Observing Tucson And The Greater Arizona Community

OBSERVER

WEEKLY OBSERVER SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 ISSUE 1261

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Yes On Proposition 102's Contributions Raise Legal Questions

By Mark R. Kerr

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Legal questions over contributions made to, and the expenditures of the proponents of Proposition 102 have arisen.

Recently committee's for political candidates and ballot measures filed their pre-primary financial statements with the Arizona Secretary of State's office, per state statute, to report the monies raised and spent on expenditures during their respective campaigns.

For the yesformarriage.com, the proponents of Proposition 102, the proposed state constitutional amendment to define marriage as solely a union between "one man and one woman," reported raising a total of $631,195.36 and spending $49,343.08, leaving a cash balance of $581,852.28, leaving a person to think that the proponents have raised a significant some of money for their efforts, Arizona law and court precedent in Standhardt v. Superior Court (2003) notwithstanding.

Delving further, under Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S) 16-916, filing statements of contributions and expenditures; public inspection into the yesformarriage.com filing (Filed ID# 200810206), raises some legal questions.

First, the individual contributions, the section of the financial report for "business contributions" and expenditures list that all transactions were cash transactions.

Under A.R.S. 16-902 Section C: "Before a political committee accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure it shall designate one or more state banks, federally chartered depository institutions or depository institutions the deposits or accounts of which are insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation or the national credit union administration as its campaign depository or depositories. The political committee shall notify the filing officer of the designation of the financial institution either at the time of filing the statement of organization pursuant to section 16-902.01 or within five business days after opening an account. All withdrawals or disbursements from these accounts require the signature of the treasurer or a designated agent of the political committee." No such bank or institution is listed on the yesformarriage.com report.

Under state law, specifically A.R.S 16-904. Treasurer; duties; records; civil penalty: "In Section F: Unless specified by the contributor or contributors to the contrary, the treasurer shall record a contribution made by check, money order or other written instrument as a contribution by the person whose signature or name appears on the bottom of the instrument or who endorses the instrument before delivery to the committee. If a contribution is made by more than one person in a single written instrument, the treasurer shall record the amount to be attributed to each contributor as specified. In Section G: All contributions other than in-kind contributions must be made by a check drawn on the account of the actual contributor or by a money order or a cashier's check containing the name of the actual contributor or must be evidenced by a written receipt with a copy of the receipt given to the contributor and a copy maintained in the contribution records of the recipient." The yesformarriage.com financial report of cash donations and expenditures brings these statutes into play.

Arizona law, A.R.S. 16-919, Section A, which reads: "It is unlawful for a corporation or a limited liability company to make any contribution of money or anything of value for the purpose of influencing an election, and it is unlawful for the designating individual who formed an exploratory committee, an exploratory committee, a candidate or a candidate's campaign committee to accept any contribution of money or anything of value from a corporation or a limited liability company for the purpose of influencing an election." This is backed up further in 16-914.01: Reporting of contributions by committees acting on ballot measures; civil penalty; definition, which States in section E. "For the purposes of this section, "single source" includes principals of the same partnership, corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or association."

Of the numerous donations to note (and there are several but of the two biggest so far in the campaign), Yesformarriage.com reports on the Arizona Secretary of State's website for Notifications of Contributions to Ballot Measure Committees (online at azsos.gov/election/2008/Info/ballotmeasurenotificationsPage29.htm), that on August 20, the Pete King Corporation (Arizona Corporation Commission File Number: -0068559-8), mailing address - P O Box 9158, Phoenix, AZ 85068, made a $100,000 contribution and on September 5, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix (Arizona Corporation Commission File Number:-File Number: -0181891-5), mailing address - P.O. Box 60336, Phoenix, AZ 85082, made a $100,000 contribution.

Neither the Pete King Corporation or the Crisis Pregnancy Centers have formed a political committee or are a "Super PAC" (Arizona Revised Statutes 16-902, 16-902-01 or 16-902-02), avenues corporations, non-profit, limited liability or otherwise can form and register, if they want to influence elections.

For the Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPC) of Greater Phoenix donation, there are even more legal questions since according to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) website, they're not in good standing since they have not filed an annual report for the past three years, as stated in A.R.S. 10-1630, required by corporations, non-profit or otherwise to do so to be in good standing in Arizona. According to their website, cpcphoenix.org, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Phoenix are "a non-profit, life-affirming ministry whose mission is "saving lives and protecting futures." Our goal is to impact the community by offering programs and services that boldly speak the truth in love while offering choices, support, and hope."

If the CPC is a "non-profit organization," classified as 501©3 under federal tax law, then that brings into question their status since federal tax laws state that such entities, " ... with this classification are prohibited from conducting political campaign activities to influence elections to public office. Public charities (but not private foundations) are permitted to conduct a limited amount of lobbying to influence legislation."

The questions on these matters are being forwarded with the Arizona Secretary of State, the Arizona Corporation Commission, the Arizona Department of Revenue, the Arizona Attorney General's office and the federal Internal Revenue Service.

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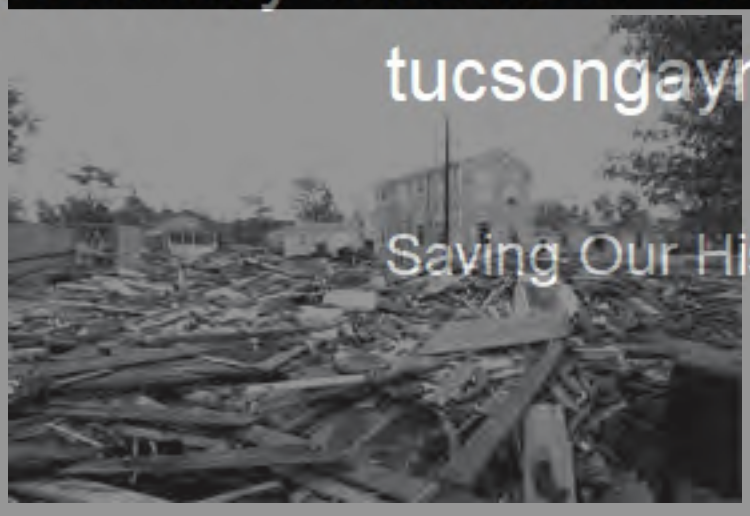
Flagstaff Holds Hearing On Proposed LGBT Rights Ordinance

FLAGSTAFF (Observer Update) - The town of Flagstaff, where two men were assaulted earlier this year following a "Pride in the Pines" festival, held public hearings Tuesday (Sept. 9) over whether or not sexual orientation should be extended to existing civil rights laws in the city, towleroad.com reported.

"Equality in Flagstaff has become a hot topic ever since the city proposed an ordinance that would extend civil rights to Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender persons. The city's Diversity Awareness Commission Chair Charlotte Dodgson said the ordinance is part of an inclusive communities initiative. "I think it's something that is very needed in a community. For people to come out and state their feelings and their beliefs on changes to any ordinance in a city council." The meeting was the first of a series of public forums organized to stimulate public conversation about the issue.

A hearing in August brought out vocal opponents and supporters: "The two sides clashed over the merits of adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of civil rights that are protected in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and education in Flagstaff. One woman told the council she thought the proposed ordinance could be abused by pedophiles and worried about the safety of her three young daughters when using public toilets. Another woman countered that Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and the Transgendered in Flagstaff would continue to be legally discriminated against in their workplace, public places and even in their homes unless the council adopts the proposed ordinance. Both sides quoted short passages from the Bible to make their case."

A report, following more hearings, is expected in early December.



Gay Bar Becomes A Haven In Storm-Ravaged Galveston

GALVESTON, Texas (Observer Update) - As Galveston told its remaining residents on Monday to leave the Texas island devastated by Hurricane Ike, Robert's Lafitte, a Gay bar, was planning a pre-curfew drag show and Tina Turner sing-along, Reuters India reported.

The first of two bars to reopen after Ike's onslaught on Saturday, Robert's Lafitte is a haven in the storm – for Gays, straights, anyone who needs a place to drink and find comfort. "You can see there's not too much worry and stress on people's faces," said Dixie Monroe, a Transgender barmaid who wore a tiger-print cowboy hat and a low-cut top.

Outside, Black Hawk helicopters clattered overhead and emergency teams searched for people stranded in the flooded city of 60,000 people. Up the street lay a huge field of splintered wood. Big Mouth Robert, the establishment's owner and a former female impersonator, said the bar took 3 feet (1 metre) of water and closed when

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UPDATE

Pride Law Clinic Returns

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The PrideLaw clinic is a legal referral and self-help clinic that meets once a week at Wingspan. The clinic is staffed by law student volunteers from the University of Arizona College of Law. Anyone is free to drop in on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Wingspan, 425 E. 7th St., whether they identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, questioning or not.

Common issues include landlord-tenant disputes, workplace discrimination, relationship formation or dissolution, and domestic violence. The clinic maintains resources to allow clients to find solutions to their legal problems, up to and including a list of LGBT friendly attorneys in Tucson. Because our volunteers are not licensed attorneys, we cannot dispense legal advice. This means volunteers will not be able to tell you what you should or should not do, but they can work with you to develop a list of options and a strategy to move forward.

For more information, call Wingspan (520) 624-1779.

Tucson GLBT Chamber Of Commerce Opposes Prop. 102

TUCSON (Observer Update) - The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce (TGLBTC) opposes Proposition 102, the Arizona Constitutional Amendment that would put into our constitution wording similar to current statute that limits marriage in Arizona to people of the opposite gender.

The TGLBTC believes this Amendment is unwise, ill-timed and wasteful of public resources. Just two years ago, the people of Arizona soundly rejected a similar proposition. But now, radical activists, funded largely with out-of-state dollars, would once again enshrine into our constitution a negative, discriminatory, hateful message that a certain class of people is not welcome in Arizona. As a part of our Constitution, it could eventually come into conflict with evolving national policy, causing undue expense and legal wrangling - all of which could be avoided by simply leaving the current statute intact.

