries.

Army Sgt. Darren Manzella appeared in a Lesley Stahl report on Gays in the wartime U.S. military broadcast Sunday on 60 Minutes. Manzella, a medic who served in Iraq for a year, currently serves as medical liaison for the 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Kuwait, where he tells Stahl that he is "out" to his entire chain of command, including a three-star general.

U.S. Army Maj. Daniel Davis, speaking to Stahl out of uniform to emphasize that he does not speak for the U.S. military, tells 60 Minutes that don't ask, don't tell is necessary to achieve cohesion among soldiers, especially those in combat. Most service members are conservative, he says, and won't readily accept Gays.

After leaving Iraq, he says he started receiving anonymous emails warning him about his openness that suggested he was being watched, so he went to his commander to head off an investigation he felt was coming. "I didn't know how else to do it," he tells Stahl, acknowledging that he initiated an investigation of himself by violating the policy. "I felt more comfortable being the one to say, 'This is what is real,'" Manzella says.

"If you have a moral or religious issue, you cannot order me to [bond] with that [Gay] person," Davis tells Stahl. "Our purpose in the military is not social engineering...It's about fighting and winning the nation's wars."

He then says his commander reported him, as he was obliged to do, and then "I had to go see my battalion commander, who read me my rights," he tells 60 Minutes. He turned over pictures of him and his boyfriend, including video of a passionate kiss, to aid the investigation. But he tells Stahl he was surprised by the outcome. "I was told to go back to work. There was no evidence of homosexuality," Manzella says. "You're not Gay," he says his superiors told him.

The response confused him and, he says, the closest a superior officer came to addressing his sexuality was to say "I don't care if you're Gay or not." Manzella's commanders may not be the only ones who are indifferent to Gays serving openly under them, 60 Minutes reports. Discharges of Gay soldiers have dropped dramatically since the Afghan and Iraq wars began, from 1,200 a year in 2001 to barely 600 now. With the military struggling to recruit and retain soldiers, Gay soldiers claim that commanders are reluctant to discharge critical personnel in the middle of a war.

In her report Stahl spoke with



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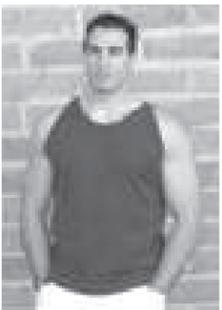
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Lesbian Divorce Case Returns To R.I. Court

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (Observer Update) - A Lesbian seeking a divorce has returned to court despite a ruling by Rhode Island Supreme Court that said same-sex divorce cannot be decided by Family Court, reported 365Gay.com. This time Margaret Chambers is trying to get her divorce in Superior Court.

In a split decision the high court ruled that laws governing Family Court do not include same-sex couples. The case involved Chambers and Cassandra Ormiston who were married in Massachusetts in 2004. Because Rhode Island has no specific law banning same-sex marriage Gay and Lesbian couples can go to Massachusetts to marry.

But those marriages are not recognized in Rhode Island. Last year the Chambers filed for divorce in Providence, citing "irreconcilable differences". Because of the lack of specific legislation on same-sex marriage Chief Family Court Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. said he did not know if he could rule without taking up the issue of marriage. He asked the Supreme Court justices to determine if he has the authority to hear the case.

When the high court took up the case it limited arguments solely to the issue of divorce, leaving marriage for same-sex couples in limbo. Attorneys for the two women had said the court should consider only the comity provision of the U.S. Constitution. Writing for the majority, Justice William Robinson III said that the Family Court could only deal with the divorce if the General Assembly gives that court the power to grant divorces to same-sex couples.

Chambers' attorney, Louis M. Pulner, noting that the justices only ruled on whether the divorce could be taken up

by Family Court thinks he may have a shot at getting the case before Superior Court. "The Supreme Court is telling us Family Court lacks jurisdiction, but they did not say Superior Court lacks jurisdiction," Pulner tells the Providence Journal. "[The Supreme Court] did not say this couple could not get divorced in Rhode Island. They just said they could not get divorced in Family Court because of their interpretation of statutory language from 1961."

Pulner told the paper that he doesn't know of any divorces that have been granted in Superior Court since 1961, but he said, "There is always a first time." Ormiston's lawyer, Nancy A. Palmisciano, told the Journal that she, too had considered filing for divorce in Superior Court and that she has no objection to Pulner's filing.

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Thursday, December 20
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

#2 Please reserve for upcoming December Pizza Night and/or Christmas by Noon today. Call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Friday, December 21
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Saturday, December 22
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday Monthly Pot Luck. Phone host Marvin at 745-0304 for location, driving directions, and info.

Sunday, December 23
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken

by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, December 24
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, December 25
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 1:00p.m.Join Lloyd for Christmas! Did you call to reserve by last Thursday the 20th? Then see you there!

