



Tucson Observer Archives

Sean Penn - Dustin Black = 'Milk'



Sean Penn receives 2009 Oscar for his portrayal of activist Harvey Milk

Sean Penn Takes Home Best Actor For 'Milk'

LOS ANGELES, California (Observer Update) - "You, Commie, homo-loving sons of guns," Sean Penn said to laughs as he took to the stage to accept the Oscar for Best Actor in a Motion Picture for his work in the biopic Milk at Sunday's (Feb. 23) Academy Awards.

The outspoken activist won for playing an outspoken activist and, true to form, quickly changed his tone and took the opportunity to make a political statement in support of marriage equality.

"For those who saw the signs of hatred as our cars drove in tonight, I think it's a good time for those who voted for the ban against Gay marriage to sit and reflect and anticipate their great shame and the great shame in their grandchildren's eyes if they continue that way of support," Penn said to a standing ovation. "We've got to have equal rights for everyone."

It was the second time Sunday evening that marriage equality took

center stage. Milk scribe Dustin Lance Black won for Best Original Screenplay, and in an emotional speech, he said that learning about Harvey Milk as he was growing up gave him the hope that one day he might fall in love and get married.

Bringing the legacy of Harvey Milk to life drew massive attention from the Gay press long before the film even opened. But the film took on a deeper meaning for Gay audiences following the passing of Prop. 8 in California.

Milk was all but shut out of the Golden Globes last month. The film, one of the year's best reviewed, managed to score only one nomination - for Sean Penn. Milk was nominated for eight Academy Awards.

Black went into Sunday night's ceremonies the favored winner for penning Milk's screenplay. Penn was also given a narrow edge over Mickey Rourke for his work in The Wrestler to take home the Best Actor prize, advocate.com.

'Milk' Loses Best Film, But Sparks New Activism

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - "Milk" lost the battle for the best film Oscar on Sunday (Feb. 23) but a day later activists say it has won a lasting place in U.S. culture wars by energizing mostly young, Gay men and women to speak out.

The movie, which recounts the political life of slain Gay activist Harvey Milk, did win two Oscars - best actor for Sean Penn who played Milk and best original screenplay for Dustin Lance Black, a one-time Gay teenager raised as a Mormon in Texas. It lost the best movie Oscar to rags-to-riches romance "Slumdog Millionaire," and in Hollywood there is an old saying that few people remember the winners other than best

film. Even so, members of the Gay community say "Milk" has been like a tonic that has renewed a sense of activism among younger Gay men and Lesbians, which is expected to last long into the future.

"Of all the Oscar films, the one that will live on is 'Milk,'" said Geoff Kors head of Equality California. "It is a film that will be shown in schools and LGBT centers around the world."

By all accounts, the political battles over Gay marriage in the United States and the 2008 election have also

'Milk' Scribe Dustin Lance Black Wins Oscar

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - "Milk" scribe Dustin Lance Black took home his first Oscar for Best Original Screenplay Sunday night, taking the opportunity to make a political statement on same-sex marriage with a moving acceptance speech, reported advocate.com.

"When I was 13 years old, my beautiful mother and my father moved me from a conservative Mormon home in San Antonio, Texas, to California and I heard the story of Harvey Milk," Black said, choking back tears. "And it gave me hope. It gave me the hope to live my life, it gave me the hope to one day live my life openly as who I am and that

their families that you are beautiful, wonderful creatures who have value. No matter what anybody tells you, God does love you and that very soon you will have equal rights federally across this great nation of ours."

Black said hearing the story of Harvey Milk was a "lifesaver."

The telecast of the Oscars in India reportedly censored Black's speech. According to Towleroad.com, as Indians celebrated the numerous wins for Slumdog Millionaire, all references to "Milk" seemed to be cut, including Black's win, and scenes shown in montages for the film.



Dustin Lance Black receives his Oscar for Best Original Screenplay

maybe even I could fall in love and one day get married.

"If Harvey Milk were alive today, I think he'd want me to say to all of the gay and lesbian children out there who have been told that they are less than by their churches or by the government or by

Homosexuality has been criminalized in India since the 1860s. arbitrary detention, and forced placement into psychiatric hospitals.

"Milk" was all but shut out of the Golden Globes last month. The film, one of the year's best reviewed, managed to score only one nomination - for Sean Penn. Just three years before, Brokeback Mountain took home four Golden Globes, including Best Picture.

But in an upset, on Oscar night, Brokeback lost to Crash for Best Picture. Director Ang Lee did take home the gold for Best Director, but many in the gay community suggested the loss might be due to a "homophobic" Academy.

"Milk" trailed The Curious Case of Benjamin Button and Slumdog Millionaire in overall nominations, though pre-awards show predictions had Milk running neck in neck with those films in several categories.

Black went into Sunday night's ceremonies the favored winner for penning "Milk's" screenplay.

"Milk" producers Bruce Cohen
Continued on Page Eight

UPDATE

Car Washes Kick Off Biz's Several Breast Cancer Benefits

TUCSON - The Biz is raising as much money for the Susan G. Komen race for the cure as possible... and are seeking the communities help...on Saturday, March 7 and Saturday, March 28 they will be doing car washes at the Biz for a \$5 donation...all money raised from the car wash will be donated to the cause.

In addition, on Friday, March 27 they are having a fund-raising benefit at the club, with the help of Wingspan's breast health awareness team, all patrons will receive pink bracelets and again all money raised at the door will be donated.

Finally, on Sunday, April 19, the Biz crew (Biz For The Cure), will be walking in the race, as a team, to show their support to those who have or have had loved ones with breast cancer. They will end the walk at the Biz with a free Bar-B-Que to those who walked with their team and to those who have supported them. It will be a family BBQ and everyone is invited.

If you would like to join the 'Biz for a Cure' race team contact Hillary @the biz at 318-4838 for more information and race packet info. "Support the ones you love!"

On The Blog

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wanted to know about the real demise of progressive talk radio's Nova-M? Didn't see Dustin Lance Black's moving acceptance speech or Sean Penn's well spoken words at the Academy Awards. Didn't get a chance to read the Star article's on Transgender veterans?

Then go to tucsonobserver.blogspot.com, where you can find the latest Tucson LGBT community updates, video, music and news, as well as some exclusive scribbles by the Observer's writers.

Tucsonobserver.blogspot.com has a wonderful search engine as well as some interesting links to click on and to be informed, so bookmark the Observer's blog, updated daily for those on the go.

All Five LGBT Bills Die In Utah

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Observer Update) - A bill that would have offered unmarried couples - straight or Gay - inheritance rights and the power to make medical decisions when the other partner is incapacitated in the legislature.

It was the fifth defeat for a group of bills called the Common Ground Initiative that would have expanded LGBT civil rights in Utah. Legislation to include Gays in job and housing protections was defeated and bills to allow for joint support and the creation of a domestic partner registry also failed to gain traction.

A fifth bill which would have allowed same-sex couples to sue for wrongful death damages was defeated in a state Senate committee last month. In addition, legislation that would have repealed a section of Utah's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage was killed by its sponsor in a bid to save the other bills.

Arizona Education & Resource Project Online

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - Equality Arizona has launched the Arizona Education & Resource Project.

The Arizona Education & Resource Project provides here some of the issues that impact the everyday lives of LGBT people in Arizona and across the country. Overwhelmingly, scientific research has indicated that LGBT people and families are equally valuable, healthy and capable as all others, strongly supporting the goals of our community. As part of the movement to undermine LGBT equality and opportunity, the anti-gay industry has begun to attack the importance and scientific accuracy of this large body of research. As you can see in the attached research summaries, scholars and scientists from a range of research disciplines advocate for LGBT equality, while responding to the distortions of the anti-gay industry.

Equality Arizona encourages you to download the Research Summaries and Briefs and use them to educate yourself and others. Our hope is these documents will help advance positive

public policies in Arizona. For more information, go online to education.equalityarizona.org.

Stories On Trans-Gender Vets In The Arizona Daily Star

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Carol Ann Alaimo of the Arizona Daily Star in Sunday's paper (Feb. 22) azstarnet.com/altds/pastframe/metro/281260, and Monday's edition (Feb. 23) azstarnet.com/metro/281339, wrote two wonderful articles on issues of concern to Transgendered people who had served their country in the armed services.

These stories are well written, insightful and have a great deal for the entire community to learn, which they do through reading it. Also, there are references to reports which you can also find at the following links.

Transsexuals in the branches of the Military regulus2.azstarnet.com/pdf/view/447%20pdf%20scrollbars=yes,resizable=yes. About the American Medical Association's policy on Transgender care, go to ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/16/a08hod/resolutions.pdf. What the American Psychological Association says, go to apa.org/topics/Transgender.html. Go to tavausa.org/Survey_Results.html to see the results of a survey by the Transgender American Veterans Association.