Supporters of Prop 102 have argued that this initiative is solely a 'social issue' and not a concern for businesses. We strongly disagree! Proposition 102, if successful, can only worsen the current economic crisis. By positioning Arizona as unfriendly to the GLBT community and potentially to domestic partnerships in general, it rekindles past stereotypes of our state and once again hampers our ability to compete with neighboring states. It discourages inward movement of individuals, families, educators and corporations and drives out those who are already here. Thus, Prop. 102 is both anti-business and anti-economic development.

The Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce encourages all business and professional organizations and business leaders to oppose this ballot initiative and to focus our efforts around what is really important to businesses large and small – economic growth and development.

20th Annual AIDS Walk Tucson Invites Walkers To Share 'Why I Walk'

TUCSON (Observer Update) - You may have walked in AIDSWALK in the distant past, when the pandemic was new, and friends and family were losing their lives with alarming frequency. You may have walked more recently because AIDS affected someone close to you and it was fresh in your mind. You may be tempted to think that the threat is over and that your participation in AIDSWALK is no longer needed or is no longer important. But in reality, more than ever, on this 20th Anniversary of AIDSWALK Tucson, your presence is needed. Your energy is needed. Your support is needed. On October 19, 2008, AIDSWALK Tucson will take place on The University of Arizona® campus with a 10K Run beginning at 7:00 AM and a 5K Walk kicking off at 8:30 a.m., sponsored by Desert Diamond Casino and the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

This year walkers will have a special opportunity to tell their story about why they walk. SAAF, working with Access Tucson, invites all participants to record on video how HIV/AIDS has touched them, beginning an oral video history project. This project seeks to capture personal stories of how individuals have been affected by HIV/AIDS, and provides a way to remember those who have passed, and celebrate and support those living with HIV/AIDS.

People living with and affected by HIV/AIDS continue to need help with services including food and housing support, medications assistance, dental treatment, support groups and case management. Your participation in events such as AIDSWALK helps to support those programs and services in the community, as well as supporting culturally targeted prevention efforts to at-risk groups. With the weak economy, resources continue to be stretched further and further. Your help is critical to people living with HIV and AIDS or others affected by HIV or AIDS. Please register for AIDSWALK today by going to aidswalktucson.com, or by calling (520) 791-WALK (9255) and requesting an AIDSWALK Registration form. If you can't make the walk, consider going online and supporting a walker with a donation. It's everybody's walk!

HIV Poz License Plate OK'd For California Driver

SANTA CLARA, California (Observer Update) - A resident will soon have a new vanity plate for his 2007 Toyota Prius. "HIV POZ" was initially turned down by the Department of Motor Vehicles as inappropriate, but after further consideration the decision was reversed, allowing Julien Pierre to have the license plate, advocate.com reported.

"'HIV POZ' would be no different if you say something about a heart or a lung; it was not an offensive configuration," DMV spokesman Mike Marando said. Pierre said he found the initial refusal puzzling, especially since DMV lost a suit 10 years ago over the same issue. In 1998, a federal judge ruled that the DMV violated Kevin Dimmick's free speech rights by refusing to issue him personalized plates reading "HIV POS" for his motorcycle, reports the Mercury News. "I don't think it's something you need to hide from or be ashamed of. I wanted to show people I'm not hiding from it," Pierre said.

The software engineer was diagnosed with the virus two years ago and hopes that by publicly announcing his HIV status, the stigma surrounding the disease will diminish, reports Mercury News.

Storm-Ravaged Houston

Continued from Page One

Ike's fury blew out the windows. But after a mop-up the next morning, Robert's Lafitte was back in business.

"All of our customers kind of demanded it," said Robert. "It's their bar and they kind of dictate what's going on. We're survivors." Tina Turner is the artist of choice at the bar, given that she survived another Ike – her abusive husband Ike Turner. The bar is setting out food donated by locals for people in need. Some 20,000 people are thought to be still on the island and food and water are scarce. "It's more than a life saver. This is like the Coast Guard," said Brian DeLeon, a straight restaurant worker who had not visited the bar before. "These are the people who take you up out of the water and make life livable. Once I get back to work, I'm coming back here."

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Office Hours: 9a.m.-6p.m.
Monday thru Friday

Office Closed Thursdays

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Around The Old Pueblo

Tucson's Desert Coyotes, the LGBT and straight-supportive bowling league started their fall season at Santa Cruz Lanes, 3665 S. 16th Ave., on Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. The league consists of teams of three individuals who bowl three games per week. Presently, there are openings on several teams and the league is looking to fill the vacant slots. If you want to bowl, just show up a few minutes prior to the start time and the league secretary will get you on a team. There is a weekly league fee and an initial sanction charge to begin with. For more information, contact Santa Cruz Lanes, (520) 622-2186.

Wingspan Anti-Violence Programs and the U of A Office of LGBTQ Affairs announced Tucson Latin Pride 2008 - Intersección Panel Discussion, September 24, at the Chavez Building of the U of A Campus. This week marks the first-ever, historic Latin@ Pride in Tucson – a time for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Latin@s and their allies to gather and celebrate community. Please join us for an engaging panel discussion about the intersección of being Latin@ and LGBTQ. What are the challenges? What are the joys? Everyone welcomed – all allies are encouraged to attend. Free. "I am the dialogue between myself and el espiritu del mundo. I change myself, I change the world." Gloria Anzaldúa For more information, contact Oscar Jimenez, (520) 624-1779, ext. 124.

The NWTA (New Warrior Training Adventure) experience is about taking a look at our lives as men and how our lives work and don't work. This two and half day experience, from September 19 through 21 at C.O.D. Ranch, Oracle, offers men a powerful and challenging opportunity to look at all aspects of their lives in a richly supportive environment. This weekend is for Gay, Bi, and Transsexual Men who will learn how to be fully accountable for their choices and consequences; how to begin integrating the dark and soulful qualities of our masculine nature; and how to stand up and take full responsibility for our lives. Men will learn to step forward as men without apologizing for who we are, and accept and believe that we are enough and what we do is enough.Men will begin to understand that our achievements are a function of our creative energy and not a measure of who we are as men. It's also a weekend of building a community of men and working together to build relationships with men. The New Warrior, is the initiated man who sets about living his life passionately and compassionately, because he has learned to face his demons, intends to live his personal life mission with integrity, and is open to the support and service of other men. For more information, contact Tom Sayler-Brown (520) 591-2828, tsbtucson@yahoo.com or go online to azwarriortraining.com.

Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner, September 20

TUCSON (Observer Update) - Wingspan's Annual Benefit Dinner, Saturday, September 20, at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church, is Southern Arizona's premier event for hob-knobbing with friends and political leaders in celebration of our community!

It's a night when the full spectrum of the community comes out in its finest, whether traditionally spiffy, cutting edge creative, or something completely different. The breadth of this year's incredible program spans from a pre-dinner reception with appetizers and silent auction, to the dinner and this year's special dessert reception, where guests can mingle and meet keynote speaker Judy Shepard.

This is a sell-out event. With only a few tickets remaining, now is the time to call Erin at (520) 624-1779 to purchase your tickets by credit card, or you can drop by the Center by the end of the day Tuesday to pay by cash or check.

Wingspan is very proud to welcome Judy Shepard as our keynote speaker this year. After her son's tragic death, Judy was moved to create the Matthew Shepard Foundation and has become a leading ally voice in combatting hatred against LGBT people through outreach and education. You can be part of this special Tucson evening by calling Erin at (520) 624-1779, or by emailing her at eruss@wingspan.org.

Enjoy delectable food and drink with menu and wine pairings created by renowned chef Steven Shimmin. Win your bid on great deals including travel packages, fine art, Broadway in Tucson performing arts packages, jewelry from Tiffany, and more. Win a trip to the Mexican Riviera or $2,000 by purchasing raffle tickets, individually for $25 or increase your chances with 5 for only $100!

This is the annual event where Wingspan creates a magnificent experience for the community to come out and celebrate in style, where old friendships are renewed and new friendships are made. This celebration is about YOU, because this is YOUR community and Wingspan is YOUR center.

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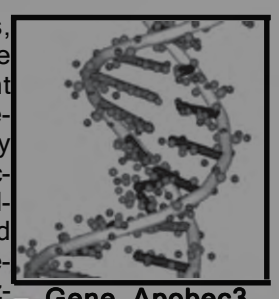
Scientists Identify Gene That Could Develop AIDS Vaccine

SAN FRANCISCO, California (Observer Update) - Scientists announce they have discovered a gene called Apobec3 that could help in the development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine. The findings were published in the journal Science.

According to the researchers at the University of California San Francisco, Apobec3 "helps mice develop antibodies against an HIV-like virus" and they believe the same gene in humans could lead to a "potent" vaccine against the human immunodeficiency virus. "The gene is crucial to HIV biology," says the lead author, Warner Greene of the Gladstone Institutes at the University of California-San Francisco.

HIV uses one of its nine genes to disable Apobec3 proteins. This could explain why people living with HIV rarely make antibodies against the virus, Greene says, adding, "If we could prevent HIV from destroying this key pivotal host factor, we might allow HIV-infected patients to develop neutralizing antibodies like they do in mice."



Gene Apobec3

All efforts to develop a vaccine against HIV have failed. The foundations headed by Bill Clinton and Bill Gates have been pledged more than $100 millions toward the vaccine research. Last year, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Canadian government established the world's first research institute to develop an AIDS vaccine.

Gay And Lesbian Couples Stage 'Wedding March' Across Brooklyn Bridge

BROOKLYN, New York (Observer Update) - Gay and Lesbian couples marched across the Brooklyn Bridge Sunday (September 14) for the fifth year - vowing not to give up until they can marry in New York, nydailynews.com reported. "Wedding March" protesters crossed the bridge to urge the state Legislature to pass a bill legalizing Gay marriage. A Gay marriage bill cleared the Assembly, but it hasn't been put to a vote in the GOP-run state Senate.

"There is nothing better we can do to help the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community than to win back the state Senate," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, a Democrat who is also openly Lesbian. In May, Gov. Paterson issued an order recognizing Gay marriages performed outside New York - and a court upheld it.

"Little by little, we are moving forward," said City Controller William Thompson, a Democrat who is considering a run for mayor. "I don't think we're that far away." Gay couples said New York is more accepting of them than most places are, but they want the full legal benefits of marriage. "Most straight people don't realize how many rights we don't have," said Gerry Greene, a 56-year-old retired Wall Street executive who wed Darrell Greene in Massachusetts last month.

