



Arizona Marriage Amendment Fails In Key Vote



State Rep. Krysten Sinema

by Mark R. Kerr

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - On Thursday, April 3, the Arizona House of Representatives took up during their Committee of the Whole Meeting, HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065, which would have placed on the November general election ballot a proposed state constitutional amendment defining "marriage as between one man and one woman."

After debate, the Arizona House voted, by a vote of 28-27, amended HCR 2065 to include the creation of domestic partnerships, a concept that proponents of the marriage amendment oppose.

State Representative Kyrsten Sinema (D-Phoenix) championed the effort to amend the bill. Four Republicans joined Democrats in supporting the Sinema amendment.

According to rumromanismrebellion.net, Sinema had been planning the move for a couple of weeks, but didn't reveal it to her colleagues until a caucus meeting moments before the Committee of the Whole meeting. She amended the bill to protect rights of hospital visitation, medical decisions, inheritance and funeral and burial arrangements for unmarried couples.

Equality Arizona Executive Director Barbara McCullough-Jones released the following statement: "Today's vote is a win for Arizona families. Thanks to the leadership of Representative Kyrsten Sinema, our friends and our allies, we are now able to focus on the issues that unite the people of Arizona. Equality Arizona celebrates today's decision with the thousands of people who called on the Legislature to stop this divisive measure. We remain committed to promoting public policy that strengthens Arizona's children and families."

For a proposed amendment to the Arizona Constitution to be placed on the ballot by the Arizona Legislature, both chambers measures must be identical in language. With this amended measure, the state Senate must approve a concurrent resolution with the same wording.

This House resolution has been declared dead and won't be advanced to a formal House vote. Arizona House Speaker Jim Weiers', R-Phoenix, spokesman says, in an interview with the Associated Press, "because Weiers no longer supports the measure now that it's been expanded over his objection to include new rights for unmarried couples whether of the same or opposite sex." ...

Since the chances of the Arizona Legislature placing a proposed state constitutional amendment on this November general election ballot greatly reduced, it may come down to another petition drive for proponents.

If this is the case, a minimum of 230,047 valid signatures of registered Arizona voters would have to be gathered and filed before July 3. To withstand a potential and successful legal challenge, 345,071 signatures would be the goal for proponents to gather in their efforts.

Feds Probe Lesbian Attorney's Firing

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Federal investigators are evaluating whether a U.S. Department of Justice official fired an attorney because of her sexual orientation, reported advocate.com.

Several people questioned by the DOJ's inspector general told National Public Radio, which reported the story on Wednesday, that they thought Leslie Hagen was dismissed for rumors that she was a lesbian. The probe into her firing stems from the dismissals of federal attorneys under former attorney general Alberto Gonzales, who left office after a congressional investigation into the firing of employees who did not seem to be loyal to the Bush administration.

A February 2007 evaluation shows that Hagen received outstanding ratings for her job performance; the evaluation came several months after she was told the department would not renew her contract. However, Hagen wanted to keep her position. According to the report, Hagen's job comes up for renewal annually, and her supervisors wanted to renew her contract.

Many of her former colleagues interviewed by NPR attested to her outstanding performance, including former U.S. attorney Tom Heffelfinger, who hired Hagen in October 2005.

"I felt at the time she was the best-qualified person in the nation to fill that job," Heffelfinger said in the report. "I was never consulted about her performance as liaison to the Native American Issues Committee, and I never heard any criticism of her performance from any other component within the department."

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Edits To Gay Soldier's Wikipedia Entry Traced To Pentagon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - A Wikipedia article about Maj. Alan Rogers, a Gay soldier who was killed in January in Iraq, was apparently edited by someone in the Pentagon, who removed any mention that Rogers was Gay.

The user on Monday (April 7) redacted details about Rogers that appeared on the online encyclopedia site. Information that was deleted included Rogers' sexual orientation; the soldier's participation in American Veterans for Equal Rights, a group that works to change military policy toward Gays; and the fact that Rogers' death helped bring the U.S. military's casualty toll in Iraq to 4,000.

Rob Pilaud, a patent agent and a friend of Rogers who attended the soldier's funeral, restored the information to the Wikipedia article the next day. Pilaud was among Rogers' friends who created the Wikipedia page.

The anonymous poster also provided the following comment in the "discussion" section about the article:

"Alan's life was not about his sexual orientation but rather about the body of work he performed ministering to others and helping the defense of the country," the poster wrote. "Quit trying to press an agenda that Alan wouldn't have wanted made public just to suit your own ends."

The IP address attached to the deletion of the details and the posted comments is 141.116.168.135. The address belongs to a computer from the office of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G-2) at the Pentagon. The office is headed by Lt. Gen. John Kimmons, who was present at Rogers' funeral and presented the flag from Rogers' coffin to his cousin, Cathy Long.

The Army's public affairs office did not return a call seeking comment.

Pilaud noted that while the computer where the changes originated can be found, the identity of the user remains unknown.

"Obviously, we still don't know who accessed the computer at this IP address - it could have been a general, it could have been a civilian contractor, it could have been anyone with access to their computer," he said.

At Rogers' funeral Kimmons acted "very business-like" and was respectful toward the fallen soldier and his family, Pilaud said.

Pilaud is asking Rogers' friends for biographical information on the fallen soldier to enhance the Wikipedia article. Pilaud said he thinks the online article should "be a balanced view of his life," disclose the fact that Rogers was Gay and discuss Rogers' feelings on military policy toward Gays.



Major Alan Greg Rogers

"With Wikipedia, at least, I simply want to present objective information about Alan - about who he was, what he did with his life and what he would have wanted," he said.

Rogers, 40, was killed January 27 in Iraq when an improvised explosive device hit his Humvee. The Army posthumously awarded him a Purple Heart and a second Bronze Star. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on March 14.

Rogers' death caused controversy because media sources such as the Washington Post and National Public Radio did not mention that Rogers was Gay in coverage of the soldier.

Deborah Howell, ombudsman for the Post, wrote a column on the Post's coverage of Rogers' death and said the Post originally planned to include his sexual orientation in its coverage. Executive Editor Len Downie, however, decided to excise that information because there was no proof that Rogers was Gay and no indication the soldier wanted his sexual orientation to be made public, Howell said.

Howell concluded that the Post story "would have been richer" if it had disclosed Rogers' sexual orientation, particularly because his feelings on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy were known.

The media coverage of Rogers' death is causing Gay organizations and journalism scholars to question the appropriate way to handle Gay subjects in the media.

The Post's decision to omit Rogers' sexual orientation from its coverage is the not first time a major media source withheld such information.

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Phoenix Pride This Weekend - April 11-12

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered, their loved ones and supporters will converge on the state's capital city to mark Pride, April 11-12 at Steele Indian School Park, 302 E. Indian School Road.

A party will take place in the park, as well as the annual Pride parade, celebration and fundraiser, for which the committee's goal is promote unity, visibility, and self-esteem among GLBT persons; and to promote a positive image in the Valley of the Sun and throughout Arizona through community activities and services.

For more information, go online to phoenixpride.org/index.cfm.

AIDS Memorial Quilt Comes To Bisbee

BISBEE - Ten panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, "Names Project," will be on display for the first time in Bisbee and Cochise County, June 8-22.

Usually found in larger cities and larger settings the quilt will be displayed in eight buildings in Old Town Bisbee, creating an educational walk with speakers from Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, Arizona Department of Health Services/HIV Prevention, Pima County Health Department and the University of Arizona to mention a few.

Funded in part by a grant from the "Alliance Fund of Southern Arizona" our intent is to educate and re-educate all of Southern Arizona in a "Celebration of Life" educational walk through the streets of Bisbee. The walk is open to anyone who would like to attend. Schools are encouraged to plan field trips, Businesses are encouraged to plan retreats, for many of us this is a once in a life time experience. For further information please call Adam Lamb (520) 236-3699, (520) 432-2216.

Treasures For TIHAN May 3

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Get your tickets for the 11th annual "Treasures for TIHAN," Saturday, May 3, at the Doubletree Reid Park

A sparkling evening of great

music, fantastic food, and wonderful auction items to raise funds to support TIHAN's programs and services.