Many Men, Many Voices Seminars March 2

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Many Men, Many Voices (3MV) is a program, and will be hosting a seminar Monday, Mar. 2, 6:00 p.m. at SAAF, 375 S. Euclid, to prevent HIV and sexually transmitted diseases among men who have sex with men (MSM) who may or may not identify as Gay.

The program addresses factor that influence the behavior of MSM: cultural, social, and religious norms; interactions between HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases; sexual relationship dynamics; and the social influences that homophobia has on HIV risk behaviors. The program is facilitated in small groups. The sessions are highly experiential, incorporating group exercises, behavioral skills practice, group discussions, and role-plays. "The seminar changed my life. Not only professionally but personally and no other training has effected who I was more. Thank you." - Hugo; Tucson, AZ

For more information, call Felipe Hernandez at (520) 628-7223 or E-mail: fernandez@saaf.org. Points of Health Project is a program of the (SAAF) Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, online at phptucson.org.

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



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

SAAF
Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation



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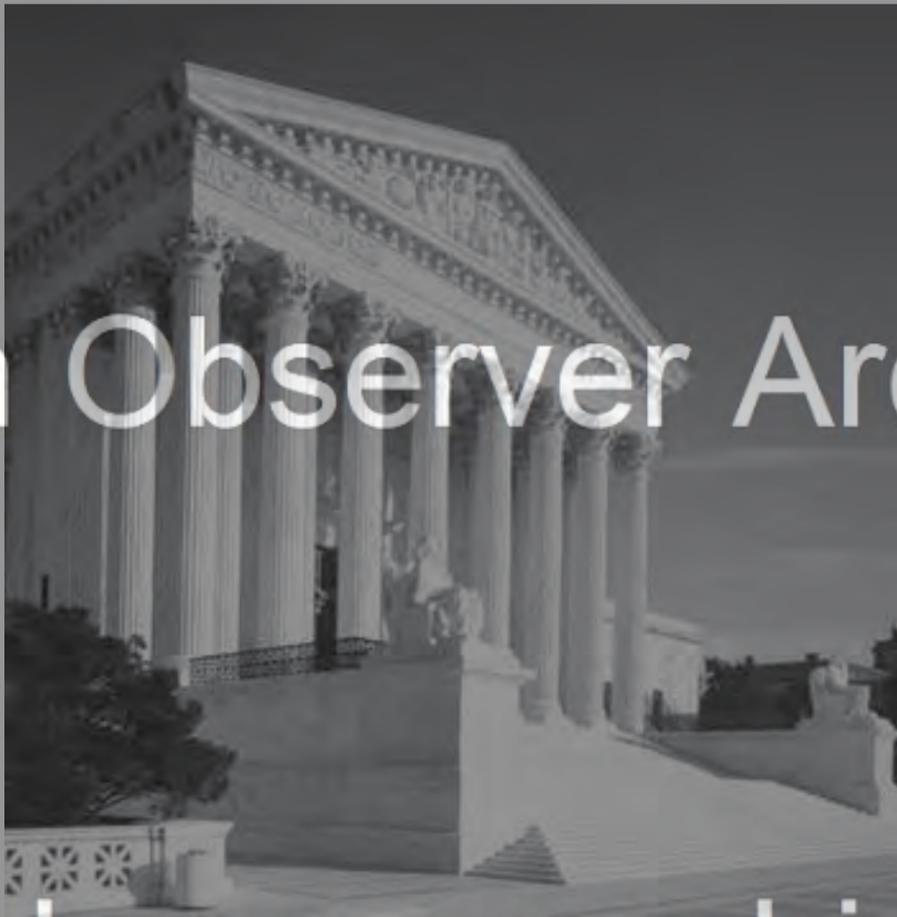
A family member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Supreme Court Declines Anti-Gay Student Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The Supreme Court said Monday (Feb. 23) that it would not take the case of a Kentucky high school student who wants to sue his school district over a policy that allegedly barred him from expressing opposition to homosexuality, 365Gay.com reported. The justices did not comment in denying the appeal of Timothy Morrison, who alleges he was harmed by the policy of the Boyd County Board of Education.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati ruled last year that Morrison failed to show how he was harmed by the policy and tossed out the lawsuit. The ruling was a reversal of a previous ruling that held Morrison should be allowed to pursue the lawsuit. Morrison, a senior at Boyd County High School, sued the Boyd County school district over a policy that required students to undergo anti-harassment training. He claimed the policy threatened him with punishment for expressing religious beliefs in opposition to homosexuality. Morrison is a professed Christian who believes his religion requires him to speak out against what he sees as behavior that doesn't comport with his understanding of Christian morality.

Morrison was never punished under the policy, which was later changed to exempt speech that would normally be protected off campus. The school district adopted the policy and established the anti-harassment training as part of a 2004 legal settlement that ended a lawsuit between the school district and a now-defunct gay-rights group that wanted recognition as an extracurricular group. Members of the Boyd County High School Gay Straight Alliance argued that the school district violated their constitutional rights by refusing to allow them to meet on campus. Morrison was represented by



Ronald Collins, a scholar with the First Amendment Center in Washington, D.C., a nonprofit, nonpartisan group, told Raw Story he is "inclined to support [Lopez's] free speech and religious liberty claim," but that "the devil is in the details" of the case. Collins said there is a difference between speech that is "respectfully critical" of another set of views and speech that is derogatory and offensive. Whether Lopez's speech falls into the first category or the second could determine how his case is viewed in court he said.

Raw Story has learned that there is no actual copy of the speech Lopez, gave to his public speech class, which likely means that the testimony of other students will prove key to the success of his lawsuit. Greg Scott, director of Media Relations for Alliance Defense Fund, said Lopez did not write out his speech before giving it to his class. Because there is no physical copy of Lopez's speech, the lawsuit may involve the subpoenaing of students from the class to testify on what they heard Lopez say. During the discovery process of the case Alliance said they would "question everyone that we need to question to prove the truth of the allegations in the complaint."

the conservative Alliance Defense Fund.

In other related news, in Los Angeles, Rachel Oswald of Raw Story reported that a Christian legal alliance representing a student who claims his First Amendment freedoms of speech and religion were violated by a college professor says that media reports are mischaracterizing the student's class speech as being anti-Gay marriage but claims there is no hard copy of the speech and won't allow the student to be interviewed, reported rawstory.com.

Los Angeles Community Col-

lege student Jonathan Lopez filed a lawsuit last week against the Los Angeles Community College District in the U.S. District Court of Los Angeles after his professor, John Matteson, allegedly called him a "fascist bastard" when he gave a speech critical of Gay marriage in November to his public speech class. According to a report by The Los Angeles Times he is seeking financial damages and an end to the college's sexual harassment code that bars students from making "offensive" statements. He is being represented by Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative Christian legal law organization.

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Jell-O Wrestling Update: Event Moving To New Digs!



TUCSON (Observer Update) - Dave Huff, one of the owner's of Woody's on Oracle and a longtime community activist has penned the following to explain about the annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, which will be at a new location for this year's event, a bigger and more spectacular place.

Dear Community and Friends,

For the last 21 years many community members have helped to put on an annual event in an effort to raise funds and awareness for people living with HIV/AIDS and the services available through the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF). For the last 12 years, Frank and I have been proud to be part of this important and fun event, hosting it at Woody's with great success! I'd like to thank everyone on the committee for their continued help in organizing what has become a tradition - the annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction. Frank and I would also like to thank the staff at Woody's who have been incredibly supportive of the event, understanding how much this means to us and to our friends and family.

Over the last 12 years, the event has seen much success, growing more than double - almost triple - in fundraising efforts and with a packed house every year - last year tickets were sold out within 2 days of being available; the fastest sell-out ever!

Jury Finds San Diego Firefighters Were Sexually Harassed

SAN DIEGO, California (Observer Update) - A jury found Tuesday (Feb. 17) that four firefighters were sexually harassed at a Gay pride parade in the city in 2007. The quartet will receive \$34,300 in total damages from the city as a result, the Los Angeles Times reports. The four sued the city after being ordered to participate in the parade, where they were subjected to sexual comments, they claim. A previous jury last year was unable to reach a verdict, the Times reports.