Wednesday, December 26
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin. Call for info and directions: 207-5336. Please call ahead to assist your host in planning the evening.

Thursday, December 27
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, December 28
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Merlin and Lee host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, they will be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please contact Merlin and Lee at 207-

5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, December 29
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m.Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076.

Sunday, December 30
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:00p.m. Dinner Out at one of Tucson's Ultra-Fabulous Buffets. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 623-2941, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com, or Ken at 294-6606. Please contact Thom or Ken by Sunday at Noon to facilitate reservations. Price is usually under \$10. Check the Yahoo MSN on-line calendar for the scheduled place. The venue is rotated to include all parts of town, and may occasionally be held at a full-service menu restaurant.

Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, December 31
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 PM, Wildcat House, 1800 Stone Ave.

Friday, January 4
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 - 7:00, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, January 6
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, January 7
Deadline to be registered to vote for Arizona's presidential primary that will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5. This is a "closed primary" meaning one must be registered with a participating political party to take part.

Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N.

Stone Ave.
Thursday, January 10, 2008
TIHAN will conduct Volunteer Orientation/Training from 5:15 to 9:15 p.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1350 N. Arcadia Ave. Call (520)299-6647 for additional information and to sign up to begin your volunteer journey.

Friday, January 11
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Saturday, January 12
Tucson Prime Timers Business Meeting - 11 AM, Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St.

Sunday, January 13
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, January 14
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, January 18
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, January 20
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Monday, January 21
Tucson Prime Timers Lunch - 12:30 P.M., The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone Ave.

Friday, January 25
Tucson Prime Timers Cocktails - 5:30 PM, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

Sunday, January 27
Tucson Prime Timers Brunch - 11:30 am - 2 pm, Colors, 5305 E. Speedway

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1. THE BIZ
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 2. IBT'S
616 N. 4th Ave. 882-3053
 3. VENTURE-N
1239 N. 6th Ave. 882-8224
 5. WOODY'S
3710 N. Oracle Road, 292-6702
 6. HOWL AT THE MOON
915 W. Prince Rd. 293-7339
 7. YARD DOG SALOON
2449 N. Stone, 624-3858
 8. COLORS FOOD & SPIRITS
5305 E. Speedway 323-1840
- Organizations**
- A. MCC - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
3269 N. Mountain - 292-9151
 - B. CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP
2902 N. Geronimo - 622-4626
 - D. WINGSPAN - 425 E. 7th St. - 624-1779
 - E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223
 - F. RAINBOW PLANET COFFEE HOUSE
606 N. 4th Ave. - 620-1770
 - G. TIHAN -Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network
1101 N. Craycroft, Ste 301. 299-6647
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TUCSON DIRECTORY

The map shows a grid of streets. Major streets labeled include: ORACLE, STONE, SIXTH AVE, FOURTH AVE, FIRST AVE, MOUNTAIN, GRANT, CAMPBELL, TUCSON BLVD., COUNTRY CLUB, ALVERNON, SWAN, CRAYCROFT, BRADSHAW, UNIVERSITY, SPEEDWAY, SIXTH ST., CONGRESS, and BROADWAY. The I-10 Freeway is shown on the left side. A sign in the bottom right corner reads: "TAKE YOUR I.D. TO THE BARS It's The Law!"

HOROSCOPES

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A major mover and shaker moves and shakes this week: Lucky Jupiter enters Capricorn and makes our wildest dreams manageable and, perhaps, even achievable. So dream big. No bigger!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

No matter what you may do and say, Gay Rams successfully chart their own professional course over the next couple of years. Do you enviously eye the seat of power? If so then occupy it. The secret to your success is to take things in moderation no matter how much the fates load your plate. Modesty is everything. Of course you already know that. Ahem!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

The world opens up to you in all forms and styles. At least that is what it seems as Jupiter enters Cap. Queer Bulls develop an extensive global reach that can change the course of human events. (Or something like that...) So make yourself heard above the general static. You never know where a well placed thought or comment can lead you. Let's hope it's astray.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Are your eyes too big for your stomach? Good! Pink Twins can not only see who they want, they can get who they want. You are sexy, sultry and full of pep. What a nice change of pace! Satisfy your sweet tooth while Jupiter lolls in Capricorn and see how Outrageous you can become. The real question is, can you become too outrageous?? Oh try! Try! Try!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Restrictive relationships suddenly loosen up. And new liaisons take on a wonderful, expansive life of their own. Pink Caps with a song in their heart and a spring in their step can make extraordinary inroads in any relationship when Jupiter enters Cap. But why restrict yourself to the tried and true? It can be an excellent time to strut your stuff and see who follows. Baaaaa.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

As much as you would like to break the shackles that bind, proud Lions can actually make impressive inroads into any work related effort when Jupiter enters Cap. Yes, its incredibly boring, but why not take advantage of the cosmic push? Before you know it, you can rule the roost and collect all the eggs. Even if they are hard boiled, they still make a good lunch.