With your help, "Treasures for TIHAN" will raise more than 1/3 of TIHAN's annual budget. Tickets for the event are \$65 (or \$75 at the door), of \$32 of which is tax-deductible, and can be purchased by calling (520) 299-6647 or go online to tihan.org.

City of Tucson GLBT Commission Meeting April 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On Tuesday, April 15, 5:30 p.m., the City of Tucson Commission on GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender) Issues will hold their monthly meeting at the EOO Conference Room, First Floor, 100 North Stone.

The mission of the commission is to foster conditions that promote the welfare of GLBT people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona through education, advocacy and collaborative and advisory relationships with government, community organizations, businesses and individuals. The City of Tucson Commission on GLBT Issues was originally formed in November 1998 as a mayoral task force, and became an independent city commission in July 1999.

Go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/uploads/bccfiles/2920.pdf for the Commission's agenda for their April 15. For more information about the meetings, the commission and its duties, go online to tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards.php?board=40 and the Commission's website can be found at tucsonglbtcommission.org.

Tickets On Sale For Jell-O Wrestling May 4

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tickets for the 21st Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction are \$20 and are on SALE NOW at Woody's and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). Don't wait a minute longer to get yours!

The celebration takes place at Woody's, 3710 N Oracle Rd, Sunday, May 4, 2008 starting at 2:00 p.m. and you are invited! And don't forget to purchase

your raffle tickets for a chance to win a "Trip to Vegas, Baby!" This one-of-a-kind raffle prize is guaranteed to delight everyone with a 3 day/2 night stay at the Flamingo Hotel & Casino, a \$200 dinner gift certificate for Emeril's New Orleans Fish House, 2 - two-day adult Power Passes, and a \$300 travel gift certificate. The trip is valued at \$1,000 - and you can have your chance at all of this with just a \$1 raffle ticket.

For more information on wrestling, raffle, or entrance to the party visit jello-wrestling.org or contact Jess at (520) 628-7223 or events@saaf.org. Proceeds benefit the programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

POZ Cafe Marks 10,000th Meal

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Poz Cafe, a lunch program of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) and the largest regular gathering place for people living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Arizona, will reach an important milestone in this month, as it serves its 10,000th meal on April 17.

Scott Blades, Executive Director of TIHAN, stated: "Poz Cafe has been a blessing to hundreds of people, both people living with HIV/AIDS and those volunteers who want to do something to help and to learn and to serve. This is an amazing program that brings people to life, and we are thrilled to commemorate these 10,000 blessings that have occurred through Poz Cafe."

Since its inception in 1999, Poz Cafe has served more than 9,900 meals to more than 525 persons living with HIV/AIDS. On April 17, 2008, Poz Cafe will serve its 10,000th meal. The program has also distributed 2,740 "care packages" (Poz MarketPlace bags) that have been donated by individuals and faith communities. The bags contain items that cannot be bought with food stamps (soap, shampoo, toilet tissue, detergent, cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc). Also, over the 10 years of its operation, TIHAN's Poz Cafe has provided a hands-on AIDS education and service experience for more than 500 volunteers from Tucson's congregations.

In honor of these 10,000 meals, TIHAN is seeking 100 people to offer a gift of \$100 (or more) in honor of those living with HIV/AIDS who have been blessings in your life. Dr. Audrey Holland, one of TIHAN's donors, stated, "Poz Cafe has long been a star in TIHAN's crown—one of its most durable and respected community services. It would be lovely if we could assume that the need for Poz Cafe will go away, but we all know that the needs continues into the foreseeable future, and we need to be sure 20,000th meal will be served. Help however you can." TIHAN is asking the community to sponsor Poz Cafe with a donation of \$10, \$100, \$1,000, or \$10,000 in honor of someone who has blessed your life, so that the organization can continue with 10,000 more blessings at Poz Cafe.

For the April 17 special edition of Poz Cafe, there will be a prize for the person receiving the 10,000th meal, and there will also be other festive surprises. The month's menu includes Meat Loaf stuffed with Spinach and Cheese, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Corn, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls with butter, Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting, Cranberry Pineapple Punch, and Iced Tea, Fresh Coffee, and Water. Poz Cafe is open only for people living with HIV, and registration is required. For more information and to register, call TIHAN at (520) 299-6647.

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



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

SAAF
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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April 19 - Too Much Information 9pm

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Around The Old Pueblo

Performance artist, Simon Donovan; filmmaker & AVP Manager, Oscar Jimenez, artist & Wingspan volunteer, Maurice Grossman; writer & SCAMP webmistress, Denise DeSio; financial whiz, Doug Cornell; poet, Bette Shapiro; and Vagina Monolog producer & marketing consultant, Lori Riegel will be telling wonderful true tales using the theme "THE SEVEN DWARFS," as part of the Odyssey Storytelling Series at Club Congress, 311 E. Congress, Saturday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. We've done Lucky Seven and The Seven Deadly Sins - now we're doing another group of seven: Dopey, Grumpy, Doc, Happy, Bashful, Sleepy, Sneezzy. This is our 4th year celebration and it's going to be a great show! Tickets are \$7 at the door (doors open at 6:30) or get your tickets in advance through the Club Congress website, hotelcongress.com, (\$1 service charge). Make reservations for an early dinner at the Cup Cafe, (520) 798-1618, and they will reserve seats for you at the show. Parking is free on the street after 5:00 p.m.

Meet in front of the University of Arizona Museum of Art located on the University of Arizona Campus on the southeast corner of Park Avenue and Speedway, Sunday, April 13, 1:00 p.m. and have a personal guided tour with retired art professor, Maurice Grossman. Admission is free. Everyone Welcome! Park on the street or convenient visitor parking is available at the UA garage on Park Avenue just north of Speedway Boulevard and walk through the tunnel under Speedway. For more information, contact Penelope Starr at Wingspan, (520) 624-1779....

Boys R Us, Tucson's premier gender performance troupe, brings you two brand new shows back to back! This show is sure to be a real kicker, packed with all new material and all your favorite drag kings! Featuring Janee Star and our very own DJ Shorty! Bring your

UPDATE

dancing shoes for a dance party afterwards. Join us at the Surly Wench Pub, 424 N. 4th Ave. on April 11-12, doors open 9:00 p.m., show time at 10:00 p.m. Tickets \$7 at the door. Pre-sale available at the venue \$10 w/seats, \$12 weekend pass, \$18 weekend w/seats.

Desert Voices 'This I Believe' April 19-20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices finalizes its season of "Hats" with This I Believe on Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, April 20, at 2:00 pm at the Proscenium Theatre, Pima Campus West, 2202 West Anklam Road.

Artistic director Chris Tackett said, "With our usual sense of humor and irreverence we look at what we believe and how we came to believe it. Beautiful songs of faith and hope from many different traditions will be interwoven with our personal stories to create an evening that will make you laugh, cry and think."

Ticket prices are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door. Seniors and students are \$12. There are special rates for groups of 6 or more. For additional information or to purchase tickets, call the Desert Voices Box Office, (520) 791-9662. Tickets are also available at Antigones on 4th Avenue and from any chorus member. Desert Voices accepts Visa and Master Card.

Jim Valiton Memorial May 10

TUCSON - A gathering in celebration of Jim Valiton's life will take place, Saturday, May 10, 2:00 p.m., at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, 4625 East River Road (corner of Swan and River Roads).

Jim's partner Dave Fredericks has requested that gifts in memory of Jim be made to TIHAN, 1011 North Craycroft #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711 (tihan.org) so that the important work of AIDS awareness and support services can live on in memory of Jim.

For more information, call TIHAN at (520) 299-6647

ATC's 'The Clean House', April 5-26

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Arizona Theatre Company will be proudly presenting the Clean House, by Sarah Ruhl, April 5-26.

Matilde is the child of the two funniest people in Brazil. She has gotten a job as a cleaning woman for an American doctor with no sense of humor - which doesn't really matter since all her jokes are in Portuguese anyway. And even though she's a complete failure at dusting, ironing and vacuuming, she is still a catalyst for cleaning up the lives of the people she meets. The Clean House is a mischievously comic look at the dark secrets we sweep under the rug. This off-Broadway hit was written by Sarah Ruhl, who this year was a McArthur Genius Award-winner and is one of the brightest new playwright talents of the American stage. Contains mature themes and language.