Each firefighter will receive \$5,000, and one of them will receive another \$14,200 because he said he needed to transfer to another fire station following the parade, according to the Times. Another will receive an extra \$100 to cover a counseling session. The jury ruled that the fire department violated its own anti-sexual-harassment policy by making the men participate in the parade against their wishes. The suit alleged that mandatory participation was part of a policy by fire chief Tracy

As many of you know, this event is popular for many reasons, the Jell-O wrestling being a major one! Also, the funds raised for Jell-O help to support many of our friends and/or family members living with HIV receiving services through SAAF. With the support of the committee, Frank and I decided that this is the year for change - a good change - but a hard one as well, as Woody's has been home to this great event for more than a decade. Now we want to help see it grow to it's full potential - thus, we're moving Jell-O! We hope that you will continue to support this event like you always have - we certainly will! Bring your friends, bring your money, and get ready for Lucy and all the other regulars to entertain in a big way. As part of our continued commitment, Woody's will once again be the Title Sponsor for the 22nd annual Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and we hope that you will be joining Frank and I this May. See you soon,

Dave Huff

SAVE THE DATE - 22nd Annual Reno Gannon Memorial Jell-O Wrestling Extravaganza and Benefit Auction, Sunday, May 3, Doors Open at 2:00 p.m., Show begins at 3:00 p.m., Tucson Electric Park at 2500 E Ajo Way. To learn more about this year's Jell-O event, join Frank and I at Woody's BURGER BEER BUST, 3710 N. Oracle, Sunday, March 1 from 2:00 -7:00 p.m., Jell-O Wrestling and Sponsor Packets will be available!



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SAAF UPDATE

SOUTHERN ARIZONA AIDS FOUNDATION

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

TUCSON (Observer Update) - As we are all hearing, reading and experiencing the economic challenges that our Nation is facing, I wanted to give you some good news in hopes that it will inspire you to take action, get involved, and continue to be supportive.

During the last year, SAAF has been proactive in preparing for financial challenges to the programs and services offered to people in Southern Arizona living with, affected by or at risk for HIV. I've personally met with many of you and talked about the need to get creative to not only sustain programming and services at SAAF but to be able to meet the increased demand of our clients as a result of the climate we're living in. Thank you for your support and for your honest feedback. SAAF originated from three organizations with very strong grass roots activism and volunteer efforts and although it may look different today, much is still the same. SAAF still relies on community feedback, involvement, and support.

As a result of some of these meetings and phone calls, I'd like to share a few new things with all of you so that you are kept up to date on what SAAF, with the help of our partners, is doing to weather the storm.

First: SAAF's vision is not to "hunker down". We are a strong organization with an important mission and thousands of community members who rely on the programs and services offered here. In times of stress I believe we must keep our eye on the big picture and look at new and innovative ways to expand while continuing to serve the most vulnerable.

Second: The Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation's Board of Directors recently approved a three year strategic plan which will guide SAAF through December 2011. The strategic plan was developed by staff with support and guidance from the Board of Directors. The plan used one guiding principal during the development process: well-

managed and sustainable growth. I believe this plan will help us to grow and will help to move our mission forward. For details on the strategic plan, please visit saaf.org.

Third: SAAF recently went through the practice of doing a "sensitivity analysis." The analysis looked at worst case scenarios in case of critical loss of funding to any particular area. The result of this analysis is a list of SAAF's top priorities to be maintained in order to best serve people in Southern Arizona. Although acting upon the sensitivity analysis' findings is not expected, SAAF feels prepared for whatever challenges we will see during this time.

Fourth: We would like to improve SAAF's advocacy efforts and awareness in the community. To kick this effort off, we have 2 campaigns currently going on. I have drafted a letter (available for review at www.saaf.org) to President Obama asking for his action on developing a National AIDS Strategy within his first 100 days in office. But we need your help! To sign up and join this effort you can email your name by visiting the website, www.saaf.org; you can also call us at (520) 628-7223 (ask for Development) or if you're in the office you can sign the proclamation at Reception. Please help us to take action!

In addition, SAAF has just embarked on an annual "Give 5" Campaign asking for people to support SAAF's annual fund which helps to support programs and services of the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. Give 5 is an appeal to give 5 hours of volunteer time, a \$5.00 donation, or spend 5 minutes with prevention staff learning how to reduce your risk for HIV infection. It's simple, easy, and we hope that you will participate. Prevention is still our only cure.

To everyone who has been part of this fight against HIV, thank you for your dedication, support, and compassion to help others. You are the reason SAAF is able to continue what we do.

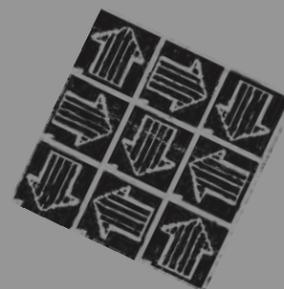
HRC Gala Previews Art Auction Donations

www.boxofficetickets.com/hrc

PHOENIX (Observer Update) - The 5th Annual HRC Arizona Gala Dinner committee will unveil artist's donations for the annual fundraiser event during the March Downtown Phoenix First Friday Art Walk and Annual Art Detour Weekend.

Artist and owner of The Chocolate Factory, Hector Ruiz has generously donated studio space to display the distinctive art auction collection that will help raise funds for Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Arizona, the local committee of the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization. The donated works will be on display March 6 - 8 at Hector's studio located at 1105 NW Grand Avenue in Phoenix. Lara Taubman, eminent freelance international curator and art critic, is creating the exhibition of prized works donated to HRC Arizona for the 2009 fundraiser. The annual black-tie gala takes place on Saturday, March 21, 2009 and features renowned speakers, honorable guests and entertainers to help raise critical funds necessary to continue HRC Arizona's efforts to end discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community and achieve fundamental fairness and equality for all. Tickets for the gala dinner and silent art auction are available

HRC contributed over \$150,000 in Arizona in 2008 to its advocacy of equal rights. This included funding the NO to Prop 102 campaign in addition to providing dedicated, experienced staff to work with the campaigns of local candidates supportive of equality and with allied organizations. To attend the 5th Annual HRC Arizona Gala Dinner, visit boxofficetickets.com/hrc for tickets or call 800-494-8497. Individual tickets are \$200 if purchased before February 14, 2009 and \$250 if purchased after this date. Student tickets are available for \$100 with a school ID. Visit phoenix.hrc.org for more information about HRC Arizona and www.hrcdinner.org for updates about the dinner.



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New Biopic By Oscar Winner Dustin Lance Black To Premier



Pedro Zamora

Alex Loynaz

MIAMI, Florida (Observer Update) - The inspiring and heartbreaking life of Pedro Zamora has made it to the big screen in a new bio-pic, with help from a few out Hollywood big-wigs, queerty.com reported.

Pedro learned he was HIV-Positive at age seventeen, and spent the rest of his life trying to educate young people about the disease. His appearance on MTV's The Real World: San Francisco in 1994 was groundbreaking, and when he died the day after the final episode aired, it was a shock to all of us who had become enamored of his

sweet smile and gentle personality.

Pedro stars newcomer Alex Loynaz in the title role, and focuses on his Cuban family, his relationship with partner Sean, and his close friendship with Real World housemates Judd and Pam. Up-n-comer Nick Oceano directed the film, which is exec-produced by Paris Barclay (In Treatment), and produced by Quinceanera guys Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland. And with a screenplay by Milk scribe Dustin Lance Black, it's obvious a lot of talent has been involved in getting this important story to the screen.

POLITICS 2009

by Mark R. Kerr

Errors

On Tuesday, September 1, voters in the City of Tucson will go to the polls to determine their respective party's standard bearers for the City Council seats for Ward 3, Ward 5 and Ward 6 and on Tuesday, November 3, who will serve in those positions for the next four years.

This reporter was thinking of the federal time frame when writing the previous column - admittance, apology and correction of the erroneous sentence, something most publications will do but a question arises whether elected officials do the same?

Case in point, Arizona's Legislature which each chamber, the state House of Representatives and state Senate - led by the Republicans and have managed over the past two decades, placed "feel good" measures on the ballot for voter consideration that have proven to be erroneous and detrimental.

Thanks to those individuals who founded the state of Arizona, its Constitution's provides a mechanism for the citizens to gather signatures to place initiatives, referendums or in 1988, a recall of then Republican Governor Evan "Quarantine those with HIV" on the ballot for consideration by the voters.

Through the initiative and referendum process whether the citizens gathered signatures and placed measures on the ballot for consideration, since Arizona's statehood on Feb. 14, 1912, some of the positive proposals, such as:

Giving women the right to vote, eight years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; expanding the state's low income healthcare program; approving measures allowing for the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes for people suffering from terminal illnesses and cancer; prohibiting Arizona's Legislature from moving funding mandated in ballot approved measures to programs they choose; allowing Native-American's such as the Pascua and Tohono O'odham nations to set up gaming operations to improve the lives of their people; allowing first time offenders of personal drug use or possession to be eligible for treatment and probation in lieu of incarceration; setting up an early childhood education program and, ending the inhumane treatment of animals, such as chickens pigs, forcing them to live in smaller cages - that they can't move around in, naming a few of several examples.

