Observing Tucson And
The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

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MEMORIAL DAY 2008

Nothing beatiful in this world is ever really lost. Those we cherish will always live on in memory. . . . Each year on Memorial Day, the Tucson Gay and Lesbian Community remember its lost brothers and sisters.

Due to space constraints, we are unable to publish our annual memorial of hundreds of names of locally-known persons who have passed away. The names that follow are those who have died from Memorial Day 2007 to 2008. The complete nineteen year list may be seen on our Web Page www.tucsonobserver.com

Charles "Chuck" Donaho
Candas Doolittle
Elsa Burgess-Flores
Lawrence King
Rosa "Rosie" Santana
William "Bill" Schober
Michael Julian Sewell
Glade "Steve" Stilson
Gary Teague
Jim Valitan
Bryan Michael Whelan
Lee Willetts
Lillian "Sunshine" Wright

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Federal Court Reinstates Ousted Lesbian Military Suit

Margaret Witt

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) - The military cannot automatically discharge people because they're Gay or Lesbian, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday (May 21) in the case of a decorated flight nurse who sued the Air Force over her dismissal, 365Gay.com reported.

The three judges from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not strike down the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. But they reinstated Maj. Margaret Witt's lawsuit, saying the Air Force must prove that her dismissal furthered the military's goals of troop readiness and unit cohesion. The "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue, don't harass" policy prohibits the military from asking about the sexual orientation of service members but requires discharge of those who acknowledge being Gay or engaging in homosexual activity.

The ruling led opponents of the policy to declare its days numbered. It is also the first appeals court ruling in the country that evaluated the policy through the lens of a 2003 Supreme Court decision that struck down a Texas ban on sodomy as an unconstitutional intrusion on privacy. When Gay service members have sued over their dismissals, courts historically have accepted the military's argument that having Gays in the service is generally bad for morale and can lead to sexual tension.

But the Supreme Court's opinion in the Texas case changed the legal landscape, the judges said, and requires more scrutiny over whether "don't ask, don't tell" is constitutional as applied in individual cases. Under the ruling, military officials "need to prove that having this particular Gay person in the unit really hurts morale, and the only way to improve morale is to discharge this person," said Aaron Caplan, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington state who worked on the case.

Witt, a flight nurse based at McChord Air Force Base near Tacoma, was suspended without pay in 2004 after the Air Force received a tip that she had been in a long-term relationship with a civilian woman. Witt was honorably discharged in October 2007 after having put in 18 years - two short of what she needed to receive retirement benefits. She sued the Air Force in 2006, but U.S. District Judge Ronald B. Leighton dismissed her claims, saying the Supreme Court's ruling in Lawrence v. Texas did not change the legality of "don't ask, don't tell."

The appeals court judges disagreed. "When the government attempts to intrude upon the personal and private lives of homosexuals, the government must advance an important governmental interest ... and the intrusion must be necessary to further that interest," wrote Judge Ronald M. Gould. Gay service members who are discharged can sue in federal court, and if the military doesn't prove it had a good reason for the dismissal, the cases will go forward, Caplan said. Another attorney for Witt, James Lobsenz, hailed the ruling as the beginning of the end for "don't ask, don't tell." "If the various branches of the Armed Forces have to start proving each application of the policy makes sense, then it's not going to be only Maj. Witt who's going to win," Lobsenz said. "Eventually, they're going to say, 'This is dumb. ... It's time to scrap the policy.'"

Witt joined the Air Force in 1987 and switched from active duty to the reserves in 1995. She cared for injured patients on military flights and in operating rooms. She was promoted to major in 1999, and she deployed to Oman in 2003 in support of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. A citation from President Bush that year said, "Her airmanship and courage directly contributed to the successful accomplishment of important missions under extremely hazardous conditions." Her suspension and discharge came during a shortage of flight nurses and outraged many of her colleagues - one of whom, a sergeant, retired in protest. "I am thrilled by the court's recognition that I can't be discharged without proving that I was harmful to morale," Witt said in a statement. "I am proud of my career and want to continue doing my job. Wounded people never asked me about my sexual orientation. They were just glad to see me there."

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Millions Celebrate Pride In Sao Paulo, Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (Observer Update) - Millions of people waving rainbow flags and wearing lavish Carnival costumes danced and cheered their way through South America's largest city on Sunday to celebrate Gay pride and demand an end to homophobia and sexism, 365Gay.com reported.

Gay men, Lesbians and cross-dressers paraded down the skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista, Sao Paulo's financial heart, to the beat of loud music blasted off more than 20 sound trucks.

Organizers expected more than three million people at the 12th annual Sao Paulo Gay Pride Parade, which traditionally is one of the biggest in the world. Local authorities did not immediately give an estimate on the number of people attending the event, but said millions were likely present.

Federal Anti-GL Marriage Amendment Returns In Wake Of Ruling

Paul Broun (R-GA)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - Republican Congressman Paul Broun has announced plans to reintroduce an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to bar same-sex marriage, reported 365Gay.com. Broun (R-GA) said the California Supreme Court ruling recognizing same-sex marriage has made it an imperative to reign in what he called "activist judges".

"My amendment will preserve the original intent of the drafters of the Constitution, by ensuring that no state or federal judge can take it upon themselves to suddenly discover a right to homosexual marriage within the text of the document," Broun said in a statement. "It will also provide a defense against activist judges who seek to overturn the will of the people by manipulating state constitutions in order to impose their preferred policy position."

Conservatives in California already are organizing a proposed amendment to ban Gay marriage but Broun said even if approved by voters in that state would not prevent similar ruling elsewhere in the country. Voters in Broun's home state of Georgia approved an amendment to the state constitution outlawing same-sex marriage in 2004. "There simply is no basis for the suggestion that homosexual 'marriage' is a right protected by the United States Constitution," Broun said.

Republicans have been trying to amend the Constitution since 2004, as a result of; the Massachusetts high court ruling that legalized Gay marriage there. Despite GOP control of Congress and support from President Bush, a proposed amendment failed to garner enough votes to succeed in either 2004 or 2006.

With Democrats now in control of both the House and Senate it is considered unlikely Broun's move to reintroduce the measure will even make it to committee. Still, Broun said he intends to make it a key issue in his re-election campaign. While all three presidential hopefuls oppose amending the US Constitution, Republican Sen. John McCain has said he supports proposed state amendments in his home state of Arizona and in California. Amending the U.S. Constitution requires approval of two-thirds of the House and Senate and then would have to be passed by three-fourths of state legislatures.

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UPDATE

Observer Clarification - "Beyond Therapy!"

In edition 1244 of The Observer, a story was misplaced for the Alternative Theatre Company's opening production "Beyond Therapy."

Therapy is a term and practice that has been highly recommended by people speaking of the management and staff of this publication but that's not the case for this story, which follows:

Alternative Theatre Company will kick off its 2008-2009 theatre season with "Beyond Therapy," a hilariously off-kilter comedy by Christopher Durang. Directed by award-winning playwright/actor/director Joe W. Marshall, "Beyond Therapy" runs through June 1 at the Temple of Music and Art Cabaret Theatre, 330 S. Scott Ave.

"Beyond Therapy" addresses the thin line between being Gay, straight and Bisexual. Set in Manhattan during the early 1980s, two singles seek love and find sanity (sort of) as they navigate the neuroses of their not-so-stable psychoanalysts. Prudence's macho therapist swears a lot and calls her nasty names; Bruce's wacky female shrink recommends barking as a form of self-expression. Prudence is urged to be more assertive, while Bruce is encouraged to meet women by placing a personal ad. His therapist does not fully comprehend that Bruce has a male lover who is not pleased by Bruce's desire to date a woman, so when Bruce's personal ad brings him and Prudence together, the hapless couple must come to their senses and overcome their zany therapists' "help" to find romance in a whacked-out world. They ultimately learn to live beyond therapy in this delightful Off Broadway hit that moved successfully to Broadway.

Director Joe W. Marshall appreciates the quick wit of the script, but also recognizes the human emotions that bring the characters in "Beyond Therapy" to the brink of insanity. "The characters in this play exist in a world where everything is permitted," says Marshall. "That makes it very difficult for them to figure out the best way to find happiness. They spend a lot of time wavering, trying to work through things with their therapists, but ultimately each one has to decide whether or not to compromise on issues that are important to them. As bizarre as the situations are, we find ourselves reflected in the characters' dilemmas, and that empathy is where the comedy comes from."