For tickets for the Tucson performances, go online to aztheatreco.org/index.html?topbar.html&0. If you have technical difficulties, call the Arizona Theatre Company Tucson box office, (520) 622-2823.

SASD Will Meet Monday April 21

TUCSON - Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats (SASD) WILL MEET Monday, April 21, at 7:00 .m. at Howl At The Moon, 915 W. Prince Road.

There will be an update on the coming National Stonewall Conference in Tucson, May 9-11. Also plans for the GLBT Caucus in the State Democratic Party Conference in Phoenix, April 26.

All are welcome to join the group. They need your help in making this a great conference. For more information www.sasdtucson@aol.com or Maurice 323-2293.

National Stonewall Democrats

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Southern Arizona Stonewall Democrats have announced that they will be hosting the National Stonewall Democrats on May 8 -11, 2008 for a conference and Board meeting at the newly remodeled Holiday Inn Airport at 4550 South Palo Verde.

This conference will feature training programs designed for Democrats locally, state-wide and nationally, including topics involving media, fundraising, organizing campaigns, and youth programs. Friday night's (May 8) reception will be hosted by the City of Tucson's City Council, all members of Stonewall Democrats. During our banquet, we'll hear from keynote speaker Governor Barbara Roberts of Oregon. Special recognition awards will be presented. Saturday night begins with dinner at several local LGBT owned/friendly restaurants (Pastiche, Rio and Raz). Bus transportation provided. A Black & White Ball follows including costumes from tuxedos and gowns, leather and lace, or jeans and t-shirts. We only request the wearing of black and/or white. Sunday will feature a Mother's Day brunch at Colors Restaurant.

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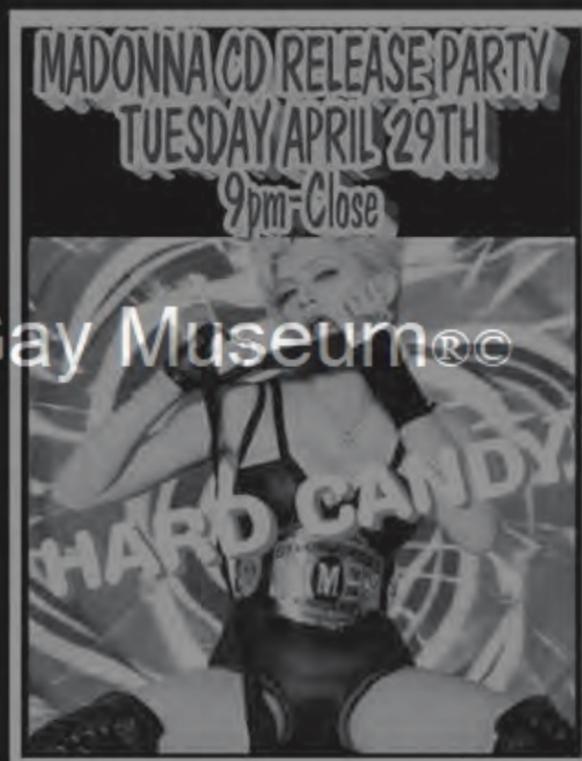
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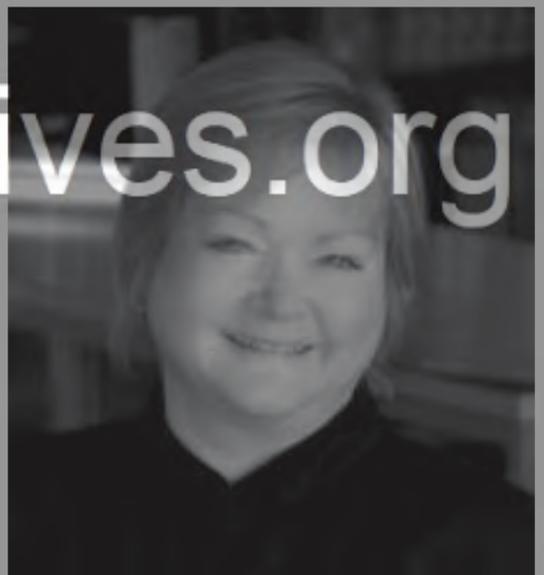
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Judy Shepard To Keynote Wingspan Dinner

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Renowned human rights activist Judy Shepard will be the keynote speaker at Wingspan's Annual Benefit Dinner in September 2008. Shepard is the executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, established in memory of her son whose brutal murder sparked international outcry about the tragic violence faced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people. The goal of the Matthew Shepard Foundation is to replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance.



Judy Shepard

"We're excited to bring Ms. Shepard to Southern Arizona," says Carol Lohmann, Wingspan board president. "For the past decade, she has been a leading voice in LGBT people's struggle for freedom, equality, safety, and well-being."

In 1998, while a student at the University of Wyoming, Matthew Shepard was brutally attacked because he was Gay. On October 12, four days after his attack, he died. While the Shepard family mourned in private, the tragedy set off an unprecedented public outcry, with vigils held across America. The incident galvanized millions of people, and focused the nation's attention on the growing epidemic of hate crimes.

"This year marks the tenth anniversary of Matthew Shepard's tragic murder," says Oscar Jimenez, Wingspan anti-violence programs manager. "Unfortunately, this violence continues to affect our community. Earlier this year, our nation was reminded of this pervasive violence when Lawrence King, only 15 years old, was gunned down by a

classmate in Oxnard, California, because, like Matthew Shepard, he was Gay. We still have much work to do to ensure that LGBT people can feel safe in our communities."

In 2008, Wingspan celebrates its 20th year serving Southern Arizona's LGBT community. Adds Lohmann, "It's only fitting that we celebrate such a milestone by presenting a dynamic speaker who presents message of hope and what each of us can do to make a difference."

Judy Shepard will speak at Wingspan's Annual Benefit Dinner, September 20, at the Tucson Convention Center. Tickets go on sale August 1. In its 11th year, the Annual Benefit Dinner is Wingspan's largest annual fundraising event, which attracts 1,100 of Southern Arizona's social, political, and business luminaries. For more information, go online to Wingspan's website, wingspan.org or call (520) 624-1779.

Feds Probe Lesbian Attorney's Firing

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Hagen was told that a contract like hers was "a privilege" to have and that rotating new people through the job annually gave more people a chance to serve. However, according to the report, two other people in her office had their contracts renewed for another year.

ations." While many who were fired had liberal leanings, Hagen was a Republican lobbyist. However, one source told NPR, "to some people, [being a Lesbian] is even worse than being a Democrat."

Justice Department senior counselor Monica Goodling, who had shown interest in Hagen's job, removed part of Hagen's job portfolio just months before Hagen was let go. Goodling left the department last year after admitting to making personnel decisions that discriminated against DOJ lawyers who showed "improper partisan consider-

HATE IS NOT A FAMILY VALUE

AS I SEE IT..... BY CLARK

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THE GEEZER AND THE CURL

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tucsongaymuseum.org

Edits To Gay Soldier's Wikipedia Entry Traced To Pentagon

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When filmmaker Ismail Merchant died in 2005, most mainstream media sources did not mention that James Ivory was his partner. Similarly, many media outlets did not mention that Susan Sontag had a female partner in coverage of her death in 2004.

Roy Clark, a senior scholar and the vice president of the Poynter Institute, a journalism school based in St. Petersburg, Fla., said the Post made "a big mistake" by not disclosing information on Rogers' sexual orientation in the article about him.

Clark emphasized that he spoke for himself and not on behalf of the Poynter Institute.

"It's obvious that ... this was not just a private part of his life, but it was a public part of his life and his identity and his belief system," he said.

With matters relating to sexual orientation still a matter of debate in the United States, Rogers' sexual orientation would have been a newsworthy portion of the story, Clark said.

Eric Hegedus, president of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists' Association, said the Post ombudsman deserves commendation for arguing that the Post could have gone further in the story.

