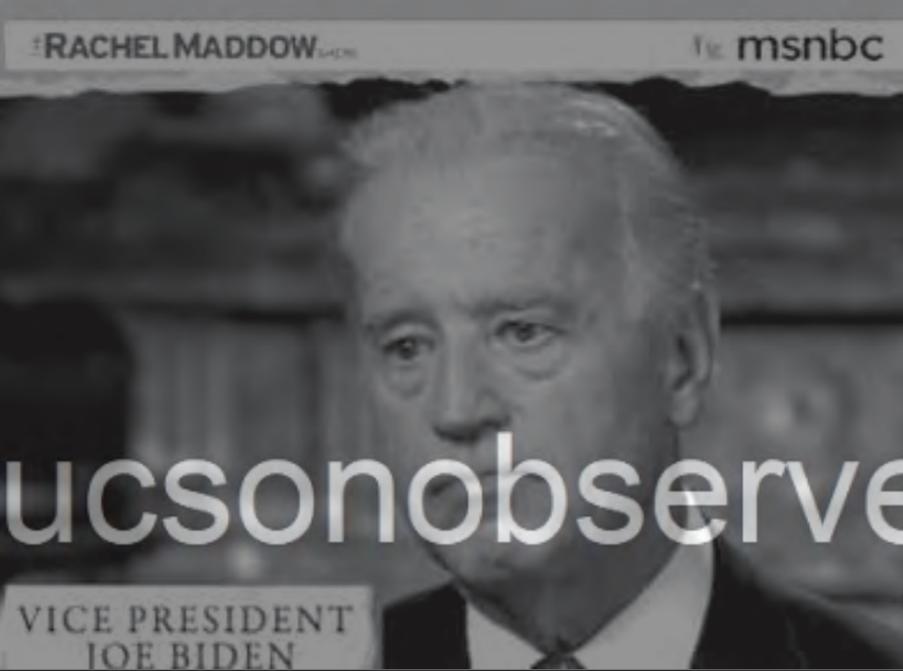


Biden, Maddow Talk DADT Repeal



WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reported that Rachel Maddow interviewed Vice President Joseph Biden, who said he was personally involved in the effort to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in the senate and expressed confidence that a potential Republican filibuster could be overcome.

Maddow asked Biden, a former senator from Delaware, whether he was personally involved in efforts to repeal the policy through the National Defense Authorization Act, he said, "Absolutely, I was personally involved in getting it out of committee. I not only think we should repeal it, I think everyone who was fired should be able to be reinstated if they want to."

The vice president addressed the possibility that Republicans could introduce an amendment to strike DADT repeal from the bill, saying, "We've got the votes to defeat that."

On the question of a Republican filibuster, Biden said, "I believe that at that point, the issue is, are these guys so out there that they are willing to punish the defense department and the fighting women and men who we have in Afghanistan, which you just visited. Iraq. That's the frame."

"We have enough votes to sustain support for repeal 'don't ask, don't vote' [sic], and we're just going to push it as hard as we can," said Biden. Asked why discharges could not be stopped now while efforts to repeal the policy continue, Biden attributed it to "compromise."

"That's the compromise we basically had to make to get the votes to finally repeal it," he said. "In my view, if I could just wave a wand, it would just be flat repeal," said Biden. "No one else would be suspended, and everyone suspended would be able to come back if they wanted to."

Anti-Gay Christian Group Handed A Tax Bill

HONOLULU (Observer Update) - A Christian "charity" called the Hawaii Family Forum - which helped lead the fight against civil unions - now owes the government \$20,741 in taxes for "excessive lobbying," says the IRS, 365Gay.com reports.

Says the Star-Advertiser: The nonprofit group reported spending \$125,695 on lobbying last year, a huge jump over the zero dollars it said it spent on lobbying in 2008. The change comes after at least two complaints were filed with the Internal Revenue Service about the forum's extensive political activities.

"This tax form just confirms what we had suspected, and that is that they engaged in excessive lobbying, that they have no charitable programs, that they are 100 percent a lobbying

organization," said Holly Huber, who filed a complaint with the IRS in June on behalf of Hawaii Citizens for the Separation of State and Church. "They should not be a tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization. They are a political action group."

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Are Gay Couples A Family? New Study Tracks Shifting U.S. Views

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - As much as Americans revere the family, they differ sharply on how to define it. New research being released Wednesday shows steadily increasing recognition of unmarried couples - gay and straight - as families. But there's a solid core resisting this trend who are more willing to include pets in their definition than same-sex partners, reports the AP on 365Gay.com.

How "family" is defined is a crucial question on many levels. Beyond the debate over same-sex marriage, it affects income tax filings, adoption and foster care practices, employee benefits, inheritance rights and countless other matters. The new research on the topic is contained in a book-length study, "Counted Out: Same-Sex Relations and Americans' Definition of Family" and in a separate 2010 survey overseen by the book's lead author, Indiana University sociologist Brian Powell.

Between 2003 and 2010, three surveys conducted by Powell's team showed a significant shift toward counting same-sex couples with children as family - from 54 percent of respondents in 2003 to 68 percent in 2010. In all, more than 2,300 people were surveyed. Powell linked the changing attitudes to a 10 percent rise between 2003 and 2010 in the share of survey respondents who reported having a gay friend or relative.

"This indicates a more open social environment in which individuals now feel more comfortable discussing and acknowledging sexuality," Powell said. Only about one-third of those surveyed said they considered same-sex couples without children to be a family. And in 2006, when asked if gay couples and pets count as family, 30 percent said pets count but not gay couples. "The sheer idea that gay couples are given less status than pets should give us pause," Powell said in an interview.

In the 2010 survey, 83 percent of the respondents said they perceived unmarried heterosexual couples with children as a family; only 40 percent extended that recognition to unmarried straight couples without children. In line with several recent national opinion polls, Powell's 2010 survey showed a near-even split on same-sex marriage - with 52 percent supporting it and 48 percent opposed.