Performances are held at 8:00 pm on Friday and Saturday, and at 3:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost $13 in advance, $18 at the door, and may be purchased online at AlternativeTheatreCo.org or by calling the Alternative Theatre Company box office at (520) 883-8246.

The Observer apologizes for the initial error.

Boys R Us Special Performance June 27

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Celebrate Pride with Boys R Us at Club Congress, 311 East Congress, Friday June 27 with Mistress of Affairs Janee' Starr. Pre-show featuring Human Project, performances by Eon participants and all your favorite gender benders.

Doors open at 6 p.m. $5 for 18 and under, $7 general admission, $10 limited seating at the door. Parental advisory warning for content and subject matter. Ages 14 and up.

Boys R Us has been breaking down walls, and blazing a bold trail on the Tucson entertainment scene since 2002; establishing a well-earned reputation for being one of the most original, talented, and socially conscious gender performance troupes on the national level. Boys R Us are first and foremost entertainers, and anyone - Gay, straight, or otherwise - who walks through the door will be captivated by an extraordinary spectacle that, fittingly, blurs the lines between the entrenched norms: It is at once both a drag revue, performance art-piece, stage play, and rock show. Their material ranges the spectrum from poignant social issues to quirky, smart lampooning of the government and every stop in between. For more info go on line to myspace.com/tucsondragkings

Around The Old Pueblo

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through: Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG Tucson provides opportunity to dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identify, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. The next support meeting will be on Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00 pm in the main conference room at the Ward VI City Council offices at 3202 E. 1st Street. If you need help, please call our hotline at (520) 360-3795 or e-mail at pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org. PFLAG-Tuycson will connect you with a PFLAG member who has been where you are and who understands.

Yee-haw! Slap on your spurs and saddle up for Gay West '08 on June 21 from 6 to 11:00 p.m. at Old Tucson Studios. Hold on to your hat because this year's event features an exclusive Old Tucson Studios performance by Grammy legend Thelma Houston performing her #1 Dance/Pop hit Don't Leave Me This Way and songs from her newest CD A Woman's Touch. Gay West is a western-themed festive fundraising event that benefits Wingspan, Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center. General Admission Tickets: $16 online before June 18. Special VIP Tickets $100 - includes an all-access pass to the event activities, transportation to and from Woody's Bar, entry to a special meet-and-greet party with Thelma Houston and VIP seating at the concert! For tickets or more information, go online to oldtucson.com/events/summer/Gay_West_2008/gay_west_2008.htm.

The Desert Coyotes LGBT and straight supportive bowling league has started their summer season, Wednesday's, 7:00 p.m., at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16th, (520) 622-2186. The league has openings on teams and enjoys people who can also sub for missing teammates. For more information, E-mail: bgdiffie@cox.net.

The Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) seeks a full-time Director of CarePartner Support to oversee support services for people living with HIV/AIDS. Responsibilities include coordination of CarePartner support services, supervision of volunteer CareTeams, Poz Cafe monthly lunch program, and other volunteer-based support services for CarePartners living with HIV/AIDS. Additional responsibilities include recognition and retention practices that will support TIHAN volunteers and programs, and maintaining relationships with healthcare providers and social service agencies. Full-time position (32-40 hours) requires Bachelor's degree, three years experience in client support services and volunteer coordination, sensitivity to HIV-related issues, interfaith and multi-cultural issues, and confidentiality. Requires some evening and weekend availability. Salary DOE; benefit package includes health/dental insurance. Bilingual persons and persons living with HIV encouraged to apply. AA/EOE. Submit cover letter, resume and list of three professional references to scott@tihan.org or TIHAN, 1011 North Craycroft Road #301, Tucson, Arizona 85711.

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UPDATE

Armistead Maupin In Tucson June 25

TUCSON (Observer Update) - In anticipation of author Armistead Maupin's visit to the Loft on June 25, come enjoy a free screening, Saturday June 21, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Joel Valdez Main Library, 101 N. Stone in the Lower Level Meeting Room, of the original TV miniseries Tales of the City based on his work! Free popcorn will be provided.

Then on Wednesday, June 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Loft Cinema, 3233 East Speedway, Join the Pima County Public Library and the Library's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Committee in welcoming Armistead Maupin, author of Tales of the City, The Night Listener, and Michael Tolliver Lives to Tucson! Maupin will talk about and read from his books. A book sale and signing will follow.

For more information go online to library.pima.gov/spotlight/maupin/ or loftcinema.com/node/299.

Museuming With Maurice June 15

TUCSON (Observer Update) - On June 15, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., meet in front of the Center for Creative Photography, 1030 N. Olive Road, located on the UA campus, then have a personal guided tour with retired art professor, Maurice Grossman. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Park on the street or convenient visitor parking is available at the UA garage on Park Ave. just north of Speedway Blvd and walk through the tunnel under Speedway. The building is the second on your left.

For more information, contact Penelope Starr (520) 624-1779 x 122, pstarr@wingspan.org.

'A Four Letter Word' June 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Tucson Pride and Wingspan's Reel Pride join up to present A Four Letter Word on June 20 at the Loft. Casper Andreas's sexy comic follow-up to Slutty Summer nabbed the Grand Jury Award for Best Screenplay at L.A. Outfest.

"A Four Letter Word coasts on a good-natured raunchiness that's explicit but never sleazy ... it's a surprisingly endearing romantic comedy that explores gay relationships with low-budget verve. - New York Times

Come out with Community to enjoy A Four Letter Word and give Pride Week a great start. For more information, go online to loftcinema.com/node/288.

4th Annual Bisbee Pride Festival

BISBEE - On June 13-15, Bisbee Pride will be hosting the fourth annual Bisbee Pride Festival. Held in a number of venues in Olde Town Bisbee, the festival promises an array of entertainment including music, stage, cuisine, booth vendors and more.

The schedule is as follows: Friday, June 13 - Leather & Lace Street Party, 8 p.m. - 2 a.m., Drag Show with Ajia Simone, Tucson's Black Cat, 9:30 p.m. - midnight. Saturday, June 14 - Music in the Park, starting at noon, Desert Voices at 5:30 p.m., Grassy Park Vendors, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pool Party BBQ, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Pub Crawl, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m., Luminary Lighting & Music, 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m, UnderStock Party, 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., Helen's Place (Tinker Bell Park), Greek Food, 5 p.m. - 3 a.m., Obscure Productions presents "My Blue Heaven", 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Sunday, June 15 - Farewell Breakfast, 7 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

In addition, ten panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display at various venues during the festival. Specialists from the U of A and representatives from the Arizona Department of Health Services will be on hand with their expertise. Bisbee Pride has been named one of the top five rural Pride Celebrations in the country in 2007 by a number of highly recognized websites and publications.

Bisbee, "Queen of the Copper Camps," located approximately 90 miles southeast of Tucson, offers old-world charm, new-world charisma and is Arizona's premier destination for arts and culture, western mining heritage and serves as a gateway to nature and recreation. For more information, contact Adam Lamb, (520) 236-3699, 432-2216 or online at bisbeepride.com.

Evelyn Schave To Visit Cornerstone Fellowship June 1

TUCSON - Have you been rejected by churches? Do you want to know how it is possible to be LGBT and Christian? Do you want to learn about God's promises and His love for you, just as you are? Then please join Cornerstone Fellowship on Sunday, June 1 as special guest Evelyn Schave ministers at the 10:30 a.m. worship service

In October 1993, Cornerstone Fellowship began supporting a new work done by Evelyn Schave from Houston, Texas. Evelyn and her husband Dennis were actively involved in the Assemblies of God when God began to convict her of the need to start a unique new ministry. Little did Evelyn know that she was being called to be an evangelist to churches in the gay community! Now she travels around the country encouraging and challenging our congregations, and also goes to non-LGBT churches where she tries to help them see that God accepts us and uses us the same as all believers.

Evelyn is a dynamic woman of God, and all are invited to share in this exciting experience. Cornerstone is located at 2902 N. Geronimo. Please call Pastor Paul Chambliss at (520) 622-4626 for more information.