Unfortunately, the state's founders also gave the Legislature this "political outlet" as well, in the form of the Concurrent Resolution - needing approval only by both chambers only and not the Governor's signature, for the Legislature to place measures on the ballot for voter consideration. Some of these "Concurrent Resolutions" put on the ballot included:

Proposition 102 on the 2008 ballot - defining "marriage" in the state Constitution, pleasing the Legislative Republican's handlers, the Center for Arizona Policy, who cashed in on the bigotry "grave train," refilling their coffers so that their lawyers, also known as the Alliance Defense Fund can run amuck in the country; restricting the rights of people wanting to register to vote - disenfranchising Arizona citizens; making English the official language of the state; ensuring the rights of the dead from taxation on their plots and commu-

nities (graveyards); all the propositions dealing with Arizona's Legislative Republicans, sure-fire, political "feel good" group over the past four elections - illegal aliens; requiring a two-thirds vote in each legislative chamber to raise revenue; requiring either a two-third or three-fourth voter approval for initiatives; rewarding those individuals who don't vote by adding them to the totals needed for passage of any initiative or referendum; restricting the rights of citizens filing suit in civil (small claims) court or for receiving damages; selling of the state's "trust lands" for the past ten elections and making Arizona "a right to work" state.

So with that, Republican accidental Governor Jan Brewer, Republican Secretary of State Ken Bennett and the Arizona Legislature is moving forward with a special election, for this year, to put a proposal to the voters to "temporarily" raise the state's sales tax - expected some time in June at a cost of more than a million dollars.

It is expected that there will be another proposal on the ballot, to satisfy the radical-right wing, Republican faction in the Legislature, HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2028, that would allow Arizona's Legislature to ignore the will of voters and move mandated funding for programs to where they want it go.

All of this is interesting since they had approved legislation to force cities and counties to hold bond override elections in November, so that all the voters can turn out and have their say, blah, blah, blah.

During these perilous economic times, Accidental Governor Jan Brewer, the Republican's in charge (and with majorities) of both chambers of Arizona's Legislature, as well as their spokes-minions, such as: the severely defeated Congressional District 8 candidate, Tim Bee, lawyer and lobbyist extra ordinaire John Munger have used the line "It's all the Democrat's fault," the question arises of why the Republican led Arizona Legislature admit to their errors, change course, uphold the state constitution and do as the voters and taxpaying populace of Arizona want? It is a matter of trust and confidence, not holding on to outdated theories that have been proven not to work. Arizona can't afford that anymore.

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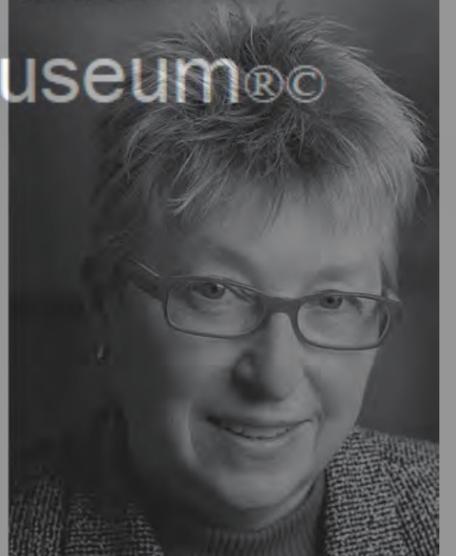
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Go Ahead 'n Ask

by King Daavid MacKenzie

The Demise Of Tail Gunner Joe

As I mentioned in these pages earlier this month, my birthday is the 9th of February. I must admit that I don't hold that day in as complete a fondness as I did when I was a kid. Years later, I learned that the 9th of February was the same calendar date on which a monster was born that claimed innocent lives and in some pockets of America is still worshiped.

We are approaching another anniversary, the 9th of March, on which that monster was largely crippled.

That monster is generally known as McCarthyism, after its most prominent perpetrator, Joseph Raymond McCarthy. Known among his constituents as Tail Gunner Joe (he'd been one during World War II), it was on the 9th of February, 1950, that this junior Senator from Wisconsin addressed a Republican Party group in Wheeling, West Virginia, and claimed he was holding a list of the names of dozens upon dozens of Communists who had somehow infiltrated the United States Government and disrupting it on orders from Josef Stalin, then dictator of the Soviet Union.

In fact, there was no such list. An early clue to there being no such list was the fact that McCarthy kept changing the number of names he claimed was on it. In Wheeling, he appears to have claimed 205; when entering the speech into the Congressional Record, he said 57, a discrepancy later satirized in the classic 1962 movie *The Manchurian Candidate*. In the end, he "caught" no such actual Communist saboteurs, but for four years he built upon this lie and grabbed for himself an incredible mass of political power, while simultaneously destroying the careers of thousands of innocent people who merely disagreed with him.

Among McCarthy's most frequent targets were homosexuals. According to the book *Out Of All Time* by Dr. Terry Boughner of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (and my former editor and publisher at the *Wisconsin Light*), when the early Gay civil rights group *The Mattachine Society* was formed, McCarthy declared it to be a front for Communist subversion and a "Homintern" taking its orders directly from *The Kremlin*. In 1953, the (Eisenhower Republican) State Department published a report claiming that 531 "perverts" had been fired from its ranks. President Dwight Eisenhower shortly afterwards issued an Executive Order banning "all persons guilty of sexual perversion" from holding government jobs.

McCarthy's anti-Gay hysteria had a tremendous impact throughout the United States. Boughner's book points out the fact that in Boise, Idaho, a city of about 100,000 people at the time, at least 1,472 people were arrested for merely being suspected of engaging in homosexual activity.

The most tragic element of all this may be the fact that McCarthy and his chief counsel, New York attorney Roy Cohn, were gay. In McCarthy's case, the *Milwaukee Journal* - yes, the same *Journal* whose company now owns KGUN-TV/9 "On Your Side" and KQTH, radio home to rabid homophobes like "Jon Justice" and "Michael Savage" - was given extensive evidence of McCarthy's homosexuality, in large part from his sexual partners themselves. The *Journal*, displaying a cowardice that has repeatedly come up in its company's history, refused to print the information. As a result, McCarthy was able to continue calling for the

extermination of "homos" - while being homosexual himself. Columnist Drew Pearson had hinted at McCarthy's true sexual orientation in a 1952 piece, but nobody else dared stand up to him, let alone out him.

It was on the 9th of March, 1954, that Edward R. Murrow devoted his weekly CBS-TV program "See It Now" to McCarthy's anti-Communist campaigning, the program being made up of film clips of McCarthy himself, with a brief closing commentary by Murrow. It was the high point of Murrow's television career. Tellingly, the CBS affiliate serving McCarthy's home town of Appleton, Wisconsin, refused to broadcast the program; WBAY-TV/2 Green Bay ran a DuMont network professional wrestling show from Chicago instead. The one Wisconsin station that did air the Murrow broadcast, WCAN-TV/25 in Milwaukee, went dark the following year.

Murrow's broadcast was followed up with a series of Senate hearings between March and June 1954, televised by the ABC (live) and DuMont (on film) networks nationwide, pitting McCarthy and Cohn against Army Secretary Robert Stevens over an Army draftee, Pvt. G. David Schine, who had previously been on McCarthy and Cohn's staff. Stevens claimed McCarthy and Cohn had tried to pressure the Army into giving Schine special treatment during his Army hitch, with Cohn telling Stevens "We'll wreck the Army" if they didn't.

The Army was represented at these hearings by a Boston attorney named Joseph Welch. After some shenanigans regarding homosexuals in the U.S. Military, including slurs from both sides, McCarthy brought up a young attorney in Welch's firm, Fred Fisher, who he then attempted to smear as being a one-time member of a Communist "front" organization. Welch was rightly outraged, as Fisher was actually a Republican and had no involvement in the hearings. (Twenty years after the hearings, Fisher became President of the Massachusetts Bar Association.) Welch's response contained a phrase that is still repeated today in similar circumstances: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

McCarthy was censured by his Senate colleagues the following autumn. He died, still in the Senate, in 1957 from "acute hepatitis, cause unknown." The Outagamie County Courthouse in Appleton, Wisconsin, still displays a bust of McCarthy, and he is buried in an Appleton cemetery.

I grew up, in part, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where my father's family was from, only a 10-minute drive from Appleton on U.S. Highway 41. That proximity to McCarthy's grave, and the continuing reverence many of that area's residents have for McCarthyism, make me very glad I'm several states away and have no intention of ever going back.

An unrelated postscript: many thanks to the friend who shipped me a 1924 design Kansas City Monarchs cap, which I received just in time to be wearing it while writing these words. The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum has four other designs on their website - nlbm.com/ - and I'm open to receiving any of those (especially the one with the big red "KC" lettering that Jackie Robinson wore when he was with the team). Hell, if the bankers can have floating birthday bonuses, why can't I get floating birthday presents?

