



Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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Pentagon Starts Clock On Lifting Gay Ban, Warns It Will Be Several Year Process

WASHINGTON, DC - The Defense Department has started the clock on what is expected to be a several-year process in lifting its ban on gays from serving openly in the military. A special investigation into how the ban can be repealed without hurting the morale or readiness of the troops was expected to be announced by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

While the review is likely to take the better part of this year to complete, and even more time to implement, its initiation will advance President Barack Obama's goal of repealing the ban and bring a divisive issue for the military back to the fore. At the White House, officials continued reviewing options to repeal the Clinton-era policy that the president vowed to repeal. The administration still believes that any repeal should start in Congress and have the backing of top military leaders.

To that end, Obama and Gates

planned a meeting next week to discuss, among other topics, ending "don't ask, don't tell" policies. The president was also likely to speak with Mullen, who has signaled he would carry out a repeal if ordered by Obama and Congress. Lifting the ban poses some emotional questions that go to the heart of the military's command structure and the trust relationships within military units. Among them: Will U.S. troops and leaders tolerate openly gay members in their midst? And if they don't, what should the Pentagon do about it?

The review is expected to delve into practical issues that surround changing the law: Can a soldier be forced to room with someone who is openly gay if they are the same sex? Would the military recognize civil unions and how much would it cost to extend benefits to a service member's partner? Would quotas be imposed to ensure openly gay service members aren't passed over for promotions?

Pro. Prop. 8 Lawyers Rest Case At Gay Marriage Trial

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - The first federal case to decide if the U.S. Constitution prevents states from stopping same-sex weddings came to an anti-climatic break after a judge heard nearly 12 days of wide-ranging testimony on the meaning of marriage, the nature of sexual orientation, and the role of religion in shaping attitudes about both, reported 365Gay.com. Attorneys for sponsors of California's Proposition 8 tentatively rested their case after introducing materials from the 2008 election campaign.

They called just two expert witnesses, including David Blankenhorn, president of the New York-based Institute for American Values, who capped the historic proceedings by saying the rights of same-sex couples should come second to preserving the cherished social institution of marriage. Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker heard the case without a jury and said he will take time to review the evidence before allowing closing arguments, probably in March or April. He has no deadline for reaching a decision.

After testimony ended, Walker came down from the bench and shook hands with both legal teams. "I just want to take a moment to congratulate you (on) what a good job you've both done," he said, calling it a fascinating case. His eventual verdict is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Throughout the trial, lawyers for the two gay couples who filed the lawsuit seeking to overturn the ballot measure

tried to show the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized marriage as a fundamental right and that there is no lawful reason to deny it to gays. They also argued that Proposition 8, which passed with 52 percent of the vote, was a product of anti-gay prejudice rooted in religion and psychological theories about homosexuality that have long since been discredited.

Plaintiffs' lawyer David Boies said Walker had been provided with more than enough evidence to strike down the ban. "We said on the first day of trial we would prove three things," he said during a news conference outside court. "Marriage is a fundamental right; that depriving gays and lesbians the right to marry hurts them and hurts their children; and there was no reason, no societal benefit in not allowing them to get married."

The defense countered that limiting marriage to a man and a woman serves a paramount social function by promoting stable biological families - a purpose that outweighs civil rights concerns. Defense lawyers methodically cross-examined the parade of academic experts who testified for the plaintiffs then kept their part of the case brief.

Andy Pugno, a lawyer who served on the executive committee of the Proposition 8 campaign, said the burden of proof was on the plaintiffs. "They have to prove the people voted irrationally when they voted to pre-

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Maurice Grossman, a long time Pima County Democratic activist and simply "the nicest person you'd ever want to meet," passed away due to complications following heart surgery. He was 82.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 5:30 PM on Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Maurice was a native of Michigan. In 1955, he moved to Tucson, where he founded the University of Arizona's Ceramic Arts program the following year. He taught at the UA for 35 years and was the recipient of the UA's Creative Teaching Award.

Maurice studied in Japan as a Fulbright Scholar, and he received a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1986. He was internationally recognized for his pottery, and very involved in the local arts community.

Maurice worked tirelessly on Democratic Party causes. After the death of his wife, he came out as a gay man, and he fought for GLBT rights, as well as many other social causes.

"He was simply the nicest person you'd ever want to meet," said Jeff Rogers, Pima County Democratic



Maurice Grossman 1927-2010

Party chair. "We will miss his generosity of time and his effort, but what we'll really miss is the man we knew and admired."

Doug Noffsinger, a long time friend of Grossman's, told the Arizona Daily Star of Mr. Grossman: "He's probably registered more people to vote in Pima County than any other living person. And he always did that in outfits like an Uncle Sam hat, or a red, white and blue boa."

Maurice is survived by two children, Lauren and Stephen Grosman, both of Seattle. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn Gracey Grossman, and his oldest daughter, Barbara Jean Grossman.

Oscar Nominations Announced

BEVERLY HILLS (Observer Update) - The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences got what it wanted Tuesday morning: an eclectic mix of 10 best picture nominees, including two science-fiction hits - "Avatar" and "District 9" - an animated film, "Up," and two war films, "The Hurt Locker" and "Inglourious Basterds."

Though it was no surprise that "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" and "Up in the Air" earned best picture nods, there were some unexpected choices, including "The Blind Side," "An Education" and "A Serious Man."

The announcement marked the first time in 64 years that there were 10 nominees in this marquee category, instead of the traditional five, reported the Los Angeles Times online.

The nominees for best director were as expected. They included: James Cameron for "Avatar," Kathryn Bigelow for "The Hurt Locker," Lee Daniels for "Precious," Quentin Tarantino for "Inglourious Basterds" and Jason Reitman for "Up in the Air."

But two of the nominees were nonetheless noteworthy: Bigelow, who won the Directors Guild of America Award over the weekend, is only the fourth woman to earn a best director nod. Daniels is just the second African American filmmaker to earn that honor.

In the acting categories, the academy followed in the footsteps of the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild Awards. The only real surprise was Maggie Gyllenhaal for best supporting actress for "Crazy Heart." She had largely been overlooked this awards season.