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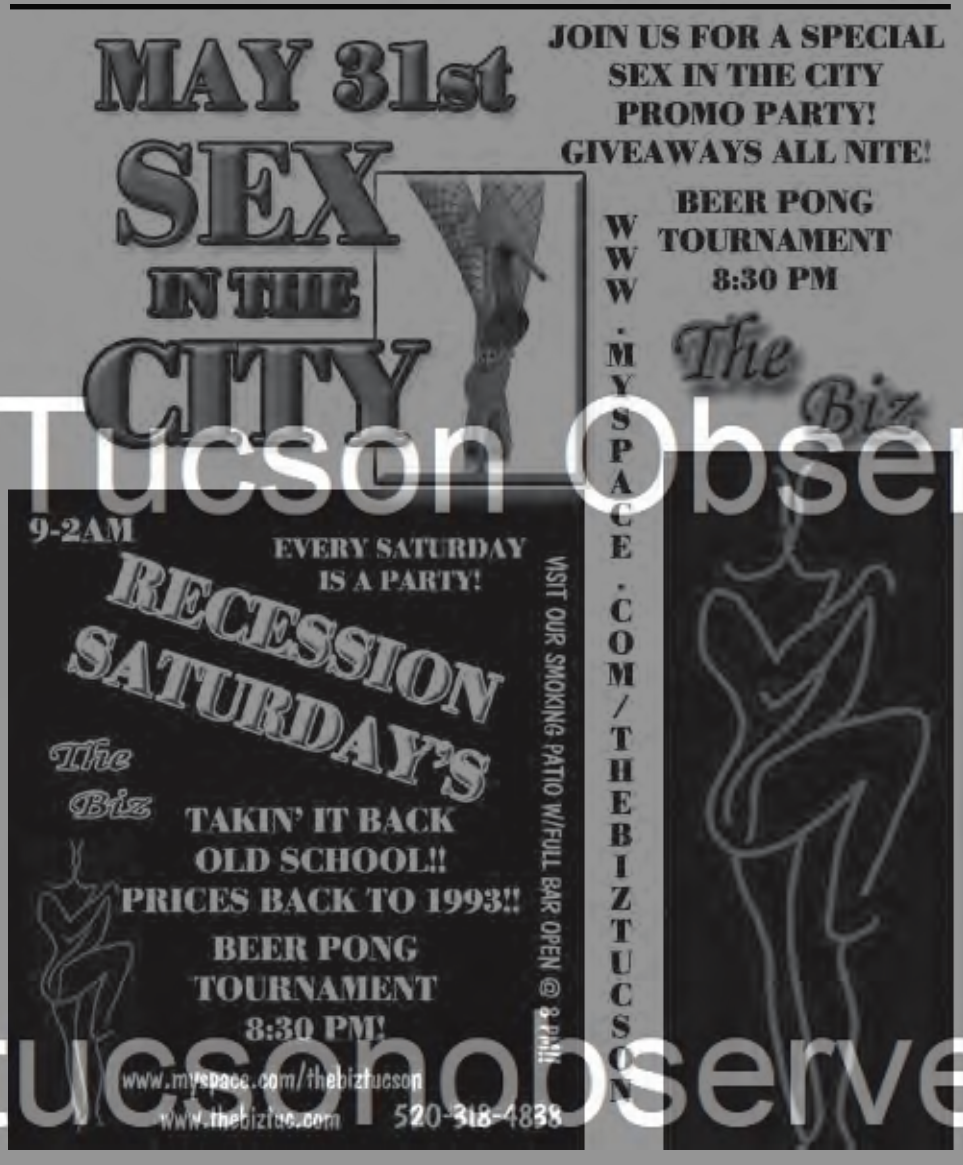

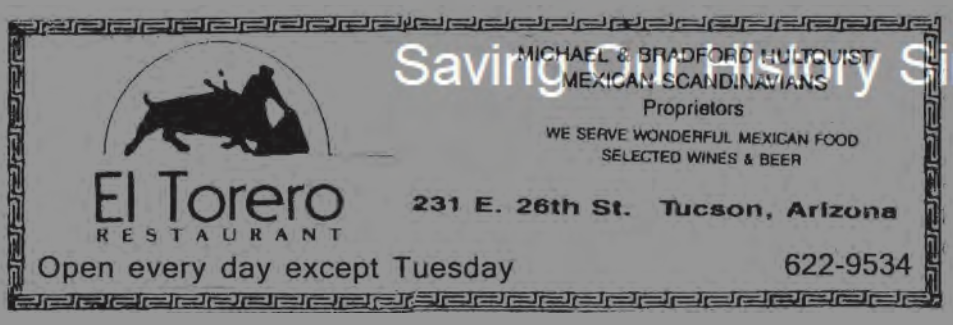

2008 Equality Arizona Dinner June 14

SCOTTSDALE - Arizona's LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) rights organization, Equality Arizona will be holding their 2008 Dinner, Saturday, June 14, 5 - 11:00 p.m., at the Scottsdale Princess Resort, 7575 East Princess Drive.

This year's Awards Dinner will inspire you, entertain you and challenge you to engage in our collective campaign for Equality in Arizona.

Here is the list of this year's honorees: Barry Goldwater Human Rights Corporate Award - The Honorable Joe Shirley, Jr., President, The Navajo Nation and First Lady Vikki Shirley; Barry Goldwater Human Rights Individual Award - The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Second Congressional District Wisconsin; Equality Arizona Corporate Award - State Compensation Fund, Don Smith, President & CEO; Equality Arizona Individual Award - Dennis K. Burke, Co-Chief of Staff, Office of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano; Equality Arizona Activist Award - Northern Region - Frankie Reynolds, Founder/Executive Director Prescott Pride Center, Central Region - The Honorable Robert Meza, Arizona State Representative, Southern Region - Vicki Gaubeca, Tucson Community Activist; Equality Arizona National Philanthropist Award - Jared Polis, Founder/President, The Jared Polis Foundation; Equality Arizona State Philanthropist Award - Dr. Timothy J. Dyer, Founder/President, The John & Genevieve Dyer Educational Foundation.

Tickets prices: Individual ticket: $240, Table of 10: $2,400; Young Emerging Leader (YEL) Ticket: $210, Young Emerging Leader (YEL) Table of 10: $2,100. To order tickets, call the 24/7 ticket hotline (480) 477-7444, toll free at (866) 551-8404 or online at equalityarizona.org and follow the links. The deadline to RSVP is June 2.

LGBT ServiceMembers Warned About Calif. Same-Sex Marriages

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Observer Update) - An organization that advocates for Gays in the military is warning servicemembers that if they take advantage same-sex marriage in California they risk being drummed out of the armed services, 365Gay.com reported. But the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network says that under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" members of the military face dismissal if they marry a person of the same sex.

"The California Supreme Court should be applauded for its decision extending rights to same-sex families. It is heartening to see further recognition of our fundamental right to enter into legal relationships. Unfortunately, our celebration is tempered by the reality that Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual military personnel cannot take advantage of these opportunities without risking their careers," said SLDN executive director Aubrey Sarvis. "'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' jeopardizes the livelihood of any service member who seeks to enter into a civil union, domestic partnership or marriage." "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," however, prohibits service personnel from entering into "marriage or attempted marriage," and service members who do so face dismissal under the law.

"Before my husband and I decided marry in Massachusetts, I had to sit down and ask myself which is more important, love and marriage or my career in the U.S. Army," said retired Army Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Schmalz. "So I left the Army, and took with me my twenty-five years of experience, so that I could get married and start a family. It is a choice I never thought I would have to make and a choice that no American patriot should ever have to make."

Legislation that would repeal "Don't Ask, Don' Tell" is currently before Congress. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act which would repeal the decade old DADT has bipartisan support and hearings are expected to be held this year. Under DADT two people every day are dropped from the military for being Gay. In the 10 years that DADT has been in force more than 10,000 personnel have been discharged as a result of thed policy, including 800 with skills deemed 'mission critical,' such as pilots, combat engineers, and linguists. The number of Gay men and Lesbians turned way by military recruiters is unknown.

Oregon Supreme Court Likely To Decide G/L Marriage Ban

SALEM, Oregon (Observer Update) - The legality of Oregon's constitutional amendment restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples is expected to be decided by the state Supreme Court after an appeals court ruled that the amendment was valid, 365Gay.com reported.

The Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that found the amendment which was approved by voters in 2004 did not violate Oregon's law restricting ballot measures to one issue. Basic Rights Oregon maintained that the question on the ballot violated state law by being so broad it affected a host of other rights. "We believe that Constitutional Amendment 36 fundamentally altered the promise of equal protection under the law for all Oregonians," Basic Rights Oregon Executive Director Jeana Frazzini said, following Wednesday's ruling. "Using the initiative process to treat one group of citizens differently insults the spirit of the Oregon Constitution and violates every Oregon tradition of fairness."