HIV+ Teacher Sues School, Claims Wrongful Firing

ARNOLD, Maryland (Observer Update) - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is filing a suit against a Maryland school for allegedly firing a teacher because he is HIV positive, reported advocate.com. Chauncey Stevenson, who taught second grade and after school music classes at Chesapeake Academy in Arnold, had been employed from 2003-2006 and received good evaluations from supervisors, reports the Baltimore Sun. His contract was not renewed for the 2006-2007 school year, which caused him to file a complaint with the EEOC. The EEOC filed the suit on after no settlement was made with the school.

"They were advised that he was HIV-positive and he was fired, despite the fact that he wanted to come back to work," EEOC attorney Jacqueline H. McNair told the Sun. "He was a good teacher and well-liked." The EEOC says Chesapeake Academy violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, which defines HIV as a disability, therefore making it unlawful to wrongfully terminate someone with the virus.

"From our perspective we did not feel the decision we made had anything to do with the disability," head of school at Chesapeake Academy Jay Scheurle said in a statement. "We intend to defend the claim vigorously." The private academy, Scheurle says, promotes diversity throughout it's preschool to fifth grade classrooms. "They seem very open to ideas. Very progressive. They are not closed-minded," Tracy Eklof, a parent of two academy students, said in The Capital. Stevenson's lawsuit intends to force the Academy to create a safety net in its policy for other faculty members, ensuring wrongful termination cannot happen again. He also seeks back pay and "front pay with prejudgment interest."

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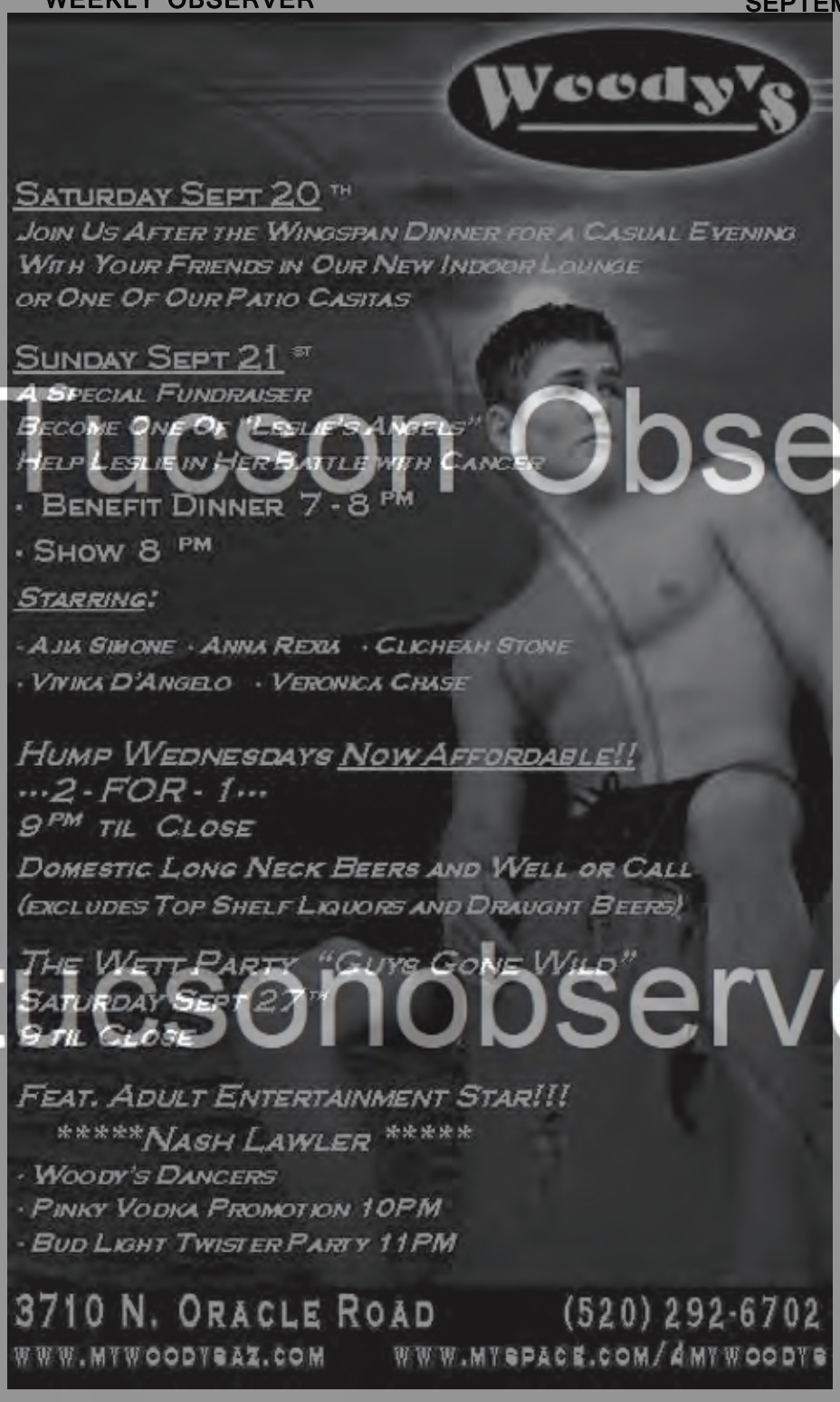

Two Thirds Of Young Americans Favor Marriage Equality

NEW YORK CITY (Observer Update) - A new poll shows Americans are split as to whether governments should recognize gay marriage, but a majority say same-sex couples should have legal recognition, the Associated Press (AP) reported Monday (September 15). The poll was conducted by the AP in conjunction with the National Constitution Center, advocate.com reported.

Furthermore, more than two thirds of respondents under the age of 35 say that same-sex couples should receive the same recognition and benefits as heterosexual couples; less than 40% of those older than 35 agree with the younger age group.

Those questioned say they support governmental assistance to religious organizations for community service programs, but the support decreases if the organizations also promote their religious beliefs. The poll also suggested the American public is largely in favor of decreased government involvement in their daily lives.

"There is clearly a concern about executive power and the balance of power that comes out in a couple of different ways," Joseph Torsella, president of the National Constitution Center, said.

Arrest In Dallas Gay Murder

DALLAS, Texas (Observer Update) - A 29-year old man is charged with killing a gay Dallas man whose body has yet to be found, reported 365Gay.com. Richard Hernandez, 38, has been missing for more than a week. When police, who were contacted by friends concerned they had not seen Hernandez for several days, entered his apartment, they found large amounts of blood. Tests on material found in the bathtub showed them to be human remains.

Police believe Hernandez's body was cut up in the tub and then removed. Investigators discovered that Hernandez's debit card had been used in the days following his disappearance. Use of the card led police to begin a search for Seth Lawton Winder. He was arrested for credit card fraud. The charge was upgraded to murder on Thursday (September 11)

Police say they are continuing to gather evidence in the case. They say they already have a bloody backpack found in a rural area where Winder had been camping. Police are continuing the search for Hernandez's body and say there may be additional people involved in the crime, because Winder did not have a car and the body would have to have been somehow removed from the apartment.

Sulu Got Married

HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - George Takei and his longtime partner, Brad Altman, have agreed to live long and prosper together.

Takei, 71, and Altman, 54, were married Sunday (September 14) in a multicultural ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum that featured a Buddhist priest, Native American wedding bands, a Japanese Koto harp and a bagpipe procession. The couple, both clad in white dinner jackets with black pants, made a grand entrance to the tune of "One Singular Sensation" from the Broadway musical "A Chorus Line." They stepped into a circle of yellow roses and lilies, where they shared a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and were wed by a Buddhist priest. The couple, who have been together for 21 years, wrote their own vows.

Altman said that he had called Takei many things during their two decades together - "life partner, significant other" - but that their marriage represented "a dream come true for me." "I can add 'my husband' to the list of things I call you," he said. Takei called his longtime partner an "organized, detail-obsessed, punctuality-driven control freak."

"I'm easygoing with details, so we're a good fit," he said in the trademark baritone recognizable to all "Star Trek" and Howard Stern fans. He and Altman were among the first couples to receive a marriage license in West Hollywood when the state began granting licenses to Gay couples on June 17.

rslettersletters

TO THE READERS:

Where will you be on November 4th?

As you know, this is an important election year for our community that you cannot afford to miss. Be sure to cast your vote no matter what by signing up for the Permanent Early Voting List.

Avoid the crowds at the polls and make voting easy by voting by mail. Sign up at your County Recorder's Office by clicking (eqfed.org/ct/0pMA4p112zDZ/).

Your vote by mail card will be mailed to you and then all you have to do is return it!

Don't miss this opportunity to stand up for our issues, and save yourself time on Election Day. Visit eqfed.org/ct/0pMA4p112zDZ/.

Sincerely,
Sam Holdren
Public Affairs Director - Equality Arizona
Phoenix

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POLITICS 2008

by Mark R. Kerr

What Is The Cost Of 102 ???

So what is the cost of Proposition 102, the proposed state constitutional amendment to define marriage as solely a union between a "man and a woman?"

According to the JLBC (Joint Legislative Budget Committee), the actual cost for drafting the initial bill was minimal.

With the draft, the bill has to be filed and considered by the Arizona Legislature, the state House of Representatives and state Senate.

For Fiscal Year (2008) that ended on June 30, the operational budget (staff (including elected officials) and expenses) for the Arizona House was $18,174,200 and for the Arizona Senate, $9,183,100, totalling $27,357,300.

So for one "legislative day," the cost (including the leap day) would be $74,746.72.

During the past session, there were three Concurrent Resolutions dealing with the subject SCR (Senate Concurrent Resolution) 1038, HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 2065 and SCR 1042.

These three measures took a total of 20 days, SCR 1038 - 3, HCR 2065 - 6, and SCR 1042 - 11. This was the only bill dealing with putting a proposed amendment on the November 4 general election ballot.

With the twenty days the Arizona Legislature (as well as the staff) dealt with this issue, it brings the cost to $1,494,934.43.

Next is making registered voters in Arizona aware of this and other ballot proposals, as well as judges up for consideration in the state's publicity pamphlet.