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

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Serious queer Virgins don't stand a chance with Jupiter in Cap. Not only are you forced to have fun, you do so despite all your efforts to the contrary. So why take on the world's problems? Why not just look on the happy side and enjoy life a little for the foreseeable future? The fates conspire to lighten your load. Leave it on the corner for pickup and don't look back.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

The year is winding done, proud Libra. Look at your "to-do" list and put your domestic agenda on the top of it. Not only can you pave over the family potholes, you may also find that your overall home environment can begin to look rather spiffy with a little elbow grease. Redecorate, renovate or detonate. Changes are apace. Make them march to your own tune.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Not only can you charm just about anyone, you do so in an impressive and monumental way when Jupiter enters Cap. Gay Scorps are often quite convincing on a low, deliberate level. Now you add a dash of flash to even a meager effort. If you are looking to change the landscape, you can do so with relative ease. So get out there and move a mountain. Heck, move two.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Do you dream of riches? Even if you don't Jupiter in Cap begins to deliver an added bonus to any financial effort. Gay Archers should look to the bottom line and see how they can bolster it up. Ideas and even supporters gravitate to you and give you a boost. And, really, who can't use a few extra bucks in their pocket? Or do I mean "buckeroos" ...?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

How lucky can a pink Cap get when Jupiter moves into their own sign. Not only do you blossom into a social butterfly, you are also more able to easily plan monumental personal projects that are almost guaranteed to succeed. The trick is to not rest on your laurels or procrastinate. Put in the effort and get the gains. If you try to slink by, you might snooze it away on the couch.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Concentrating your best strategic abilities and simply thinking ahead will get you ahead. Jupiter posits in Cap and turns on your third eye so you can more effectively take advantage of hidden opportunities. Dive into anything that sparks your imagination or gives you a feeling of karmic joy. What is it that turns you on Aqueerius? Well, don't answer that publicly.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies are truly in the epicenter of the social swim when Jupiter enters Cap. Friends demand your attention and participation to such a great extent that you feel like the linchpin of any activity. And you are! How can you best harness the energy? Be choosy about what you commit to and with whom. Not everyone should be allowed access to greatness.

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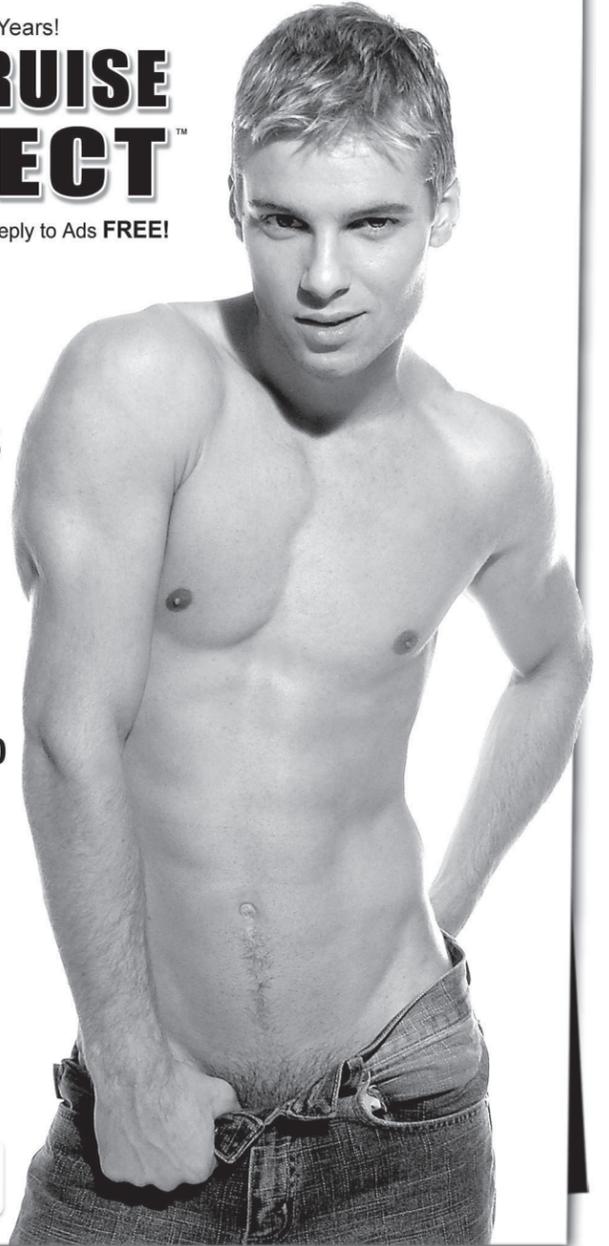
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Gay Model Couple Uses Reality Role For Marriage Fight

NEW YORK CITY - Washblade.com reported that Gay couple Paul Anderson and Shaun McCarron, both 25, found fame the old-fashioned way: they were discovered.