Lead attorney Mark Johnson said he expects the plaintiffs to appeal the case to the State Supreme Court. "Constitutional Amendment 36 contained significant constitutional flaws even before it was placed on the ballot," Johnson said. "The measure should never have been presented to Oregon voters."

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Berlin Gay Holocaust Memorial

BERLIN, Germany (Observer Update) - It's a big day in Berlin, where the city's memorial for Gay Holocaust victims officially opened (May 27). The structure, set up near a larger Holocaust memorial, includes a video loop showing two men kissing and this message, "A simple kiss could land you in trouble." Sadly, no survivors made the event. The last known, out Gay survivor of the Holocaust, Pierre Seel, died in 2005.

N.C. Police Arrest Two Men For Sodomy In Private Despite Ruling

RALEIGH, North Carolina - Police are charging two adults for sodomy in private, although the U.S. Supreme Court appears to have outlawed such charges five years ago.

Police on Saturday (May 24) charged two West Raleigh men with a "crime against nature" for having sex early that morning. Each faces up to two years in prison if convicted of the Class I felony. But that charge is unconstitutional, a state lawmaker says. And the circumstances of the encounter are murky.

Raleigh police first charged Nelson Keith Sloan, 40, who called them to his apartment about dawn, saying he had been attacked. Police later filed the same charge against Ryan Christopher Flynn, 25. They also charged Flynn with simple assault for biting Sloan. And they charged him with communicating threats by telling Sloan he was going to disembowel him and show him his innards.

Court Takes Lesbian Insemination Case

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) - Do religious beliefs give doctors the right to withhold medical treatment from Lesbians and Gay men? That's the question the California Supreme Court is scheduled to take up this in a discrimination lawsuit brought by a Lesbian who was denied artificial insemination at the only local obstetrics and gynecology office covered by her insurance.

Guadalupe Benitez, of Oceanside, alleges that after treating her with fertility drugs for nearly a year the staff of the private North Coast Women's Care Medical Group refused to inseminate her eight years ago because of her sexual orientation. The case is being closely watched by civil rights and physician groups who think it could have consequences for other medical procedures, including abortion and end-of-life decisions.

"There is confusion among many health care providers who believe doctors have the freedom to pick and choose their patients," said Jennifer Pizer, an attorney with the Gay rights legal group Lambda Legal who represents Benitez. "But doctors' ethics may not be exercised in a discriminatory way."

Benitez, now the mother of a 6-year-old boy and 2-year-old twin girls, sued Vista-based North Coast under a state law that prohibits for-profit businesses from arbitrarily discriminating against clients based on characteristics such as race, age and sexual orientation.

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

Emigration

The fact is, people change countries when they get it in their heads that this place is no fun anymore or that place will be better. Often, of course, it is an economic better that the migrant is after. But this isnt about that kind of migrant. This is about us.

My two Greek grandfathers fled the thousands-year old war with Turkey over Cypress and came to America. It was a time when steel mills ran round the clock, the railroads lay rail night and day and the country was booming. It was 1920 America and the immigrant was welcomed to do the work of building Americas infrastructure, to butcher her meat and to man her factories. My grandfathers both begin by laying rail with sixteen-pound sledge in the cool, clear air of the Rocky Mountains. They finished up knowing they had brought us all into the world in a better place than if they had stayed home.

My Mexican grandmother came fleeing the Mexican Revolution; she and her seven brothers swam the Rio Grande to save themselves from war. She lived knowing we were better off as well. For a long time, Greece and Mexico had held our family. Now, for three generations, America has received the benefit of our work; we are workers all....some would say work-aholics...but we produce, day in, day out, year after year. We contribute to America with sweat, skill and toil. America, in return, has kept us safe from the civil war that my grandmother fled, from the senseless, endless wars of the Middle East and the Balkans.

And now, having been built with the blood and sweat of the immigrant, America has embarked upon this last war, the War of Resources. Without a doubt, our country pursues a military plan that is predicated on the presence of natural resources; we only go where there is stuff to get control of. We will pretend that we are fighting for something else, but we are not and we all know it. The problem with this final scarcity, as we poise to consume the last of the earths bounty, is that lots of people are going to do without. That is a euphemism for die.

This is not an indictment. Someone will have to eat the last fish, the last rabbit, and drink the last water. There will not be enough for all. The question as to who will get to eat and drink and dance till the last is settled; it will be the Americans. The proof is in the American attitude; Americans consume not by need, but by right. Americans perceive the divine right of money; if they can buy it, then it is all right to eat it right up....even if there is nothing for someone else. That is what it is to be an American and drive a huge truck that is not needed for work....few Americans would stoop to haul anything like wood or dirt in the big American truck; most see themselves as too good to do manual labor.

So what will people of conscience do now, here? Shall we flee to the North, and man the lines against America when she goes after the Canadian water to fill her pools and grow her lawns? Or to the south, to suffer with my relatives when the Great Mexican Famine begins? Farther south, the cannibals masquerade as presidents and generals....the jungle hides the dead. There is no road there.

Europe goes Muslim next week; the holy wars began anew in Paris this last decade. Muslims are interesting, like any religion...but a bit of a stretch for Jimmy Petrol to start wearing a veil. But I digress. The religion is not at question; all will be fighting for the same thing: that divine right to life, to the bread and water of the chosen people. Choosing for myself, I am at a loss.

To stay is to begin to fight in earnest against the ideal of consumptive right; to become militant. To go is to cast the only vote that counts; the one we cast with our feet. To do nothing but keep driving that truck, voting for fools...that is madness. Bad Monkey....how will you spend your days?

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HRC Pledges Half-Million To Fight Challenge To California Marriage Ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (Observer Update) -- A California group fighting a proposed constitutional amendment that would overturn the state Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage has received a half-million dollar cash infusion from a national LGBT civil rights group, reported 365Gay.com.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is contributing the money to Equality for All, an umbrella organization formed to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment that is expected to be on the November general election ballot in California. HRC already has given Equality for All $100,000 and said that more money may be added to the additional $500,000 pledged.

The California Supreme Court ruled that the prohibition of same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The ruling came after a coalition of conservative groups, expecting the ruling, began gathering signatures to amend the state constitution to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples.

A coalition, under the banner 'Protect Marriage', have submitted more than required 694,354 signatures to qualify. The signatures are being verified. Last month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said that if an initiative to ban Gay marriage qualifies for the November ballot, he's prepared to fight it.

"The California Supreme Court's decision is a victory for justice and fairness," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese in announcing the $500,000 donation. "But the fight for equality has just begun. "With the $500,000 commitment to Equality for All today, HRC aims to ensure that California remains a state where every person has the opportunity to realize their hopes and dreams by being able to marry the person they love," said Solmonese.

Equality for All, a large and diverse coalition of civil rights, faith, choice, labor and communities of color organizations working to stop the ballot measure.

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

Meanwhile

Up at the state capital, it is another week and Arizona's Legislature is still in session, as of press time, 138 days into their 100-day, self-set deadline, considering frivolous measures and are no closer to dealing with the real issues, such as the next fiscal year's budget, thanks to the Republican leadership of House Speaker Jim Weiers of Phoenix and Senate President (and Congressional District 8 candidate), Tim Bee of Tucson, who hold their super-secret meetings with Republican legislators on the matter.

This means for taxpaying Arizonans, struggling to make ends meet, paying for gasoline and trying to stay in their "homes," that the "gang of ninety" continues to get into your pockets and collect their per-diem money thanks to the posturing of the Republican leadership.

With the continuing legislative session, no bills, memorials and most importantly, concurrent resolutions are "dead" until that magic phrase "sine die," are uttered and the "gang of ninety" leave 1700 West Washington, putting an end to the second regular session of the 48th Arizona Legislature.

SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1042 still lives and if the elephantine nitwits come up with a budget proposal for the next fiscal year, resulting in very quick negotiations with Democratic Governor Janet Napolitano, all happening within the next proverbial "15 minutes," the proposed state constitutional amendment to make Gays and Lesbians "a wedge issue" on the upcoming November general election ballot can still happen.

As previously reported SCR 1042 was amended and passed by the Arizona House of Representatives and awaits a concur/refuse vote by the Arizona Senate.

One vote only will it take to give Cathi Herrod, Peter Gentala and the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), a "$500,000 handout," to place a proposed state constitutional amendment to define marriage, even though their law, approved by their minions and signed by their governor has been upheld in court, this despite their protestations over the recent California state Supreme Court decision on the subject.