The nominees for best actress were Sandra Bullock for "The Blind Side," Helen Mirren for "The Last Station," Carey Mulligan for "An Education," Gabourey Sidibe for "Precious" and Meryl Streep for "Julie & Julia." With this nod, Streep has earned an unprecedented 16 Oscar nominations over the last 31 years. She has received two Oscars: best supporting actress for 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer" and best actress for 1982's "Sophie's Choice."

The best actor nominations went to Jeff Bridges for "Crazy Heart," George Clooney for "Up in the Air," Colin Firth for "A Single Man," Morgan Freeman for "Invictus," and Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker."

The nominations were revealed at 5:38 a.m. Tuesday at the academy's Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, with last year's lead actress nominee Anne Hathaway helping Oscar president Tom Sherak with the announcements.

The Oscars will be telecast live March 7 on ABC from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

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UPDATE

Pro. Prop. 8 Lawyers Rest Case At Gay Marriage Trial

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serve the traditional definition of marriage," said Pugno, who often complained during the trial that voters and religion should not be put on trial. "The question is whether the people have a right to decide what is best," he told reporters.

Lawyers on both sides delved into the premises that surround the polarized public discourse on gay marriage, touching on the fitness of gay parents, religious views on homosexuality, gender roles in marriage and the history of the gay rights movement. They also aired topics that are less likely to be part of the polite debate, such as stereotypes that depict gays as pedophiles and link same-sex relationships to the specter of polygamy.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs called more than a dozen witnesses, including Nancy Cott, a Harvard University historian who testified that monogamous, state-sanctioned marriage between one man and one woman is a relatively recent concept in human civilization.

Ryan Kendall, a gay Colorado man, recalled how being subjected to therapy designed to make him straight drove him to the brink of suicide. The plaintiffs - Kristin Perry and Sandra Stier, a lesbian couple from Berkeley, and Paul Katami and Jeffrey Zarrillo, a gay couple from Burbank - also took the witness stand to describe why they regard the domestic partnerships that California allows gay couples to enter are a poor substitute for matrimony.

Lawyers for the couples also called William Tam, a proponent of Proposition 8, as a hostile witness to discuss his view that allowing gays to get married would lead to incest, polygamy and child abuse.

Defense lawyers called just two witnesses. Kenneth Miller, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College, testified that gays enjoy considerable political clout and

were not a disadvantaged minority, as depicted by plaintiffs.

Under cross-examination, Blankenhorn conceded there were many valid reasons for allowing gays to wed, but the considerations are outweighed by the likely damage it would cause the already weakened state of heterosexual unions.

He acknowledged, however, that allowing gays to wed would have positive consequences for same-sex couples and society, such as scoring "a victory for the worthy ideas of tolerance and inclusion," reducing anti-gay prejudice and hate crimes, and creating a higher standard of living for same-sex couples.

DADT Discharges Down 30% In 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - The number of discharges the military issued due to "don't ask, don't tell" fell significantly in 2009, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The organization said that it expected the number, which will be announced at Tuesday's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, to show discharges down to 428 in 2009, compared to 619 in 2008. The 2009 figures include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, but discharge numbers for the Coast Guard are not yet available.

"It's very good news that discharges continue to drop during a time of two wars, particularly in 2009," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of SLDN. "But it is 428 too many. We need to see the number go to zero and will continue to urge Congress and the White House to pass full repeal in 2010 through the defense authorization bill to end this law once and for all."

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association 25th Anniversary And TIHAN

CHANDLER (Observer Update) - This year TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) will be one of the five organizations benefitting from the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association's Roadrunner Regional Rodeo in Chandler, AZ.

TIHAN will be staffing volunteer shifts at this event on Saturday, February 13th and Sunday, February 14th.

If you are interested in representing TIHAN at this event please contact Katelyn McDonald at (520) 299-6647 or katelyn@tihan.org.

Wingspan Volunteer Orientation Feb. 6

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Would you like to learn more about Wingspan and the volunteer opportunities available at southern Arizona's LGBT community center?

If so, please join us, Feb. 6 at Wingspan, 430 E. 7th, 11:00 a.m., for a one-hour volunteer orientation. No need to RSVP, just show up!

'All My Children' Creator On Coming Out

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - All My Children's 82-year-old creator Agnes Nixon is known for penning pioneering storylines for daytime, and she told Entertainment Weekly it's the controversial storylines surrounding AIDS, abortion and coming out she hopes will be her legacy, reported advocate.com.

"All the socially relevant stuff, like the storyline about AIDS. The lesbian and gay story. Because of my having grown up in Nashville, Tenn., a very segregated city, being able to have integrated the show was to me the most important thing."

In 1983, All My Children made history by becoming the first daytime drama to have an openly gay main character. Four years later, the show became the first to have an HIV-positive character. Actress Ellen Wheeler won an Emmy for playing Cindy Chandler, who contracted HIV from her drug-addicted husband. The show aired a number of education-based episodes on how to prevent infection.

Nixon's crowning achievement, she thinks, came in 2000 when she decided that Erica Kane's daughter Bianca would come out of the closet. The storyline was met with controversy, but went on to win Emmys for both Eden Riegel (Bianca) and for writing. "When Erica's daughter, Bianca, came out as a lesbian, I got letters from gay women saying, 'If only I had seen this show when I was a teenager,'" Nixon says. "Eden Riegel became one of the most popular young actors on daytime. I had the sense to wait, to know that there'd be a lot of people who were prejudiced, homophobic, so we had to wait until we could make her Erica's daughter. You have to be sneaky sometimes, because viewers wanted to watch and see what Erica's reaction would be."

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LGBT Leadership Guarded After State Of The Union Speech

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Gay leaders offered only a lukewarm reception for President Obama's statement in his State of the Union address that he would work for the repeal of the military's discriminatory policy against gays, reported the Keen News Service on 365Gay.com.

The statement came near the end of his address. "This year," he said, "I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."