When the co-habiting pair was visiting Los Angeles from Orlando, Fla., they were just chilling at a friend's barbecue, and who shows up but Janice Dickinson, the self-appointed world's first supermodel and reality TV maven. That led to roles on the third season of Dickinson's Oxygen reality show "The Janice Dickinson Modeling Agency," which started December 4 and airs new episodes each Tuesday at 10:30 p.m.



Shaun McCarron(l) and Paul Anderson

They hope their relationship will draw some attention to the fight for Gay marriage equality. "I think [being a Gay couple on the show] helps open some eyes and [put] the focus back on the issues again," Anderson says. "You can't just

let things happen as they happen, you need to take action. Society needs that slap in the face, saying to people, 'Wake up, we're not done yet.'"



The Observer Management and Staff want to wish a wonderful, toe-tapping holiday season and hopes that there are many wide-stances to come in the upcoming new year for one and all.



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PERSONALS

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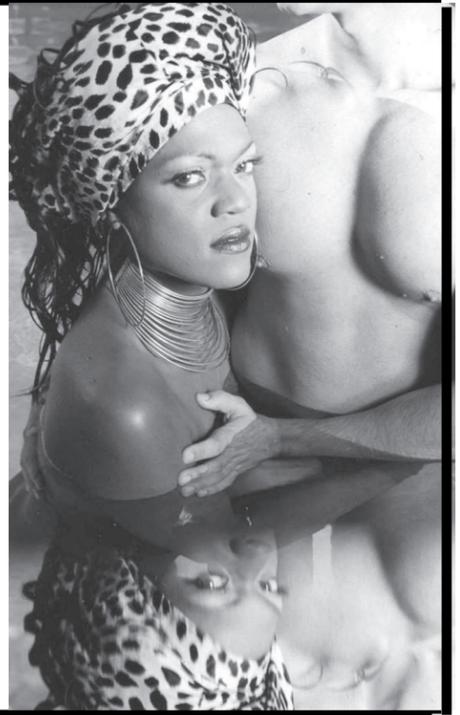
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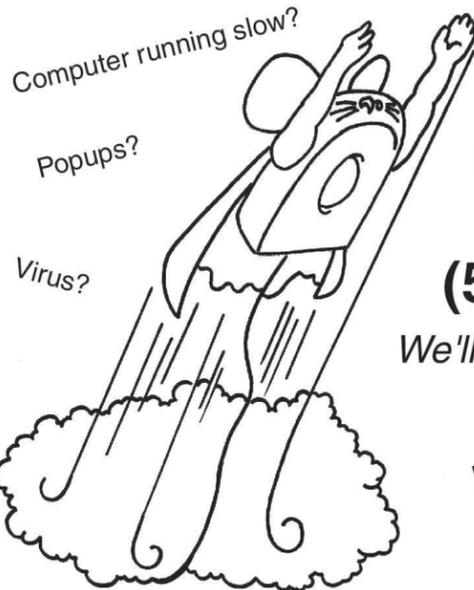


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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; \$2 Pitchers til 10pm and Rotating Shot Specials all night; Latino Explosion 9pm with DJ Hill. Beer Bust 5-10pm

COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well. Appetizers ½ price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - 10am. Starting 9/9. NFL package here. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas \$2.50 all day. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 3 and 6 pm. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. \$1 hot dogs, \$2 chili dogs during game. SIN Nite Drink Discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt. Latin Dance Music 8:30 to close.

IBT's - Troy's Recovery Bar noon-4pm. 4-7:30 Karaoke on the patio. Benefit B-B-Q for the Pride Parade 5:30-7:30 and dance with DJ Mike Lopez 9pm to close.

VENTURE-N - Open 10am. Patio open 3pm. \$2.00 Bloody Marys or Screws til 3pm Patio Beer Bust 3-7. Burger BBQ 5-7. Selection of burger meats to choose from. \$3 proceeds go to Pet Watch (helping HIV/AIDS clients with their veterinary bills).

WOODY'S - Open 11am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm til 2am. Beer Bust 2-7pm; Bar-B-Que 5-9pm; Karaoke with Michael D. 9p.m.; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9pm; Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Patio Bar opens at 7pm.

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-10pm; Drink what you want with ½ priced Happy Hour. Poke-Her Monday! Free card lessons 5pm. Free Texas Hold-Em Tourney at 6pm; Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Places. Happy Hour pricing.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers ½ price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour all day & night with \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Watch MNF here! \$1.00 hot dogs during game. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker tourney at 6 & 8:30, Play for points and prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, DJ Craig Carter 10pm-2am \$1.50 well vodka drinks, All drink specials not available during special events.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 6pm. Free pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Skyy Martinis 4-8pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events) Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Rum until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Half-Price Happy Hour 3-8pm. Karaoke 8pm-12am with 2 for 1 drinks.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker for women only at 6:00 p.m. Play for points and prizes - no cash involved. \$2 u-call-it drink special 9pm to midnight (some restrictions apply).