CAP, on their website, have proclaimed that it can happen here! "We are less than 30 days away from an Arizona same-sex couple being able to 'marry' in California, then return to Arizona to file a lawsuit challenging our state to recognize their California 'marriage.' CAP has already received reports of Arizona same-sex couples registering for gifts and making preparations for California weddings," Family Facts Arizona, CAP's newsletter breathlessly and factlessly reported in their May 20 edition.

Standhardt V. Superior Court, filed in Arizona Superior Court and upheld by the Arizona Supreme Court (during the time frame of July 2003 - May 2004) upheld the law (Arizona Revised Statutes 25-101 and 25-112 respectively) as constitutional (per the state constitution), so that same-sex marriages conducted in states that recognize them within their boundaries are not recognized in Arizona. So how many legal challenges have been filed since, CAP?

It is interesting that CAP, the group whose previously leader, Len Munsil, drafted and lobbied the law into existence, had prior to the decision, ignored their previous work, quotes and writings (scrubbing their website, azpolicy.org of mention) to get their ballot measure but then embrace it when it is convenient, just after the May, California Supreme Court ruling or in April, when the Arizona Governor's Regulatory Review Council considered and subsequently approved a measure giving the domestic partners of state employees (same and opposite sex) medical and dental benefits.

So once again let your state Senators know that SCR 1042 should not see the light of the "legislative day," not for fairness, not for equality but at a cost to Arizona taxpayers: for the businesses who open offices in Arizona resulting in lost income to the state and its citizens due to the missed opportunities; due to the printing cost of the sample ballots, ballot measure books, postage and subsequent election expenses; donating to both the proponents and opponents when the money could be better spent elsewhere on more important issues and, for the all the time wasted and the per-diem money spent.

To speak to your Senator, call (800) 352-8404 and then ask for your Senator's office. One can let their Senator know online your opinion of SCR 1042 by going to eqfed.org/campaign/scr1042_senate. Also, people can go to Arizona Senate website at azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S, and E-mail the thirty members of that body.

St. Paul Baseball Fans Get Larry Craig Toilet Bobblefoot

ST. PAUL, Minnesota - The St. Paul Saints, long known for offbeat, sometimes edgy, promotions, have come up with a real doozy for the game.

While lots of sports franchises hand out bobblehead dolls, usually depicting their players, the Saints are handing out 2,500 "bobblefoot" knicknacks. The keepsakes consist of a miniature bathroom stall with a couple of lower legs and feet.

One of the feet is springloaded and "taps," which, the Saints' press release says, is in honor of National Tap Dance Day. Right. It's a none-too-subtle reference to Idaho Republican Sen. Larry Craig, who pleaded guilty to a charge of disorderly conduct after an undercover police officer arrested him for allegedly soliciting sex in a bathroom stall at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

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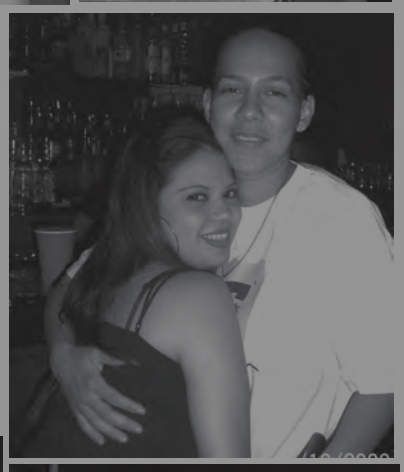
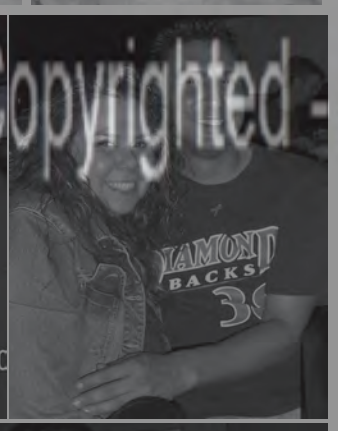
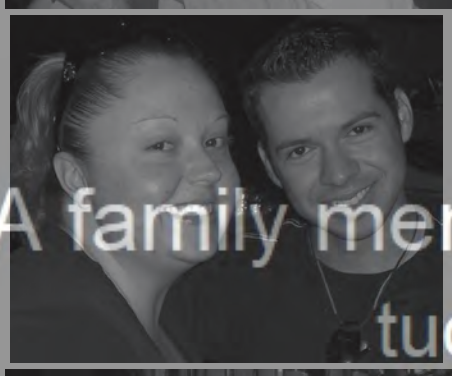
A Lot Of Happy Faces In Tucson



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McCain Defends Gay Marriage Opposition On 'Ellen'

Republican Presidential Candidate John McCain with Ellen DeGeneres

LOS ANGELES, California - Republican presidential candidate John McCain didn't dance on the Ellen DeGeneres Show, but he did field some tough questions on Ellen's upcoming marriage to actress Portia de Rossi in a newly legalized California civil ceremony.

Ellen thanked McCain for coming on the show and said she had encouraged all of the presidential candidates to come on, regardless of whether they see eye to eye. Later in the interview, Ellen said, "Let's talk about the big elephant in the room." She told the senator and the audience that she will be soon marrying her longtime girlfriend. She said she was planning on marrying her before the state made it legal and asked McCain what his thoughts are on the same-sex marriage issue.

McCain said, "I think that people should be able to enter into legal agreements and it's something that we should encourage, particularly in the case of insurance and other areas and decisions that have to be made. I just believe in the unique status of marriage between a man and a woman and I know that we have a respectful disagreement on that issue."

Portland Elects Openly Gay Mayor Without Runoff

PORTLAND, Oregon (Observer Update) - Sam Adams, a child of poverty, an openly Gay man and a self-professed policy wonk, will be Portland's next mayor.

Sam Adams soundly defeated 12 other candidates to assume the top office in the city and one of the tallest bully pulpits in the Pacific Northwest. He captured 58 percent of the vote to avoid a November runoff against travel agency owner Sho Dozono.

Adams, 44, won by stressing specifics: He promised to work with school leaders to cut the dropout rate, make Portland a leader in environmentally friendly businesses and use the Portland Streetcar and better planning to spur urban renewal.

Out Diver To Compete At Beijing Olympics

SYDNEY, Australia (Observer Update) - Australian diver Matthew Mitcham, 20, is going to Beijing to compete in the Summer Olympics and he is going as an openly Gay man. Mitcham revealed his sexuality in an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald.

Months out from the Games, Mitcham has taken the courageous step of revealing his sexuality to the media for the first time, in an exclusive interview with the Herald. He has also applied for a grant through a Johnson & Johnson Athlete Family Support Program to have [his boyfriend] Lachlan near him in Beijing. We can't afford for Lachlan to go at the moment," Mitcham said. "But Johnson & Johnson offer grants to go to Beijing and I've nominated Lachlan as the support person I want to go."

Mitcham is very talented and has a serious shot at a medal in the 10-meter platform. He won the USA Diving Grand Prix in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on May 11.

Seattle Pride Parade Cancelled

SEATTLE, Washington (Observer Update) Organizers of the annual Pride festival are expecting 25,000 people at Seattle Center on June 29 after the downtown pride parade, Seattle P-I reported. However, it appears that for the first time since 1977, there won't be a pride march on Broadway on Capitol Hill.

Michael Wells, head of Broadway's business association, said he does not know of any events planned for the street this year. Anna Bacler, operations manager of The Seattle LGBT Community Center, which helped plan the march on Broadway after organizers moved the parade downtown in 2006, said nothing is on the books this year.

The LGBT Center, which is recovering from financial problems, "believed it would not be in its best financial interests" to work on the march this year, she said. The annual parade and march has faced difficulties in recent years. Seattle Out and Proud, the group that organizes the parade, angered some in the community by moving the procession from Broadway. The group also piled up debt from the after-parade festival at Seattle Center in 2006 .