Hegedus said it was ridiculous for the Post to omit that Rogers was a treasurer in the American Veterans for Equal Rights.

"If he was a former treasurer, it's something that he was passionate about and why wouldn't you mention something like that?" Hegedus asked.

Rashad Robinson, senior director of media programs at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), said the Post had to make a "difficult call" regarding whether or not include Rogers' sexual orientation in the article, but ultimately "made a bad decision."

"The story would have been much richer and much more appropriate if it included the voices and reaction from the major's friends and family," Robinson said.

The matter is complicated by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as it makes it hard

to know if soldiers were closeted in some arenas because of that or would have chosen to not be out regardless of the controversial policy, which prevents service members from serving openly.

Robinson said in this situation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is the enemy, not the Post. Robinson said the Post ombudsman's column shows that progress has been made because such an article probably wouldn't have been published four years ago.

Hegedus said there are "no hard-and-fast rules" for making a decision on when to include sexual orientation of subjects in media coverage. He said people within his organization would disagree on the best way to handle it.

"Journalists shouldn't be hesitating to try to dig at the truth and they just really have to be as responsible as possible in providing as full a picture as possible in every story," he said.

Clark said journalists are trying to figure out how to handle sexual orientation "in a way that is fair, in a way that is sensitive, in a way that's responsible to various stakeholders." He said his first inclination in such stories is to ask whether or not sexual orientation is relevant to the article.

"That question is going to lead to the kind of conversation that you need in order to make that decision well," he said.

When asked whether the growing acceptance of homosexuality would change how journalists handle Gay subjects, Clark said, "It's not unusual for the society to be ahead of the stylebooks."

"I think it's appropriate for those who are responsible for developing standards and practices in the news media ... to review the current standards and to change them when it's appropriate," he said.

Last week, NPR did not respond by deadline to request for comment on why it did not disclose Rogers' sexual orientation in coverage of him. Steve Inskeep, host of NPR's Morning Edition, did return a call to the Blade on March 23 after deadline.

In a follow-up e-mail April 1, NPR spokesperson Andi Sporokin said the organization did not disclose that Rogers was Gay because the NPR reporter was unaware of it.

"[Rogers'] involvement with any organization was never raised by those in the interviews we conducted," Sporokin said.

NPR has identified many people as Gay in past programming and "the decision-making process on doing so is part of our journalism," Sporokin said.

Pilaud said it must have been "a lucky coincidence" that NPR did not find out that Rogers was Gay because it was apparent at the funeral. Missing the Gay flag and AIDS ribbon lapel pins on Rogers' friends would have been difficult, Pilaud said.

"If NPR made any effort at the funeral at Arlington National or if they did any kind of follow-up, I can't imagine how they could have missed that," Pilaud said.



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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

The War Economy

Americans have been watching television for about three-quarters of a century now. The medium has become a sophisticated social-engineering tool which has been used to condition American consumers to do just that. Americans consume more of most everything than they did even fifty years ago. There is more copper wire in American houses, more clothes in their closets, more cars in the drive and more televisions than households by a wide margin. Little Jill and Johnny grow up with a television in their bedroom, another in the family area and probably one in the room where they eat breakfast. In short, the little box of Acid Dreams never stops and little Jill and Johnny have a distorted view of the world because of it.

Most Americans cannot envision a life without the Magic Box, wondering out loud what people who don't have a television do at night. Gone are the days when Dad and the local boys repaired junior's car in the evenings, or played basketball in the driveway. Kids are constrained from working by the very laws designed to protect them from predatory employers. Those that might want to work are conditioned by the social standards of the televised world; only dummies work with their hands. Americans have turned their backs on labor, believing en-mass in a natural and universal intellectual supremacy that cannot be wasted doing manual labor. The pride in craftsmanship that built the nation in the 1950's is now only a legend.

In place of the work ethic and craftsmanship that built the country there is a sense of entitlement that staggers the mind and taxes the world economy to support. All of this is likely to come to a stuttering halt, with the effects of the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary policies of the past two decades come to roost. The Fed has funded the unsupported rise in American debt by creating money and credit when debt and credit might ought to have been discouraged and savings encouraged.

The result of this easy money has been the growth of U.S. citizens' personal debt to proportions that cannot be supported by the economy. While Joe Average is filing bankruptcy and banks get bailed out with U.S. tax dollars, the Fed has begun to use the television to promulgate a new economic model. According to the Fed, it is the rising price of commodities that is responsible for inflation, not the Fed's policy of printing money without supporting economic growth.

The tool for this, and any other misrepresentation of the facts is the same used to convince the average American that everyone ought to have a new car, a big house and nobody ought ever sweat. Unless they are Mexican or stupid. All the little Americans grow up to be wealthy managers in the Wonderland of television. Little matter that fully half the population of the United States has an intelligence that is measured on the dumber end of the curve. For Americans, nothing is too good or too good to be true.

While the news in America promises to become even more grim in the months and even years to come, as the extent of the unprecedented manipulation of the monetary supply comes to light, it is still possible to find small pockets of intelligence that is not based in the Wonderland that beams into nearly every American household; there are still a small but significant number of Americans who read. Beyond reading is comprehension and beyond comprehension is courage. It takes an uncom-

mon courage to refuse to consume, to believe in frugality, labor and skill. Mostly, these virtues are found only in the working - poor, whose political voice is nil.

There is little hope that Americans will be able to see through the morass of misrepresentation and deliberate malfeasance that is leading the country toward even more war. The wars of the coming century are wars for resources, not ideologies, unless the ideology of the Superpower and Supermen's entitlement to resources be considered. Americans lag behind most of the rest of the world in manufacturing. Those Americans still involved in the production of goods and services belong to a subclass that is denigrated hourly on American television. The economy of America is now founded on the rock of her military, and the economic product of the next decades has been mortgaged to pay for her new wars.

When Americans look to see where they are it is likely to be too late in the day to do anything about it. With the staggering costs of war already on the books, it will take nothing short of plunder to repair the economy of this nation. The alternative to balancing the books with the spoils of war is to consume less. In short, if America wants to have its cake it will have to be bought with blood. Americans are likely to find this plan acceptable, given the ratio of 'enemy' dead to American dead; the United States commands legions with an effectiveness not seen since the fall of Rome.

For the American that wants to weather the coming storm, frugality and liquidity will be key. Since there has never been much the average Jill or John can do about government malfeasance and miss-direction, it is ever the policy of the enlightened student of political science to vote first with his money and then with his feet.

(Jimmy Petrol can be reached at jpetrouliss@yahoo.com).

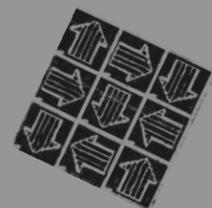
Ellen Tops OUT's Power List

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) The time is upon us once again for the second time: Out magazine's annual Power Issue.

While we didn't make the cut of the 50 most powerful homos, funny Lesbian Ellen DeGeneres did - and, in fact, takes the cake, beating out the likes of Joe Solmonese, editor Adam Moss and fallen queen of the Lesbians, Rosie O'Donnell, reported queerty.com.

Also in this issue, Michael Musto offers a follow-up to last year's The Glass Closet, which called out people like Jodie Foster and Anderson Cooper for not coming out. This year's essay, Shattered Glass, examines the parameters of coming out. Sure, Jodie Foster intimated at her Lesbianic ways, but does it matter if she's not willing to talk to the fag rags.

It's the eternal question: If a Gay comes out, but doesn't follow up, does anything change?



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Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

As this disastrous war in Iraq continues to demand the life and limbs of our young men and women, not to mention the drain on our national treasury (which, of course, we now owe to China), I have cause to remember my own experiences with our mighty military.

In February of 1964 (long before the sperm that created most of you missies was created), I received a note from the Selective Service. Now, many of the duller knives in the drawer may have believed they had won some sort of prize - and indeed they had. Guaranteed employment for at least two years.