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'Milk' Loses Best Film, But Sparks New Activism

Continued from Page One

and Dan Jinks told Reuters in a recent interview their goal in making the movie was less about ticket sales and awards, and more about telling the story of Milk's life to generations born after his murder in 1978.

"The best part of it has been getting the film out to a wider audience," said Jinks.

So far, the movie has grossed more than \$35 million at global box

offices, far short of the \$178 million that Oscar nominee and Gay romance "Brokeback Mountain" had in 2005. But it is more than double the \$15 million generated by transgender tale "Transamerica" that same year.

How long "Milk's" impact will last remains anyone's guess, but Shane Windmeyer, executive director of Campus Pride, thinks it could have a long life. He sees it "as a reminder of a call to action" that is "still reaching some of our young adults."

HOROSCOPES

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The Sun glides into Pisces this week and ramps up our overall mellowness. Go with the cosmic flow and let your intuition be your guide. Is there a chance that you will become too jello to hold a mold? Unlikely!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
If your sixth sense is on overdrive, let it steer and drive with Sun in Pisces. There are things going on in the background that begin to grab your attention. Clear out the dust and the cobwebs so you can celebrate who you are and what you have become. Proud Rams also ache to give back to the community in any and every way now. Every way except with cold cash. Ahem.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Friends come to you from all corners this week and why not? Queer Bulls are social directors and know where all the hot spots are located. Gather your pride parade and start the march with Sun in Pisces. Not only can pals help you out, you can also extend a helping hand to those who need it. Be careful though if you are asked to apply two hands on any problem area.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Pink Twins appear to be able to do no wrong around the office. Your career prospects brighten when Sun enters Pisces. Press and impress the big wigs and see if you can get one of them to support some of your great (but currently inert) ideas. The corporate sky is the limit and your door of opportunity is small. Forget the long lunches unless it is to grease a big cog.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Spread your wings and travel now, Gay Crab. Opportunities abound for any Outward bound jaunts. If you have been feeling penned in and frustrated, you can flee your current scene and explore more refreshing venues. If money and time are tight, find ways to effect personal change and expand your vision in thrifty, short bursts. Anyone we know...?

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Get to the core of any personal matter when the Sun enters Pisces. Proud Lions may be feeling stressed and frustrated with the current course of certain relationships. But these things are correctable. The secret to your success is how much you cater to your own needs versus how much you decide to forgo your own self needs for the joy of others. Uh oh.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
Balance is everything in this life, queer Virgo. So why is it that things have seemed a little tipsy for you recently. Worry no more; this week you find new ways to enlist help from partners to make your life more bearable and in control. If you are seeking a connection, this is the time to look! You are especially dreamy, creamy and delicious. Hurry before you curdle.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
You may feel lazier than usual and this is okay. Proud Libras don't need to tear up the carpet to get into their groove. While the Sun is in Pisces you can find effective ways to de-stress and relax. Store up your energy reserves now so you can rev a few engines later. Find shortcuts at work and see if you can put off anything too unwieldy. Take a lunch break or five.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Queer Scorps are more creative than usual. And you can use this inspiration to not only create your own personal masterpieces but also to just kick back and have time wasting fun. But since this energy doesn't come around that often, try not to allow your best ideas to vanish into the vapors. Enlist the help of equally artistic folks and get a thing or two going before its gone.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Are you planning a few get togethers when the Sun enters Pisces? If not, start to do so. Gay Archers find that there is no place like home. And not only that, home becomes an epicenter of activity. This can mean that a long delayed repair project gets underway or it can mean that pals show up to party. Hand them a hammer and try to do both.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Do you find that folks begin to really listen to you this week? Perhaps you are connecting with them on some higher, intuitive level. Whatever gets your message across, continue to send it out. Pink Caps are often not given credit for their fabulous opinions. Now you not only get credit, you can make it work for you in the long term. Hollywood, here you come!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

You can continue to spend in your careless ways or you can use Sun in Pisces to re-calibrate your portfolio. Try and start to recoup some of your losses. Aqueerians are more prone to spend now and save later. It is now possible to do a bit of necessary research and change the pattern. Before you know it you can create a firmer foundation. Let the concrete dry first though...

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Guppies are at one with the universe. Become the center of attention now that you possess incredible reserves of charisma and charm. Meet and greet and launch long planned projects now. Your world has no gravity and you can achieve anything that you set your mind to do. Will you squander it on fast company and cheap thrills? Oh we can only hope so!

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SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY

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Pepsico Gets In Bed With Rockstar, Michael Savage

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - PepsiCo announced a multiyear distribution deal with the makers of the energy drink Rockstar, prompting calls among Gay rights activists for a company-wide boycott, advocate.com reported. Rockstar was co-created by Dr. Michael Weiner, better known as conservative radio host Michael Savage, who has often broadcast antiGay tirades, referring to Gay callers as "sodomites" who should "get AIDS and die."

of PepsiCo after the company donated a combined \$1 million to the Human Rights Campaign and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

"We were indeed surprised by PepsiCo's support of the homosexual group," the AFA's Donald E. Wildmon wrote in October about the \$500,000 donation to PFLAG. "It would appear to us that PepsiCo would not involve itself in a political and culture war, especially supporting an organization seeking to redefine marriage and family." A statement released by PepsiCo said of the deal with the energy drink manufacturer: "Rockstar is a major milestone in our bid to become the undisputed category leader in energy drinks. We're moving assertively to the front of the energy drink pack."



His equally conservative wife, Janet, serves as the company's CFO, while his son Russell - cofounder of the Paul Revere Society, which campaigns for the deportation of all illegal immigrants - serves as the CEO. Savage has been equally outspoken on issues including abortion and autism, once defining an autistic child as "a brat who hasn't been told to cut the act out." Earlier this year, it was the antiGay American Family Association calling for a boycott

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by Jimmy Petrol

Girl On A Boat (Third in a series)

Not, the girls thought. The word of the day; *not*. The girls were both aboard now, putting a reef into the mainsail. It was better to reef it shorter at the dock than out on the cold Columbia later; if the wind should pick up any more they would need it.

The girls had been on the river at night all season, a couple times a week. The light would fail them while on the river; almost certainly the running lights would fail also, the battery charge usually insufficient for night work without the engine running. This guarantee of absolute darkness on the water held the girls to a thorough and studious preparation..

The old fellow watched from his little cockpit with gratification. Early in the season, he had gotten over to see the girls as they rigged the sailing-club boat for the water. Pleased that they were attentive, he passed some little things along to them, being sure of their competence to be out on the river...it was uncommon for anyone to cast off for a casual sail just before dark; it meant danger of unseen logs, silent barges, hidden remnants of docks long abandoned but still outlined by the sharp and broken ends of wooden piers poking up in long lines here and there along the banks.

They had told him that they had no other time to sail; only a little time after work. He had watched them rig the boat as he gently quizzed them; he could see their excitement grow as they prepared the little boat. When they finally cast off, it was with a vigor and rush of energy

most women only exhibited during sex; they were sailing at night because the danger made them feel more alive. Surviving made them feel strong, in a world of safety, caution and spectators. They were precisely the kind of women he had meant to have come to sail with him when he had become a sailor. There were, of course, practically no women like them on the west coast and certainly none his own age. In fact, he wasn't so sure about himself; at times he doubted whether he was his own sort either.

Left on their own, the girls would have been off already; the old fellow could see that they were trying to involve the boy in the process. He could see them gesturing to the boom, the winches, the cockpit; clearly, they were giving him a little familiarization talk to get him ready for the sail. It would be important that he know where to *be*; the boom could kill him easily if they jibbed, he would fall overboard quickly if he went wandering around the bow of the boat in the darkness. There were many things he would have to know before he could do much more than sit quietly in the cockpit. Mainly, he should hold on; the old fellow could read the girl's lips when she gave the boy the old wisdom, 'one hand for the boat, one hand for yourself'. The old fellow smiled; he had given them the saying, as well as the one that dictated, 'never leave your boat'. It was gratifying to talk to girls like them; they listened and were glad for the help. Very unlike most people, he thought.

To be continued ...

Ryan Allen Is George Mason University's Homecoming Queen



FAIRFAX, Virginia (Observer Update) - Ryan Allen is George Mason University's Homecoming Queen. Allen, who is Gay and performs as a popular drag queen at local clubs, assumed the title of Ms. Mason.

He was wearing a green-and-gold bow, sewn for him by the theater department costume's shop, that was visible even from the cheap seats, a sequined top, a black skirt and heels. Ricky Malebranche, a junior from Woodbridge, was named Mr. Mason. Beyond the joyful tears and tiara, Allen's election exposed conflicting cultural currents at the sprawling campus in Fairfax County, towleroad.com reported.