Even before the president finished the sentence, a cheer broke out from somewhere in the chamber and some members of Congress rose to applaud. Television cameras flashed on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who were sitting with considerable stoicism, as they did throughout the speech, though Defense Secretary Robert Gates was standing and applauding.

The reaction of gay leaders fell somewhere in-between.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network issued a statement applauding the president's remarks, calling for repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"We very much need a sense of urgency to get this done in 2010," said the group. "We call on the President to repeal the archaic 1993 law in his defense budget currently now being drafted, that is probably the only and best moving bill where DADT can be killed this year. " The group also said

that both "more attention and leadership" are needed to win repeal."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese posted a statement saying the president sent "a clear message" against the policy. He added - as did Servicemembers Legal - that the issue "will required continued leadership" from President Obama and Congressional allies.

But other reaction was guarded.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, issued a statement saying "We have heard promises before about ending 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'" While Cathcart said Lambda was happy to hear President Obama's remark, he added that "the time has finally come to fulfill that promise."

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said "the time for broad statements is over."

"He must provide a concrete blueprint for his leadership and action moving forward - this includes his willingness to stop the discharges happening on his watch until Congress can fulfill its responsibility to overturn the law."

"We wish we had heard him speak of concrete steps tonight," said Carey.

Richard Socarides, a long-

time Democratic activist who worked in the White House of President Clinton, said he found the lack of a game plan and timetable on the issue to be "extremely troubling."

Charles Moran, a spokesperson for Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay political group, was much more harsh.

"President Obama is more concerned about protecting the rights of terrorists," said Moran, "than he is about the rights of gay and lesbian Americans who are putting their lives on the line every day fighting to preserve peace and democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan and operate small businesses that are the backbone of the American economy."

MSNBC's Rachel Maddow asked Valerie Jarrett, a senior policy advisor to the president, when and how the president planned to follow through on his promise regarding Don't Ask-Don't Tell. Jarrett said the president would "begin the process right away" and that he was "very clearly" committed to the promise. Jarrett said she was also "very heartened" by the applause in the chamber in reaction to the president's statement of commitment.

The president's statement was no surprise. News of his intention to express support for repealing "Don't Ask Don't Tell" filtered to news media from Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Levin said he heard of the plan from "the Pentagon."

In his speech, President Obama made note of the nation's "incredible diversity" and on the Constitution's "notion that we are all created equal, that no matter who you are or what you look like, if you abide by the law you should be protected by it; that if you adhere to our common values you should be treated no different than anyone else."

He said his administration is prosecuting civil rights violations and employment discrimination and noted, "We finally strengthened our laws to protect against crimes driven by hate."

That statement referred to the law long sought by national gay political groups to enable the federal government to help fund prevention of and prosecution for crimes that target victims for sexual orientation or gender identity, among other things. The president signed that law in October.



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COMMENTARY...

by John Corvino

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The Right Is Wrong About Gay Marriage

Opponents of marriage equality have recently been shifting somewhat away from the “bad for children” argument in favor of what we might call the “definitional” argument: same-sex “marriage” is not really marriage, and thus legalizing it would amount to a kind of lie or counterfeit.

what marriage-equality opponents mean when they claim that same sex marriage involves “a lie about human nature” (Gallagher’s words). But if it does, then their argument is weak on at least two counts.

First, one can acknowledge a difference between two things while still adopting a blanket term that covers them both. Both chickens and ducks are fowl; both silver and platinum are precious metals.

As National Organization for Marriage (NOM) president Maggie Gallagher puts it: “Politicians can pass a bill saying a chicken is a duck and that doesn’t make it true. Truth matters.” The definitional argument isn’t new, although its resurgence is telling. Unlike the “bad for children” argument, it’s immune from empirical testing: it’s a conceptual point, not an empirical one.

So even if same-sex and opposite-sex relationships differ in some fundamental way, there’s nothing to prevent us from using the term “marriage” to cover relationships of both sorts—especially if we have compelling reasons for doing so (for example, that marriage equality would make life better for millions of gay people and wouldn’t take anything away from straight people).

Suppose we grant for argument’s sake that marriage has been male-female pretty much forever. (For now, I’m putting aside anthropological evidence of same-sex unions in history, as well as the great diversity of marriage forms even within the male-female paradigm.) All that would follow is that this is how marriage HAS BEEN. It would not follow that marriage cannot become something else.

The second and deeper problem is that both the chicken/duck example and the silver/platinum example involve what philosophers call “natural kinds”—categories that “carve nature at the joints,” as it were. By contrast, marriage is quintessentially a social, or artifactual, kind: it’s something that humans create.

At this point opponents are likely to retort that changing marriage in this way would be bad because [insert parade of horrible consequences here]. But if they do, they’ve in effect conceded the impotence of the definitional argument. The definitional argument is supposed to be IN ADDITION TO the consequentialist arguments, not a proxy for them. Otherwise, we could just stay focused on the consequentialist arguments.

(One might retort that God created marriage. That rejoinder won’t help marriage-equality opponents attempting to provide a constitutionally valid reason against secular marriage equality. But it might help explain why they sometimes treat marriage as if it were a fixed object in nature.)

What Gallagher and her cohorts are contending is that EVEN IF we were to take the consequentialist arguments off the table, there will still be the problem that same-sex marriage promotes a lie, much like calling a chicken a duck. Let’s pause to consider a seemingly silly question: apart from consequences, what’s the problem with calling a chicken a duck—or more precisely, with using the word “chicken” to refer to both chickens and ducks?

Like “baseball,” “art,” “war,” and “government”—to take a random list—and unlike “chicken” or “silver,” the word “marriage” refers to something that humans arrange and can rearrange. Indeed, they HAVE rearranged it. Polygamy was once the norm; wives were the legal property of their husbands; mutual romantic interest was the exception rather than the rule.

Of course it doesn’t follow that any and all rearrangements are advisable.

We could change baseball so that it has four outs per inning. Doing so might or might not improve the game. But saying “that’s not really baseball!” is hardly a compelling argument against the change (any more than it was against changing the designated-hitter rule).