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Tropical Tuesdays \$2.50 Tropical drinks and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Spaghetti Nite (2nd Tuesday every month \$2.00).

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am. Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events). Havana Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioscas and Martinis.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Tequila until 8pm Dart Tourney at 9am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink what You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 18 to Party, 21 to Drink! 18 & Over Night w/DJ Hill at 9pm! Rotating Shot Specials all night. Patio Bar opens @ 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Every Wednesday is "Cabaret Open Mic Night". Sign up at 6:30 - Show starts at 7. MC: Cabaret Diva Liz McMahon. Music Director: Marilyn Harris.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. \$5.00 Jager Bombs and Long Island Ice Tea. Free Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

DECEMBER 19, 2007

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Divalicious" show 9pm w/ Bunny Fu Fu & Friends. After show dance with DJ Q til 2am,

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. \$2.75 Cuervo Margaritas 4-8pm

WOODY'S - Open Noon til 2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Chili Dog Buffet 5-9pm; Underwear/Fetish/Leather Party 9-close - \$1 off all drinks for those who participate (50¢ off draught/schnapps) Back Pocket Patio Bar open 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Vodka until 8pm Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; 'Thirsty Thursday' with Tori Steele & Friends! Drag show now ts at 10pm with Tori Steele, China Colliins and guests. \$2 Pitchers and Rotating Shot Specials. Followed by DJ Hill til 2am.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Mexican Beers \$2.50 all lday, all night. Karaoke starts at 9 p.m.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, Boyz Nite Out with your Bartenders & GoGo Boys dancing in their undies and DJ Mike Lopez spinning Top 40 & All request \$1.75 Long Islands and \$1.50 Tequila shots 10pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm. Pool Tourney 7pm. \$3 entry. Special prices for players. Steak Nite (3rd Thursday during summer). Bring your own or get it here \$6.00.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl Spec Events); Free Pool all day. Nacho Chip Buffet 5-9pm; \$1 PBRs Longnecks and \$2 Tecate Longnecks; Back Pocket Bar open 8-close.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Bourbon til 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar opens 7pm.

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-2am; Drink What You Want with ½ priced Happy Hour 3-8pm; Rotating weeks Latin or Hip Hop Music with DJ Hill at 9pm. Rotating Shot Specials all night! Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and ½ price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 Smirnoff Ice. Triple Black, Green Apple and Raspberry Twisters. Free Country dance lessons at 7:30p.m. DJ Pat plays classic country 8:30 to close..

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 9pm Hot Dance with DJ Mike Lopez outside on the patio and DJ Raynman spinning club music inside. 9pm-2am.

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio open 7pm. Free Pool til 4pm.

WOODY'S - Open Noon-2am; Happy Hour Noon-8pm (excl spec events); Martini Happy Hour 5-8pm-\$1 off all call Martinis; Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8-close. DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close; Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. 50¢ off any Top Shelf Gin until 8pm. Beer Bust 4-8pm. Patio Bar Opens 7pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - \$2.00 U-Call-Its til 11pm. Saturday night dance party with DJ Hill 9pm. Patio Bar opens at 10:30pm.

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well, ½ price appetizers 4-6. Pianist/Vocalist Marilyn Harris 6:30-9:30. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. \$4.50 cheeseburger & fries. \$2.50 Captain Morgan or Malibu Rum all day, all night. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke and Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Ajia Simone or Janee Star. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside and Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm to close..

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Patio Beer Bust 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 10am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Steak/Fish Dinner in the Back Pocket 5-9pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5-close. Live Jazz with Arthur Migliazza in the Back Pocket 6-9pm; DJ Jeff in the Back Pocket 9-close. Watch for special events.

YARD DOG - Open daily 8am. Beer Bust 4-8pm. \$1.25 glass, \$2.25 pitcher. Patio Bar Opens 7pm.

WEEKLY OBSERVER

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

WOODY'S - Red and Green Party with the Bud Crew!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

THE BIX - Special Christmas Show. Watch for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Shorty is here playing Latin and Dance Mix.

WOODY'S - Christmas Party. Come and sit on Santa's lap and get our picture taken.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

THE BIZ - Biz will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Christmas Eve Hours 3:00 p.m. to midnight.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

THE BIZ - Closed Christmas Day.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Christmas Day Hours 6:00 p.m. to midnight

VENTURE-N - The Venture opens today at 8:00a.m. and will be holding it's annual Christmas Pot Luck at 1:00 p.m. Ask the bartender for sign-up sheet.