Even though five states and the District of Columbia now allow same-sex marriages, the federal government doesn't recognize them. The Census Bureau definition of "family" remains traditional: "A family is a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together." Many religious conservatives hope the government sticks by that definition, even in the face of shifts in public opinion.

"Same-sex marriage is a dangerous social experiment," said Glenn Stanton, director of family formation studies for Focus on the Family. "A lesbian couple who legally married in Massachusetts - are they family? We would say, 'Absolutely not.'" Stanton said it was increasingly difficult to engage in serious debate on the definition question.

"We're moving in this headlong direction toward same-sex families without any intelligent discussion about whether it's actually good for the children and the adults," he said. "This whole issue has boiled down to, 'Are you a bigot or not?'" The shifts described in Powell's research pleased Jennifer Chrisler, executive director of the Family Equality Council, which advocates on behalf of same-sex families.

"People are taking a more expansive view of what a family is," said Chrisler. "But for any family that doesn't fit the 1960s Ozzie and Harriet mold, slow and steady doesn't feel fast enough."

Chrisler and her wife, Cheryl Jacques, a former Massachusetts state senator, are raising twin boys.

The Family Equality Council has been lobbying on behalf of a bill pending in Congress that would prohibit states and child welfare agencies from denying adoption or foster care placements solely based on the sexual orientation or marital status of the potential parents.

The bill is targeted at states such as Florida, which bans gays and lesbians from adopting - a policy now being challenged in court. The bill, introduced by Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., has been applauded by the Alternatives to Marriage Project because it encompasses single people as well as same-sex couples, "I get frequent letters and e-mails from people who find the political rhetoric of 'family' to be extremely exclusive of singles," said the project's executive director, Nicky Grist.

"For singles, it might be a code for 'You don't count.'" For Powell, the major finding of his new research is the shifting view of same-sex families - which he compared to the gradual acceptance of interracial marriage. "We envisage a day in the near future when same-sex families also will gain acceptance by a large plurality of the public," he wrote. His book was published by the Russell Sage Foundation, a social science research center, as part of a series overseen by the American Sociological Association.

The surveys were conducted by telephone, among a random selection of households, and the characteristics of the samples were compared with census data to verify that they were representative. There were 712 interviews in 2003, 815 in 2006 and 830 this year.

UPDATE

Desert Voices Yard Sale Sept. 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Desert Voices will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, September 25, at 4412 E. Holmes Street (between Columbus and Swan and 5th Street and Broadway).

Time will be 6 am to early afternoon. If you have items you wish to donate, please let me know and I will try and arrange for pickup. We will also have our concert tickets for sale, water and sweets. So come out and join us and shop a bit! See you on the 25th, if not before!

For more information, call Desert Voices (520) 791-9662.

TGLBTCC Update

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Pride in the Desert, Saturday, October 9th, 10am - 8pm at Reid Park.

Pride in the Desert is an all-day festival held at Reid Park that attracts more than 6,500 participants each year. The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce will once again have a booth. We need merchandise, flyers, business cards, etc. to use as giveaways. Please bring items to our breakfast meeting, or call 615-6436 or email info@TucsonGLBTChamber.org to make other arrangements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our booth will be open for the whole event. We need people to take 2-hour shifts to greet visitors and help fill 'goody bags'.

Welcome To OZ Bowling

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Welcome to Oz Bowling League has begun their 33 week season at Tucson Bowl, 7020 E. 21st St.

Teams are mixed and consist of three individuals. Bowling skill is not important but having fun is. The league bowls on Thursday night's, starting at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Richard Foster (520) 908-8582, Joe Ware 289-9773 and David Laing 495-0143.

Anti-LGBT Bullying Proclamation Issued For Event

TUCSON (Observer Update) - At the Tuesday, September 21 Tucson Mayor and Council meeting, a proclamation was issued by Mayor Robert Walkup proclaiming the week "Anti LGBT Bullying Awareness Week."

This proclamation was to make the public aware of the recent increase in Anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment reports to the Wingspan Anti Violence Project.

This trend motivated Wingspan advocates and staff to organize an awareness event, Thursday, September 23, 5:30 p.m. at 525 North Bonita.

The event is designed for affected youth and their guardians, educators, school administrators and staff, as well as concerned community members. The goal for the event is to raise awareness of this specific type of violence and to gain a commitment from attendees to address this type of violence in their respective schools and campuses. Free and open to all.

Desert Coyotes Legue Standings

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Here are the standings for the Tucson Desert Coyotes Bowling League, which takes to the lanes at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile.

1st	Team #4	
2nd	Blind Squirrels	
3rd	BIG DOGS	
4th	Diffierent	
5th	Team #5	
6th	Team #3	
	High Game	Dan 239
	High Series	Snake 784

For more information, call Golden Pin Lanes, (520) 888-4272.

'Pride On The Rocks' Sept. 25

SEDONA (Observer Update) - Come celebrate diversity and community on the banks of beautiful Oak Creek. Sedona Pride is hosting their 2nd Annual "Pride on the Rocks," Saturday, September 25, creek side under the sycamore trees in Tlaquepaque located at 336 State Route 179 in Sedona Arizona.

The event runs from 11 am to 7pm and tickets are \$10.00 for a Pride Pass, \$10.00 for the post-event evening dance, \$15.00 for a Pride Pass/Evening Dance Combo, and the VIP Ticket at \$50.00 allows entry to all events. Last year's Pride Event kicked off with an opening welcome from the President of the Sedona Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Wesselhoff and Mayor Rob Adams also addressed the crowd of almost 1,000 participants.

This year's Pride on the Rocks event promises to be even more entertaining, with various fundraising and social events scheduled all throughout August and early September that will lead up to the Pride on the Rocks date on September 25th. Sedona Pride encourages people to get involved in all aspects of our community including the 1st Friday of each month for the Gallery Walk. In addition, there will be a pre-Pride party on Friday, September 24th at Reds and a Night at the Movies. Additional details will be added to the Sedona Pride website at www.sedonapride.org closer to the actual event.