If I go to the grocer and ask for a chicken and unwittingly come home with a (fatter and less healthful) duck, that’s a problem. But (1) same-sex marriage poses no similar problem: no one worries about walking his bride down the aisle, lifting her veil, and discovering “Damn! You’re a dude!” And (2) such problems are still in the realm of consequences.

So too with the claim “that’s not really marriage.” Maybe that’s not what marriage WAS. But should it be now?

If there’s an inherent problem with using the word “chicken” to refer to both chickens and ducks, it’s that doing so would obscure a real difference in nature. Whatever we call them—indeed, whether we name them at all—chickens and ducks are distinct creatures. Something similar would occur if we used the word “silver” to refer to both silver and platinum. Even if no one noticed and no one cared, the underlying realities would be different. That might begin to get at

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column “The Gay Moralist” appears on 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted from.)

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SOME PEOPLE ARE GAY. GET OVER IT!

Stonewall. Tackling homophobic bullying in Britain's schools.



Firefighters Seek Reinstatement After Bias Case

SECAUCUS (Observer Update) - Fire department officials, in a letter to New Jersey's Secaucus Town Council, asked to reinstate three firefighters who left the department due to a bias suit, according to a story in North Jersey's Record.

The letter requested Charles Snyder Sr., Charles Snyder Jr. and Charles Mutschler be able to rejoin the department stating the three "had been punished enough and out of the firehouse long enough," Town Administrator David Drumeler said.

The three men were the subject of a harassment lawsuit brought by a gay couple that lived next to the

firehouse. The couple said the firemen began harassing them in 2001, and by 2004, incidents were more frequent. According to the lawsuit, firefighters returned from a banquet in 2004 and began pounding on the walls of the couple's home and yelling death threats. The three men left the department in 2008 while facing administrative charges.

A court found in the couple's favor and the town was forced to pay the couple \$2.8 million in damages. The council referred the matter to the town attorney and labor counsel for review, Drumeler told The Record. Liability issues surrounding the trio's reinstatement will also be explored, he said.

AROUND THE GAY GLOBE. . . .

Mexican federal prosecutors announced that they will try to overturn Mexico City's gay marriage law, which allows same-sex couples to adopt children, on the grounds it violates the constitution. The Mexico City law, approved in December and due to take effect in March, is the first of its kind in Latin America. The federal Attorney General's Office said in a statement that it believes the law "violates the principle of legality, because it strays from the constitutional principle of protecting the family."

It cited an article in Mexico's constitution that suggests - but does not state - that the framers envisioned families constituted by men, women and children. The article states: "Men and women are equal before the law. This protects the organization and development of the family." The office said it filed an appeal with the country's Supreme Court asking it to void the law, arguing it also "strays from the responsibility of the government to place a priority on safeguarding the interests of children."

Gay activists in Russia are not curbing plans for a Moscow gay pride event in May despite comments made by the city's mayor. The ban the mayor imposed is not stopping them either. "We haven't permitted such a parade and we won't permit it in the future," said Moscow mayor Yuri M. Luzhkov, the Interfax news agency reported, according to The New York Times. "It's high time that we stop propagating nonsense discussions about human rights, and bring to bear on them the full force and justice of the law."

Is it possible to have too much ABBA? Knowing me, knowing you, the answer is no. The spangly Swedish quartet that gave the world "Waterloo" and "Dancing Queen" has sold 400 million records since its 1970s heyday and spawned the hugely successful stage and film musical "Mamma Mia!" And now there's ABBAWORLD - a new museum-cum-theme park in London with enough music, mementoes and memory-lane appeal to satisfy even the most fervent ABBA fan. ABBAWORLD's Swedish organizers promise the exhibition - which opens to the public on Wednesday - will be "a place for total interaction" with the band.

"It started with, 'How do we give the visitor a big hug in each room?'" said Magnus Danielsson, president of Touring Exhibitions, the

company behind ABBAWORLD. "This is going to be more like going to 'Mamma Mia!' than going to an exhibition. We want people to sing and dance." ABBA's music is inescapable throughout ABBAWORLD, from the exuberance of "Dancing Queen" through the melancholy of "Knowing Me, Knowing You" to the heartbreak of "The Winner Takes It All" - reminders that the band started off as two married couples and ended as two divorced ones. The exhibition tells the band's story in 25 rooms spread over 30,000 square feet (2,800 sq. meters). Glass cases contain spangly costumes in silk, satin and spandex. Visitors can see recreations of Polar Studios, where the band recorded, and the seaside cabin near Stockholm where Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson composed the band's hits.

Hawaii Kills Civil Unions Bill



HONOLULU (Observer Update) - The state House of Representatives decided to delay vote on a civil unions bill that had passed the state Senate, effectively killing the bill, The San Francisco Chronicle reports. The proposal, which would have granted same-sex couples in the state all the rights of marriage—except marriage itself—can't be reconsidered this session unless two-thirds of the representatives vote to bring it back to the floor, advocate.com reported.

Supporters of the civil unions bill called for the house members to

take a roll call vote, which would have put their position on the issue on record, but the members instead shouted "aye" or "no" before the vice speaker of the House ruled that the motion to delay the vote had passed.

The announcement caused civil right supporters to yell "Shame on you!" while opponents of the proposal cheered. "It's an election year and they're more concerned about keeping their seats than doing what's right," said Stephen Nagle, who was wearing a rainbow lei to show his support for civil unions.

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Domestic Partner Denied Sick Leave; Gets It After Protest

DALLAS, TX (Observer Update) - Walt Sharp, a spokesman for AT&T, confirmed to Dallas Voice that Brian Dickenson will be granted family medical leave and has released the following statement:

"AT&T regrets that there has been confusion over the administration of family leave with respect to registered domestic partners. We have taken steps to ensure that benefits like FMLA are extended to employees with registered domestic partners for the purpose of caring for the partner, regardless of the state in which the employee resides. AT&T has a long history of inclusiveness and we embrace and celebrate diversity of race, ethnicity and sexual orientation in our workforce."