Many see it as an expression of inclusiveness at a place where about one-third of the 30,000 students are minority. But others say it is an embarrassment at an inopportune time when Mason is trying to revamp its image from commuter school to distinguished institution of higher learning. Officially, the university is 'very comfortable with it. We're fine,' spokesman Daniel Walsch said. The school does not require participants in the Mr. and Ms. Mason pageant to compete along precise gender lines, he said."

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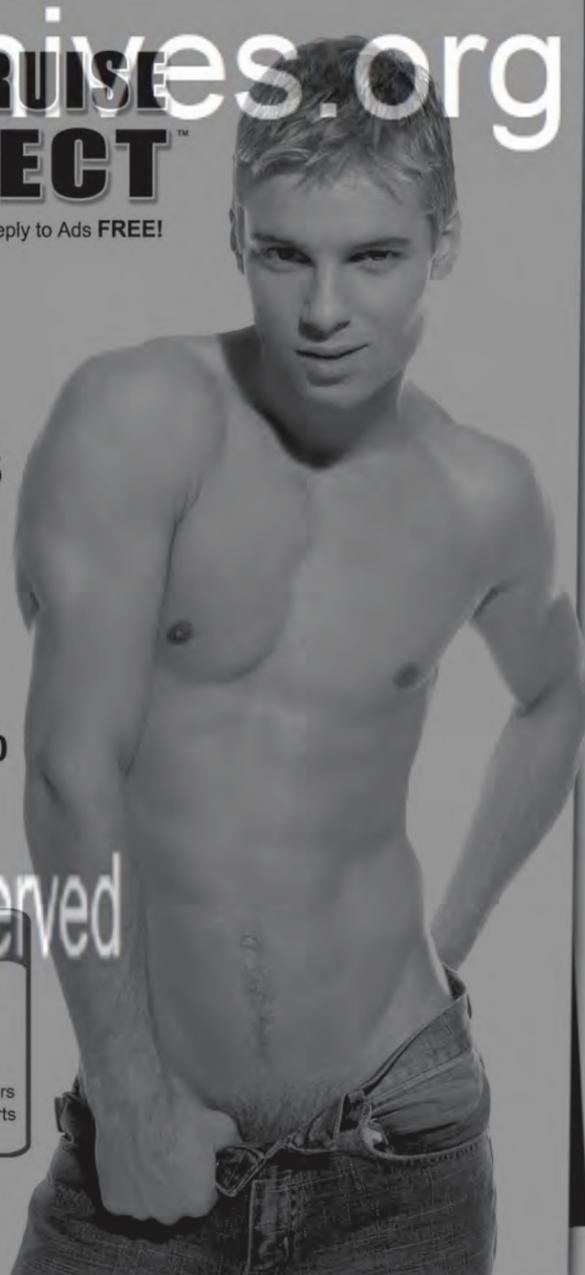
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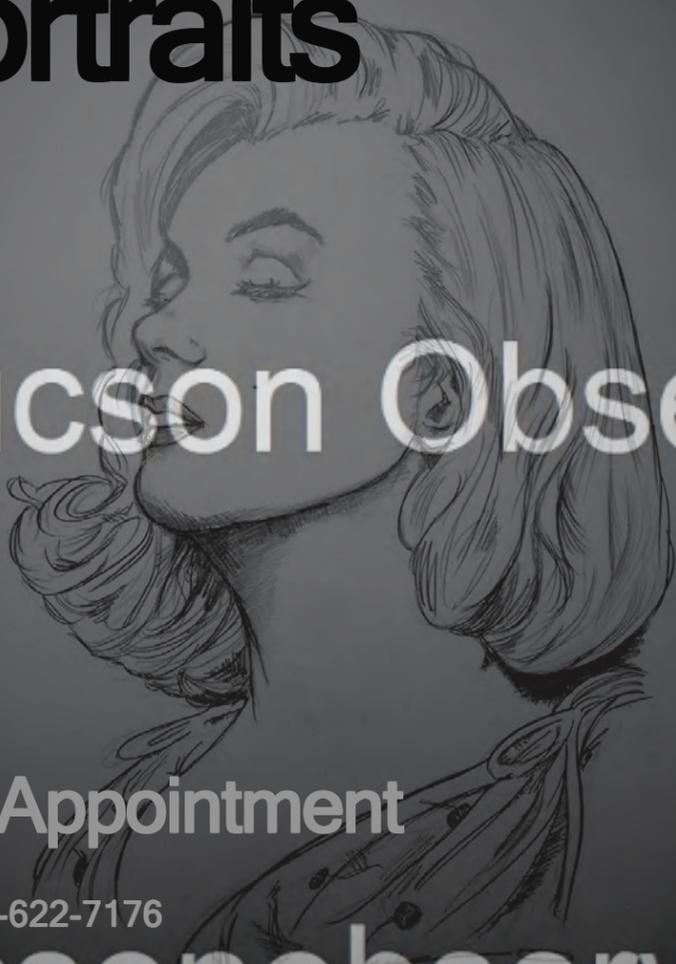


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COMMENTARY... by William Saletan

This Is The Way Culture Wars End

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Obama wants to end the culture wars. He recently called for "common ground" on abortion reduction and an end to the "stale and fruitless debate" over family planning. His joint address to Congress this week could be an opportunity to change that debate. But to make a real difference, he'll have to tell two truths that the left and the right don't want to hear: that morality has to be practical, and that practicality requires morals.

Start with abortion. Pro-lifers tend to show up after a woman is pregnant, imagining that laws and preaching will make her bear a child she doesn't want. They're mistaken. Worse, they're too late. To prevent abortions, we have to prevent unintended pregnancies. How? The conservative answer is abstinence. That's a worthy aspiration. But as a stand-alone national policy for avoiding pregnancies, it's foolish. Mating is the engine of history. It has overpowered every stricture put in its way.

The liberal answer is birth-control availability. In recent years, this has become a second front in the culture wars. Many pharmacists have refused to sell oral contraceptives. In December, President George W. Bush extended that right of refusal to cover other medical professionals unwilling to participate in birth control. Mr. Bush also halted American aid to international family-planning organizations that provide abortion services; Mr. Obama recently restored it.

Mr. Obama, like many other pro-choicers, doesn't like to preach on these issues. He talks about family planning purely in terms of access and affordability. Overseas, that's a huge challenge. But in this country, the principal cause of abortions isn't that we can't get birth control. It's that we don't use it. Eight years ago, the Alan Guttmacher Institute surveyed over 10,000 American women who had abortions. Nearly half said they hadn't used birth control in the month they conceived. When asked why not, 8 percent cited financial problems, and 2 percent said they didn't know where to get it. By comparison, 23 percent said they had thought they wouldn't get pregnant, 26 percent said they hadn't expected to have sex and 23 percent said they had never thought about using birth control, had never gotten around to it or had stopped using it. Ten percent said their partners had objected to it. Three percent said they had thought it would make sex less fun.

This isn't a shortage of pills or condoms. It's a shortage of cultural and personal responsibility. It's a failure to teach, understand, admit or care that unprotected sex can lead to the creation - and the subsequent killing, through abortion - of a developing human being. Our challenge is to put these two issues together. For liberals, that means taking abortion seriously as an argument for contraception. We should make the abortion rate an index of national health, like poverty or infant mortality. The president should report progress, or lack thereof, in the State of the Union. Reproductive-health counselors must speak bluntly to women who are having unprotected sex. And as Mr. Obama observed last year, men must learn that "responsibility does not end at conception."

face the corollary truth: A culture of life requires an ethic of contraception. Birth control isn't a sin or an offense against life, as so many girls and Catholic couples have been taught. It's a loving, conscientious way to prevent the conception of a child you can't bear to raise and don't want to abort. It's an act of responsibility and respect for life.

That brings us to the third front in the culture wars: couples who don't have to worry about abortion or contraception because they can't make babies with their partners. They're Gay, and they want to marry.

To liberals, same-sex marriage is a matter of equal rights. To conservatives, however, marriage isn't just another right or benefit. It's a moral anchor, a lifelong commitment, a foundation for raising children. Mr. Obama agrees. In "The Audacity of Hope," he argued that while Gay couples deserve the same rights to hospital visitation and joint health insurance, "society can choose to carve out a special place" for traditional marriage. This issue, like birth control, requires both sides to accept the practical and moral importance of responsible choices. Commitment, unlike sexual orientation, is a choice and a virtue. Same-sex marriage binds Gay couples to the same ethic of mutual support and sacrifice that Mr. Obama has praised in straight marriages. The cultural imprimatur of marriage makes the gravity of the bond stronger than a civil union or domestic partnership.