According to Kevin Tyne with the Arizona Secretary of State's office, $1.2 - $1.3-million was spent on the 2006 publicity pamphlet, which had 19 ballot propositions and consisting of 240 pages.

For the 2008 election, the publicity pamphlet will consist of only 121 pages (50.416% of the 2006 version). Using the low figure given by Tyne and multiplying it by the 2008 pamphlet percentage size, the total cost will be $605,000.

Proposition 107 was the ballot measure in 2006, consisting of seven pages (ballot measure, arguments, etc.) or 2.92% of the publicity pamphlet for this election.

In 2008, Proposition 102 will consist of 10 pages or 8.27% of this year's publicity pamphlet.

So with that, multiplying the 2008 percentage size for Proposition 102 to the total cost for this year's pamphlet, the cost will be $50,033.50.

In 2006, the Center for Arizona Policy and their supporters, paid Sproul and Associates, a conservative, anti-LGBT political consulting firm to get the signatures needed, 183,917 valid, registered Arizona voters to qualify for the ballot, costing, according to the campaign reports for Protect Marriage Arizona (Committee #: 200602711), $252,884.55 or $1.375 per signature.

With that rate, and the new signature requirements due to the increase numbers of registered voters (230,047), the cost or "gift to the Center for Arizona Policy," was $316,314.63.

What is the cost of Proposition 102 (and Arizona's same sex marriage law)? At this point, $1,861,282.56 but there is more to follow.

SAAF UPDATE . . .

By Wendell Hicks, Executive Director, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

When I first started at SAAF almost a year ago, I was told that the summer months would be slow. Well, they haven't been. They've sped by and I'm excited to share some wonderful things that have been happening thanks to our very generous community and people like you committed to keeping up-to-date on the local challenge of HIV/AIDS.

We're excited to announce that, thanks to a generous grant from the MAC AIDS Fund, SAAF's first Women's HIV Prevention Program is here! The goal of the program is to reduce the rising rate of HIV infection among women, particularly among women of color who are disproportionately affected by the epidemic by increasing awareness, providing education, encouraging women to know their HIV status, and empowering women to take charge of their sexual health. If this is a program that you want to learn more about or financially support, I invite you to contact SAAF at (520) 628-7223.

An energetic group of 14 youth, ages 12-17 came together from all over Pima County for a full week of training designed to empower them to serve as role models for their peers in HIV prevention. The HIV Youth Peer Educator (HYPE) program was great! Not only did the youth take the information seriously, but they also showed great leadership skills to help make this a very effective model to engage and educate the next generation. They will participate in a Holiday Retreat to survey how their skills have been put to use. Look for follow up information after the holidays.

Client Services recently made changes to improve services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The reorganization helped SAAF respond to changes in funding as well as increase the quality of programs for people served through this department. While the goal of streamlining processes for program effectiveness and client satisfaction are positive steps for clients and community collaborators, SAAF did have to reduce staffing in Case Management and Support Services because of funding challenges. With that said, Client Services still served 7% more people accessing services this year than the previous year and 124 new people living with HIV became part of the SAAF family accessing services that range from food or housing to medication assistance or Case Management. Thank you to the clients and community for your patience during this process. If you would like to learn more about Client Services or how you can financially support services for people living with HIV, I invite you to contact SAAF at (520) 628-7223.

And of course, it wouldn't be summer if we weren't talking about AIDSWALK. Last year was amazing and 2008 looks like it will once again raise the bar! I encourage each of you to register, raise funds, and walk together in support of people living with or affected by HIV. This event is for community members like aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, cousins, friends or loved ones that are living with or have been affected by HIV and AIDS and are supported through SAAF's prevention and client services programs. This event is also a poignant reminder to remember loved ones taken by HIV/AIDS. This walk is for everyone. I hope to meet each of you on Sunday, October 19th at the University of Arizona, and hear your personal stories of how or why this event is so important to you. Please help give this day the attention it needs. AIDS continues to challenge our community, and I know that how we respond defines our humanity- we need your support in meeting this challenge! Hope to see you on October 19th!

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Judge: Florida G/L Adoption Ban 'Unconstitutional'

MIAMI, Florida (Observer Update) - A south Florida judge has granted the adoption of a young teen by a Gay Key West man, ruling that the state's blanket ban on Gay and Lesbian adoption is "unconstitutional," reported 365Gay.com. But the ruling is unlikely to be considered a precedent for future rulings. And, if it is, would almost certainly be appealed.

The Florida legislature adopted the law during Anita Bryant's infamous anti-Gay crusade in 1977. The bill's sponsor in the state Senate told a local newspaper at the time that the law was intended to send this message to Lesbians and Gay men: "[We] are really tired of you. We wish you'd go back in the closet." The law, however, does not bar Gays from serving as foster parents.

The case before Monroe Circuit Court Judge David J. Audlin Jr. involved a 13-year-old boy who had been fostered by the Gay Key West man since 2001, the Miami Herald reports. The names of the parties in the case are being withheld. The teen has learning disabilities and special needs and after fostering the boy for several years, Judge Audlin appointed the foster father his legal guardian in 2006. The man then applied to adopt the boy.

In his ruling granting the adoption, Audlin noted that a home study by a social worker "highly" recommended the man and his partner be allowed to adopt the boy. The social worker's report said the couple provided the boy with a "loving and nurturing home," provided "fair and consistent" discipline and are financially secure. Audin's ruling said the Gay adoption ban violates the Constitution's separation of powers by preventing family court and child welfare judges from deciding case-by-case what is best for a child. "Contrary to every child welfare principle, the Gay adoption ban operates as a conclusive or irrebuttable presumption that . . . it is never in the best interest of any adoptee to be adopted by a homosexual," the Herald reports Audlin wrote in his ruling.

There have been at least two similar rulings and another case will soon be heard by a judge in Miami, but it is questionable whether the rulings topple the 31-year old law. In 2004, a federal appeals court upheld Florida's ban on Gay adoption. In a written ruling, the court rejected a challenge by four Gay men to the law. "We exercise great caution when asked to take sides in an ongoing public policy debate, such as the current one over the compatibility of homosexual conduct with the duties of adoptive parenthood," wrote Judge Stanley Birch. "The state of Florida has made the determination that it is not in the best interests of its displaced children to be adopted by individuals who 'engage in current, voluntary homosexual activity' and we have found nothing in the Constitution that forbids this policy judgment."

The following year the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal. Attempts to repeal the law have failed several times in the legislature.

Lots of Fun and Games At Woody's Last Sunday !!!

BEAR SCRATCHING

BEARS OF THE OLD PUEBLO

Greetings! It's been many a moon since we published our last column and felt it was high-time that we let folks in on what our little ursine family has been up to. We've had a summer full of pool parties, barbeques, and numerous social events that have keep the fur flying! Along with that fun we've been working to make our group as warm and friendly as possible and we'd like to you to know about it.

For over five years the fine folks at Woody's Bar have been host to our club, providing us with a friendly environment to socialize and host our monthly Beer Busts. They welcome us with open arms and provided us with the proceeds and tips the busts. This, along with membership dues, was the main source of operating funds and allowed for continued operation and charitable donations to such organizations as SAAF, Wingspan, and the Community Foodbank. We are deeply grateful and hold Frank, Dave, and the Woody's team in great regard.

As the saying goes, the only constant in life is change so the Bears are relocating to another fine establishment to can reach out to more bearish men and their buddies. Our relationship with Woody's is still strong and we wish them all the best with the wonderful changes they're implementing. Look for cross-promotional events with them in the future.

As of our September Beer Bust we'll be formally relocated to The Yard Dog. Merlyn and his crew have also offered to match the proceeds and tips arrangement we had with Woody's. We know of no other bear group in the country with this sort of support from their local businesses. Come on out from 4 - 7:00 p.m. this Saturday, September 20, and show them a great turnout to our new "home bar!"

There is so much more going on that we just don't have room to share here so please head over to the Bears of the Old Pueblo homepage at botop.com for a full listing of events or give myself a call at: (520) 904-4714. Kevin Jackson: Secretary, Bears of the Old Pueblo.

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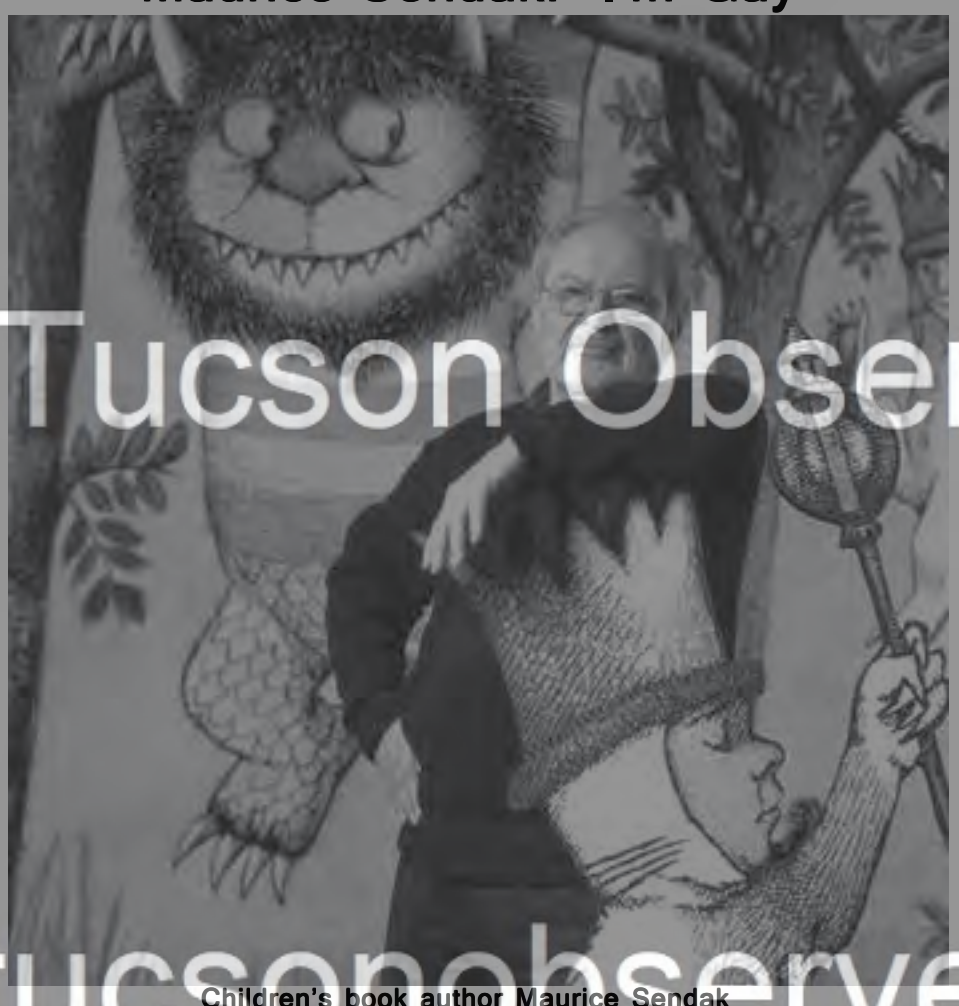
Where The Wild Things Are Author Maurice Sendak: "I'm Gay"



Children's book author Maurice Sendak

NEW YORK CITY, New York (Observer Update) - Children's book author Maurice Sendak has been asked many questions throughout his career, but when New York Times writer Patricia Cohen asked if there is anything he'd never before been asked, the author paused before saying, "Well, that I'm Gay."