For more information about "Pride on the Rocks" or Sedona Pride, you can visit their website at sedonapride.org or contact Sherab Khandro at (928) 300-3389.

Out In The Silence, September 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - When Joseph Wilson and Dean Hamer married in Washington, D.C., Joe placed a wedding announcement in his hometown newspaper of Oil Town, in rural Pennsylvania.

The negative, ugly responses were numerous. However, Kathy Springer, the desperate mother of C.J. Bills, a sixteen-year-old preffessed gay, also wrote, imploring Joe to help her son, who was being tormented at school and ostracized by the community.

This documentary is the story of what transpired when Joe and Dean filmed the challenges of those deemed different by the majority, and the transformation that can occur when conservative, traditional people accustomed to keeping silent, break their silence in an attempt to create understanding, acceptance, good will, and peace for themselves and their town.

As Joe and Dean have written, "Let's go where the silence is and say something."

This documentary, to be shown Saturday, September 25, 2:00 pm, at Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat, is free and open to the public.

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COMMENTARY . . .

by John Culhane

So I'm sitting on the plane back from Atlanta to Philly, slogging through the California district court's decision striking down DADT. I'm thinking that maybe this is a good vehicle for emphasizing facts over law: the decision presents long and sympathetic portraits of several of the young men and women discharged under the policy, and the sheer injustice of the policy is made eloquent through the cumulative effect of their stories. (I even know one of the plaintiffs, the multi-lingual Alex Nicholson.)

And I've done so much legal analysis of the heartening cascade of pro-gay rights decisions lately that a fresh approach appeals to me for selfish reasons, too.

As I'm reading, something unexpected happens. A young Army reservist takes up residence in the seat directly across from me. After trying for a few minutes to sleep, he opens the pouch in the seat in front of him and looks for something to read. Not much there, so I offer him my newspaper. Turns out he's just as chatty as I am (not so common), and we then spend the next hour-and-a-half or so talking. The DADT decision remains on my tray table, in silent reproach. I've now got a much richer source of information.

This 22-year-old guy is returning for a two-week break in the middle of his year-long deployment to Iraq. He lives in Central Pennsylvania, and still has another flight (his fifth!) ahead of him before he can walk through the door of his home and see his wife and young daughter, who couldn't crawl

when he left but now can walk. He enlisted right out of high school, and is in the middle of an eight-year term.

We talk about conditions in Iraq (including the 130 degree heat!), his work as a mechanic there, and his hopes to land a good civilian job (maybe dealing with HVAC) when his deployment is over. We talk about our kids; I show him my iPhone picture of mine.

We discuss the difficulty of reentry into civilian life - I've read lots about it, but he's about to actually experience it. It's not quite accurate to say he's nervous, but he knows that he's the one out of orbit, the one who's going to have to slowly find a rhythm, synchronization, with his family. And he knows that because the military has belatedly come to realize the importance of giving troops the social and emotional skills they need to navigate between two quite different worlds.

The military's evolution in these more complex spheres is a good reason for hope that this still-patriarchal institution can make social progress within the physical confines of bases and combat zones, too. After all, the fear that supported the enactment of DADT is just one piece of a much larger set of problems rooted in a kind of masculinity - extreme, yet forced - that still causes problems for female and non-con-

forming male troops alike.

The district court decision sitting on my tray table is full of accounts of inappropriately sexualizing and demeaning treatment that went unchallenged for fear that the complainant would be seen as gay.

Joseph Rocha's story is particularly unsettling, because the kinds of acts he refused to engage in (notably, having sex with prostitutes) is itself illegal and in defiance of the very code of honor that the military tirelessly emphasizes - and that DADT undermines, every day.

What kind of policy requires a troop not to exercise a basic right - to speak the truth, to marry someone of the same sex (in a state where that's legal) - that everyone else takes for granted? In the most fundamental sense, DADT enforces a societal lie that's mostly been banished in civilian life: that gay people don't exist, at least not as fully integrated human beings, who have relationships and children. Banished to the closet, gay troops are, in a sense, encouraged to be sexual only. At least that doesn't call for disclosure.

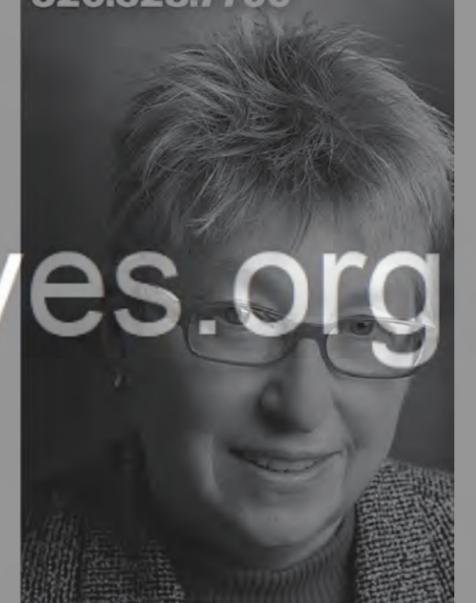
The court's decision probably won't matter - if the Senate does the right thing, and DADT repeal finally takes hold next year (although we can't be complacent in thinking this is a done deal). But the judge has told some

moving stories, and I'm still optimistic enough to think that most troops - including the bright and enthusiastic young man on my flight - can adjust to a new reality. It's easier than going home.

(John Culhane is Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law Institute at Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Del. He blogs about the role of law in everyday life, and about a bunch of other things and his column is reprinted from 365Gay.com).

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Gender, Race Still Influence DADT Discharges



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WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Though advocates for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" are already aware that racial minorities and women tend to be discharged under the law at a higher rate than white males, a new study shows the numbers for these groups are on the increase.

Women represented a quarter of discharges in the 1990s but now make up 39% of discharges under the law banning service by openly gay military personnel, according to the Williams Institute at University of California, Los Angeles, which released the study's findings. The study compares the demographics of the 13,500 men and women who have been discharged under the law.