The choice to commit will also be good for the hundreds of thousands of children being raised by same-sex parents. Let those partners marry. In fact, let's encourage them to. We shouldn't just tolerate same-sex marriage. We should promote and favor marriage, regardless of orientation. The president is right: Our moral debates have become stale and fruitless. The reason is that we've pitted morality against practicality. These two principles need each other. Let's marry them.

(William Saletan, Slate's national correspondent, is the author of "Bearing Right: How Conservatives Won the Abortion War," and this article is reprinted from the Feb. 21 edition of the New York Times.)

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U.S.- Backed Non Discrimination Statement Fails

UNITED NATIONS (Observer Update) - A version of an international statement condemning violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation backed by the United States failed to win approval this week by participating nations of the Durban Review Conference. The purpose of the conference, to be held in April in Geneva, is to review the progress and implementation of the Durban Declaration established in 2001 at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance.

The United States supported the statement along with the European Union, New Zealand, and most of South America, but it failed to entice the majority of votes from the United Nations, according to UNWatch.org. South Africa, on behalf of the African Group, says that the addition of sexual orientation "goes beyond the framework of the 2001 Durban Declaration." The Holy See, which represents the Vatican, said the paragraph on sexual orientation should not be included in the 45-page document because it refers to a form of conduct and not a condition, according to UNWatch.org reported. The European Union is attempting to change the language so that sexual orientation may be included. Denmark pointed out that nearly a third of U.N. member nations supported a joint statement condemning the discrimination against LGBT people around the world.

The United States' support of the document shows a contrast in attitudes between the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama. In December 2008 the United States opposed a joint statement addressing homophobia and LGBT rights for the first time at the United Nations. Sixty-six of the 192 member countries, including the full European Union, Central African Republic, Brazil, Cuba, Israel, and Japan, urged fellow member countries to decriminalize homosexuality. In addition to the United States, China, Russia, and all of the Arab nations refused to back the 2008 U.N. statement, advocate.com reported.

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I'm a single, 52 years young GWM. I'm a non smoker (if you smoke, outdoors only). My simple rules are: No drama, No drugs, No heavy drinking, and No revolving doorbell trade. You must be financially stable, and someone I can count on. I have a cat (Sheba) who I value more than most two legged people, so kitty-friendly is a must. I'm including in the \$495/mo rent, basic cable, utilities, laundry use and WI-FI service. Parking would be half of a covered carport.

I am asking for a \$300 security deposit and references, just so it protects BOTH of us. Music and movies are my source of entertainment; it would be great if they were for you too. Please note, I will respect your privacy and you may come and go as you please. I'm an average guy when it comes to cleaning, so I guess that means I prefer a house that looks lived in, rather than a museum. So along those lines -

You are an adult, and I'm not your mother, so you are expected to clean up after yourself. I value my home and ask that you do too. So if you're interested in meeting, hit me back. Available starting the week of 03/01/09, a 6 to 12 month arrangement is preferred, but all offers will be considered. I look forward to sharing my home with you!

Call me, Sam, 647-9591 or 795-8573

Around The Nation

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle (D) is proposing a domestic partner registry for same-sex couples throughout the state and extending health benefits to the partners of state employees. Doyle slipped the measures into his budget, submitted to the legislature. It would require counties to allow same-sex couples to register their relationships. Once registered partners would have the right to visit significant others in hospital and make medical decisions if the partners were unable to do so themselves. It would allow partners to make end of life decisions, inherit property and have the same pension rights as married couples.

"It is also time to make sure our state takes some basic steps towards fairness and decency," the governor said in presenting the budget. Of his plan to include health insurance for the partners of state employees Doyle said. "I don't want the state to be less competitive at our university and other institutions because we don't treat people fairly." Democrats control the legislature and both the partner registry and the benefits plan have the support of leaders in the House and Senate. But Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan warned it won't be easy getting the measures passed. ...

In Colorado, a bill making it easier for unmarried couples, including Gays and Lesbians, to make medical decision for incapacitated partners and leave property to their partners is headed to a vote on the state house floor. The measure passed the state house judiciary committee despite stiff Republican opposition. Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D), the bill's sponsor, said that he had wished he could have brought in legislation to legalize same-sex marriage, but admitted to the committee this was the best he could currently hope for. "We're looking at making sure people can take care of one another," Ferrandino said.

But for more than an hour, Rep. Bob Gardner (R) blasted the measure, calling it a danger to traditional marriage. "What we're doing with this bill is creating de facto civil unions in Colorado," Gardner told the committee. "It is a sea change." Despite his hammering, the committee passed the bill 7-3 and sent it to the full house for debate. Under the plan, couples would be able to go to their county clerk's office and designate each other as legal beneficiaries. ...

In Indianapolis, the Indiana's Senate Republican Caucus voted not to consider a resolution that would have proposed amending the state constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman. Political observers say the vote means the amendment is unlikely to advance during this legislative session. The resolution would require approval by the Senate and House in two consecutive legislative sessions, and, if approved, would then go before the voters.

Similar measures were also introduced this year in the Indiana House of Representatives, but House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer has indicated that they will not be considered this session. The legislative session is scheduled to end in late April 2009. Indiana already has a so-called Defense of Marriage law that bans same-sex marriage and civil unions, but supporters of a constitutional amendment say the law could be overturned by the courts. Two previous attempts to advance an amendment in the legislature died. On both occasions it had passed the Senate only to die in the House.

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CANCER SUPPORT GROUP for Lesbians, Bisexuals, Trans, Queer, Women. Meets Mondays (6:00 - 7:30pm) at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street, Tucson, AZ 85701. For more info, please contact Brenda Casey, LMSW 520-694-0247 or bcassey@umcaz.edu

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 at 11:00a.m., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Yard Dog.

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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 520 742-1271. 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 (GPGCLCC) P.O. BOX 2097, Phoenix, AZ 85001-2097. E-mail: webmaster@gpgclcc.org or call (602)225-8444.

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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 of 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 20 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

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; Dezert Girlz (MTF Support) meets 2nd Mondays at 7pm; Dezert Boyz (FTM Support) meets 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm. Also serving partners, youth, intersex, service providers and allies. Call (520)624-1779x26 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.

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, 5:30 p.m. each month at Lutheran Church of the Foothills, 5102 N. Craycroft Rd. For information visit www.lctucson.org or write: Lutherans Concerned/Tucson, P.O. Box 40702, Tucson, AZ 85717-0702.

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

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 Megan at Wingspan, 624-1779, ext. 116. 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,

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.:

TUCSON M2M - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TucsonM2M>

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*Open Saturdays 5-10 p.m. or until the last member leaves. Happy Hour 5-7 all drinks \$1.00 off.
*Open Sundays 2-7 p.m. or until last member leaves. Bottle Beer starts at \$1.00

DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - 'L' Word showing 7pm & 9:30pm (Progressive drink specials) - First: \$3 Well; Second: \$1.50 pints. Last Special is 2-4-1. Following L Word, Out Loud Open Mic. If you have talent join our open night mic - Starts 10:45 pm.

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.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - \$1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; \$2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt.

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-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust \$2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, \$3 proceeds to Petwatch (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 Noon - 2am. Mimosas & Bloody Mary Bar (Build your own)

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. EDAN...Exotic dancer appreciation night. DJ spins Hip Hop & R&B and all request dance. \$5.25 drink specials.

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.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Bucket o" Beer - \$10 Domestic, \$12 Imports (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

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-2am. SKYY Matinis \$3 ea., 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 Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close Come play our Wii gaming system. Beer Pong Tournament w/cash prizes starts 9pm.

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.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Pitcher Special \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.00 lg. Pitcher (excluding Blue Moon & Dos XX Amber). Girlz Nite Out. Girlz pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm.

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-2am. Dart Tournament, 7pm \$3 entry fee/Pot Match.

WOODY'S - Open noon- 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, Caprioscas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

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

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. \$7 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.

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.

COYOTE MOON PUB -Open 3pm. Happy Hour All Day \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitchers. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 pm Play for points & Prizes. No cash involved.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm \$2.50/Pitcher.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful 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 Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 3-8. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10;pm.

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..

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Boyz Nite Out - boys pay only .75 for well liquors or domestic drafts 8-10pm. Bicardi Thursdays - \$3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

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-2am..

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 Noon-2am. Beer Bust 3-7

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour UNTIL 8. Hip Hop & R&B. Drink Specials all night called out by DJs. Special Performances.

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 Faltin 6:30 to 9:30. "Guys & Dolls" drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. Nightly dinner specials. Drink specials during the drag show.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

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-2am. Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas \$3 ea., 4-8pm.

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. Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close.

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

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Starting Feb. 13th Escandalo Saturdays w/Carnival Latino. Latin Hip Hop, Top 40s & Reggaeton music will be spun. Guest DJs. \$5 Cover. oGo dancers male and female. Shot specials allnight. .