I opened the note with the full knowledge that inside I would find that dreaded word "Greetings," I knew I had been drafted. I was determined to avoid the army at any cost. After all, I am not a great outdoors man, and my concept of roughing it is to cut a fillet mignon with a plastic knife. Therefore, I hauled my body to the recruiting station for the U.S. Navy, determined to at least be able to ride and not slog through mud. I was also quite confident that I would be able to receive a commission. Sure enough, I received my orders to report to Newport Rhode Island for OCS. Eureka! I would become a 90 day wonder - look out Admiral Nimitz, here comes Melichar!

About a week before I was to leave, some meathead hospital corpsman discovered that I had not received an eye exam, and I knew my dreams of becoming an admiral were doomed - I am almost blind in my right eye. Sure enough, "You are not qualified".

Shortly thereafter, I was called into the recruiter's office and was informed that he had some good news. I could receive a commission as a Lieutenant JG instead of the lowly rank of ensign. When I inquired how this was possible, I was told that I would be assigned to naval air reconnaissance. Further inquires revealed that these were the fellows who flew in the bellies of unarmed and

unarmored planes and took pictures. I was puzzled - if my eyes were so bad that I could not read dials on a ship, how could I possibly see anything a few thousand feet below me? Pushing the envelope a little more, I discovered that the navy had lowered the requirements for this branch because they were losing so many members.

I thanked him for his concern for my welfare and told him - not in so many words, of course - that he could stick it where the sun doesn't shine! And then, I made a fatal error of judgement. I actually trusted him! I said that I wanted to be sent to a school, that I didn't want to be a deck ape. "I have just the school. Hospital Corps school. You will work with professionals. It's almost like not being in the Navy." I must admit he didn't lie, but he didn't explain that I would probably be assigned to the Marines!

What, you may wonder, is the point of this piece? Well, actually it is a lead in to a short series that I shall write about my military experiences. Like my hearing, my memory is selective. I have tried to suppress the long days in the OR, walking in blood up to ankles and falling into bed so tired I didn't even bother to take off my clothes.

Anyone who has watched M*A*S*H must believe it is contrived - these things could not have happened. Well, wrong McGee! I am certain that somewhere and at sometime every event depicted in that series happened. I shall relate the humorous incidents and none of the gory. I plan to tell you of the incident in the morgue, driving a tank: "Hey Doc, have you ever driven a tank?" And in my alcohol induced state, "No". And of course, the wonderful Chief Petty Officer who would accompany us to Tijuana, proceed to get blind drunk and then do amusing stunts. All to follow in later issues.

Now for a bit of levity, "In terms of timetables, as quickly as possible - whatever that means." - George W. Bush, on his time frame for shoring up Social Security, Washington D.C., March 16, 2005. Good thing the man didn't have to pass a literacy test (well, maybe not such a good thing!).

Pentagon Balks At Transporting Tammy Baldwin's Partner; Pelosi Intervenes

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was forced to intervene with Defense Secretary Robert Gates in order to get Democratic Rep. Tammy Baldwin's domestic partner on a military flight for a congressional fact-finding trip to Europe.

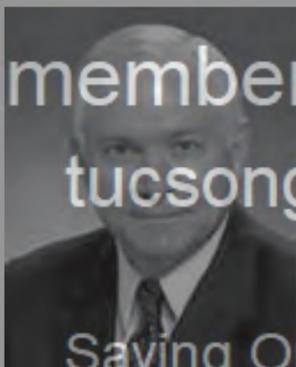
The speaker succeeded, but the issue continues to simmer for both

sides. The Pentagon appears to be self-conscious about transporting Gay domestic partners at a time when it continues to enforce a "don't ask, don't tell" policy in its own ranks.

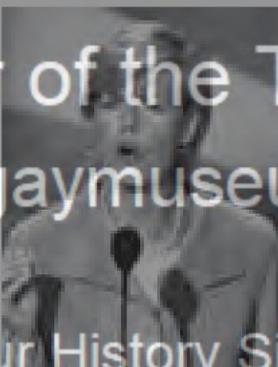
The speaker is sensitive to the G/L rights issue but doesn't want to be drawn into a situation where it appears she is dictating policy for the use of military planes.



Speaker Nancy Pelosi



Sec'y Robert Gates



Rep. Tammy Baldwin

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ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL BETH KASSEN

COMMENTARY... by Lisa Neff

Make Love Not War

Happy, groovy birthday wishes went out around the world April 4, when the peace symbol turned 50.

Though we tend to think of the peace symbol as a defining image of America in the 1960s, the symbol debuted in London's Trafalgar Square, designed by a WWII conscientious objector named Gerald Holtom for a "ban the bomb" protest. The symbol consisted of the flag-signaling symbols for N and D in a sphere to suggest worldwide nuclear disarmament.

In June 2003, just a month after President George W. Bush landed on an aircraft carrier and announced the mission accomplished in Iraq, I watched a band of anti-war demonstrators march through Chicago's Loop. They carried banners and bullhorns and rainbow flags with peace symbols in the upper left corners, where the stars would be on the old Stars and Stripes.

The demonstrators numbered less than two dozen – the war in Iraq still seemed widely popular among the general U.S. population and not a front-burner issue in the broader GLBT community.

But I think individually many Gay activists opposed the war, because they stood contrary to the Bush administration but also because peace is pivotal to the push for freedom and equality, human rights and real democracy.

Last week, as I read about the birth and early years of the peace symbol, I learned also a bit of Gay history. Its fitting to see the symbol on rainbow flags – civil rights activist Bayard Rustin is credited with transporting the symbol from the U.K. to the U.S.A. Rustin was a key organizer of the 1963 March on Washington and an early leader in the labor, civil rights and peace movements. He's not remembered as a leader in the Gay rights movement, but he was Gay and a freedom fighter.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the peace symbol and the conveyance of the image across the Atlantic, we also observe this month the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an associate of Rustin's.

Ten years to the date the peace symbol debuted in London, James Earl Ray murdered King on a motel balcony in Memphis.

On the milestone occasions when we reflect on King's life and death, GLBT civil rights leaders often ask WWMD – What would Martin do?

But perhaps it is more important to think about what King and Rustin actually said about peace and love, hate and violence. "I believe," King once said, "that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

My pursuit of equality stems from love for my partner and my belief that our love is no less than heterosexual love. My pursuit of equality grows from a yearning for a peaceful existence. My pursuit of equality stems from a belief that we must turn back hatred and bigotry to bring an end to violence. My pursuit of equality involves the belief that so long as hate groups persecute one class of people in this country, we cannot know justice.

So, imagine, we have a lot of work ahead.

Amid all the reflection on the anniversary of King's assassination, the Southern Poverty Law Center released its annual report on hate in the United States.

The report detailed the activities of 888 active hate groups in the United States in 2007, an increase of 5 percent from the year before. Eight of the identified groups were specifically identified as anti-Gay organizations – the Traditional Values Coalition, Abiding Truth Ministries, Chalcedon foundation, Family Research Institute, American Vision, Westboro Baptist Church, Mass Resistance and Watchman on the Walls. But many of the hate groups identified malign multiple peoples – based on race, ethnicity, citizenship and sexual orientation – as they endorse the war. These groups – anti-immigration and anti-Gay, pro-war and anti-Semitic, separatist and fascist – have arrived at the intersection of hate and war.

I'm proud of the numbers within our community meeting up at the intersection of love and peace.

Happy birthday, groovy symbol. And, love and understanding from the rainbow family.

(Lisa Neff is a reporter with The Islander, a weekly newspaper on Anna Maria Island, Florida. This article is reprinted from 365Gay.com.)



Court Puts 'Lien' On Gay Foe Fred Phelps

BALTIMORE, Maryland (Observer Update) - Fred Phelps and his hate-mongering church may soon be homeless, reported queerty.com.

A Maryland judge put a lien on Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church this weekend to help pay the \$5 million Phelps owes for the mental anguish inflicted on Albert Snyder after they picketed his fallen soldier son's funeral last year.

Phelps claims he doesn't have the dough, so now Judge Richard D. Bennett has his sights set on the church and Phelps' law office, which, if sold, may yield just over \$600,000. Apparently being an agent of the anti-Christ doesn't pay very well.

So-Called Reverend, and Homosexual foe Fred Phelps.....



Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church



Gayle King To Letterman: Oprah And I Aren't Lesbians

NEW YORK CITY - Gayle King is single and ready to mingle. Promoting the ABC show "Oprah's Big Give" on Letterman, King laughed off reports she and best friend Oprah Winfrey were more than friends.

After joking about how she got all dolled up to be on the show ("are you looking at my breasts?").

King, divorced with kids, told Dave she has a hard enough time getting a date on a Saturday night without men thinking she's already spoken for. "Now I have to explain: Look, I'm available!"



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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

A Potential Arizona ENDA Ballot Initiative

Currently, there are no federal laws on the books protecting the rights of its citizens from discrimination in employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, perceived or otherwise.

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia have policies prohibiting both sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in employment: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington in the public and private sector.

If an initiative succeeds in both getting the signatures needed to get on the November general election ballot and garners the majority of support from voters, Arizona could become the fourteenth state to have such laws.

Entitled "Free to Work Arizona," (I-19-2008) this proposed initiative would make it "unlawful for Arizona employers to refuse to hire, discharge or promote a person solely because of the person's religion, age, race, disability, or sex (defined in the initiative as "any or all of the following: gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation). Exempts employment decisions based on sex for churches and church schools for jobs that are directly related to religious functions or that are directly involved in educating students."

This proposed initiative was filed with the Arizona Secretary of State by state Representative Kyrsten Sinema (D-Phoenix), who will lead the petition drive to garner the signatures needed to place this measure on the November general election ballot.

For this initiative to be on the ballot, a minimum of 153,365 valid signatures of registered Arizona voters must be gathered and submitted to the Arizona Secretary of State by July 3. With initiative, referendum or proposed state constitutional amendments, the goal of the signature drive is to get 150% of the total minimum to withstand potential legal challenges, so 230,048 is the number to

get for "Free to Work Arizona."

Arizona's corporate media "articles" on the proposed "Free to Work Arizona" initiative showed their usual aplomb, distributing blather to their ever dwindling readership.

They focused, zeroed in on the statement that state Representative Kyrsten Sinema made pertaining to whether this signature drive to place this measure on the November general election ballot would "even get out of the starting blocks" if the ultra-conservative and virulently homophobic, Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), ends their efforts, Arizona law and court decisions not withstanding, on a ballot proposal to add an amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as between "one man and one woman."

What about the fact that Sinema has launched a signature drive to place a measure on the ballot, as the framer's of Arizona's constitution intended?

What about the fact that CAP and their minions in the Arizona Legislature are wasting taxpayer money and time trying to place their bigotry on the ballot, instead of going the signature route, as they did in 2006 and were defeated, by a vote of the people?

A select few should not dictate to the masses. If a measure is considered by the people, the people should go through the legal and constitutional machinations to have it considered but this is the right wing, who are behind this, so democracy goes out the window in Arizona, following their leaders on the national scale, with their memos, signing statements and repeal of the basic tenets this country was founded on, like Habeas Corpus, being spied upon for no reason by their government.

So despite the blathering of the corporatists, this effort is to ensure the rights of all Arizonans in the work place, to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender and gender identity is paramount. So where does one sign?

HOLLYWOOD, California - Elizabeth Keener (Showtime's "The L Word") will star as a Lesbian FBI agent in an hourlong drama series being developed at Gay network here!

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the project is described as a cross between "The Silence of the Lambs" and "Twin Peaks." Keener's character juggles personal demons with the demands of her extended undercover assignment in a mysterious small town, and soon finds herself increasingly enmeshed in the lives of the town's inhabitants.

Keener, the younger sister of Catherine Keener, will have a hand in developing the show. The actress played villainous SheBar co-owner Dawn Denbo in a half-dozen episodes of "L Word's" fifth season.



Elizabeth Keener

HRC Offers Tax Tips For G/L Filers

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - As part of an effort to draw attention to inequities in the tax code for Gay couples, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) offers "Seven Days to a Better Financial You" to better arm Gay taxpayers in the week leading up to April 15.

religious leaders at an Atlanta area post office on April 15. HRC spokesperson Trevor Thomas said the organization is still working on the details, which were not available at press time.

For more information, go online to hrc.org/7days.

To put the problem in the public spotlight, HRC is working with local groups to stage a protest with

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Gay Catholics To Protest Pope's Upcoming Visit To U.S.

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - Pope Benedict XVI, architect of the Roman Catholicism's most anti-Gay statements in recent decades, will be in Washington April 15-17 and New York April 18-20, but massive protests that have greeted some papal visits in the past do not seem to be in the offing.

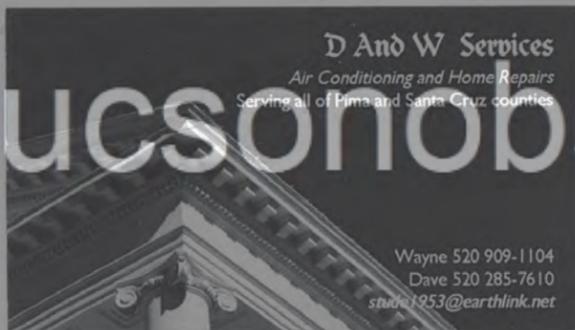
DignityUSA, the national LGBT Catholic group, is sponsoring "several events" in Washington that will be "peaceful, prayerful, and positive," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, the group's executive director.

"At the same time, we are called by our faith to draw attention to the great harm that the pope's harsh anti-Gay words and actions have caused countless individuals and families throughout the world."



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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 9th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Marvin at 745-0304.

Thursday, April 10th
 #1 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.

#2 Bridge generally played on the second and fourth Thursdays. Call Michael 326-3555.

Friday, April 11
 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM. Colors, 5350 East Speedway www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday April 12th
 #1 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 Marvin at 745-0304.

#2 Saturday April 12th Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

#1 Monthly Prime Timers Membership Meeting at Wingspan. 11AM. We Welcome visitors! No-Host Lunch follows. www.tucsonprimetimers.org

#2 Tucson Prime Timers-6PM Meet us for Drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar 3710 N Oracle www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, April 13th
 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 invites you to our 11AM Weekly Sunday Brunch. This week at Rio Café 2526 E Grant Road www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, April 14th
 Mens Social Network..Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Trivial Pursuit. Please call Lee and Merlin at 207-5336 for information and to reserve your place at this limited seating event.

Tucson Prime Timers welcomes visitors to our weekly drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM, The Wildcat House 1800 North Stone www.tucsonprimetimer.org

Wednesday, April 16th
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Jack 387-3736.

#2 Last day to make reservation for Sunday (April 20th) brunch at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch. Please call Lloyd at 792-8537.

Thursday, April 17th
 #1 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

#2 Please call Lloyd at 792-8537 before Noon today to reserve for tomorrow night's MSN Pizza Night!

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Friday, April 18th
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. MSN Pizza Night! Did you phone in your reservation on time? Then join Lloyd for a great MSN Pizza Night!

Tucson Prime Timers Invites you to our weekly Friday no-host Cocktail Mixer at 5:30PM Colors, 5350 East Speedway www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Saturday, April 19th
 #1 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.

#2 Saturday April 19th
 Coffee at the Crave Coffee Shop 4530 E Broadway at 1pm.

Tucson Prime Timers-6PM Meet us for Drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar, 3710 N Oracle www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday, April 20th
 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.

#2 Sunday brunch at the Tanque Verde Guest Ranch at 12:30. Please contact Lloyd at 792-8537. The cost is \$17.50 for a great buffet brunch.

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our Weekly Sunday Brunch. This week: 11AM, Colors, 5350 East Speedway www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Monday, April 21st
 #1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 6:30p.m. Meet Stephen and the group monthly for dinner and discussion of an agreed upon work of gay fiction. Currently, the group meets the 3rd Monday. Contact Stephen at 241-7854 to add yourself to their e-mail list.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Newsletter Night & Movie! Help us bend, fold, spindle, mutilate, and mail the MSN Newsletter, and enjoy snacks and this month's movie. Info at 323-7414.

Tucson Prime Timers welcomes you to our weekly Monday drop-in Luncheon at 12:30PM. The Wildcat House, 1800 N. Stone www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Wednesday, April 23rd
 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Lee & Merlin 207-5336.