Earlier we reported: A Dallas-based man fears termination after having been denied sick leave that would be offered to heterosexual married couples in order to care for his ailing partner, towleroad.com reported.

Bryan Dickenson, a 12-year AT&T employee, has been using vacation time to care for his partner Bill Shugg, after Shugg suffered a debili-



tating stroke last September, the Dallas Voice reports. Dickenson requested time off under the federal Family Medical Leave Act, but AT&T is refusing to grant Dickenson the 12 weeks of leave that would be afforded to a heterosexual spouse under the act. Dickenson is concerned that when that time runs out he'll be fired for requesting additional time off to care

for his longtime companion.

Ironically, AT&T maintains the highest score of 100% on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index, which ranks companies according to their treatment of LGBT employees. Earlier, HRC listed the company as one of its "Best Places to Work."

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Film Examines Mormons' Role In Gay Marriage Ban

Park City, Utah (Observer Update) - The Utah-based Mormon church plays a starring role in a new Sundance Film Festival documentary about the 2008 ballot initiative that banned same-sex marriage in

Miami-area filmmaker Reed Cowan's "8: The Mormon Proposition," premiered at the Park City

festival. The film contends that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints built on decades of anti-gay teachings to justify its political activism and tried to hide its role as the driving force behind the coalition of conservatives that helped pass Proposition 8. The proposition reversed an earlier court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. The film premieres just as a California federal trial over the constitutionality of the ban enters its third week.

"Karma," said Cowan of the timing and the film's inaugural screening in a theater roughly 25 miles from the Mormon church's headquarters. "There was no other place on the planet where this could premiere. This is where the lies came from; this is where the money came from. The sharpest karma that could be leveled on the Mormon church. ... It has to be leveled in their own backyard."

Church officials have not seen the film but have reviewed a trailer and other materials posted online, a spokeswoman for the faith said. Latter-day Saint leaders have given many interviews on the church's involvement in Proposition 8, but did not want to participate in something they view as biased, Kim Farah said. "It appears that accuracy and truth are rare commodities in this film," Farah said. "Clearly, anyone looking for balance and thoughtful discussion of a serious topic will need to look elsewhere."

day and angry post-election protest marches outside Mormon temples nationwide.

2nd Effort To Recall Adams Underway

PORTLAND (Observer Update) - A second campaign to recall Portland's openly gay mayor has raised about \$18,000, according to recent campaign finance filings, reported advocate.com. The first campaign came after Mayor Sam Adams admitted to lying about his relationship with Beau Breedlove, a former intern.

The largest contribution to Portland Future PAC, which is orchestrating the recall, was made by Columbia Sportswear President/CEO Tim Boyle, who contributed \$7,500. According to The Oregonian, campaign organizers said they would spend up to \$250,000 on a recall effort, including money to hire professional petition signature gatherers. Portland Future PAC was approved last week to start collecting signatures.

The first recall effort garnered \$19,000 in 2009.

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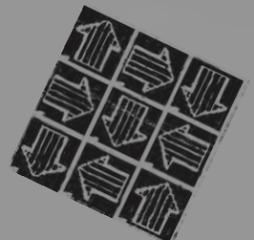
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Narrated by Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black - who like Cowan is gay and was raised Mormon - the 81-minute film opens with footage of same-sex couples saying "I do" in San Francisco's City Hall on June 17, 2008, the first day gays could legally marry, and then chronicles what some say was the most expensive initiative campaign in California's history through election



COMMENTARY....

By Emma Ruby-Sachs

Man Crunch A Stunt Or The Real Deal?

CBS, the network agreeing to air a pro-life ad during the superbowl, has rejected an ad submitted by a gay dating site. The rejection brings up a number of interesting issues.

The most important thing to focus on is the obvious bias in advertising policy. Man Crunch, a dating website located in the UK aimed at providing a pick up space for men on the down low, submitted an ad that depicted two men wearing football jerseys watching a game together making out. It's an awkward ad, not that funny and playing on all sorts of stereotypes, but it definitely isn't too suggestive for television. The kiss isn't even shown on camera. If this ad had depicted a man and woman, it would never have been questioned.

Perhaps it is the fact that this website is directed at men on the down low that makes it so threatening. The ad, and the site, are clearly designed to attract men who read "straight." Perhaps the campaign is seen as a recruitment technique that threatens the mainstream, rather than an ad full of half naked men wearing tight pants and making suggestive facial expressions. What could be worse than finding out that your shaggy haired, football loving husband actually like doing it with guys when you are not around?

Second, the ad censorship brings up questions of advertising content restrictions. Many are up in arms about the pro-life ad expected to air during the game. Those same people are furious that Man Crunch has been ousted. The trick is to

stand on the side of freedom of expression, for the opposition as well as for those advertisers we support. CBS is clearly engaging in content-based restriction of speech. And even if, as private broadcasters, they are permitted to do so, we should be clamoring for an open playing field when it comes to high profile advertising. We support the right of conservative groups to advertise their beliefs. We just want the same privileges. Let both ads air, be happy with the marketplace of ideas, trust that with the right amount of education and information, the restrictive hate-based approach touted by conservative groups will fail. Or at least slowly lose support.

Third, the Man Crunch as scandal has many wondering if the ad was submitted as an attempt to gain publicity without paying high prices for superbowl airtime. This is an important point only because Man Crunch is teaching all of us about how to get creative in our advertising and awareness raising techniques. It's one thing for the HRC to have donation campaigns directed towards buying tv airtime, but it is entirely more inspiring for their money to go towards developing new and controversial methods for bringing attention to the fight for equality and the struggle for recognition in the mainstream. We should be thanking Man Crunch for finding intelligent new ways to fight for equal rights and for setting the bar high enough that we might try to be as creative ourselves.

(Emma Ruby Sachs is a columnist for 365Gay.com, from which this is reprinted.)