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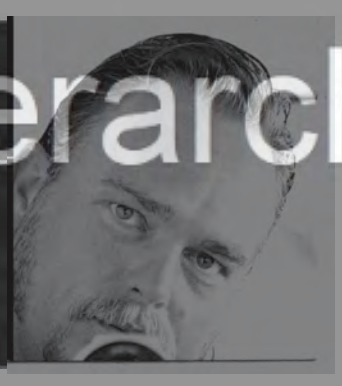

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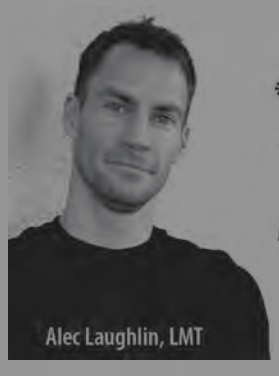

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Just when you thought things were fairly under control, Neptune retrogrades and causes untold confusion and crazy dreams. Ah, but like all else, though, this too shall pass.... in a couple of months!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Proud Rams must hang on tight to their ideas and principles lest retro Neptune lures you into a social swirl that turns into a riptide. Are you going in the direction you want or are you simply floating along with the crowd? Pull back and quietly reevaluate what you are getting from certain pals. If there is more to life, clear your head of extraneous thoughts, wait and watch.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Retro Neptune is making its presence known in your career. It is the wise queer Bull who refrains from letting their imagination take control in front of bosses or other authority figures. Don't upset your progress by pressing on issues that need time, patience and presence of mind. Basically, if you can't say anything nice, it is best to whine out of earshot.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Planning a great escape? Pink Twins should wait until Neptune redirects before they pack their bags and take off to parts unknown. You may find that you get lost or that is costs you far more than you initially anticipated. In addition, it's not a great time to pursue legal issues. Quietly plot your strategy and get your justice when the scales are balanced again in the summer.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Pink Crabs can give Dr. Freud a rest for the next couple of months. It will be difficult if not impossible to make sense from all the psychological static. (All those "revelations" may just be gas.) All is not lost though, lover; you can revel in the pure enjoyment of sex for sex sake without having to worry about any sparks of self discovery. Oh happy day!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Relationships may hit a temporary snag. Even the most politic and strategic of proud Lions may inadvertently roar the wrong thing at the wrong time or totally misinterpret partners' actions. The best laid plans will fall to ruin if you push the envelope or rock the boat. Let things stew and slowly cook before you bite into any major relationship decisions.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Queer Virgins must sit back and reprioritize at work; what you think needs to get done immediately may actually have a much lower priority. You can be led down blind alleys and moved by false deadlines and phony alarms. And remember, it's never too late to revamp your diet or exercise regime. Your current ice cream and chocolate sauce diet will not do the trick.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Fun may have a way of getting way out of hand now. Proud Libras can fritter away carefully accumulated riches on questionable games of chance so avoid Vegas until late summer. Even the old artistic muse may need a respite. Keep a harmless flirtation where it belongs - frothy, fun and unencumbered. (Some folks prefer it that way anyway.)

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

What can possibly go wrong next around the house? Things go on the fritz, your decorative style takes an evil turn and what you think may be okay will have its problems. What next? Happily, this is a passing phase. Why don't you lock the door, play a little night music and curl up with a good friend. If the electricity has been shut off, make music in the dark.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers are well advised to think twice before blurting out an opinion or two. Communications gone awry will go doubly awry for you at this time. Avoid any important interviews if you possibly can for now. Yet, your innate honesty and limited patience for autocrats can ignite smoldering embers to a raging fire. Revolution anyone?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Pink Caps are advised to hold onto their wallets and avoid major investments now. What you believe to be a safe and sound strategy, may turn out to be more wilde and wooly than you expect. Keep your eye on the prize and continue to do your homework but don't spend a buck until you have carefully checked out all options and your gravy train is back on track.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

It is a wise Aqueerian who understands the pitfalls of extreme behavior and its potential fallout. Simply put, you're impatient with others now. Advice: Zip the lip and find a quiet spot to mediate. Your attempts to make the perfect first impression will not go as planned but so what? If there was any excuse to curl up with a good book and a glass (or two) of wine, this is it.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

There is a short circuit on your intuition now. Have you have uncovered a fabulous secret? It is difficult not to shout it out. But this supposed "secret" may be offtrack and perhaps best left unannounced. Guppies could wind up with a case of "fin in mouth". Glide through the next two months with relaxing therapies such as yoga or meditation. Assume the lotus position.

New Film To Delve Into World Of Men's Choruses

LOS ANGELES - Out GQ editor Mickey Rapkin's upcoming nonfiction book, Pitch Perfect, is being adapted for the big screen, according to The Hollywood Reporter, advocate.com reported.

30 Rock writer Kay Cannon is slated to pen the screenplay, and Elizabeth Banks and Max Handelman will produce for their company, Brownstone Productions.

Pitch Perfect is a comedic look at the world of collegiate a cappella men's choruses. The author follows teams from Tufts University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Virginia as they deal with competitions, groupies, parties, and bitter rivalries.

New Book Discusses Secret Life Of 'Perry Mason'

NEW YORK CITY - Raymond Burr, who played Perry Mason in the wildly popular television show "Perry Mason" and later in "Ironside," lived a secret Gay life in Hollywood when such a revelation would destroy a career. Burr invented a biography for himself that included a wife and son who'd died, and used his busy schedule as a way to explain why he wasn't married. But Burr and his partner, Robert Benevides, had a relationship for 35 years that was secret to most of the world except for a handful of close friends.

Michael Starr, a writer for the New York Post, chronicles Burr's life in a new Burr biography, "Hiding in Plain Sight: The Secret Life of Raymond Burr."

The complete story of the actor's career, including his secret Gay life. Raymond Burr (1917-1993) was an enigma. A film noir star regularly known for his villainous roles in movies like Rear Window, he delighted millions of viewers each week with the top-rated shows Perry Mason and Ironside, which ran virtually uninterrupted for 20 years. But Burr was leading a secret Gay life at a time in Hollywood when such a lifestyle was akin to career suicide. He invented a tragic biography for himself in which he was mythologized as a heartbroken husband and father. There was even an invented affair with a teenage Natalie Wood, 21 years his junior. He fought for truth as Perry Mason and Robert T. Ironside, yet he couldn't admit his own deception. Burr met his partner, struggling actor Robert Benevides, on the set of Perry Mason, and they remained together for over 35 years until Burr's death. Together, they built a business empire, traveled the world, and shared their passion for orchids and fine wine - keeping the true nature of their relationship a secret from all but their closest friends - a secret revealed here for the first time in depth.

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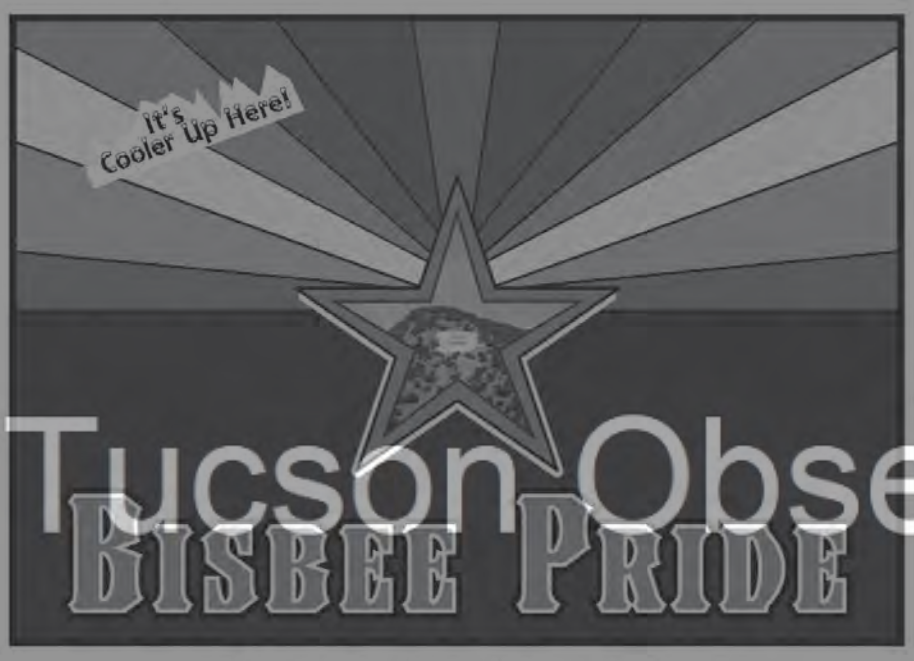

Come for the Festival! Enjoy the Town!

Historic Old Bisbee was once the largest city between St. Louis and San Francisco.

It was a free-wheeling place with lots of diversity -- then as now.

Today's Bisbee features a rapidly growing LGBT population as people choose to live in the town with one of the best climates on earth -- year-round sunshine, not too hot in the summer, not too cold in the winter.