Tuesday, April 22
 Tucson Prime Timers 3 Day/2 "Spring Break in Rocky Point" Space Limited check if available. www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Thursday, April 24th

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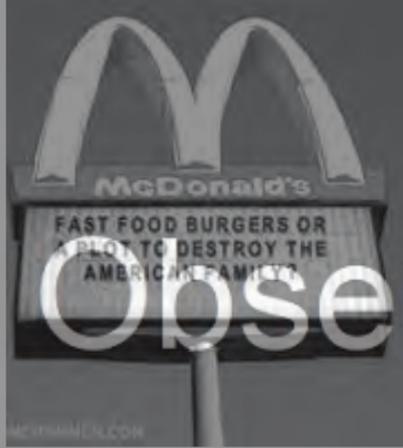
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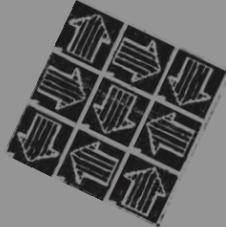
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American Family Association Takes Aim At McDonald's

JACKSON, Mississippi (Observer Update) - Upset over the election of a senior executive of the fast food giant McDonald's to the Board of Directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association is calling upon his organization's members to take action, reported pageoneq.com. Wildmon is asking his ranks to call their local McDonald's franchises to ask why the company is "using its size and resources to promote the homosexual agenda" and to use the AFA's online action center to send company Chairman Andrew J. McKenna an email. (On the AFA page, McKenna is misidentified as the company's President.)



"The NGLCC is an economic advocacy organization that represents the business interests of LGBT-owned companies, just as the US Hispanic Chamber, the US Women's Chamber or the US Black Chamber represents those of Hispanic, Women and African American business owners," NGLCC president Justin Nelson told PageOneQ, "I would offer up that if anyone takes the time to understand our agenda - an agenda focused on access to affordable health care, creating opportunities for new business development, developing avenues for increased revenues, creating jobs and growing the workforce - anyone that would call this a 'radical homosexual business agenda' either chooses to ignore reality or is unaware that the vast majority of American small businesses subscribe to their definition of a radical homosexual business agenda."



Last month, Richard Ellis, VP of Communications for McDonald's USA, was elected to the NGLCC board and said he was "thrilled to join the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce team and ready to get to work." McDonald's is also listed as a Chamber corporate partner. "With publicity stunts like this, you have to begin to wonder if the entire staff at the American Family Association was in a coma the last decade when corporate America rocketed towards equality," Human Rights Campaign spokesman Brad Luna told PageOneQ. McDonald's scored an 85% rating from the HRC Equality Index.

Brent Childers, executive director of Faith In America, an organization devoted to fighting religious based bigotry and homophobia, said that "for the American Family Association to cast dispersion on McDonald's efforts to promote businesses owned by Gay and Lesbian citizens under a banner of so-called religious values, is perhaps the most hypocritical position yet by this group and it is a disgrace to all the genuine efforts on the part of business who truly value their employees and their families."

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HOROSCOPES

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Venus and Mercury in Aries conjunct and unleash a blast that makes us feel more confident and invincible. Let's try and contain the energy and have it glow inside of us rather than wastefully splash it all around town. And yet, do I feel a drop?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams are catapulted into the limelight whether they are ready or not. Venus and Mercury put you full face into the glare of the spotlight... with excellent results! Even if you clumsily trip on the way to center stage and miscue your mike, it will appear as the perfect diplomatic and graceful move. They don't call you the magic mouth for nothing!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Can we talk about closets queer Bull? Yours will be blown off its hinges thanks to Venus and Mercury. For those who have left that confining space long ago, the week offers numerous opportunities to weave your dreams into magic webs. But make them practical as well by adding gravitas to any gloss. You go further, measure for measure.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Friends usually provide the oomph in your life and now these compadres provide more than just the usual escape from the mundane. Venus and Mercury offer good company for any great idea. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to extend your current circle and see who else you can lure into your net. And for any international ventures, try the internet.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

The cosmos shines on all your professional efforts, Gay Crab. Carefully planned actions in your career will focus and forward your professional aims and take you several steps up the ladder. So step back, survey the highway and think about what you need to do to make your swift success happen. You impress those in authority. Make your best pitch. How many balls?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

This is no time to be a bump on a log. Partners are demanding some attention and are raring to go go go! Proud Lions can sometimes be content to let things hang in the balance. Forgetaboutit; book your flight and don't fly solo. A romantic interlude is in the stars if you get off your duff. This goes double for single malts and spices up old married salts.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

How sexy can a queer Virgin feel? Pretty sexy, at least this week. Venus and Mercury promise more than a light flirtation so gather up your energy and get ready to tumble and rumble. Don't waste this fabulous and unique surge on just anyone though. This is definitely the time to explore each and every meaningful pulsation. The beat goes on and on!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Queer Libras get a few tasty bites with any one on one relationship thanks to Venus and Mercury. While you are tempted to mix business with pleasure, try to keep your two agendas separated. Whichever you choose, you can get what want by scoping out the territory and then applying the right mixture of clear logic and pure sugar... and not necessarily in that order.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Any health or exercise regime has immediate and glorious benefits if you don't sit and contemplate it from the couch. Get going proud Scorp. You may find that even the day to day job offers new opportunities to get you back on track. But all things in time: take things slowly and try not to overdo whether it's at the grindstone, on the treadmill or at the dinner table.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

It can't hurt to buy a lottery ticket right now. Not only do you feel unusually lucky, you are also up for a good time. Hedge your bets and dive into new pastimes with a vengeance. Venus and Mercury benefit anything involving fun, creativity, the arts and games. Gay Archers may decide to pursue a new, more artistic path. If so, step into the spotlight and speak Out.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

What do you truly value in life, pink Cap? If it's peace of mind and a sense of community, Venus and Mercury can make your dreams come true. If it's reconciliation and harmony, this week can bring resolution. Recalcitrant family comes around and you make your homelife exactly what you want it to be. If it's tawdry times and cheap tricks, you'll have to wait until next week.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aqueerians are the conquistadors of the zodiac this week. Maybe that is why you hanker to tell it like it is and grab for the glory at any opportunity. Seek and ye shall find. Speak loudly, proudly and carry on with a big schtick. This week, anything you set your mind to do, you will do admirably. The real question is - what have you really set your mind to do?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

You've counted pennies and splashed them around when you needed a psychological lift. Now Guppies are tempted to use money on outlandish and impractical trinkets. And why not? Blame your irrepressible, spendthrift inner child on the vagaries of the cosmos and lavish yourself with little gifts. I hear mink underwear doesn't come cheap but then neither do you.



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Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O)

We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month. Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at Rose canyon lake at 12:00 pm. We will meeting at the yard dog at 10:30 am to car pool up to Rose canyon.

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.

YOUNG AND GAY?

GLBT Youth 23 and under, meet Tucson for sharing, support and information. You are not alone. For more info call Wingspan, 624-1779.

Start getting more out of life with **TUCSON PRIME TIMERS**. We're the local chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, the preeminent social organization for mature gay and bi men as well as younger (21+) men who enjoy their company. Each month we sponsor a wide range of dining events, cultural enrichment activities, parties, meetings, bowling, day trips, picnics, tours and much more. Visitors are always welcome. For info call our message phone 520 731-3485. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.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.

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 (GPGCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgcc.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

INNER 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

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 207-5336 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 (TIHAN) 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, contract **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.

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 OUToberFEST. 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.

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. on Sundays only 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; Dezerz Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezerz 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 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number).

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.

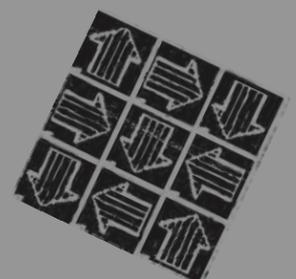
LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for 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 SAGE-Tucson-subscribe@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 BROTHERS OF THE COMPASSIONATE WAY. Pagan spiritual group for gay, bisexual, transgendered men. Box 41623, Tucson, AZ 85717.