WOODY'S - Bar opens at 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

WOODY'S' Boxer Party wear your favorite pair of boxers and get \$1.00 off your drinks.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

WOODY'S - Drag Bingo 8:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

HOWL AT THE MOON - Howl-in' the New Year! Starts at 8:00 p.m. Music, food, dancing, champagne, silly hats.

VENTURE-N - Balloon Busters Ball to bring in the New Year. Always fun.

WOODY'S - Holliday's Headliners Celebrity Impersonation Show at 8:30 p.m. featuring Cher, Madonna, Selena, Celine Dion & Michael Jackson. Hosted by Lucinda Holliday. The Bud Crew will also be in with prizes and giveaways. No Cove!

Mighty Mouse Says

By Mike Pollack

I want to warn everyone about a recent email scam in which you receive an email claiming to be from the IRS or a Tax Advocacy organization offering a tax refund. This is a scam!

Do not click on any links in these emails. Just delete them. For full details from the IRS, here is a link to their press release on the subject: irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=170894,00.html

Here is a tip to keep your computing experience low-stress:

Add an online backup service to your backup routine. Online backup services make a backup copy of your files over the internet to the service provider's computers.

Having an off-site backup can be great if your computer gets stolen or worst case, your house/office has a fire.

Mighty Mouse recommends having an on-site backup as well (ie: flashdrive, CD, or external hard drive) for simplicity.

The service that is recommended for both Macs and PCs is: www.mozy.com For home users, they even have a free plan for up to 2GB of storage.

(For your computer needs, questions or to have your problems solved, Mighty Mouse Computer Consulting will save your day. For more information, call Mike at (520) 312-2630, E-mail: mike@mmcci.com or go online to www.mmcci.com/.)

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

TUCSON KNIGHT OWLS (T.K.O) Openly invites new members to our monthly meetings which occur on the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 pm., followed by a beer bust from 2pm to 6pm., at our home bar the Yard Dog saloon.

HALLELUJAH RECOVERY DRUG & ALCOHOL 12-STEP. Every Thursday 5:30-6:30pm at Cornerstone Fellowship, 2902 N. Geronimo. 622-4626.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINIC provided daily by the Pima County Health Department. Gay friendly. Confidential. Treatment and Medication too! Any questions? Call 624-8272

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION (SAAF), 375 S. EUCLID. Office Hours 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Direct services and emotional support for persons with and affected by HIV. Anonymous HIV testing and support groups available. Prevention education programs. 628-SAAF (7223). World wide web: <http://www.sAAF.org>. VOLUNTEERS WELCOME.

P.F.L.A.G. - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - is a support group available to anyone who has a son, daughter or friend who is Gay. Call 360-3795 or write P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740-6264. All replies confidential.

GLBT-friendly AL-ANON group meets Saturdays at 11am at Unitarian Universalist Church, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet every Saturday in Tucson for sharing, support and information. Meetings are held at 425 E. 7th Street from 3 to 4:30 pm. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

The **TUCSON Chapter of PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE** invites Gay or Bisexual men and their admirers to join and share Prime Timers fellowship. We welcome mature men (and admirers) who wish to become involved with planned and future Prime Timers (TPT) activities. Meetings luncheons and dinners are held monthly. For dates, times and information call 298-6727, leave name and phone number. Tucsonpt@primetimersww.org

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325_2111 _ 7am_7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

AIDS HOTLINE - 326-AIDS. Hours M-F, 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. Information, counseling, HIV-related services, Tucson.

GAY OR BI-SEXUAL MEN in relationships with women. Need friends you can talk to? Weekly support group meets Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Licensed psychologist facilitator. Call 745-6977 in Tucson for more information. Strictly confidential.

WINGSPAN - Tucson's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Center, 425 E. 7th St., offers support groups / info line / social events / library / meeting space. Volunteer Opportunities. Board meetings every 2nd Thursday (open to all), 6:00 p.m. Information 624-1779.

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (GPGCLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

SOURCES UNLIMITED, a Lesbian & Gay referral service. Business and individual listings are free of charge. All information available to anyone just simply by asking. 322-5655. Leave message. TucsonSources@aol.com

GET NAKED with TNTucson MEN! We're a social and recreational club. Have you ever longed to camp, swim, hike or play with others who enjoy the same, dropping all the masks and pretensions? We're for you! TNTucsonMEN@nethere.com, P.O. Box 12176, Tucson 85792 or call 514-9894

IINNER WISDOM - Try hypnotherapy for pain relief, past life exploration and addiction release. Also available: Spiritual Counseling and Dream Interpretation. 579-9020

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO - a social club for bears and bigger, more robust men (and of course, those who prefer their company). For more info, Call the Bears Hotline (520)790-5775 or write P.O. Box 43910, Tucson, AZ 85733-3910 or visit our website at www.botop.com All are welcome to our general meetings/potlucks on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 3202 E. 1st St. (the "Ward 6" Office Bldg.) Just south of Speedway & East of Country Club. PotLuck Dinner begins at 6:30 and the monthly meeting follows at 7:15 p.m.