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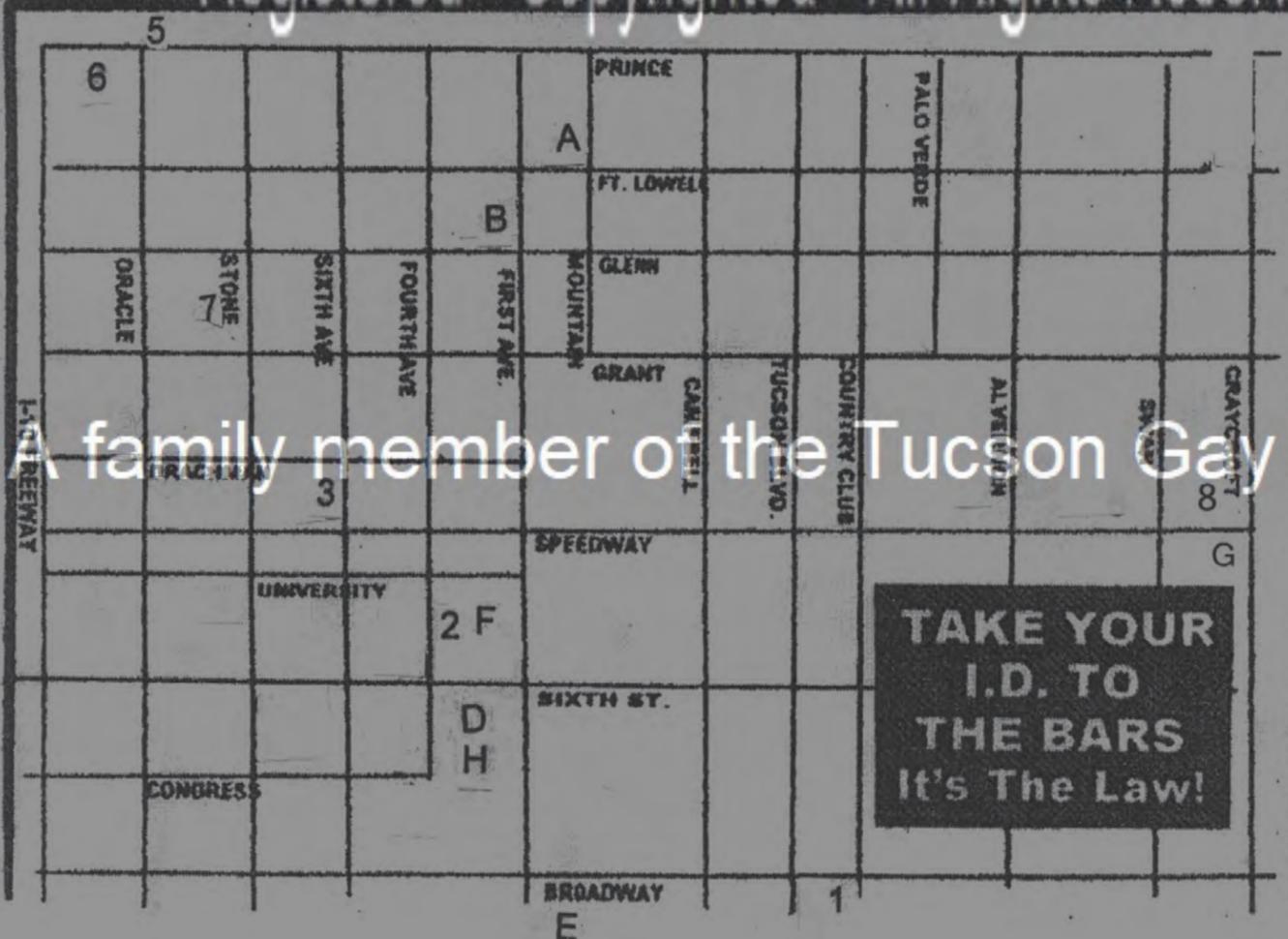
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A man who doesn't advertise is like one who winks in the dark: he knows he's doing it, but nobody else does.

BUZZ FLASHES

Nepal To Leglize Gay Marriage, Offer Weddings On Mt. Everest



KATHMANDU (Observer Update) - Want to get married on top of the world? Not a problem, says a travel agency promoting gay marriage in Nepal.

In May, the country is set to ratify a new constitution that legalizes same-sex marriages, according to a report in The Telegraph. Anil Babu Pant, a Communist legislator and leader of the country's gay rights movement, launched Pink Mountain, a travel agency offering wedding ceremonies on Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak. Pant's company will offer

regal, elephant-back processions and wedding ceremonies at the mountain's base camp.

"Most Asian countries don't welcome gay visitors, so we can have the maximum benefit for the Nepal economy which is fragile after years of war," Pant told the Telegraph. "The government is hoping to increase the number of tourists from 400,000 to one million next year and has taken a positive attitude to welcoming gay and lesbian visitors to help meet their ambitious target."

E-Harmony Agrees To Settle Gay Discrimination Suit

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - The online dating service eHarmony has agreed to settle a California lawsuit that claimed it discriminated against homosexuals.

Under a proposed settlement, eHarmony will link its straight and gay Web sites and allow people to use both without paying double fees. Compatible Partners was created last year after a gay man sued to have

access to eHarmony's patented matching technology. Plaintiff's attorney Todd Schneider says the company also agreed to pay about \$500,000 to an estimated 150 Californians to settle the class-action suit, plus around \$1.5 million in court and attorney's fees.

The company didn't admit any wrongdoing. A judge must approve the settlement.

Gay Hoosier Is First Lady's Guest At State Of The Union

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Trevor Yager, a gay small business owner, is the First Lady Michelle Obama's guest the State of the Union Address.

Yager is the founder of TrendyMinds, a 15-year-old advertising and public relations firm.

"I'm very honored to be a part of this. It's a groundbreaking time in our

country and I'm proud to be part of that," Yager told the Bilerico Project, a gay news blog. "This is all possible because we have some awesome clients who allow us to be successful. It is very honoring and emotional to be chosen."

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which certified his business as gay-owned, nominated Yager to be a guest.