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; L Word Sundays. L Word shows at 7pm on two 51" flatscreens. Beer Bust 5pm-10pm. DJ HILL following til 2am.

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 1/2 price 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Wear an NFL team t-shirt or jersey and get 50¢ off your drink. Smirnoff Vodkas \$2.50. Texas Hold-Em Poker 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-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

YARD DOG - Open 10am - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Poker Pub...FREE. No Happy Hour on this day. Games at 6:30 and again at 9:00pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7. \$3.50 Skyy Cocktails, \$2.75 well & domestics. Appetizers 1/2 price 4-6m. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour all day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Texas Hold-Em Poker 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 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. No Happy Hour on this day. Spin Tuesdays with Karaoke. Spin the drink wheel every hour for incredible drink prices...nothing over \$2!! Karaoke at 8pm. 21 and up.

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.50 well margaritas and tequila. 75¢ off call tequilas. Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker 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 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJ Hill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. 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. Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournaments at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, "Diva-Licious" 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 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Full Kitchen open

11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - \$1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with \$1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 3-7pm

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 1/2 Price Happy Hour til 8pm. 20/20 Thursday's a night guaranteed to F*UCK., with your vision!! \$20 at the door we take care of the rest (premium top shelf not included). DJ Hill spins hip hop & R&B all night. 21'n up

COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm. \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Full menu served until 10. Nightly dinner specials..

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Mexican Beers \$2.50 all day, all night.

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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl Spec Events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close. Cheap Party Day **FREE POOL**, \$1.00 PBR Longnecks, \$2.00 Tecate Longnecks. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm - close..

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am Beer Bust 3-7pm

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. NOCHE de CALOR. 1/2 price Happy Hour til 8pm. Every Friday DJ Hill spins the best norteno, Cumbias, Salsa, Bachata Reggaeton, Rock en Espanol and anything else that makes you shake your hips!!

COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.50 Skyy cocktails, \$2.75 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! Full menu served until 10. "Hot Jazz, Cool Martinis" with Susan Artemis & Craig Faltn 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 - Open 3pm. 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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. \$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, 1/2 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/ Bunny FuFu 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 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

YARD DOG - Open 8am-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
WOODY'S - "Pledge Night" 9pm til close.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
WOODY'S - Wine Tasting! 5:30-7:00 p.m. Register with your favorite bartender. April Birthday Party starts at 10 p.m. Cake, balloons and champagne toast.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
HOWL AT THE MOON - DJ Johnny D. 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
WOODY'S - Sarong Party. You provide the body - Woody's provides the sarong! Drink specials for those who participate.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
THE BIZ - 'Dragstar Cabaret' Breast Cancer benefit starts at 9:00 p.. \$6 at the door and #10 VIP Seating. Check out their all new Raised Stage.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Too Much Information performing at 9:00 p.m. Catch it!

VENTURE-N - Monthly Leather Night. Join the crowd!

WOODY'S - "Pool Party" more details later...

YARD DOG - Amanda Nicole and special guests at 9:00p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
IBT'S - Madonna CD "Hard Candy" Release Party. Fun time from 9:00 p.m. until closing.

SATURDAY, MAY 3
THE BIZ - Cinco de Mayo weekend celebration. Latino Carnival!!! More details to come.

Arts and Entertainment

Now playing through APRIL 13
Beowulf Alley Theatre presents Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" Thursdays, Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 and Sundays at 1:30. A brilliantly inventiv3 play that moves back and forth between the 19th century and the present, populated by a varied and vastly entertaining cast of characters. 11 South Sixth Avenue downtown. Tickets \$14-\$19. 882-0555.

Now playing through APRIL 13
The Rogue Theatre presents "Red Noses" by Peter Barnes. What happens when the Marx Brothers meet the Black Plague of 1348? Jabbing a finger into the ribs of politics, sex and religion, "Red Noses" is a poignant portrait of human resilience in the face of the great unknown. Thu-Sat 7:30 p.m. Sun 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$18. Zuzi Theatre, 738 N. 5th Avenue at University..551-2053

APRIL 5 - 26
Arizona Theatre Company presents "The Clean House" by Sarah Rul. A mischievously comic look at the secrets we sweep under the rug. Temple of Music and Art downtown Tucson.. ATC's Night Out!! An evening of fabulousness for the LGBT Community. Thursday April 10th, pre-show party begins at 6:30 p.m. Mention their ad in this issue of Observer and get \$5.00 off the single ticket price. 622-2823

APRIL 4 - 26
The Catalina Players present "The Twilight Of The Golds".

If your parents knew everything about you before you were born, would you be here? That is the question posed in this provocative drama. All is well when Suzanne Gold and her close New York family discover that she is pregnant, until a prenatal test reveals that the baby will be born with a "specific" gene. The news forces the entire Gold family to confront issues of bigotry, evolution and the limits of love.

Twilight of the Golds will premiere at the Catalina Players Theater Academy Hall, 6653 E. Carondelet. Benind St. Joseph's Hospital. For more info call 409-8407

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Man Accused Of Bilking Gays With Fake AIDS Drug

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (Observer Update) - A Florida man has been charged with fraud and misrepresenting himself as a health care professional over the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS and the sale of what police say was a phony drug, 365Gay.com reported. Investigators say that Wesley Perry promoted himself and his AIDS drug, which he called APEX, at area Gay bars and LGBT events.

AIDS and HIV testing and counseling to clients. It is not known if blood tests were ever actually sent to an accredited lab for testing. He promoted APEX to patients claiming the drug would cure HIV/AIDS cancer, and diabetes. He also allegedly told people who had HIV/AIDS to stop taking their meds while taking APEX. Perry allegedly sold APEX for \$450 for a 3-month supply.

The indictment against Perry says that he created two corporations, Thrift International and Health Education and Safety First to bilk the public. According to the police complaint Perry, 56, is a former Certified Nursing Assistant but currently does not hold any medical certifications or licenses. Nevertheless, police allege, Perry regularly provided

After receiving a complaint by a suspicious client police set up a sting operation. On four occasions Perry sold APEX to undercover officers, telling them that after taking the drug for a period of 120 days they would be cured of HIV and that the result would be verified by an HIV test. Detectives said it was one of the worst scams they had ever seen.

Crafter Of Federal DOMA Mulls Libertarian Presidential Bid

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Former Republican Rep. Bob Barr said he has formed a presidential exploratory committee and may seek the Libertarian party nomination. "America today faces a grave moral and leadership crisis, and those of us who care about our country's future can no longer sit on the sidelines and remain neutral," Barr told an audience at the Heartland Libertarian Conference in Kansas City, Mo.



Bob Barr

constitutional amendment against Gay marriage. Barr has been married three

The former Georgia congressman left the GOP in 2006 over what he called bloated spending and civil liberties intrusions by the Bush administration.

Barr, 59, became a darling of conservatives in the 1990s when he helped author the Defense of Marriage Act to ban same-sex marriage. But in 1994 he appeared before the House Judiciary Committee arguing against a

Roommates Cannot Ask Users If They Are Gay: Court

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - A roommate-finding site cannot require users to disclose their sexual orientation, a U.S. appeals court ruled, in the latest skirmish over whether anti-discrimination rules apply to the Web.

Roommates.com - The Web's Most Popular Roommate Matching Service - Mention ApartmentStores.com

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said Roommates.com, which obliges users to list their sexual orientation, was different than Internet sites where people can volunteer or withhold personal information.

sexual orientation would not be different from asking people in person or by telephone if they were black or Jewish before conducting business, the panel said in an 8-3 ruling that partly overturns a lower federal court decision.

To inquire electronically about

LGBT Mormon Support Group To Meet With Church Officials

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - After decades of silence, Mormon church officials have agreed to meet with a Gay Mormon support group that has sought to forge understanding between the faith's leaders and its Gay members.

opening up the possibility for dialogue," said Dave Melson, Affirmation's assistant executive director. "Affirmation has tried 5 or 6 times over the past 31 years to meet with church leaders. This is their second response.

In a letter received, leaders of Affirmation were invited to meet with Fred M. Riley, commissioner of Family Services for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Harold C. Brown, the agency's past commissioner.

"We're pleased the church is



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