LESBIAN AND GAY AL-ANON - Affected by someone's drinking? Meeting every Tuesday 8:45 to 9:45 p.m. at Lambda Center, 2940 E. Thomas, Phoenix. Ellie 581-8850 or Ronn 968-2384.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE GROUP - Outreach to Gay and Lesbian people in Arizona. Meets monthly. Write to P.O. Box 893, Phoenix, AZ 85001 or call Eddy Walters, (602)371-1102

CRONIES SOCIAL GROUP. A Social group for Gay men who enjoy the fellowship of their peers. Call Leo at 624-6768.

T-SQUARES Lesbian and Gay Square Dance Club, dances Tuesdays. from 6:30-9 p.m. at Cornerstone Fellowship Social Hall, 2902 N. Geronimo (Northwest of 1st Ave. and Glenn). No experience, no partner required! For more info contact David at 325-6739, or visit www.azgaydance.org

LIGHTNING LIGHTING will provide lighting for AIDS and related benefits at no charge. For more info call Adrienne at 889-7298.

COME EXPLORE YOUR SPIRITUALITY! St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church offers a variety of Gay and Lesbian groups and services for the spiritually minded. Come meet the Family! For more information call Debbie 579-9827 or David 323-7943.

LESBIAN/GAY WRITERS: Workshop at 7:00 p.m. third Wednesday of every month. Read and critique current projects. Network and support. For info call 325-4737.

DESERT VOICES, Tucson's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Chorus, has been singing songs of pride, hope and laughter for 19 seasons. Check out our website at www.desertvoices.org, or call (520)791-9662 for information about upcoming concerts or how to join.

Join the **LESBIAN & GAY PUBLIC AWARENESS PROJECT.** In Tucson write Awareness Project, 3661 N. Campbell Ave. #365, Tucson, AZ 85719.

AA Meeting with HIV/AIDS focus, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Wingspan Annex, 425 E. 7th Street. All alcoholics welcome.

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 690-9565 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

CARE TEAMS ARE AVAILABLE to offer support to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network offers trained, compassionate and committed volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS TEAMS and updates on Gay Games, contact TEAM ARIZONA at their website: teamarizona.org

ARE YOU GAY OR BISEXUAL AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE? The Gay Young Men's Project is now looking for volunteers for the project. We need people who want to help create a positive social change for young Gay men as well as reduce the risk for HIV infection. For more information please call 628-7223.

THE MEN'S MASSAGE GROUP meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. It is a good way to meet other men of all ages, safely, and with the art of nurturing touch. There is a fee. You must sign up in advance to participate. Call Marc at 881-

4582 for more information or sign up.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GLBT, Tucson's Gay and Lesbian business networking group holds regular meetings the third Thursday of every month. Call 615-6436 for more info. www.tucsonglbtchamber.org

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and

Pride Weekend. Inquiries about support groups and individual needs should be directed to Wingspan and other local agencies listed here. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

LEARN TO BE A LISTENING FRIEND Unique Hospital Volunteer Program teaches listening skills to Volunteers who provide a safe/compassionate environment to at-risk patients. Training every 6 weeks. 694-7063.

TUCSON INTERFAITH HIV/AIDS NETWORK (TIHAN), a coalition of faith communities committed to a compassionate response to HIV/AIDS, provides HIV education in congregational settings, volunteer CareTeams to support HIV+ persons, a referral network of HIV-sensitive clergy, and interfaith services of healing and hope. For more information call 299-6647.

ANONYMOUS HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING is available through the Pima County Health Department at sites throughout Tucson, Very Gay Friendly. For more information or to make an appointment call 791-7676.

SMART (Self Management And Recovery Training) a free non-12-step self-help alternative for people working to overcome addictive and other emotional problems meets in Tucson Monday thru Thursdays at different locations. For more information about SMART, contact Jennifer at 838-3975.

THIS WAY OUT, 1/2 hour national GLBT show. 4:30 p.m. daily on 91.3 FM, Community Radio KXCI.

THEATER / DINNER / MOVIES / ETC! Nonsmoking Lesbian Network meets every month. If you'd like to meet women 50+ (flexible) and socialize in a smoke-free environment, please call or email: 888-8010 'til 9pm, or joycesmth1@aol.com. The group dines OUT! and attends shows, movies, comedy events, etc. Now in our 23rd year, 7th in Tucson.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA GENDER ALLIANCE (SAGA). The Southwest's largest transgender and gender-diversity advocacy organization. Speakers and panelists available. General meetings monthly on the 1st Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779 x26 for more info.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES. Not a dating club. Discreet. Meetings every Monday evening. Call for more info. APEX (Arizona Power Exchange) 602-415-1123. 24-hr multi-choice message including information, calendar and location.