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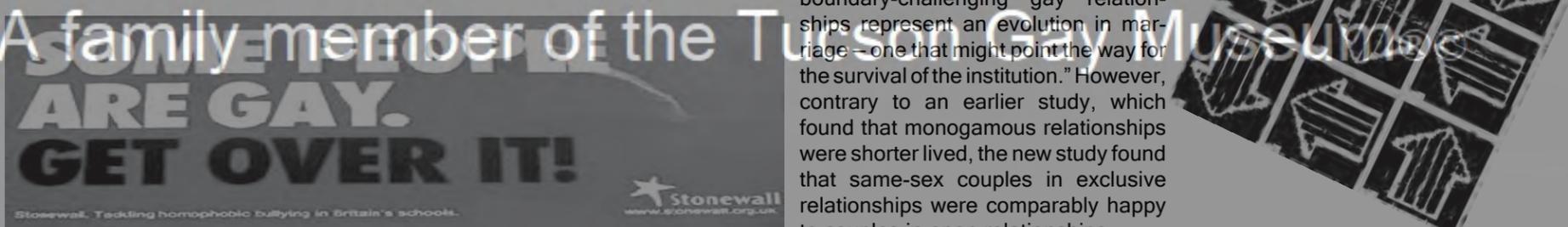
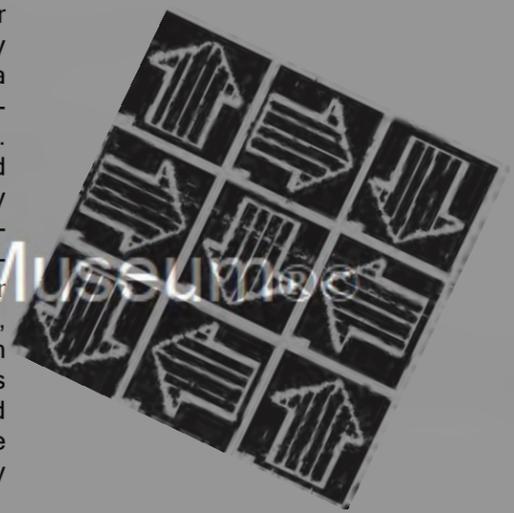
Study: Monogamy Not Key For Many Gays

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A new study indicates that monogamy may not be of paramount importance to many gay relationships, and suggests that is good news for couples that decide to open their unions, reported advocate.com.

According to The New York Times, the Gay Couples Study from San Francisco State University followed 556 male couples in the Bay Area for three years, and found that 50% of them had sex outside the relationship with the approval of their partner. The implications for the relationships often were healthy.

"A study to be released next month is offering a rare glimpse inside gay relationships and reveals that monogamy is not a central feature for many," reports the Times. "Some gay men and lesbians argue that, as a result, they have stronger, longer-lasting and more honest relationships. And while that may sound counterintuitive, some experts say boundary-challenging gay relationships represent an evolution in marriage - one that might point the way for the survival of the institution." However, contrary to an earlier study, which found that monogamous relationships were shorter lived, the new study found that same-sex couples in exclusive relationships were comparably happy to couples in open relationships.

The findings arrive after television host Joy Behar came under fire for suggesting that gay couples were more likely to be non-monogamous and happy about the arrangement than straight couples. Despite the positive assessment of open relationships in the new study, couples in them were reluctant to be interviewed by the Times, citing personal and political reasons. "None of this is news in the gay community, but few will speak publicly about it," reported the Times. "Of the dozen people in open relationships contacted for this column, no one would agree to use his or her full name, citing privacy concerns. They also worried that discussing the subject could undermine the legal fight for same-sex marriage."



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Garage Sundays. \$1 Well Drinks until Midnight. Bring your band and come rock with us.
 COLORS - Open 10am - 10pm Champagne Brunch 10am - 2pm with choice of complimentary mimosa, Bloody Mary or Screwdriver included. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.75 Skyy Cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Brunch served until 2pm. Dinner 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.
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. Karaoke on the Patio 4-8:30pm. Burger BBQ 5-8pm + \$1 pint draft. 9pm-close Karaoke inside with Troy & \$1.50 Well or Domestic Beer, \$2.50 Call or Premium Beer. DJ Hurricane on the Patio.
 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

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8. \$4.25 Long Island, Tokyo and Long Beach Teas, all nite with sexy Spencer.
 COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm \$3.75 Skyy Cocktails, \$3 Domestic & Well. 1/2 price appetizers 4-6pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.
 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 and microbrews (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded).
 IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close \$5 Scratch Long Island Varieties. 9pm-close DJ Hurricane with "All Request Music".
 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.

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8. PHAT Tuesday's 50 cent Pabst cans 9pm-close, \$1.50 pints all nite and DJ Lover Boy spinnin' 80's.
 COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7 \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.
 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. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m. Y-Not Karaoke with Anna at 8:00 p.m.
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. 8pm-close "2'sDay" - \$2 Well or Domestic Beer. DJ Q 9pm-close.
 and DJ Craig Carter playing Retro Music 70's, 80's and 90's 9pm-close.
 WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

WEDNESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 5-9 Wild Wednesdays \$1 Hump Day Drinks DJ Hill. College Night. 18 to party - 21 to drink. \$8 Cover 18+ No Cover 21+. DJ Spins Hip Hop, R&B Top 40 remix dance.
 COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well. 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. Karaoke with Ynot Entertainment at 9pm.
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. "Diva-Licious" show w/Bunny FuFu. 11pm - -close "Reverse Happy Hour". DJ Q Inside & DJ Mike Lopez playing 80s music on the Patio.
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Full Menu 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 with DJ Clint 9 til closing.

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. 5-9 \$3 glasses of wine. Y-NOT Karaoke starts @9:00pm to close. 2-4-1 starts 10:pm.
 COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm,\$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers 4-6pm. 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.
 IBT's -Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 10pm-close "Boyz Nite Out" w/ Bartenders in their underwear. DJ Hurricane spinning Top 40 & DJ Mike Lopez on the patio. \$1.75 Long Island, \$1.50 Tequila Shots, \$3 Dkyy Cape Cods and \$4 Skyy Cosmos.
 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..