Though women have consis-

tently remained at about 15% of military personnel since 1997, the percentage of women discharged under "don't ask, don't tell" has increased from 22% that year to 39% in 2009.

The study also suggests that the percentage of women among all LGB service members has increased from 32% in 2000 to 41% in 2008.

Discharges of white service members have declined 61% over a decade from their high in 1998.

However, while racial and ethnic minorities make up a third of the U.S. military, "don't ask, don't tell" discharges among this group have risen slightly in the same time frame.

Former Colleagues Testify For Lesbian Flight Nurse

TACOMA (Observer Update) - A lesbian flight nurse discharged under the government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy for gays in the military was an excellent officer whose sexuality never caused a problem in her unit, former colleagues told a federal judge, reports the AP on 365Gay.com.

Former Maj. Margaret Witt is seeking reinstatement to the Air Force Reserve in a closely watched case that "don't ask, don't tell" critics hope will lead to a second major legal victory this month. The trial began just days after a federal judge in California declared the policy unconstitutional. Witt was suspended in 2004 and honorably discharged after the Air Force received a complaint from a civilian about her sexuality.

The first witness in her case, retired Master Sgt. James Schaffer, testified that Witt was exceedingly competent and said her dismissal was so unfair, it was part of the reason he retired in 2007. "It was a rather dishonorable act on the part of the Air Force," Schaffer said. "It should not be about what you are, but who you are."

Witt's case has already led to one crucial ruling - a 2008 holding by a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel that the military cannot discharge people under "don't ask, don't tell" unless it shows that the firing is necessary to further military goals such as unit cohesion. The case has returned to federal court in Tacoma for

U.S. District Judge Ronald B. Leighton to determine whether Witt's dismissal met that standard.

The 1993 law prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members, but allows the discharge of those who acknowledge being gay or are discovered to be engaging in homosexual activity.

Much Ado About Nothing

by Jack Melichar

Before discussing the performance of **BACKWARDS IN HIGH HEELS**, I was given some information that I thought you might find interesting. Before each performance, crew members mop the floor with a water and Coca-Cola mixture in a process called coke-ing the floors. Evidently it provides extra tack (stickiness) to help with tap dance numbers. I always had a sense that coke could not be that good for you. I stand vindicated! Now to the business at hand.

1925, four years before the start of the Great Depression, Ginger Rogers began her remarkable career in the theatre. Of course, she is best remembered as the dance partner to Fred Astaire, but her career started much earlier than their collaboration (in fact, she had nineteen films under her belt before **FLYING DOWN TO RIO**, the first movie with Astaire).

Her rise to fame began when she won a Charleston contest in her home town of Fort Worth, Texas at the age of fifteen. The contest launched her into vaudeville, and at the ripe old age of eighteen, she debuted on Broadway and quickly became a star.

She was soon discovered by Paramount Pictures and began a steady climb to the heights of Hollywood - a climb that culminated in winning the Oscar for the film **KITTY FOYLE**.

All along the way, she had tempestuous relationships with producers, co-stars and many husbands (five in all) - and a complicated, defining relationship with her mother, Lela. **BACKWARDS IN HIGH HEELS** is

the story of a small-town girl from Texas who dazzled the whole world, playing everything from 'the girl next door' to the modern woman with a mind of her own. It's a spectacular candy box of show-stopping dance numbers, great songs, and some surprising revelations about a movie legend.

Above all, however, **BACKWARDS IN HIGH HEELS** is the story of Ginger Rogers told through the music of some of the 20th century's greatest composers - George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Dorothy Fields and Jerome Kern - to name a few.

The play features an outstanding cast, but would you expect anything less from ATC?

Matthew LaBanca plays several roles as does James Patterson, Benjie Randall and Christianne Tisdale. Ginger Rogers is played by Anna Aimee White and Lela - her mother - by Heather Lee.

A great show, super music, outstanding dancing, what more could you wish for?

BACKWARDS IN HIGH HEELS plays in Tucson at the Temple of Music and Art from September 10 through October 2, and it continues its run in Phoenix at the Herberger Theater Center from October 7 through October 24.

For more information, call 520-622-2823 or 602-256-6995.

Also last week, Woody's sponsored a carnival to raise money for Tucson's Gay Pride. Great fun could be had with the ring toss, hula contest, beer pong and dunk tank to name a few of the activities. As of this writing, the final tally of funds raised was not available, but as soon as it is, I shall let you know.

Until next week boys and girls, be safe.

A proud member of the Tucson Gay Museum

Prop. 8 Backers Chide Judge Vaughn Walker In Gay Marriage Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - In urging an appeals court to overturn Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling that struck down California's gay marriage ban, backers have called the ruling "egregiously selective and one-sided."

On Top Magazine reported that after conducting a 13-day trial in January, Walker last month ruled Proposition 8 to be unconstitutional because it violates the right of gay men and lesbians to equal protection and due process. It is the first time a federal judge has ruled on the constitutionality of state-enacted gay marriage ban.

In written arguments submitted Friday to the the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, lawyers for ProtectMarriage.com, the sponsors of the ban, chided Walker for ignoring relevant information, including "judicial authority, the works of eminent scholars past and present in all relevant academic fields, extensive historical and documentary evidence," in finding the law unconstitutional and basing his opinion "almost exclusively on an uncritical acceptance of the evidence submitted by Plaintiffs' experts."

He "simply ignored virtually everything ... that ran counter to its conclusions," lawyers wrote in their 134-page brief. The challenge was

organized and funded by the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER), which is scheduled to submit its arguments next month. AFER is representing a gay couple and a lesbian couple who have been denied the right to marry because of Proposition 8.

Attorneys for ProtectMarriage.com urged the three-judge appeals court to ignore the testimony presented at trial, calling it "unreliable and ultimately irrelevant." Lawyers also rejected Walker's conclusion that Prop 8 supporters backed the measure out of animus towards gay men and lesbians, calling it an attack on the "many judges and lawmakers and millions of Americans who rightly and reasonably understand that marriage is the unique union of a man and a woman."