ARIZONA AIDS POLICY ALLIANCE (AZAPA) seeks to educate legislators and citizens about sound AIDS policy. For more information write AZAPA, 6523 N. 14th St., #112, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or call 602-279-4805.

DESERT DOMINION, whose focus is providing information and education for people interested in the BDSM lifestyle, meets monthly for group discussion and social events. Visit our web site <http://www.desertdominion.org> or call (520)792-6424

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-

BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.

1171 (if unavailable leave message) .

AAPSP - ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS: a confidential organization committed to providing support and networking for all Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual public safety professionals in Arizona. Membership open to Law Enforcement Officers, Firefighters, Probation, Parole and Corrections Officers and civilians working within these agencies. Website: AAPSP.org or e-mail: AAPSP@aol.com or call Dave (520)745-9059 (Tucson) or Kim (602)534-6219 (Phoenix)

GLSEN - Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network meets first Thursday of every month at 4:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E.7th Street. 743-4800.

SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) has 5 meetings a week in Tucson. People who wish to stop their compulsive sexual behavior, please call (520) 745-0775 for current information.

TUCSON GREATER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION. Interested? Call Kelly Quinn, (520)906-0669 and or Mona Garcia 256-8728.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED - Tucson chapter for Gay/Lesbian Lutherans meets 3rd Sunday, 6:30 p.m. each month at Santa Cruz Lutheran Church, 6809 S. Cardinal Ave. For information visit www.lctucson.org write: LC, 7014 E. Golf Links Road, PMB 212, Tucson, AZ 85730.

REVEILLE MEN'S CHORUS rehearses Thursday evenings 7-10pm at the Historic Y, corner of University Blvd. And 5th Ave. Join us!! Call 304-1758 for more info.

"OUT ON THE TRAILS - EQUESTRIAN FUN!"

Rider Club forming. Looking for women and men to ride together on the trails of Southern Arizona. Must have own horse, truck and trailer. For more info write: "Out On The Trails" P.O. Box 44045, Tucson, AZ 85733-4045

THE MAN TO MAN Social/erotic education club is the tantric men's group that offers passionate friendships, fun activities and real Tantric sex education. Marc 881-4582

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP FOR VICTIM/SURVIVORS OF Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Hate Crimes, Bias Acts, Harassment. Call Lori at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 20. Services are free.

MEN'S HIKING CLUB - A peer-run MEN's outdoor club for hiking, biking, camping, boating etc, is now up and running in the Tucson area. To join, go to SAGETucsonsubscribe@yahoo.com. See you on the trails.

MEN'S KINK DISCUSSION GROUP (Open to all who identify as male and are 18 or older) meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at Desert Dominion, 3843 E. 37th Street, Tucson, AZ. (Map available at www.desertdominion.org) For those who are kinky or just curious. No fee, contributions are appreciated, but not required.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Gay Iowa Senator Cleared Of Extortion



two former business partners.

The nine-day trial was the result of an investigation that began in December 2005, when Thomas Vasquez, a former friend of the senator, told Des Moines police that McCoy had requested receipt of \$100 for the sale of every unit of a system used to monitor the elderly. Vasquez ended up working as an informant for the FBI, recording 11 hours of conversations between him and the senator.

McCoy, Iowa's first openly Gay state senator, told Advocate.com in July that he was the target of a campaign to unseat liberal lawmakers, but he later retracted his statement. He did admit that the investigation had been a hardship, adding that he had already spent \$65,000 in attorney's fees and hiring a private investigator. "I've served two terms in the house, and this is my third term in the senate," McCoy told Advocate.com. "In all my years of elected office, I've never seen anything like this."

DES MOINES, Iowa (Observer Update) - An Iowa state senator who had been accused of extortion by a federal prosecutor was found not guilty by a unanimous jury, the Des Moines Register reported Friday (December 14), reported advocate.com. Matt McCoy of Des Moines was tried for using his political position to obtain \$2,000 from

Student Sues School Over Right To Wear Dress

GARY, Indiana - A student who was barred from attending a high school prom for wearing a dress is suing Gary, Indiana's West Side High School alleging his civil rights were violated, reported 365Gay.com. Kevin Logan arrived at the prom last May wearing a fuchsia, slinky prom dress and heels but was not allowed inside.

avail. "I'm Gay. I'm a drag queen," Kevin said at the time. A Lesbian student who wore a tuxedo was not asked to leave the prom. A month later when Logan graduated he wore a dress under his graduation gown. High heels were only slightly visible.

Principal Diane Rouse stretched her arms across the door of the Senior Prom, blocking Logan's entrance. Logan's classmates and friends rallied to his defense to no

Logan's lawsuit argues that his First Amendment rights were violated, including the freedoms of speech, symbolic action, and expressive conduct. The school district also engaged in unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex and gender the lawsuit, filed by Lambda Legal says.

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