The 80-year-old author of the legendary children's book "Where the Wild Things Are" revealed in the interview that he "just didn't think it was anybody's business." Sendak told the Times that he lived with his partner, psychoanalyst Eugene Glynn, for 50 years before he passed away in 2007.

As Sendak sat down with The New York Times to discuss a benefit celebrating his career. The event drew a slew of celebrity attention, including Meryl Streep, James Gandolfini and playwright Tony Kushner, who called Sendak one of the most important "writers and artists ever to work in children's literature." Sendak told the Times that he never came out to his parents–something he says he now regrets. He says he kept quiet about being Gay because the idea of a Gay man writing children's books might have killed his career when he was in his 20s and 30s.

Sendak is nearing completion on his latest book, he told the Times, but put work on hold when Glynn took ill. He told the Times that for the first time in his life, he is scared of not being able to finish a project. "I feel like I don't have a lot of time left," he said. On the heels of the Times interview, Out.com's Popnography blog extended a thanks to Sendak for "deciding at 80 years young there was no point in waiting around any longer to be asked."

BUZZ -- BUZZ -- BUZZ

In an effort to persuade a three-judge panel to throw out Sen. Larry Craig's guilty plea, his attorney suggested Wednesday (September 10) that his foot tapping in an airport men's room may have been protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of speech. The Idaho Republican was arrested in the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport in June 2007, after an undercover police officer accused him of soliciting sex by using hand signals and tapping his foot in a bathroom stall.vIn addition to suggesting that First Amendment may be involved, Craig's lawyer, Billy Martin, also argued before the Minnesota Court of Appeals panel that no one besides the arresting officer saw the hand signals and foot tapping, which would mean no one else was offended by the behavior and, thus, make the disorderly conduct charge invalid.

Out Lesbian San Diego City Councilwoman Toni Atkins and her partner of eight years, Jennifer LeSar, got married September 6 at the Lodge at Torrey Pines along the coast on the city's north side. A May ruling by the California Supreme Court legalized marriage for same-sex couples. "It felt wonderful!" Atkins said in a Sept. 11 interview. "I feel completely different as a couple now. I wasn't sure if we'd feel different afterwards as a married couple, after having been together for about eight years, although we didn't live together until this year. But we both agree that it feels different. It feels more real, I guess I have to say. I felt my commitment was real before but somehow this feels 'even more so,' if that makes sense." Atkins said "people cried, particularly Jennifer's mother. She was very happy for us."

When Michael Bailey set out to place small classified-type advertising for his company's new production and its casting calls, he hardly thought he'd soon find himself embroiled in a controversy over "community concerns." The production, "Naked Boys Singing," has been performed on and off Broadway for a decade. "Naked Boys" has also caused controversy due to the production's nudity and Gay content. On Aug. 15, Bailey's company, MBF Productions, paid for online list advertising for "Naked Boys Singing" casting calls in the general announcements section of The State newspaper's website. On Aug. 19, MBF received notice their ad had been canceled. "We have canceled both your ads and issued you a full refund," wrote The State's Michael Dudash in a support email to MBF. "Because of the nature of the content, we cannot run these ads. Thank you!"

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COMMENTARY. . . .

by Timothy Kincaid

Why Each State Is Important

(Editor's Note: the following was written by Timothy Kincaid of Box Turtle Bulletin, one of the great writers to one heck of a blog.)

There are three anti-Gay marriage constitutional amendment propositions on ballots in the upcoming election.

ARIZONA - Arizona has the distinct privilege of being the only state to date that has rejected efforts to instill anti-Gay marriage discrimination into its constitution. Anti-Gays have claimed that the only reason for their failure was because their last attempt in 2006 also sought to ban other forms of partner recognition and are now offering a "more benign" amendment that only bans same-sex marriage.

The Arizona battle is of tremendous importance.

If anti-Gays win in Arizona, this will send a message that persistence pays off. And then future states (like Florida, if we win there) can expect that they will be back each election with an increasingly "nuanced" amendment until they win. But if Arizona rejects Proposition 102, the financial backers of anti-Gay marriage amendments will be a bit more reluctant to throw their money into losing efforts.

This state has the unique opportunity to tell anti-Gay organizers that "no" means "no" and not to come back for more.

CALIFORNIA - California is only one of two states which offer marriage certificates to same-sex couples. California is also by a significant margin the state with the largest population. And California is often considered a leader in social progress and a setter of trends.

Considering the sheer number of Gay families impacted by Proposition 8, and the importance of the state as a leader, the California battle is of tremendous importance.

And this importance is not lost on anti-Gays. As Donald Wildman, head of the American Family Association said,

If we lose California, if they defeat the marriage amendment, I'm afraid that the culture war is over and Christians have lost.

Hyperbole aside, this is the first time that voters have been voting specifically on marriage itself, rather than on the threat of possible marriage. If Californians vote to keep their same-sex marriages legal, it removes the claims by anti-Gays that it is judicial activists and gerrymandered legislatures that are forcefully redefining marriage against the wishes of the populace.

According to the latest polls, voters seem to oppose the proposition and do not appear to be swayed by the efforts of the supporters. But the vote is very very close and no one can predict the outcome.

FLORIDA - The anti-marriage amendment in Florida appears - to me - to receive the least attention of the three, especially on this website. Part of that is because I live in California and Jim Burroway lives in Arizona and so these two states are the focus of our attentions.

Yet the Florida battle is of tremendous importance.

Of the three, only Florida's amendment would ban civil unions and domestic partnerships. Florida's Proposition 2 reads: "In as much as a marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

Those who oppose this amendment have an advantage; a constitutional amendment in Florida requires a 60% majority of those voting. Further, because Florida has a large retirement community and because this amendment would impact heterosexual senior citizens who use local domestic partnership arrangements to establish protections without endangering social security benefits, the opposition to this amendment has broader appeal.

The most recent polling shows that the proposition is favored by more than half of the voters (55%), but not by enough to pass. Additionally, it appears to be trending towards those who oppose the amendment. But again, this is far too close for comfort.

Florida is a swing state in the presidential election and turnout could depend on the direction and extent to which the state trends in the next two months. And while it is unlikely that either Obama or McCain will seek to tie their campaign to the success or failure of this amendment, it's difficult to predict the impact of the election. A surge in either black voters or newly-energized evangelicals could provide those who oppose our lives with additional votes.

The Importance - Collectively, we have the opportunity to send a very strong message this year. Should we win in all three states we will be able to state that those who experience same-sex marriages within their communities have found them to be no threat, that anti-marriage efforts will not win you election in a swing state, and that coming back to a state that has rejected discrimination is a waste of time and money.

So here is a question: is this issue as important to you as a new pair of shoes? Does it matter as much as that luxury you may be allowing yourself, whether it's a new car or just dinner out at McDonalds?

Most of us do have some expendable income and even those of us who live very close to the edge can often make sacrifices if the cause is important enough.

This is the most you will ever see me act like a political or religious fundraiser. But I'm willing to sound like Pat Robertson if it will encourage you to take the next step.

Please link below to the state of your choosing and make a contribution today.

Arizona: No on Prop 102, (arizonatogether.org or votenoprop102.com) or Arizona Together, PO Box 880, Scottsdale, AZ 85252 or No on Prop 102, PO Box 87955. Tucson, Arizona 85754-7955 and include occupation and employer as required by state law.

California: No on Prop 8, (noonprop8.com) or make checks payable to "Equality For All" and send to: No On 8, c/o ML Associates, 8581 Santa Monica Blvd., #504, West Hollywood, California 90069.

Florida: No on Prop 2, (sayno2.com) or Florida Red and Blue, 12864 Biscayne Boulevard #314, North Miami, Florida 33181.

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CONVENTIONAL WISDOM
by Ron Rose - Tucson

Conventional Wisdom says Obama will win
Republicans take his words "for a spin"
Common folk pray for a leader with sense
Neither side gives a damn 'bout expense.

It's said that Kenyans love to run
Obama's not Irish? Son of a gun.
McCain still rants 'bout 4 dollar gas
Hoping his off-shore drilling will pass.