In a statement released Friday, Chad Griffin, president of AFER, defended Walker's ruling, which he said was "based on our nation's most fundamental principles, and that the Constitution does not permit unequal treatment under the law."

"Regardless of the defendant-intervenors' protests, the fact remains that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, as was proven conclusively and unequivocally through a full federal trial," Griffin said. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for the first week in December.



Gay Group Demands Murder Probe

SAN JUAN (Observer Update) - Gay rights activists in southern Puerto Rico are urging authorities to investigate the double murder of two young men found dressed in womens clothing, each with a gunshot to the head, on the side of a road.

The Canadian Press reports that a police officer discovered the victims during a pre-dawn patrol in Juana Diaz. Police arrested an unidentified 28-year-old man and seized his car in connection with the murder.

But gay rights group Puerto Rico for All wants police to further investigate the crime. The group's

founder, Pedro Julio Serrano (pictured), told the Canadian Press that authorities are legally bound to determine if the slaying was motivated by the victims' sexual orientation or gender identity.

Serrano said hate crimes against gay and transgender people in Puerto Rico are not all that uncommon. Serrano said nine gay and transgender people have been killed in the last 10 months and that police response has been inadequate. "What we hear is silence and intolerance," he told the Canadian Press.

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John Amaechi Being Discriminated Against By The Gays?

LONDON (Observer Update) - Well this is highly disgusting if true. Gay former NBA player John Amaechi took to his twitter to make allegations that he was discriminated against at Crunch Bar in Manchester, UK, claiming the bouncer denied him entrance because he was "big and black and could be trouble."

The bar, on the other hand, has a different story to tell. Their reps are claiming that Amaechi and his group were labeled "argumentative and aggressive to another venue's doorstaff" over the NiteNet radio system, a system set up in Manchester's gay village for alerting each other about any problems or issues, reports 365Gay.com.

Amaechi's representatives have already taken action and have submitted a complaint against with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Manchester City Council LGBT affairs director, Terry Waller and also with the Greater Manchester Police LGBT liaison office. It's a bit of a he-said, they-said situation at the moment, and one that we'll just have to wait and see how it pans out. Thoughts on the situation?

Gays In Updated Jewish Prayer Book

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - A new book for adherents of Conservative Judaism for the High Holy Days will modernize prayers and will for the first time include one for Jewish gays, according to The New York Times.

Rabbi Edward Feld headed the committee that wrote and translated the new book over a period of 12 years. It marks the first updating by the Conservative movement in nearly four decades, reports advocate.com.

The new book, or mahzor, as the prayer book for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is known, will include for the first time a prayer for a deceased "partner"—an effort to include gay Jews — and also one for "a parent who was hurtful."

The Conservative movement represents the middle ground among the three major branches of Judaism in approaches to gay issues, women's rights, and other societal matters. The Reform movement has historically been the most accepting of gays and Orthodox Judaism the least.

The High Holy Days culminate with Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, began Friday (Sept. 17) at sundown.

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COMMENTARY...
 by John Corvino

Gay Marriage, Straight Marriage And La Difference

Some weeks ago I wrote a piece responding to a Ross Douthat column which draws on the celibate lesbian author Eve Tushnet. Tushnet had written:

"If you have a unisex model of marriage, which is what gay marriage requires, you are no longer able to talk about marriage as regulating heterosexuality and therefore you're not able to say: Look, there are things that are different about heterosexual and homosexual relationships. There are different dangers, there are different challenges, and, therefore, there are probably going to be different rules."

My ultimate complaint was (and remains) that neither Tushnet nor Douthat explains why extending marriage to gay people would somehow warp it to where it could no longer meet the needs of straight people—especially since gays and straights share so many fundamental needs and challenges.

In a recent blog post, Tushnet responds. Her response is organized around four points. I'll address each of them briskly here, with the hope that I might delve into some of them at greater length later.

First, she responds to my chiding her and Douthat for ignoring the myriad differences that exist WITHIN the category of heterosexual relationships—some with children, some without; some involving young lovebirds; some involving mature companions; some domestic, some long-distance, and so on.

Tushnet complains that my perspective requires one to believe that sex/gender difference is just one difference among others, rather than THE difference. As she puts it, my view requires denying that sex difference is "iconic." She writes:

"I genuinely believe that sex difference is sublime in a way that age difference, for example, is not. Its sublimity stems in part, though I think only in part, from its danger, its potential for horror, and its simultaneous potential for exceptional beauty."

I'm not sure that Tushnet is aiming at my central complaint here. But if she is, then she's saying that the problem with extending marriage to same-sex couples is that doing so renders it unable to express the "iconic," "sublime" and "beautiful" male-female difference it traditionally expressed.

It's hard to respond to that, except to note that it depends on a radically different worldview from mine: As I see it, of the many important purposes of marriage, iconography is pretty low on the list.

I value marriage because of the concrete ways in which it recognizes and fortifies families, helping them to sustain relationships that do them—and society—palpable good. It serves people's deep needs for intimacy, care, support in childrearing, and so on. Gay and lesbian people have those needs, too.

So if it's a choice between marriage-as-iconography and marriage-as-meeting-concrete-needs, I'd pick the latter every time.

Second, Tushnet complains that "If lots and lots of differences are as important to marriage as sex differences, or sex differences are as unimportant to marriage as lots and lots of differences, it's exceptionally difficult to understand how marriage could be an institution which regulates sex at all."

No, it isn't. Sex (the activity) is a powerful and risky force, and thus there are reasons to regulate it in and through marriage. (Of course the stakes are higher when that activity can also result in children.)

Furthermore, sex brings people together, and marriage helps keep them together, even as their sexual interest waxes and wanes. What's so difficult to understand?

Here Tushnet proffers the usual false dilemma: either marriage is solely male-female or else it "means whatever you want it to mean." But there's plenty of reasonable middle ground between those polar (and false) alternatives.

Third, Tushnet speculates about my worldview. (She could have asked; I'm not that hard to find.) She suspects that, for me, men and women are nothing more than functions: "If we can figure out the function of a father, we can replace biological fathers with father figures or male role models and no harm done."