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Flirt Friday with Happy Hour extended to 9 p.m. and munchies. DJ Hill & guest DJs.
 COLORS - Open 4pm-midnight. Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well and 1/2 price appetizers. 4-6 pm. Dinner served until 10pm. Finlandia martinis \$5.50 open to close! . "Guys & Dolls" comedy drag show hosted by Lucinda Holliday at 10pm. 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. \$2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Dance lessons at 7pm \$5 per person, Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.
 IBT's - Open Noon. Happy Hour Noon-8pm, \$2 Well or Domestic. 9pm -close DJ Hurricane inside. 10pm-close DJ Mike Lopez with "I'm a Sexy Bitch Night" on the patio.
 WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month.

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. LATINLICIOUS . Hourly rotating drink specials. DJ Kool-A
 COLORS - Open 4pm-10pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm, \$3.75 Skyy cocktails, \$3.00 Domestic and Well, 1/2 price appetizers 4-6. Dinner 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, \$2 Well or Domestic. 5-8pm Karaoke on the patio \$1Draft Pints. 9pm "Saturday Starrlett's" w/Bunny FuFu & Janee Starr. After the show, DJ Q spinning inside & 10pm-close, DJ Mike Lopez with the "Party on the Patio".
 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.

Poet's Corner

3:00 A.M. POET
 by Ron Rose - Tucson

At 3 a.m., I light a light
 Pull out a pen and start to write
 Words flow so quickly in my sleep
 Forgotten fast, like counted sheep
 Gems, and Pearls of wisdom flow
 With daylights early morning glow.
 Famous, I may never be
 At 3 a.m. I have to pee
 Put down the pen, and don't be late
 Cause potty-call can never wait.

BYE, BYE, USA

It ain't made in the USA
 3rd world workers will work for less pay
 Since you won't pay more, just buy stuff offshore
 Don't complain when yur job slips away



Bar Calendar

Upcoming Bar Events

- Saturday, February 6
 COYOTE MOON - Anson Reign & Reigning Men Drag King Torupe.
- Sunday, February 7
 COYOTE MOON - Super Bowl 44
- IBT'S - The Super Bowl Party
- Saturday, February 13
 COYOTE MOON - The live band 'Too Much Information'
- Sunday, February 14
 IBT'S - Valentine's Day
- Tuesday, February 16
 IBT'S - Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras)

Water of Life
 Metropolitan Community Church

"It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little." Sydney Smith, (1771-1845)

Sunday Worship: 10:15am Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m.



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Survivor Rights For Same-Sex Couple In The News

ST. LOUIS (Observer Update) - The recent death of a Missouri Highway Patrol trooper is putting the rights of same sex couples in Missouri under a microscope. The long-time partner of Corporal Dennis Engelhard believes he should receive death benefits.



Dennis Engelhard and Kelly Glossip

43 year old Kelly Glossip says he and Engelhard were together for nearly 15 years. Yet, he says he's being ignored when it comes to the agencies who normally reach out to the families of fallen law enforcement officers. "He was my true love and he always referred to me as his one and only true love and the man of his dreams," Glossip said. "We were hopelessly in love with each other."

Engelhard was killed on Christmas day while waiting with the driver of a disabled car for a tow truck. He got out of his vehicle and was hit by a passing SUV. It happened on Interstate 44 in Eureka. Glossip now feels he's been left out in the cold when it comes to financial benefits normally paid to the families of officers killed in the line of duty. He says he has not been contacted by any of the groups that normally offer those benefits.

Glossip believes that has at least something to do with Missouri's law forbidding same sex marriages. That's a law he thinks needs to be wiped out. "I should have the same rights as any other spouse, as heterosexuals would have. And I just

don't understand why people are so bigoted." Backstoppers paid \$5000 to Engelhard's parents. The group says it didn't know about Glossip's and Engelhard's relationship.

The Masters, a group dedicated to helping the families of fallen Missouri Highway Patrol troopers, says they are still reviewing the case. And for their part, the Missouri Highway Patrol tells us some of Engelhard's benefits will be paid out according to beneficiaries he listed. But a spokesman says Glossip is not eligible for any benefits through Engelhard's retirement pension because the two aren't legally married in Missouri.

Glossip has a 17 year old son from a previous relationship who he says considered Dennis his stepfather. Glossip is now worried about losing the home he and Engelhard lived in together and his car. He does say Engelhard's family is helping him pay bills.

Bill Protecting LGBT Students Introduced In House

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Colorado Democrat and openly gay Congressman Jared Polis introduced the Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2010 in the House of Representatives. The bill would protect public school students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Hatred has no place in the classroom," Polis said in a news release posted on his Web site. "Every student has the right to an education free from harassment and violence. This bill will protect the individual freedoms of our students and enshrine the values of equality and opportunity in our classrooms."

Polis, co-chairman of the House LGBT Equality Caucus, is a strong proponent of equality in education. SNDA would provide protections for LGBT students and

ensure that all students are free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, intimidation and violence in schools. "Every day innocent students fall victim to relentless harassment and discrimination from teachers, staff, and fellow students based on their sexual orientation," said Polis.

"These actions not only hurt our students and our schools but, left unchecked, can also lead to life-threatening violence. Like Title VI for minorities in the 60s and Title IX for women in the 70s, my legislation puts LGBT students on an equal footing with their peers, so they can attend school and get a quality education, free from fear."

Similar to Title IX, the legislation would endanger federal funding for those who violate it. There are currently 60 co-sponsors of the legislation.

Ugly Truth For 'Ugly Betty': This Season Ends It

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - It's ugly news for all the fans of "Ugly Betty." ABC says the series will be canceled after this season. A critical and popular success with its premiere in fall 2006, "Ugly Betty" has struggled in recent years with audience erosion, reported the AP on 365Gay.com.

Based on a Colombian telenovela, the warmhearted dramedy stars America Ferrera as an ambitious but style-challenged young woman out to build a future at a New York fashion magazine.

ABC is promising that the series will conclude its run in a fashion that will satisfy its fans. ABC says eight

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It's More Than You Think.....

episodes are left. The series has been saluted with Emmy, Golden Globe and Peabody awards, among others.