Candidates always love to speak
Words so often sound like Greek.
Blah, Blah, Blah - Blah Blah Blah Blah
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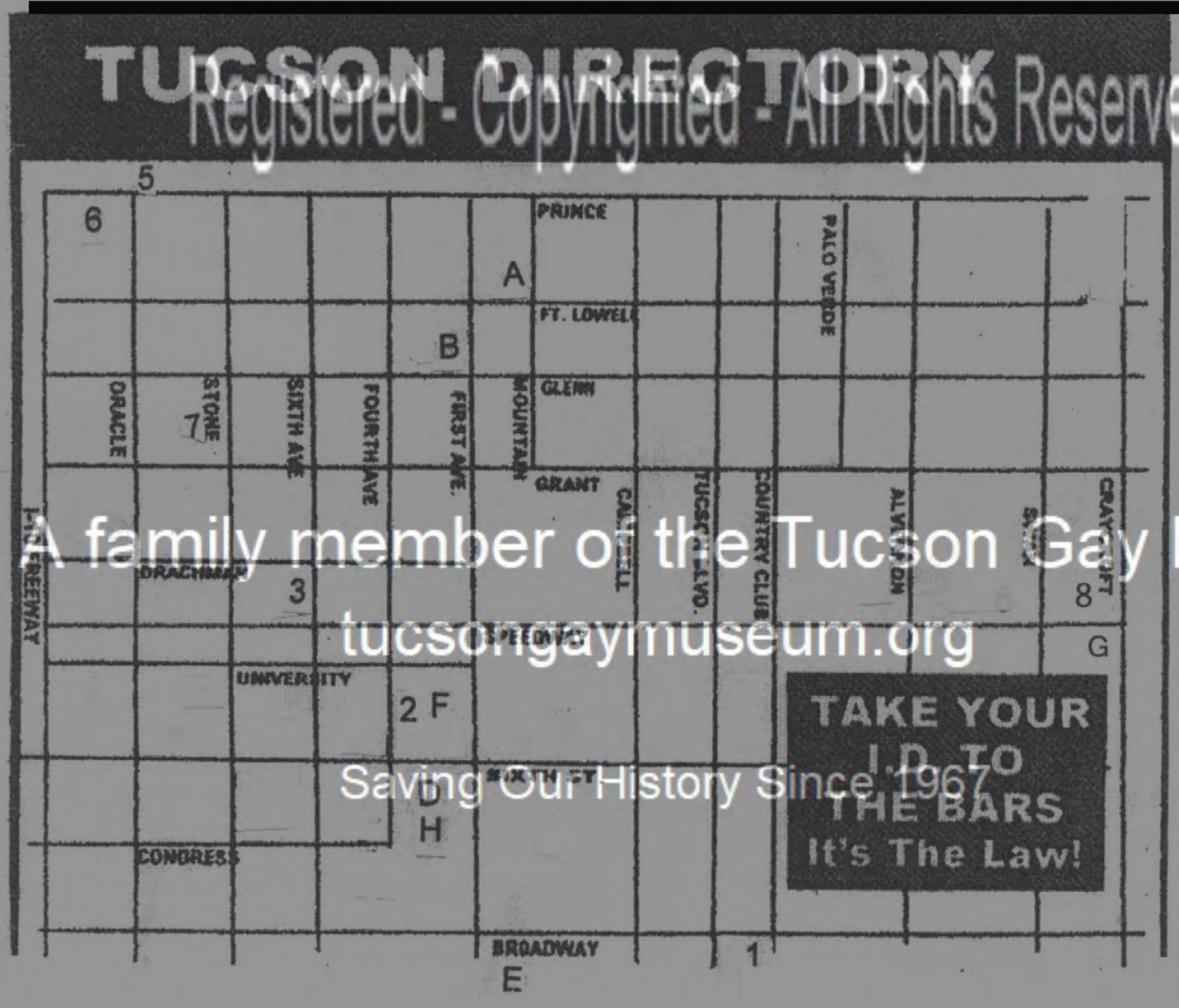

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E. S.A.A.F. - 375 S. Euclid Ave. - 628-7223

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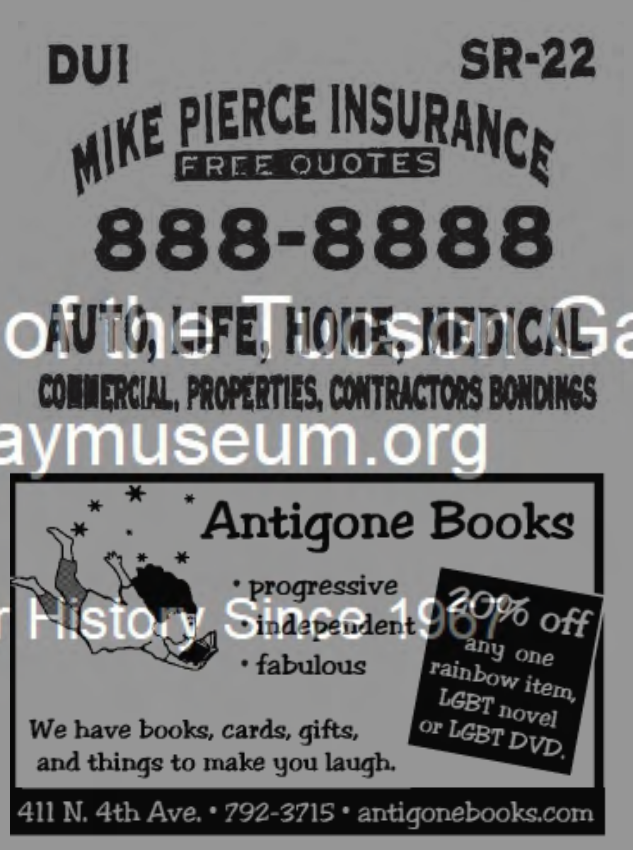

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Fueled By Petrol

by Jimmy Petrol

It Takes A Village Of The Damned

i

Enlightened. Progressive. It has come to my attention that there are people in this country, getting set to vote, that have bought the line that unless we elect a firm anti-abortionist, God will never "bless" this country.

No blessing! Dear me; I am very worried....you know, about the blessing America may not get.....good grief....how much more than 75% of the world's fuel does America want to burn? What luxury does America think God may withhold? What more can America want!

I am putting in a call to "God" tonight...I am going to ask "Him" to give this country a good old-time economic depression...if what we have isn't blessed enough, we need less.

In the meantime, a refresher in the Fourteen commandments; if God is checking his list before "blessing" whole nations, it's my guess that he is checking the whole list.

From Exodus: Do not have any other god before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything... (oh-oh....the anti-abortion rally is being televised...and after that I have to watch my favorite shows, since I actually have no life of my own, worshiping the false lives on the 'telly like I do.)

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me. (Harsh, I know, but then God knows best...so....what happened to our laws? Why don't we have to pay our parent's debts?)

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. (This doesn't say anything about saying goddammit. This says "don't claim to be doing it for God and country when it's just for country. Stupid.)

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. (When was that again? I forget).

For six days you shall labour and do all your work. (Unless you can get you a Mex'can to do it for nothin').

But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work–you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. (Well, we don't have to keep this one, after all, it is sooo inconvenient when the stores are closed on the Sabbath, whenever that is).

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. (Hi Mom! Hi Dad...oh wait...they aren't waving....hm....oh look! That's them in the congregation! Wait! What are they saying!? Kill the abominations!? Mom! Dad!)

You shall not murder, (even if it is "collateral damage" caused by an unfortunate error in targeting on that cowardly little smart bomb. Even if it is by sending stupid 18 year old boys into battle to get you some oil.)

You shall not commit adultery. (But if your spiritual leaders all do, you must forgive them and continue to follow their lead...'cause this one is just for the little people).

You shall not steal. (unless your country will suffer a depression unless you have the oil.....or because you already used up all yours...)

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour, (nor cause anyone else to do so by torturing them until they would say whatever....even if it is just a little white lie about Weapons of Mass Destruction...even if you think it's ok so long as it is just "spin".)

You shall not covet your neighbour's house...or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Or thy neighbor's oil. Oops! Better drive on down to the abortion clinic in my SUV and protest the speck in some poor pagan bitch's eye; it would be too painful to pull this log out of my own ass and start to ride the bus!)

So the sad part is... people are so worried they may not get another blessing, they will vote to keep poor little Mary Lou in Godly shackles, lest she commit a sin, all the while ignoring the facts of torture, theft and lies...why? Because it gets 'em more "blessings".

What to do? Let 'em have it...don't fall for the smokescreen....you don't have to be polite with people that find you to be abominations, all while they give tacit approval of torture, murder, theft and lies.

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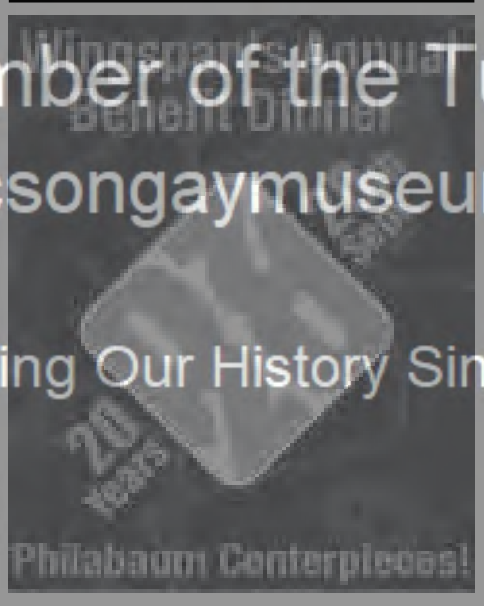

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HOROSCOPES

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Mercury retrogrades this week, creating havoc over our most carefully enunciated intentions. But don't despair kids; you will have plenty of opportunity to kiss and makeup next month. Hey, don't they say that patience is a virtue?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

If partners have been a little critical, try not to initiate a discussion about it this week. Proud Rambos will not leave well enough alone and will be tempted to do that one more thing that will put the skids on any mediation. They say that you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar so spread that sugar around, sugar and forget about the extra calories.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

If your day to day job seems a bit more annoying than usual, chalk it up to retro Mercury and try to delegate or defer the more detailed or cumbersome tasks. Queer Bulls are advised to take a break if they possibly can. In the meantime, expect some delays, frustrations and hurt feelings due to misdirection. Had enough? Take a loooong coffee break.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

A certain fun activity is bound to have an element of surprise this week. So gird your loins and prepare for any out of control situation. You may not know when enough is enough. Optimistic by nature, pink Twins may find that they can best use this unpredictable energy to recharge creative juices. ANd speaking of juices, who spiked the punch bowl?

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Avoid any home improvements or repairs if you can this week. Gay Crabs find that their careful directions are either not followed or misunderstood. It is also not the greatest time to engage relatives in any serious or passionate discussions. They are not listening to you and, truthfully, you are not listening to them. Try again in a few weeks and pretend to be away now.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

I wouldn't advise making any major speeches right now. Retro Mercury could impact almost any aspect of your debut from a mix up in the date, to a scratchy voice to losing your notes. Had enough? Give your oratory persona a rest for a while while you allow your actions to speak louder and prouder than your words. Or is it "speak softly and carry a big stick..."?