I hold no such thing. Indeed, I've written about the fact that I believe biological bonds are special, which is not to say that they are the only kind of parent-child bond deserving of support.

But what I also believe—and have repeatedly argued—is that it's unfair to saddle marriage-equality proponents with the donor-conception debate. Tushnet does this again in her fourth point, where she complains that members of the "family diversity" movement lack "aesthetic sensitivity" to biological connectedness.

Continued on Page Seven



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Alec Mapa, Michelle Collins, Loni Love Set For Gay Gossip Show

LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Four comedians are set to give ABC's The View a run for its gossip money in all-gay cabler Logo's The Gossip Queens, On Top Magazine reports.

The Gossip Queens will feature prominent - and either gay or gay-friendly - comedians dishing on the latest celebrities and news. "The Gossip Queens features four of America's funniest and most insightful comedians regarding pop culture, entertainment news, and celebrity gossip," Byron Allen, founder and CEO of Entertainment Studios, which is producing the show, said in a statement.

"The comedic hosts are joined by various celebrity gossip bloggers and magazine editors who bring the latest and greatest celebrity dish and gossip," he explained. The four hosts



Alec Mapa

are openly-gay actor-comedian Alec Mapa (Ugly Betty, NYPD Blue), America's Sister star Loni Love, Chelsea Lately panelist Michelle Collins and comedian Bernadette Pauley, a frequent guest on Sirius Radio's Raw Dog channel.

The talker is "fresh, bold and funny," Allen said. "This show is simply unstoppable." The Gossip Queens premieres Monday, September 20 in syndication and on MTV's Logo.

Gay Marriage, Straight Marriage And La Difference

Continued from Page Six

If she's right, she's only half right: it's in part BECAUSE of such aesthetic sensitivity that some gay couples—as well as many infertile straight couples—choose donor-conception over adoption. (There are other reasons, including the hurdles placed in front of gay couples seeking to adopt.)

I understand why Tushnet worries that some individuals' desires for "their own" biological children renders them less sensitive to children's interest in "their own" biological mother AND father. But I cannot see how she (or anyone) convincingly connects the dots between that premise and the conclusion that gays shouldn't be allowed to marry.

It's not about iconography. It's about the real needs of gay and lesbian individuals, couples, and families.

(John Corvino, Ph.D. is an author, speaker, and philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit. His column "The Gay Moralist," which appears on 365Gay.com, is a reprint of that.)

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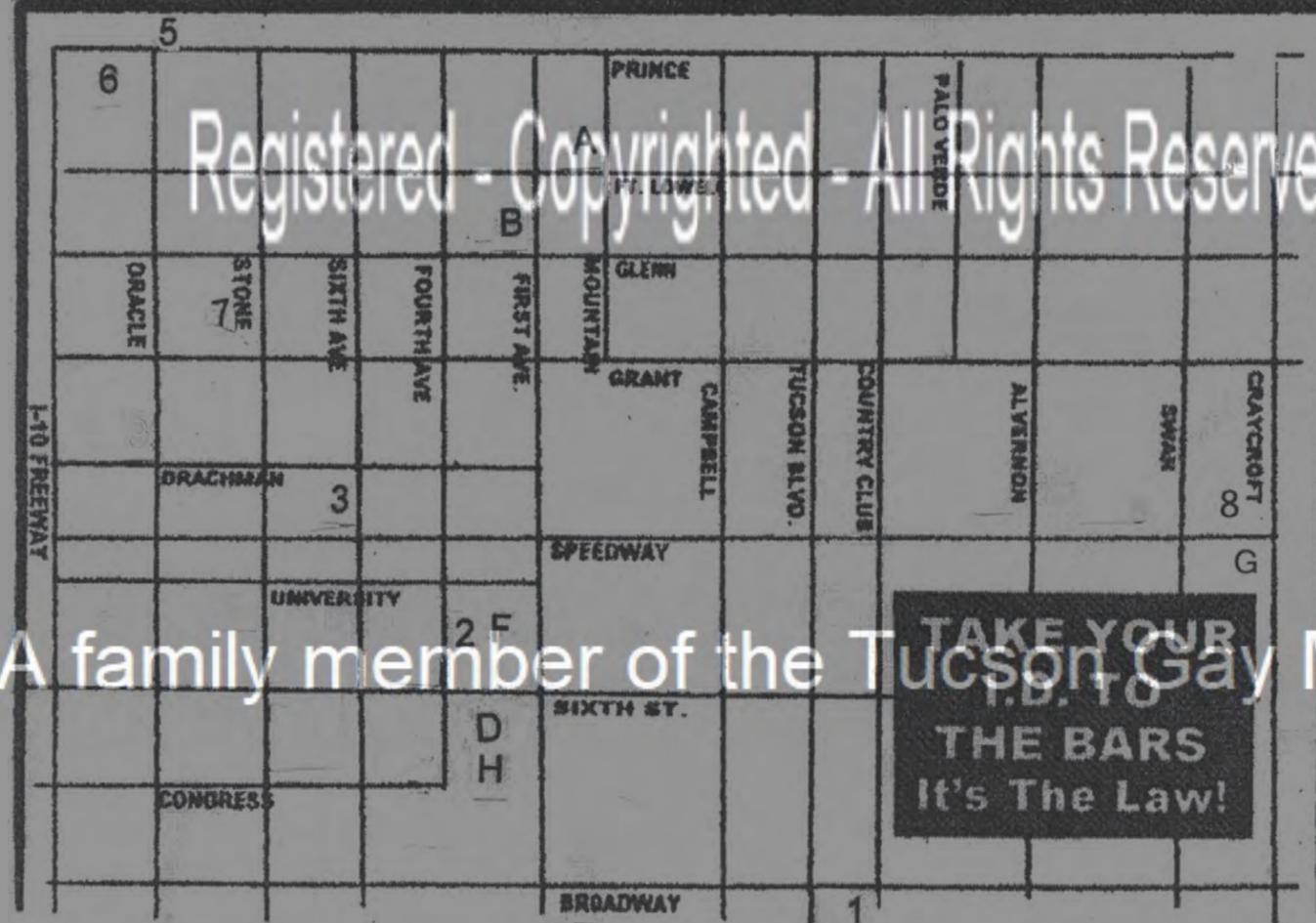
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BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ - BUZZ -- Cher The Musical Coming Soon



LOS ANGELES (Observer Update) - Filmmaker Andy Fickman said he is working on a theatrical piece based on the life and career of pop legend Cher, reported advocate.com.