Now you can enjoy the sights and sounds of this art-centered, color-drenched community during Bisbee Pride weekend.

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Then take this chance to remember loved ones as you walk the AIDS Memorial Quilt path and hear their names read at the Luminaria Memorial Ceremony.

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www.bisbeepride.com **info@bisbeepride.com**

4th Annual Bisbee Pride Fri. June 13- Sun. June 15

It's All Happening In Bisbee!!

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Tinker Bell Park

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Linda Thomas

Memorial Day What It Means To Me

By definition, Memorial Day is a time to remember. One day, out of 365, set aside to remember all those who came before that paid the ultimate price so I could live as a free American.

I grew up as an Army brat and then served 22 years in the Air Force, thus this day means much to me. My father was a Green Beret who spent the prime of his career during the Vietnam era. To this day, 27 years after he retired, he still lives and breathes what his service means to him. "My" war was the first Gulf War. I was at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey and although it was a very challenging time, I certainly was never engaged in anything remotely close to hand-to-hand jungle combat of the Vietnam era or the close up and personal urban warfare our troops see today. In every war though, the saying that "all give some and some give all" certainly applies. On Memorial Day, we pause to honor these heroes of our past, the sacrifices not only they made, but those of their loved ones as well, so they might know how very much we appreciate what they gave. Yes, it is not only about remembering, but also about truly appreciating their gift to us and asking ourselves what our responsibility is in maintaining that gift for those that follow us. At the very least, we have a responsibility to reflect on where we are today as both a nation and a people. Is our country the shining city on the hill that our predecessors fought to preserve? Are we a people that others look up to? I learned in my 22 years in the Air Force that the best way to lead is to set the right example. What kind of example are we setting to the world? Would our forefathers be proud?

The Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This is one of the drivers that led our predecessors to march into battle and give their lives. Yet, even today, 232 years later, we are deficient in living up to this ideal. Just as the Tuskegee Airmen flew valiantly in the Army Air Corp during WWII and afterwards still suffered segregation, and women were also allowed to serve in many critical positions (to include flying) but then were relegated back to their kitchens after the war, Gay men and women today are told they are unequal, not due the same liberties, nor the same right to happiness. Instead, they are told that as long as they pretend to be someone else, they can serve. Never mind they are giving their lives for their country without the right to even name their partner to receive their Survivor Benefit, should they be called to die for their country.

I was recently reminded of how far behind the rest of the westernized world the United States is on this issue when a friend of mine travelled to the Netherlands to lay a wreath at the Dutch Homomonument. This monument was raised on September 5, 1987 in memory of Lesbians and Gay men who were harassed, imprisoned, or executed. Every May 4th, during the annual national memorial service, Gays and Lesbians, many in uniform, gather around this monument in the evening to remember all the victims of Gay hate. The Netherlands is not alone in such acceptance of Gays and Lesbians. In fact, the United States is the last of 22 Allied countries with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan to allow Gays to serve openly in their Armed Forces. Israel and South Africa also allow Gays to serve openly and studies regarding the integration of Gays in the militaries of Australia, Israel, Britain and Canada have shown the change to be a non-event. When I contemplate the sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made, and continue to make, I think about selfless devotion to duty and courage. I also think about honesty and integrity as these are essential characteristics for those responsible for defending our country. That's why, year after year, the military ranks at the top of careers most admired by the American people. Why then, when honor and integrity are such valued traits of our military men and women, are Gays and Lesbians forced to hide the truth about who they are...in direct conflict with those values?

There are at least 65,000 homosexuals in the military today and another one million Gay and Lesbian veterans around the country. These men and women are valued members of their squadrons, their battalions, their ships, and their communities. They serve honorably and in some cases, they die honorably, such as Major Alan Rogers who was killed in Iraq by an IED in January, 2008. According to his commander, he shielded two others from the blast who likely would have been killed were it not for Alan's bravery. The enemy and the IED they deployed didn't care that Alan was Gay. Neither did Major Margaret Witt's patients, (an Air Force flight nurse who was discharged after 18 years of decorated service), care that she was a Lesbian, only that she could provide them the medical care they needed.

Our military has a history of leading change; of doing the right thing before the rest of the country follows suit. This was certainly the case with the integration of African Americans into the Army. Long before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, President Truman, in July of 1948, signed Executive Order 9981, calling on the armed forces to provide equal treatment and opportunity for black servicemen. This policy was the right thing to do, not only for equality, but also for national defense. Because of post-war racial quotas, black servicemen comprised a large portion of the force and therefore, had a direct impact on the nation's cold war defenses. Today, Gay men and women also play a critical role in our nation's defense. One case in point is that the military has discharged at least fifty-five Arabic and Farsi linguists under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the last five years. Discharging these linguists hurts military readiness and ultimately costs the taxpayer much more when either the military is forced to find and train another recruit, or hires the discharged member as a contractor who gets paid much more for doing the same job as before (sometimes with the same unit). "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has forced the Pentagon to discharge nearly 800 vital personnel critical for national security, including linguists and military intelligence analysts, according to a 2005 GAO report. Keep in mind that these men and women were not discharged for being homosexual, but for others finding out they were. Truth is, homosexuals serve every single day, in virtually every single way and assimilate just fine. They are doing the job as

Continued on next page

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NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 28th
Men's Social Network , Newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand & Foot with Lee & Merlin 207-5336.

Thursday, May 29th
#1Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Saturday, May 30
Tucson Prime Timers-6PM Meet us for drinks & Grub at Woody's Bar, 3710 N Oracle

Sunday, May 31
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Steve at 664-2076

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our weekly Sunday Brunch. This week at 11:30AM, Woody's Bar, 3710 N Oracle Rd www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Sunday June 1st
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at the French Quarter. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com .

Monday, June 2nd
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00 p.m. Lee and Merlin host a word for word fun evening of Scrabble. If you don't know how to play, we'll be glad to teach you. For reservations and directions, please call 207-5336. If you're loquacious, erudite, or a wordsmith; this man's game just may be a triple word score for you!

Tuesday June 3rdth
Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Gay Reading Group 7:00pm. Call Doug At 529-0014 for location and directions.

Wednesday, June 4th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Bruce at 743-3890.

Thursday, June 5th
#1 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Triangle Tribe-A Men's Circle. According to a recent study, very few people have as many close friends as they would like. Are you as connected with other men as you want to be? Do you get the support you need for issues in your life? Do you wish you had more meaningful friendships and relationships with other men? Join like-minded men at Wingspan to share feelings, thoughts and ideas in a safe, respectful space. For the same experience with both straight and gay men, join us at the regular Circle of Men meetings. Call Tom at 591-2828 for dates and times.

Friday, June 6th
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Join Merlin and Lee for an evening of Charades. Come out and totally enjoy putting your acting/miming and pantomime skills to the test! For directions and reservations [(a limited space event,

Commentary

Continued from Page Twelve

valued members of the team and to top it off, most of their co-workers, and sometimes even their bosses, know they are Gay. So, you have to wonder, what is the problem?

Our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, ends with the words: "the land of the free and the home of the brave". It is up to each and every one of us to ensure those words always describe our great nation. Apathy and complacency are not the answer, engagement and advocacy are. I am reminded of the powerful message sent by the lone man at Tiananmen Square in the standoff with the tank. That man displayed courage that most of us will never know. He must have been afraid, but he knew that his cause was worth any price, even his life. We have many such causes in America today and all of us must work together to make the right changes. We all should ask ourselves: "if not me, who" and "if not now, when."

This Memorial Day 2008 is especially poignant for me. As I retired from the Air Force last July, this is the first Memorial Day I can celebrate as my true self. Because of how profoundly that new found freedom has changed my life, the cause I've chosen to support is repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. I believe civil liberties are a fundamental right of American citizens, and of those civil liberties, none can be more fundamental than the right to be yourself and to love whom you choose. In 1777, Edmund Burke, an Irish philosopher and statesman said, "the true danger is when liberty is nibbled away, for expedience, and by parts". "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" must apply to all Americans, not just some. I am proud of our country, I'm proud to be one of its citizens, I'm proud that citizenship affords me some of the rights few in the world share, and I'm proud to be working with SLDN (Servicemembers Legal Defense Network) to ensure every American enjoys all the rights to which we are entitled.

(Linda Thomas is a Servicemembers Legal Defense Network Advisory Council Member).