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Retro Mercury tosses your hard earned dollars to the free wind. Try to avoid any major monetary decisions until you can focus on the fine print. Queer Virgins are advised to lock up any loose funds in a safe place before it's squandered on foolish or uncertain schemes. Of course, marshy Florida swamp land is yours for the asking during this time. Good for mud wrestling....

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Proud Libras might avoid the limelight this week. First impressions may not come off as smoothly as you would like and the gaffe potential is high. It would be horrifying to ascend to the center stage only to find that your hot pink pantaloons are showing. On the other hand, you may become the pinnacle of fashion in certain circles...or not...

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

It is not the best time to rely on intuition. Retro Mercury causes static on the psychic line and your best prognostications can be used to wrap yesterday's fish. Even your most carefully guarded secrets will spill out at the most inopportune time. Some secrets, however, were meant to be aired Out. Who cares about timing - liberate and love yourself!

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Gay Archers should give pals an extra inch this week (although some may need a foot...) Expect emotional communications to go awry; it's even possible that platonic relationships can become stressed and strained to the breaking point. Thankfully, you will know when to step back and take a breather. Next month everyone can become best buds once again.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

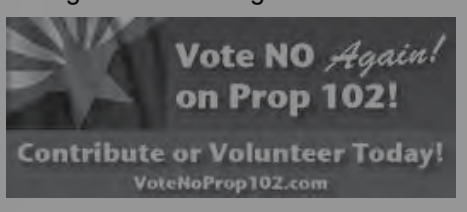
Retro Mercury can place even corporately successful pink Caps in a lowly stewpot when their stray comments hit the boss between the eyes. This is fine if you are planning an early retirement, but not so good if you plan on becoming part of the royal executive family. Buck up and take it for the next two weeks; You don't have enough dough to retire just yet.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

This may not be the best time to plan or take a vacation. Retro Mercury can send Aqueerians on a wilde goose chase (or maybe it will only be your luggage...). Perhaps you would be better off planning a little quiet time at home where you can rest and recharge. Seek and find some exotic adventures in some well worn avenues... No names please!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Even shipshape Guppies can scuttle to loveboat this week. Try not to become too frustrated if your best laid sexual plans become a big goose egg; Remember that this planetary phase shall soon pass and you'll be back in the saddle again before you know it. In the meantime, may I suggest curling up in bed with .... a good book and glass of wine?



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Gay Dad Pleads Guilty In Custody Dispute

NEW YORK CITY, NY (Observer Update) - A Gay man involved in a bitter battle with his estranged husband - and who had fled Israel with the son they were raising - has pled guilty to custodial interference, 365Gay.com reported. Eric Hyett, 37, will be sentenced next month to 45 days in jail and five years of probation under a deal reached with prosecutors. Had he been convicted at a trial, he could have faced four years in prison.

Hyett and Joshua Glazer, 29, were married in Massachusetts four years ago and lived in New York City. They separated last year. While still together, they adopted a boy, Jedidiah, shortly after his birth, when the boy's mother, a friend of the couple's, gave him up. When the couple's breakup turned nasty, the battle centered around the boy, now 2 years old.

After the couple separated, a court awarded Glazer primary custody and Hyett visitation rights. Under the court terms, Hyett was allowed to see the boy every weekend. In early August, Hyett asked to keep the boy two extra days so that he could take Jedidiah to Boston to visit his grandparents and Glazer agreed. But Hyett fled with the child to Jerusalem. They were located by Israeli police and little Jedidiah was returned to Glazer about two weeks later. Hyett returned to the U.S. voluntarily on Aug. 22. He was arrested in Boston at Logan Airport and waived extradition to New York. Police say they believe it to be the first custodial abduction case in New York City involving a married Gay couple in memory.

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Sunday Worship: 10:15am Thursday Fellowship: 7:00pm
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3269 North Mountain Avenue
Tucson AZ 85719
(Just North of Ft. Lowell)
292-9151
www.wolmcc.org

NON-BAR CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 17
Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00pm Hand and Foot with Jack 887-3736

Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for an escorted day trip - picnic and Tour of Mount Kitt Observatory. Transportation $112. For reservations or info call Clem at 885-1270

Thursday, September 18
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with us at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 West Miracle Mile 1:30 p.m.

#1 Men's Social Network. Mexican Dominoes. Open to men of all ages. 6:30pm. Call Jack at 887-3736 for directions.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, Triangle Tribe 7:00 pm. Call Tom for more information at 591-2828

Friday, September 19
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for dinner at Opa! Greek Restaurant, 2990 N. Campbell Ave. RSVP Ray at 578-8045

Saturday, September 20
The 2008 Wingspan Annual Benefit Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and will bring together more than a thousand community members as we remember the past and rally together for the future. The gala themed "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will take place in the Grand Lobby and Grand Ballroom of the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Avenue and will feature a gourmet dinner, silent auction, entertainment and more. For more info or reservations call Erin Russ at (520)624-1779x115.

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. Contact Steve at 664-2076 for directions and information.

Sunday, September 21
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for brunch at the upscale & charming, Gay-owned Rio Café,. 2526 E. Grant Road. RSVP Dennis at 883-8257

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at 5 & Diner. For reservations and directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, September 22
#1 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to bowl with us at 10:30 a.m. at Golden Pin Lanes, 1010 W. Miracle Mile

#2 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our drop-in-lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Wildcat House, 1801 N. Stone Ave.

Tuesday, September 23
Reservation deadline for Tucson Prime Timers escorted tour of Mexico's fabulous Copper Canyon. Call Clem at 885-1270 or see www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Wednesday, September 24
#1 Men's Social Network Bed and Breakfast tour of the Royal Elizabeth Bed and Breakfast at 204 S. Scott Ave at 11am then lunch at the Congress Hotel. For more information call Lee or Merlin no later than Monday September 22nd at 207-5336 for reservations.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Hand and Foot with Lee and Merlin at 207-5336.

Thursday, September 25
#1 Men's Social Network. Open to men of all ages. Bridge Join your MSN friends for a night of fun and cards. Call Jim at 790-8735.

#2 Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, Triangle Tribe 7:00 pm. Call Tom for more information at 591-2828

Friday, September 26
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for dinner and live music at the positively delicious Piazza Gavi Restaurant, 5415 N. Kolb Road. RSVP John at 298-6727

Saturday, September 27
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to join us for Drinks and Grub at 6:30 p.m., Woody's,3710 N. Oracle Road.

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Shuffle over for Floating Pinochle every Saturday of the month except for first Saturday MSN Monthly Pot Luck. Contact Marvin at 745-0304.

Sunday. September 28
Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Sunday Brunch at 11a.m.Cup Café in the historic Hotel Congress. RSVP Ray at 578-8045 or www.tucsonprimetimers.org

Men's Social Network Open to men of all ages, newcomers welcomed: 7:00p.m. Dinner Out at Gourmet of China Super Buffet. For directions, contact Thom 908-6160, e-mail thomsepals@hotmail.com.

Monday, September 29
#1 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to Bowl with us at 10:30a.m.Golden Pin Lanes 1010 West Miracle Mile www.tucsonprimetimers.org

#2 Tucson Prime Timers invites you to our drop-in lunch at 12:30p.m. Wildcat House 1801 North Stone Avenue www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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Ending the violence.
Wingspan launches the Anti-Violence Project – a community initiative to assist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of discrimination, domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes.
Call the Anti-Violence Project 24-Hour Crisis Line at 624-0348, or toll-free 1-800-553-9387.
WINGSPAN
Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
www.wingspan.org

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Accepting applications for P/T bartender. Experience preferred but not required if you've got the right personality and the right attitude. Pick up application at Howl at the Moon, 915 W. Prince Rd. 1263

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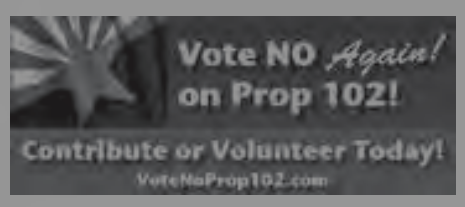

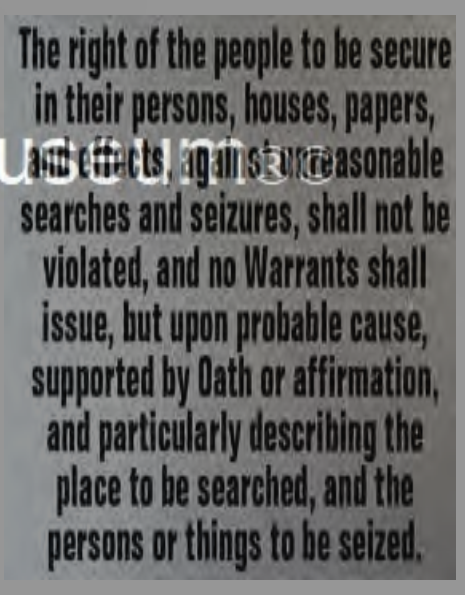

NOTICES - COMMUNITY - NOTICES

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 Venture-N.

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 520 742-1271. Visit our website: www.tucsonprimetimers.org

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

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

GREATER PHOENIX GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (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 commited volunteers to provide services including friendly visits, light housekeeping, assistance with meals, shopping, errands, transportation and companionship for medical appointments, and respite care for primary care givers. No judgement or proselytizing - we are here to be of service. For information call Scott at 299-6647.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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,

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.:

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DAILY BAR CALENDAR

SUNDAY

THE BIZ - Visit the outdoor patio enjoy a cocktail or two. Sports on all day!!! You call it!! NFL $5 Beer and Burgers 10am - 3pm 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; $2.25 domestic long necks. Texas Hold-Em Poker at 3 & 6. No cash involved - Play for Points & Prizes. SIN Nite - drink discounts for Service Industry employees with ID or payroll receipt.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 10am-2am. Patio Bar open 3pm. Beer Bust $2.25/pitcher, 3-7pm. Burger BBQ, 5-7pm, $3 proceeds to Petwatch (Helping HIVAIDS 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 3pm-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 Domestic, $12 Imports (4 beers to a bucket, for 2 or more people, Some brands excluded). Texas Hold-Em Poker at 6 & 8:30 p.m. No cash involved - Play for points & Prizes

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am. 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 3pm-2am. College Night - 50 cent canned beer!