"We'll be making announcements about that project coming together shortly," he told PopEater. "She's a fairly phenomenal character, Cher - as a human being I think she's one of the great icons of all time, a force to be reckoned with. The way she looked onstage with Lady Gaga [at Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards], well, it's one for the books."

Fickman's latest film, You Again, starring Kristen Bell, Sigourney Weaver, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kristin Chenoweth, and Betty White, hits theaters September 24.

GaGa Speaks, Reid Acts On 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

LAS VEGAS (Observer Update) - Does Lady Gaga run the U.S. Senate?

A spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Tuesday a vote to repeal the military's ban of openly gay and lesbian soldiers had been planned before the singer made waves with a plea during a daytime talk show, reported AP on 365Gay.com.

The pop star known for flashy performances and eccentric style called on Reid to repeal the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy in an interview with Ellen DeGeneres. Reid's campaign and Gaga traded talking points on Twitter after the lawmaker announced the vote. Reid told Gaga repealing the measure was the right thing to do.

Campaign spokesman Kelly Steele said Reid does not take cues from Gaga.

Battery Charges Possible For Lambert

MIAMI (Observer Update) - Advocate.com reports that pop star Adam Lambert is reportedly facing battery charges following an altercation with a photographer in Miami Thursday, according to Entertainment Weekly.

Photographs on website TMZ show Lambert wrestling with a photographer, who filed a police report Thursday night accusing the singer of battery.

Lambert wrote about the scuffle on his Twitter account, saying "Battery? Nope. I attempted to grab a camera, no punches were thrown and no one was on the ground. ... It was literally harmless. If embarrassment is a crime that's all I'm guilty of."

NYT To Obama: Stop Enforcing DADT

NEW YORK (Observer Update) - An editorial in The New York Times calls on President Barack Obama to halt the enforcement of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy while the administration awaits action in Congress, reports advocate.com.

The editorial notes the recent decision from Judge Virginia Phillips that found the policy unconstitutional. Last week's ruling was one of three this summer, including rulings in California and Massachusetts pertaining to marriage equality, that reinforced gay rights.

"Meanwhile, the prohibition remains on the books, endangering the careers of men and women in the military at a time of war," writes the Times. "While the administration waits for Congress to repeal the statute, it should halt enforcement of 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

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by Ron Rose

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 I'm parking my white Jeep
 Horns blare on busy Oracle
 Neighbor you won't sleep.
 Its seven in the evening,
 Red fire engines scream.
 Hey neighbor, fifty feet away
 Surely you can't dream.
 Susan plays her Gershwin blues,
 Muffled is her sound.
 This ain't the fancy foothills,
 There's lotsa folks around.
 So sleep no more neighbor,
 Ear plugs it's time to buy
 Forget the 'fuzz', no need to buzz
 Let them just fly by.
 At Woody's, dear sweet neighbors
 We always have such fun
 So join us every Friday,
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The Way I Saw It... by Gary Clark



NOTE: Before his untimely death, Gary Clark had worked on this newspaper for nearly 40 years as graphic artist and Entertainment Editor. Part of his heritage was producing a weekly humorous drawing of life 'as he saw it'. It is amazing that most of these drawings are as funny and entertaining today as they were in past years. We have decided to open the 'vaults' on these faultless viewpoints. Enjoy!

Friday. The ceremony was presided over by Bonn Mayor Juergen Nimptsch and only close friends and family attended, the newspaper said. Civil partnerships offer gay and lesbian couples some but no all the rights of marriage. According to media accounts, the two men met in 2003 and were first seen together attending Chancellor Angela Merkel's 50th birthday party in 2004. The couple has been crowned a "power couple" by Germany's media. Westerwelle, the 48-year-old leader of the pro-business Free Democrats, was appointed foreign minister last year.

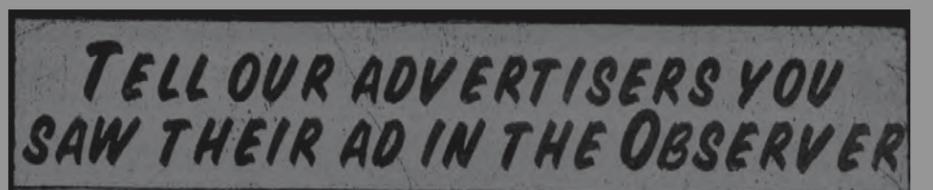
Men Break Guinness Record



EWING (Observer Update) - Two men attempting to break the Guinness world record for longest kiss have succeeded, locking lips for more than 33 hours and raising awareness of gay rights.

"I don't really know what to say," Bobby Canciello said after the kiss was complete. "I just kinda want to go to bed." "Advocate love," they both screamed shortly after. Matty Daley and Bobby Canciello (pictured, from left) locked lips on Saturday morning, and they kept it up until Sunday at 8:06 p.m. The two kissed to raised awareness for their "Our Lips Are Sealed" campaign, which supports LGBTQ equal rights.

They each have boyfriends – not each other – but in August said it's nothing more than a kiss between two men, and in their eyes, an attempt to challenge social norms. Both are students at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J. Friends of Matty and Bobby took turns talking to viewers while the boys kissed. According to people on site, no judges for Guinness were actually in attendance, but they will review a video tape of the kiss at a later date.



AROUND THE GAY GLOBE...