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NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

Tucson Knight Owls (T.K.O)
We are a non profit social club that is open to every one. T.K.O. contributes to the fellowship and support of the community, and openly invites new members and/or guests. Monthly meetings occur on the first Saturday of every month at 11:00 pm., Please come and join us! Our next meeting will be held at the Yard Dog. We will be finalizing details on our Owl fling which is set for June 27th, 28th, and 29th at Rose Canyon Lake. Watch for more details after our next meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

TUCSON INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
For Information on human service organizations, health and mental health services, financial and government assistance, emergency services such as food and shelter, education, etc. Call Information and Referral 325-2111 - 7am-7pm M-F - 9am-5pm weekend and holidays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN'S SOCIAL NETWORK: Social organization for men of all ages. Building an extended Gay family in Tucson. Monthly social potluck gatherings the first Saturday of each month and almost weekly social activities. Call 207-5336 for information and a newsletter. Check the Non-Bar Calendar in the Observer.

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

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

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

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

TUCSON PRIDE, INC. (Formerly Tucson Lesbian and Gay Alliance - TLGA) meets on the second Wednesday at 845 S. Craycroft Road at 6pm. Tucson Pride events: Pride Week, Gay West and OUToberFEST. For more information call 622-3200 or visit the TPI website at www.tucsonpride.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS. Starting this February, the Tucson Rape crisis Center will be providing free confidential group services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender survivors of all manner of sexual assault. Interested persons please call Mirto Stone, MSW, at 327-1171 (if unavailable leave message with phone number.

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

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

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

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

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

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

LGBT Buddhist Meditation Group. Join us for two 20 minute silent sitting meditations, and reading from Buddhist Spiritual text and discussion. Bring a friend and a pillow or cushion. Takes place every Sunday from 10-11:30AM at 3 Jewels, 314 E. 6th St. Donations accepted. Contact Maurice Grossman for more info. 323-2293.

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

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

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

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

NA MEETING WITH GLBT FOCUS meets Mondays, 6:30pm at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th Street. This is an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous - all are welcome. For more info call Bernie W.: 406-0740

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am; Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! MLB; WNBA; You call it!! Music with DJ/Hill starts at 9pm.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON - Open 11am. Beer Bust Sunday - $1 draft beers (12 oz), domestic only; $2 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Peter's Build Your Own Bloody Mary Bar 11am-2pm. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excluding special events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-8pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar 2pm-2am. Beer Bust 2pm-7pm. Karaoke with Michael D 9pm-Close. Drag Bingo every other Sunday 8-9pm. Check our Ad for Special Events or Parties

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

MONDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 p.m. $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Bucket o" Beer - $10.00 Domestic, $12.00 Imports (5 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Guinness excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am. Happy Hour 11am--8pm (excl spec events) Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm Back Pocket Patio Bar 8pm-close. Karaoke with Michael D. 9pm-close.

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

TUESDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Visit the outdoor patio enjoy aa cocktail or two. Drink specials every hour.

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – 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 & Alaskan Amber). Ladies Only Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am- 2am. Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 8pm-close, Caribbean Party Night with Woody's own Specialty Mojitos, Caprioskas and Martinis with Tucson's Hottest Bartenders.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 Domestics and ½ price appetizers 4-6. Full menu served until 10pm. Nightly dinner specials.

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am;. Happy Hour 11am-8pm excl. special events). Ful Kitchen open 11am-10pm. Back Pocket Bar open 8pm-close. Service Industry Employee Special All Day Long - $1 off all drinks except schnapps and draft. Different Themed Underwear Party 9pm-close with $1.00 off for those who participate (excl. Schnapps and Draft). Retro 80s & 90s Dance with DJ Clint 9 til close..

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. Karaoke starts @9:30pm. With 2 for 1 starting after the first singer! (Poker Pub will resume in the Fall).

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints, $3.50 sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg.. Pitcher. Bicardi Thursdays - $2.50 Bicardi Rum - all flavors.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm-2am. With incredible Happy Hour pricing from 5-8pm. Noche de calor w/DJ Hill jugando la mejor en musicia latino! Todos los viernes por la noche, la musica comienza a las 9. Shot specials cada nora!!

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

HOWL AT THE MOON – Open 3pm. Happy Hour 3 - 8 pm, $2.50 well, domestic longnecks & pints. $3.50 Sm. Pitcher/$5.50 lg. Pitcher. $2.25 All Mexican Beers. Free Dance Lessons at 7:30 p.m. Country Dancing 8:30 p.m. to close with DJ Pat.

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Enjoy the Live Blues/Motown/Soul sounds of Simon Crown 6-9 p.m.; Request your favorite Music Dance Night with DJ Clint 9pm-close. Monthly Birthday Party every 2nd Friday Night of the month. YARD DOG - Open 11am-2am. Beer Bust 3-7pm. Patio Bar Opens 8pm

SATURDAY

THE BIZ - Open 5pm - 2am. Patio opens @9pm. BEER PONG tournament on the patio every Saturday night!! DJ Hill 9pm. Don't forget to catch the WNBA games every Sat on our 51" flat screens!!

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

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

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

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

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen open11am-11pm. Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. Techno and Top 40 Dance with DJ Jeff 9pm til close. Check our ad for Twice-A-Month Special Events or Themed Parties.

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

BAR CALENDAR Of Upcoming Events

FRIDAY, MAY 30
HOWL AT THE MOON - Couples Dance Lessons from Amanda 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 31 -
HOWL AT THE MOON - Adrienne Alexander's Farewell to Tucson Show. Show her the love. Special guests for a really big show. 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
WOODY'S - Rainbow Pride Party 8:00 p.m. to close. Kick off Pride Month at Woody's. Get your Gay West Tickets here for the June 21st event. $16 in advance or $19 at the door. Special VIP ticket includes transportation to and from, Reception with Thelma Houston. VIP Bar at Old Tucson and $99 room rate at Marriott Starpass.

Around The Nation

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland - Despite the objections of some religious leaders, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has signed into law two bills that grant Gays hospitalization rights and tax breaks. Signed by O'Malley on Thursday (May 22), the laws become effective July 1. The Health Care Facility Visitation & Medical Decisions law grants Gay Marylanders the right to visit a partner in the hospital and make certain medical decisions for them. It passed the Senate 30-17 and the House 88-46. Another law, which adds domestic partners to a list of blood and legal relatives that are exempted from recordation and transfer taxes, passed the Senate 26-21 and the House 86-47. Both bills were targeted by Catholic protestors, who pushed for O'Malley to veto the measures.

DENVER, Colorado - A Gay and Lesbian grassroots Democratic group and conservative Christian lobbyists are battling over a Colorado bill expanding prohibitions from discrimination in public life based on religion and sexual orientation. Senate Bill 200 would ban discrimination based on a person's religious belief or sexual orientation – including Transgender people – in places of public accommodation, housing practices, family planning services and 20 other public spheres. Gov. Bill Ritter (D) has until June 5 to sign or veto the bill; with no gubernatorial action, the bill automatically becomes law. Ritter has not indicated whether he will make the bill law, spokesman Evan Dreyer said.

COLUMBIA, South Carolina - A high school principal in Columbia, S.C., is stepping down from his post after being asked to allow the creation of a Gay-straight alliance club at his school. Irmo High School principal Eddie Walker's resignation won't take effect until June 2009, according to WIS TV in Columbia. Walker said in a resignation letter he wrote to the school that allowing the group creates a conflict involving his professional and religious beliefs. "I feel the formation of a Gay/Straight Alliance Club at Irmo High school implies that students joining the club will have chosen to or will choose to engage in sexual activity with members of the same sex, opposite sex, or members of both sexes," he wrote. The school district said in a statement that the federal "Equal Access Act does not permit the school to discriminate against a club based on the club's purpose and viewpoint by not allowing it to form unless the purpose of the club is unlawful."

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PHOTO: DEMARCIO SLAUGHTER

BEST FEST

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ONE OF THE TOP TEN PRIDE EVENTS IN THE COUNTRY, DENVER'S PRIDEFEST IS NOT TO BE MISSED. JOIN US JUNE 21-22 FOR TWO DAYS OF FREE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND OUR FABULOUS PARADE. DANCE CLUBS, LOUNGES AND GALLERY OPENINGS TOP OFF THE FUN. WITH OVER 300 DAYS OF SUNSHINE PER YEAR AND OUR LEGENDARY ROCKY MOUNTAINS, DENVER OFFERS A COLORFUL COMBINATION OF URBAN AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. **WHAT THE LOCALS KNOW.™ VISITDENVER.COM/GLBT**

DENVER

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