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

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 3pm-2am. Happy Hour ALL Day til 8pm. Wild Wednesdays. DJ Hill Spins til 2am. This is an 18 and over event..

COLORS - Open 4-10pm. Happy Hour 4-7pm, $3.50 Skyy cocktails, $2.75 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-2am. Beer Bust, 8pm-11pm $2.50/Pitcher.

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

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

THURSDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-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 - $3.00 Bicardi Rum - all flavors. Karaoke with Kristen and K2 Tunes 8pm.

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

VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am..

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

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

FRIDAY

THE BIZ - Open 3pm-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. $2.75 All Mexican Beers and Dos XX Amber. Free Country 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-2am Patio Bar Open 7pm-2m Cuervo Margaritas $3 ea., 4-8pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 11am-8pm (excl spec events). Full Menu Kitchen open 11am-11pm Back Pocket Patio Bar open 5pm-close. 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 3pm - 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!!Lesbian Olympics 8pm in our sexy outdoor lounge.

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 -2am VENTURE-N - Open 9am-2am. Patio Bar open 7pm-2am. Beer Bust $2.25/Pitcher. 3-7pm.

WOODY'S - Open 11am-2am; Happy Hour 10am-8pm (excl spec events); Full Menu Kitchen 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

Saturday, September 20
THE BIZ - 2nd Annual TOGA Party tonight from 9:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. DJ Hill will be spinning the music.

HOWL AT THE MOON - Bailamos! Latino Dance Night - Latest cumbias, baladas, and corridos plus a little old school. Presented by Mobile Sounds. 9:30 pm

Sunday, September 21
WOODY'S - Special Fund Raiser - Become one of "Leslie;'s Angels" - Help Leslie in her battle with cancer. Benefit dinner from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. followed by a show at 8:00 p.. S tarring Ajia Simone, Anna Rexia, Clitcheah Stone, Vivika D'Angelo and Veronica Chase

Friday, September 26
THE BIZ - The Biz and Wingspan present Latino Pride 2008 - for Latinos by Latinos. 9:00 p.m. Join the crowd for the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Latino 2008. DJ Hill will be spinning the sounds until 2:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 27
HOWL AT THE MOON - Drag Show presented by "Miss Native Americans", including Knokache and Samora Dehuni. A fabulous night of entertainment! 9:00 pm til closing.

WOODY'S - Mark your calendars for this month's Wet Party "Guys Gone Wild" featuring adult entertainment star Noah Lawler. Woody's Dancers, Pinky Vodka Promotion 10 p.m. and Bud Light Twister Party at 11 p.m.

Sunday, September 28
HOWL AT THE MOON - "Tucson's Got Talent" weekly show with hosts Lucinda Holliday and Tempest du Jour. What's your talent? Sing, dance, drag, comedy,...whatever it is, come out and compete for prizes and to move on to the next level! Winners selected by audience applause and judges scoring. Starts at 9:30 pm.

Saturday, October 4
HOWL AT THE MOON - Seniors' Tea Dance 4 - 8 pm Drink and food specials plus lots of favorite oldies to keep you dancing!

Money Pouring In For Pro-Proposition 102 Campaign

By Jim Burroway

(Editor's Note: Jim Burroway is one of the proprietor's of the great blog Box Turtle Bulletin and is the co-chair of the Vote No on Proposition 102 campaign, so read this and then GIVE!)

Money is pouring in for Arizona's backers of the proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage:

While many of the citizens initiatives on Arizona's November ballot have been bankrolled by special interests, a measure to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman has received an influx of campaign contributions from individuals in recent weeks.

The Yes for Marriage campaign pulled in more than $2.3 million from 160 donors across the state since the secretary of state's reporting period that ended Aug. 13. That brought the campaign's total to about $3 million.

Most contributions have been between $10,000 and $25,000. But Jeff and Holly Whiteman of Mesa gave $100,000, as did Gary and Lori Wagner of Peoria and the Pete King Corp. of Phoenix.

We desparately need your support. The longer LGBT's and allies sit on the sidelines, our 2006 victory will turn into a 2008 loss. Which means that Focus On the Family will be able to draw the conclusion that if they don't like how voters decide one year, all they have to do is come back again the next time.

Please give TODAY, as generously as you can. Arizona: No on Prop 102, (arizonatogether.org or votenoprop102.com) or Arizona Together, PO Box 880, Scottsdale, AZ 85252 or No on Prop 102, PO Box 87955. Tucson, Arizona 85754-7955 and include occupation and employer as required by state law.

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The Perils Of Aging While LGBT

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (Observer Update) - When Gayle had a stroke one Sunday evening nine years ago, she was rushed to Hennepin County Medical Center's emergency room, Minnesota's third largest hospital. Tomas Guerra reported on 365Gay.com.

But when Gayle (a senior trans woman) got there, she was told that in order to receive treatment, she would have to re-assume her old identity: She had to become Glen if she wanted to be helped. Gayle did not protest. She wanted her life to be saved. But when she was taken to the Veterans Administration Hospital for follow-up care, she was forced to do the same: she was told she'd be Glen for every medical provider who worked there.

More recently, an openly Gay man who had no family or friends hanged himself in a room of a nursing home in an East Coast city; because others on his floor were made uncomfortable by his sexual orientation, the 79-year-old had been moved to a floor for patients with disabilities and dementia. The resulting stress made him too depressed to live.

As the elderly population swells–it is expected to double from 44 million to 90 million in the next 25 years–abuses like these and the general lack of humane care for LGBT elders are becoming more and more visible.

According to statistics from SAGE (Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), the senior LGBT population will multiply from 3 million to 6 or 7 million in the next 25 years, and their communities are not prepared to give them proper housing and the appropriate healthcare. Researchers and activists see a crisis looming.

"The number of seniors could become a kind of crisis like the HIV epidemic in the next five to 10 years, and there is no structure to deal with it. They're not ready for us," said Amber Hollibaugh, senior strategist for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

In Milwaukee County, the Department of Aging found that the city's LGBT seniors were five times less likely than other elders to access needed services because of fear of discrimination. Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE, added that because Social Security survivor benefits and Medicaid are built around marriage, there is also latent discrimination at the federal level which heavily impacts older same-sex couples. ?

Adams said that in addition to discrimination, the growing LGBT senior population faces more challenges because it doesn't have the same support network as most other seniors: "Eighty percent of the community we work with (in New York) doesn't have children, and 50 percent have no family members to reach in case of an emergency."

But the landscape is starting to change for the elderly, and as they live longer and grow in numbers, and as post-Stonewall baby boomers start their retired lives, there is emerging a new generation less afraid to speak out for their rights and ready to challenge the status quo in the retirement community.

The survey "Gay and Graying: Concerns for the Future," just released by Community Marketing Inc., found 70 percent of its Lesbian and Gay respondents over age 40 with concerns about losing the ability to care for themselves. And the majority also feared becoming sick or disabled.

So how will society, the federal government, healthcare providers and nursing homes adjust to their urgent needs? The federal government has begun making some improvements for LGBT seniors. The Bush administration, for example, admitted SAGE as the first LGBT delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 2005.

Also, for the first time ever, AARP will sponsor and present SAGE's National Conference on Aging "It's about Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World," to be held next October in New York.

LGBT aging projects are also branching out in cities such as Boston, New York, Chicago and Atlanta. And Stonewall Communities, a non-profit organization from Boston, has partnered with Abbott Real Estate to build "Stonewall Audubon Circle," 53 one- and two-bedroom homes which feature assisted-living centers for older Gay people, the first of its kind.

But help needs to come from within the LGBT community as well. Hollibaugh, who authored the first LGBT training curriculum for nursing homes, emphasized that to overcome these challenges, it is vital to build a bridge between LGBT elders and younger generation, because this sort of discrimination is likely to continue, and younger activists need to help.

"The bulk of us are not rich, and if the community doesn't respond, we will be without choice," she said.

Nine years after her tragedy Gayle is still crippled, but she has managed to recover enough to live independently in a suburb near Minneapolis. When Gayle and her friends talk about her experience with the medical personnel at the county and VA hospitals, she feels sad and angry. And when they ask her, "Why didn't you protest?" she simply responds: "I didn't have any choices. When you're not sure if you're going to live or die, you're just going to do what they tell you to do?"

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Elizabeth Taylor Surprises West Hollywood Gay Bar

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (Observer Update) - Elizabeth Taylor made a low-key return to public life Thursday night (September 11) with a trip to her favorite watering hole.

In the film legend's first known appearance since she was hospitalized last month, Taylor headed to The Abbey, a popular West Hollywood Gay bar. "She was lively. She was laughing and she was smiling," said one onlooker. "Even if she was not as strong as the last time she was here, she was once again the life of her small party."

Rumors about Taylor's ill health swirled over this summer, with one tabloid reporting that the 76-year-old was on life support. But her publicist denied the claims, calling them "dramatic, overstated and untrue."

Levi's Teaming Up With LOGO For 'Unbuttoned' Promo

NEW YORK CITY, New York (Observer Update) - The Levi's 501 button-fly line of jeans sold by Levi Strauss & Company is joining with the Logo unit of MTV Networks, owned by Viacom, for a campaign called "Logo Unbuttoned."

Promotions for the campaign began on Tuesday (September 16) on Logo and has signed sponsorship deals with other mainstream marketers like Orbitz, Stolichnaya and Subaru. The "Logo Unbuttoned" title echoes the phrase "Live Unbuttoned," which is the theme of a worldwide campaign for Levi's 501 that was introduced in July by a Levi Strauss agency, Bartle Bogle Hegarty.

The budget for the campaign, which also includes promotions, events and social media, is estimated at more than $1 million. Levi's 501 will be the sole sponsor of a program block that Logo plans to introduce on Oct. 12, "Saturday Nights Unbuttoned Presented by Levi's," which will run from 1 to 3 a.m. on Sunday mornings.