United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon has called on countries to stop enforcing laws that discriminate against gays and lesbians. Ban's statement came as part of a larger message on human rights at a U.N. meeting in Geneva, according to the Associated Press. Several countries – many of them in Asia and Africa – still enforce laws that make homosexual activity punishable by jail or death.

A Russian gay activist Nikolai Alekseev, who was arrested by police this week at a Moscow airport, says he was kidnapped, threatened and pressured by his captors to withdraw a complaint against Moscow authorities from the European Court of Human Rights, according to Radio Free Europe. Alekseev was arrested on September 15 as he prepared to board a flight to Geneva. Friends and colleagues had been unable to reach him on his cell phone, but various news agencies reported receiving texts from him saying he had been taken to Belarus and intended to seek political asylum there. A spokeswoman for the airport told Russian news agencies Alekseyev was detained after refusing to take off his shoes at the security check. Alekseev says this isn't true, claiming airport security detained him, then turned him over a group of unidentified men in plainclothes.

German tabloid Bild is reporting that Guido Westerwelle, the country's openly gay foreign minister, has "married" his 43-year-old partner, event manager Michael Mronz. With the headline Secret Wedding, the paper reported that the couple entered a civil partnership in Westerwelle's home town of Bonn on



DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am It's Latin Sunday like the good ol' days. Catch DJ Dmenace spinning the best Cumbias. Get your Bucket of Beer ... 5 Bud Bottles for \$5!

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - \$1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; \$2.25 domestic long necks. Hair of dog special \$1.50 well bloody mary, screwdriver, Cape Cod, salty dog or margarita.

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 - Closed for employee training.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. 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 and Game Night all night long. Play Wii, beer pong and pool with the staff.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3-8. \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. Girlz Nite .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic drafts 6-8pm. Ladies only Texas Hold 'Em Poker 6 p.m. Y-Not Karaoke with Anna at 8pm. - Drink specials during karaoke \$1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light.

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.

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. Happy Hour 5-8pm. Wild Wednesday 18+ Party with DJ White Shadow spinning the hottest Hip Hop, R&B and top 40 remix dance of today. 21+ NO COVER. 18+ \$8 Cover.

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. Boyz Night - .75 for your favorite well drink or domestic draft beer for men 6-8pm. Karaoke with Anna at 8pm drink specials during karaoke \$1 Michelob Ultra or Bud Light..

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 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..

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Happy Hour 5-8pm. Y-NOT Karaoke 9pm-2am with Meco pouring the best drinks in town. Come out and play.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, \$3.50 sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Latin Thursday: Latin music 8pm to close. \$2,50 well margaritas. \$3 Mexican beers, \$3.50 Jose Cuervo.

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 Skyy 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. Happy Hour 5-8 pm. GoGo Fridays with 2-4-1 drinks for the ladies til midnight. Catch Shorty spinning the hottest Hip Hop, R&B and Top 40 remix dance of today.

COYOTE MOON PUB - Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, \$2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. \$3.50 Sm. Pitcher/\$5.50 lg. Pitcher. Shots shot specials 8-close.. Dance lessons with Lawrence 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. Latin night with Latin Drag Show the 1st, 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month. DJ Dmenace spinnin' the best Cumbias, Salsa & Merengue. \$3 pitchers and \$2 Tequila shotz all night long!

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 & Jane 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.

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Liberace Museum Closing



LAS VEGAS (Observer Update) - After more than 30 years entertaining visitors to Las Vegas, the Liberace Museum will close its doors forever on October 17, reports advocate.com.

According to Las Vegas Weekly, the museum, which exhibited the jewelry, pianos, garish costumes, and other artifacts owned by the great pianist, has fallen victim to the economy. At its peak the museum rivaled the Hoover Dam as one of the state's most popular tourist attractions, bringing in more than 400,000 visitors per year. Liberace Foundation

board of directors chair Jeffrey Koep informed the staff last week that all full- and part-time positions will be eliminated October 17.

"This is a pretty straightforward business decision that's basically been a long time coming," Koep said. "The biggest thing to the board is the human beings affected, that we are going to have to get rid of our employees. ... But also, we recognize what Liberace meant to the history of Las Vegas, and that makes this very difficult and sad for us."

Police Broke Law In Atlanta Bar Raid



ATLANTA (Observer Update) - The Atlanta Citizen Review Board determined that 24 police officers acted improperly when they raided the Eagle gay bar last year, but it opted not to take disciplinary action because it could only impose a three-day suspension on officers, reports advocate.com.

According to WABE, the board considered the two issues of false imprisonment and abusive language regarding the raid last September. "The first involved charges of false imprisonment. The board found officers had no legal right to search, detain, and run criminal database checks on the 60+ patrons, because none were suspected of any crime.

"The second issue, abusive language, wasn't so easy. Although both CRB investigators and the board agreed officers likely used abusive and homophobic language, they couldn't identify responsible officers. The board, unwillingly, agreed not to sustain those charges." The board tabled disciplinary action because members wanted tougher penalties than the maximum three-day suspension, according to WABE.

The Atlanta police department has yet to release the results of its internal investigation into the raid, while a federal lawsuit proceeds.

Air Force Cancels Gay Vets Event

COLORADO SPRINGS (Observer Update) - Two organizations of gay military personnel and their supporters that scheduled a dinner at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., were notified their event was canceled by the academy's alumni organization.

OutServe, a network of gay active troops, and gay academy alumni group Blue Alliance submitted a contract and deposit to celebrate Veterans Day on campus, according to a press release from OutServe. However, the school's Association of Graduates, which governs Doolittle Hall, the event's location, reversed its decision to allow the dinner.

J.D. Smith, OutServe's codirector, said the point was to honor the "most ignored veterans in our country: gays and lesbians. It was made clear this dinner was not to be an event regarding 'don't ask, don't tell,' it was to be a night to honor the LGBT history in the Air Force. All in attendance would fully comply with Air Force policy - including 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

Ty Walrod, another codirector of OutServe, said whether or not the move was intentional, "this sends a message that their sacrifices were not, and are not, valued."

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