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.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open at 2pm. Happy Hour 2-8pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Plus check out the bartenders choice of shot specials. \$5.00 cheeseburger & fries. \$3.00 Cuervo and \$4.75 Jager Bombs. Check our calendar for the Saturday Night Special Entertainment.

IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, 5-8pm karaoke & Teryaki Kabobs on the patio. 8:30pm Show time w/ Bunny FuFu or Janee Starr. DJ Q spinning Club Music inside & Mike Lopez spinning on the patio 10pm - 2am VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust \$2.25/Pitcher. 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-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 Noon-2am. Patio Bar Opens 8pm.

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

Friday, February 27
THE BIZ - Sexy Party with guest DJs

VENTURE-N - Tucson Rodeo going on and there are drink specials for those in cowboy attire.

Saturday, February 28
COYOTE MOON PUB - TMI (Too Much Information) band playing classic rock, blues and original music 9:00 p.m. \$5 Cover.

VENTURE-N - Tucson Rodeo going on and there are drink specials for those in cowboy attire.

WOODY'S - "The Wett Party" featuring the #1 internet adult entertainer live! Tommy D. with shows at 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Don't miss it!!

Sunday, March 1
VENTURE-N - Tucson Rodeo closing day and there are drink specials for those in cowboy attire.

Saturday, March 7
THE BIZ - Breast Cancer Benefit Carwash 9:00 a.m. Minimum donation \$5.00

Sunday, March 8
THE BIZ - Season finale of the 'L' Word - 2 hours



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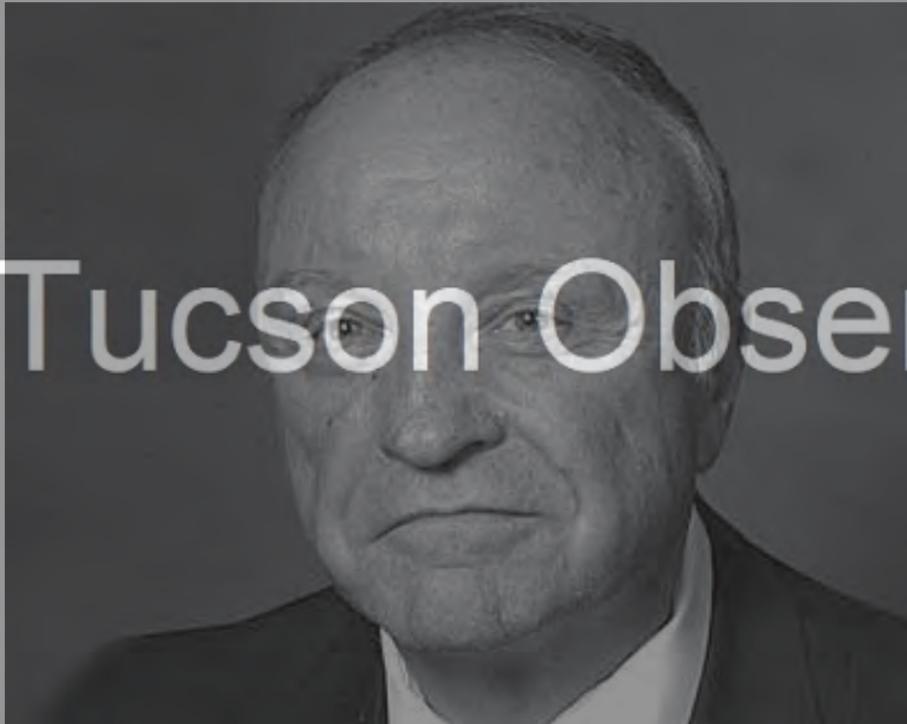
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W. VA Group Likens Marriage Equality Supporters To Snipers In Campaign



Utah State Senator Chris Buttars

SALT LAKE CITY (Observer Update) - A Utah state senator has been kicked off the judicial committee he chaired after he drew criticism for comparing Gay activists to radical Muslims in an interview, 365Gay.com reported. Sen. Chris Buttars, R-West Jordan, also told former local television reporter Reed Cowan, an openly Gay documentary producer who now works at a Miami station, that Gay activists are "probably the greatest threat to America going down."

The comments drew calls for Buttars' resignation in Utah and elsewhere. The Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Lesbian, Gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, said that by Friday more than 15,000 e-mails had been sent to Utah Senate President Michael Waddoups, R-Taylorsville, demanding that he con-

demn Buttars' remarks.

Waddoups did not condemn Buttars' statements and said he kicked Buttars off the committee primarily as a way to draw attention away from him. In a brief news conference Friday, Waddoups declined to say what comments - if any - Buttars made that he and other Republicans disagreed with. "We think he's a senator that represents the point of view of many of his constituents, of many of ours," Waddoups said. "We agree with many of the things he said. We may disagree with some of them, we may disagree with some of the ways he said it." Buttars declined to comment to The Associated Press, but said he would not be issuing an apology. In a statement released on the Senate Republicans' blog, Buttars wrote that he will continue to defend traditional marriage.



CHARLESTON, West Virginia (Observer Update) - A Christian conservative group in West Virginia is likening Gay marriage supporters to snipers targeting "traditional" families in a new video campaign to enact a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality, advocate.com reported. The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is urging legislators to allow a ballot measure for their proposed amendment, according to WHSV News in Charleston.

care, and religious schools.

The potential for a West Virginian couple to marry in another state where the right is extended to Gay and Lesbian couples would lead West Virginians into "legal chaos," the ad's narrator warns. The video includes a family blowing bubbles together in the cross hairs of a rifle, driving home the point of heterosexual families being targeted.

The video says that marriage equality would threaten churches' livelihood, thereby preventing them from offering services like adoption, medical

"A weekend trip to San Francisco for a West Virginia same-sex couple plus a pro bono [American Civil Liberties Union] attorney could easily become a nightmare for marriage in West Virginia," the video says.

Final Ruling: Just Say No To G/L Volunteers

OLYMPIA, Washington (Observer Update) - Adding insult to injury would aptly describe a recent, long-awaited ruling by the Washington State Human Rights Commission in its answer to a complaint filed by a Gay couple who was shown the door when they tried to volunteer at a religious organization's hot meal program, pageoneq.com reported.

said at the time he had never heard of Gay or Lesbian people being turned away as volunteers.

In March 2008, Tad Erichsen and John Footh were turned away from the His Supper Table program in the tiny coastal community of Long Beach, Washington, where they both reside. They were told in no uncertain terms by then meal program director Mike Renfro that they were refused the opportunity to volunteer solely because they were Gay. "We were told that our being there, a Gay couple, would create a 'hostile work environment,'" says Erichsen. Following the incident the two men filed a formal complaint with the Washington State Human Rights Commission. Both Erichsen and Footh made this decision since they felt they would be protected by beefed up anti-discrimination legislation, which in 2006 was revised to include sexual orientation and gender expression on the state level.

That was in June of 2008. The Commission finally issued a decision, in favor of His Supper Table, in January. Erichsen and Footh were made aware of the ruling during an "exit interview" conducted via phone on Jan. 21 by Commission Investigator Teresita Torres, who was assigned the case when the complaint was filed in May of 2008. Torres stated in the ruling that a religious organization such as His Supper Table had the First Amendment on its side and could discriminate against Gay or Lesbian people when it comes to volunteering. Torres said in the exit interview with the couple that His Supper Table, or any religious organization for that matter, can turn anyone away if they do not want them volunteering. "That First Amendment issue, there is no getting around it," said Torres. "It gives organizations such as His Supper Table the right to associate with whomever it chooses." Torres said that people can be turned away by a religious organization "if they don't want people of a different religion, or Gay orientation, or whatever other protected class."

When the complaint was filed, the Commission's former director, Marc Brenman, stated that the couple being turned away from a volunteer situation by a religious organization was a gray area in terms of its First Amendment rights. He said religious organizations can pick and choose who they allow in as members and who they can hire to work at their organizations. At the same time Brenman said there was the possibility that the state's anti-discrimination legislation might come down on the side of Erichsen and Footh in terms of their trying to volunteer, indicating the incident could be a violation of the public accommodation section of Washington's anti-discrimination legislation after the 2006 revisions. Brenman

When asked why it took over eight months to issue a final ruling, Torres replied that it was due to time spent on research and interviews. But as far as can be ascertained, besides Erichsen and Footh, only a tiny handful of other people were interviewed. One such person was Nancy Holmes, a former volunteer at His Supper Table, who corroborated the discriminatory antics of the group. Holmes cited another incident when several Gay men were sent packing when they showed up to volunteer at the meal program in 2005, much in the same manner as Erichsen and Footh. It was this incident which led Holmes to forever walk away from the organization.

Personal Injury?



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